

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Care Professional Organisation welcomes renewed focus on adult social care reform

The Care Professional Organisation (CPO) has welcomed the Government's renewed commitment to reforming adult social care in England, describing it as an important opportunity to place the care workforce at the centre of future reform.

As the independent professional body for care professionals, the CPO believes that lasting reform must not only address funding and service delivery, but also the professional recognition, development and status of the people who provide care every day.

Paul Featherstone, Managing Director of the Care Professional Organisation, said:

"For too long, discussions about adult social care have focused almost exclusively on systems, structures and funding. Whilst these are undoubtedly important, meaningful reform must also recognise and invest in the workforce itself."

"Care professionals deliver skilled, compassionate and often highly complex care to some of the most vulnerable people in society. They deserve to be recognised as professionals and supported throughout their careers in the same way as many other professions."

The CPO believes there are practical measures that could be introduced alongside wider reform, without the need for significant additional public expenditure or the creation of a new statutory regulator.

Over recent years, the Care Professional Organisation has established itself as the independent professional body for care professionals, working with employers, education providers, commercial partners and stakeholders across the adult social care sector. Alongside this, the organisation has developed the **Care Professional Register**, a voluntary register for care professionals in England, which is currently progressing through the Professional Standards Authority's Accredited Registers programme.

The CPO believes that independently accredited voluntary registers can play an important role in strengthening public confidence, recognising professional commitment and encouraging high standards of practice.

"Professionalisation does not always require statutory regulation," Mr Featherstone continued.

"There is an opportunity to build upon professional infrastructure that already exists. A professionally recognised workforce, supported by an independent professional body and an accredited voluntary register, offers a practical and proportionate way of raising standards, strengthening public confidence and recognising those who are committed to delivering high-quality care."

The organisation also believes there is a strong case for encouraging care professionals to engage with a recognised professional body, providing access to professional standards, continuing professional development, ethical guidance and practical support throughout their careers.

Alongside its work on professional standards and the Care Professional Register, the CPO supports care professionals through education, wellbeing services, legal guidance and member benefits designed to improve both professional practice and workforce retention.

As the Casey Commission begins shaping the future of adult social care, the Care Professional Organisation believes there are three practical, proportionate and cost-effective measures that could help strengthen the professionalism of England's care workforce:

1. Recognise the role of independent professional bodies

Professional bodies play a vital role in supporting individuals throughout their careers, promoting professional standards, ethical practice, continuing professional development and professional identity. Adult social care should be no different.

2. Consider the contribution of PSA-accredited voluntary registers

Independently accredited voluntary registers provide a recognised mechanism for demonstrating competence, commitment and accountability, whilst strengthening public confidence without the need for additional statutory regulation.

3. Encourage professional membership and lifelong development

Supporting care professionals to engage with a recognised professional body and commit to continuing professional development would help raise standards, improve recruitment and retention, strengthen career pathways and reinforce the professional status of the workforce.

The organisation has written to representatives supporting the Casey Commission, offering to share its experience and contribute to discussions on the future professionalisation of England's adult social care workforce.

"The care workforce has shown extraordinary resilience, professionalism and compassion over many years, often without the recognition afforded to comparable professions," Mr Featherstone added.

"If we genuinely want to transform adult social care, we must also transform how we recognise and support the people who deliver it. The foundations for that already exist. By building on existing professional infrastructure, we have an opportunity to strengthen public confidence, improve workforce retention and give care professionals the professional recognition they have long deserved.

"The Care Professional Organisation stands ready to work constructively with Government, the Casey Commission and partners across the sector to help turn that ambition into reality."

Ends

Notes to editors

The Care Professional Organisation (CPO) is the independent professional body for care professionals in England, supporting the workforce through professional standards, education, wellbeing services, legal guidance and career development.

The Care Professional Register is a voluntary register for care professionals in England and is currently progressing through the Professional Standards Authority's Accredited Registers programme.

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