

# Defending Local Services

- Funding for local government has been one of the hardest hit areas of austerity cuts.
- Many not aware of extent of cuts – publicity and promotion.
- Focus on potential practical actions and campaigns.
- Need three key points and actions for plenary

# Quick Overview

- 2010 – almost 80% of council expenditure from central government. By 2017/18 16%; and by 2019/20 - 5%.
- Huge cuts in ALL services and/or severe increases in council tax and business rates.
- Hits poorer areas harder.
- Increasing Council Tax not the way forward
- Need for increased and fair distribution of funds from central government – anti austerity.

# Example 1 -Transfer of local services

- Shropshire Council – transfer of services e.g. libraries, leisure centres parks & rec, local grants.
- Originally £710,000 offloaded – local pressure reduced now to £325,000.
- Good campaigns e.g. Ludlow Foyer do make a difference.

# Adult Social Care

- 1.3 million adults receiving publicly-funded social care services in England. The social care workforce is estimated at about 1.5 million people in England, employed by over 17,000 organisations.
- However also about 6 million involved in care provided by family members largely for free.
- Disabled adults up from 6.7m to 7.6m by 2012; over 65s up by 17% in a decade by 2012. (In Shropshire figure is up by 20%.) Over 85s up by about 37% in same period.
- The Dilnot report concerned how to integrate Social Care and Health care but also issues about payment
- The capital threshold used as a means test was raised from £23,250 to £118,000 (but then Govt delayed this until 2020)

# Adult Social Care

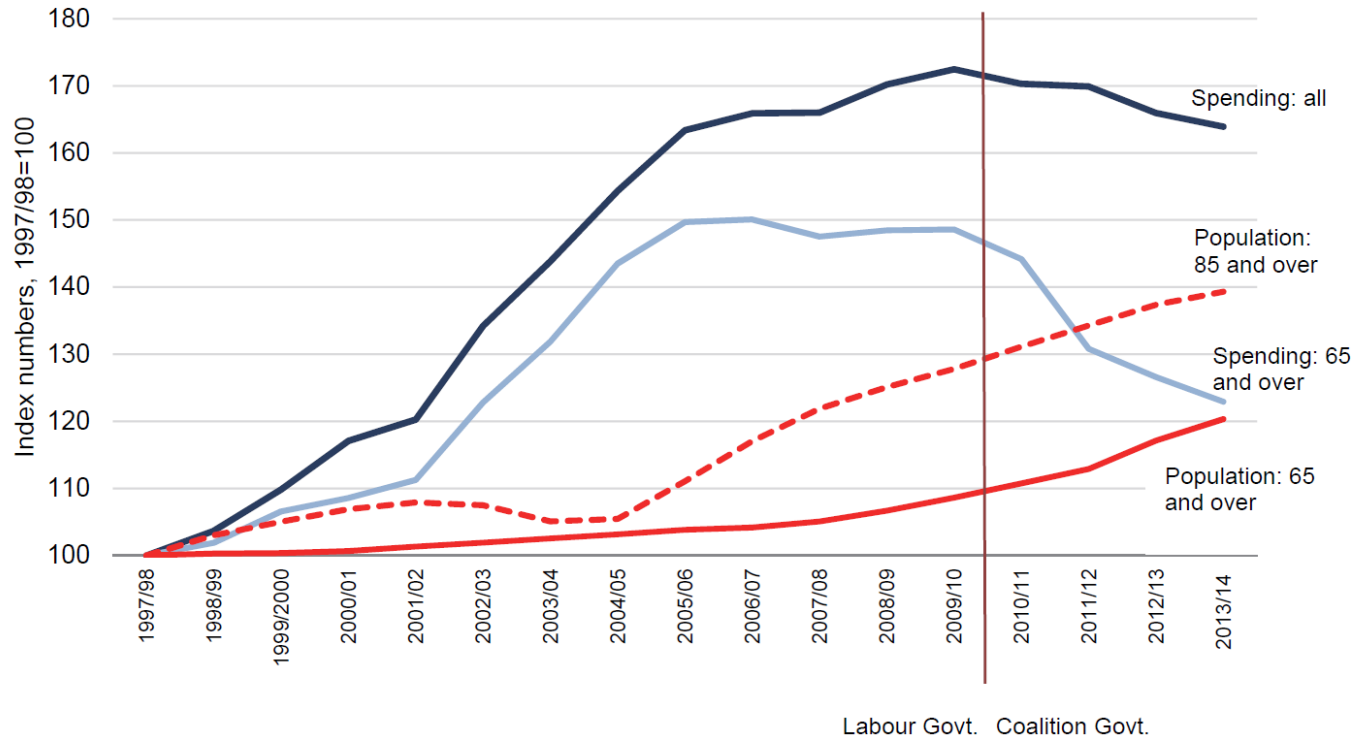
- Funding for local govt has been one of the hardest hit areas during austerity cuts.
- As a result Spending on adult social care has fallen 11% in real terms since 2010 and the number of people getting funded has fallen by 25% as resources concentrated on most needy. (Kings Fund figures from Sept 2016)
- Responsibility placed on local authorities to coordinate social care and health care. Better Care fund (£1.5bn by 2020) established to part-fund this. Spent through Health and Wellbeing Boards. ( NB set up by same 2012 Act that is fragmenting the NHS)

# Adult Social Care

- However this will not fully fund the social care needed.
- To try to plug gap govt have localised by allowing local authorities to raise council tax by 2pp specifically to fund social care.
- Kings Fund however estimate this raise about £380m while funding gap overall is about £1.2bn.
- Another problem is this will generate more in richer areas. So in City of London the 2% would raise £14.40 per head and in Richmond on Thames it would raise £14.90 per head. In contrast in Newham it would raise £5 per head and in Hackney £6.10. Equivalent figure for Shropshire is £23.29 per household so about £11 per head.
- Poorest areas with highest need will have least money to finance it, leading to greater inequalities in provision between rich and poor areas.
- Spending on social care is falling from 1.2% of GDP in 2009 to 0.9% by 2020.

# Graph from Burchardt (2015)\*

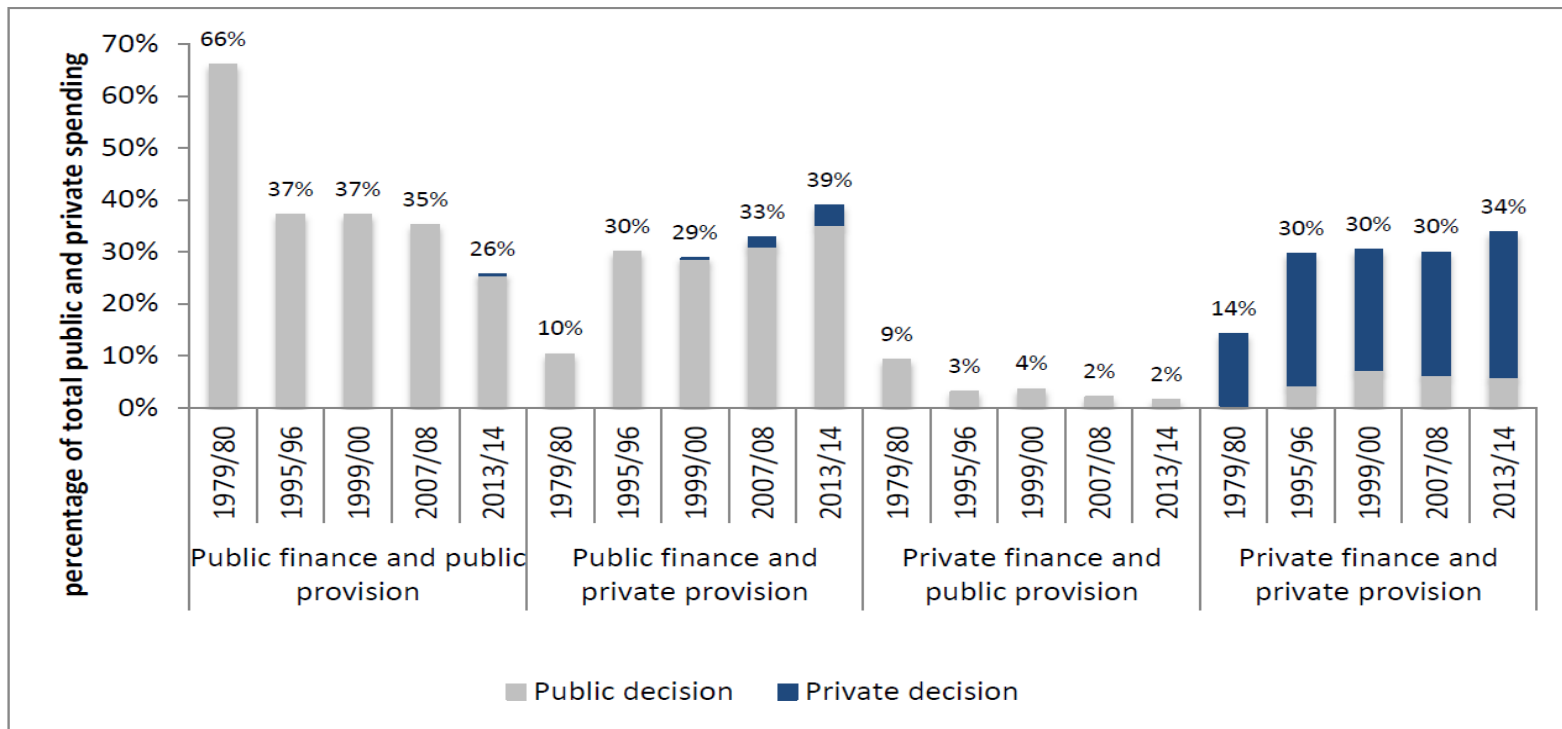
Figure 1: Growth in real net current spending and population estimates by age group, England, 1997/98 to 2013/14



\* Burchardt, Obolenskaya and Vizard (2015) The Coalition's Record on Adult Social Care at <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/spcc/WP17.pdf>

# Graphic from Obolenskaya (2016)\*

**Figure 11: The profile of welfare expenditure on social care, England, 1979/80 to 2013/14**



*Note:* The observations are not evenly spaced over time (x axis), so care should be taken in comparing rates of change between periods.

\* Obolenskaya and Burchardt (2016)

<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/casepaper193.pdf>



# Graph from Burchardt (2015)\*

**Table 4: Percentage changes in the number of community service users, by client type, in Labour and Coalition periods**

	% change	
	2005/06 to 2009/10	2009/10 to 2013/14
<b>Age 18-64</b>		
Physical disability	-1.1	-27.8
Mental health	19.0	-36.9
Learning disability	7.0	3.8
Substance misuse	-0.9	-47.8
Other vulnerable people	3.8	-37.4
<b>Age 65 plus</b>		
Physical disability	-8.0	-31.5
Mental health	26.7	-19.1
Learning disability	18.3	22.5
Substance misuse	-1.4	-20.1
Other vulnerable people	-39.5	-39.3

\* Burchardt, Obolenskaya and Vizard (2015) The Coalition's Record on Adult Social Care at <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/spcc/WP17.pdf>

# What do we do?

**Audit – Campaigns, known activity and orgs**

**Ideas and potential future activity**

Roles and Partnerships i.e. who does what? Joint activity?

Priorities – most important ideas and actions to take forward