

# IIMHL & IIDL Leadership Briefing LII

## Beyond COVID-19: Thinking about new futures

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### Introduction

While it may seem premature to be thinking of “Beyond Covid-19” some sectors and countries are doing just that. Australia is looking at how addressing childhood adversity will help all children; Canada’s NGO sector has identified a list of assumptions about permanent, mostly positive, changes to healthcare resulting from this pandemic; and in England there have been calls for a long-term plan for adult social care, clearly setting out a vision and plan for social care, co-produced with the sector and with people who use services and carers.

### Australia

**Insight: Addressing childhood adversity is crucial for post-COVID-19 recovery**  
November 2020

Children have been spared the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are [at lower risk of becoming infected](#), symptomatic and [transmitting](#) the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Yet the indirect impact of the public health response has led to rapid and major upheavals with substantial and pervasive consequences for children’s lives. Children are experiencing a [range of adversities](#), including parents struggling with mental health problems and substance misuse, relationship breakdowns, financial stress, and an alarming increase in family violence.

Leveraging the existing scientific evidence on childhood adversity [will be critical in planning and implementing the road to recovery](#) and mitigating these effects. This includes translating current evidence to better tackle the occurrence of childhood adversity. The [Centre of Research Excellence in Childhood Adversity](#) is working to develop a sustainable service approach, co-designed with end users, that can better detect and respond to adversity in the early years.

There is also a need to address the unequal exposure to adversity across communities. Before COVID-19, the percentage of Australian families experiencing high levels of adversity [was almost double](#) in those with the lowest, as compared to highest, socio-economic circumstances. Children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds and from ethnic minority backgrounds were also disproportionately exposed.

What are the remedies? We need to develop a new, revitalised, equitable, community based, whole population approach, whereby resistance to the spread of

poor health comes from prevention and protection against the drivers of adversity for all children.

<https://insightplus.mja.com.au/2020/43/addressing-childhood-adversity-is-crucial-for-post-covid-19-recovery/>

## Canada

### **Beyond COVID-19 Heal's (Organisation for Health Action) Consensus Statement: Recommendation for a Healthier Nation** 2020

HEAL's recommendations for a healthier nation outlines issues its members have seen at first hand, including recommendations for pandemic readiness in the future, in addition to their continuing focus on HEAL's two key priority areas to the federal government.

Section 1: Pandemic Readiness

Section 2: Seniors' Care in Canada

Section 3: Mental Health Services

The HEAL COVID-19 Task Force identified a list of assumptions about permanent, mostly positive, changes to healthcare resulting from this pandemic:

- Telehealth will become mainstream.
- Long-term care of seniors and priority populations dependent on other supports will be redesigned.
- Acute care will need to be pandemic ready.
- Work from home will become the new normal.
- Supply chain management of medical devices, supplies and pharmaceuticals will rely less on global supply chains and more on in-country suppliers.
- The wait-time situation for health care services will be exacerbated.
- The approach to public health will be more coherent across the country.
- We will learn from the pandemic and improve our ability to cope with new crises in the future.
- Canadians will follow scientific advice (e.g., use of vaccines, social distancing guidelines).

[https://www.casw-acts.ca/files/documents/BeyondCOVID-19\\_Final\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.casw-acts.ca/files/documents/BeyondCOVID-19_Final_ENG.pdf)

## England

### **The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE): Beyond COVID: New thinking on the future of adult social care** December 2020

In this publication, Rt. Hon. Paul Burstow, Chair of SCIE said: “We must seize the opportunity to envision and plan for a different future for social care; one that is aspirational and hopeful and gets to the heart of how social care liberates people, as Social Care Future put it:

In this report SCIE calls for a long-term plan for social care that will deliver on this vision. They also identify three shifts they think need to happen to build a system that is financially sustainable and fair to access, preventative in focus and supported by a well-paid workforce that is taken care of.”

SCIE believes it is now vital that we have a long-term plan for adult social care, clearly setting out a vision and plan for social care. This should be co-produced with the sector and with people who use services and carers.

To inform this plan, this paper sets out **three strategic shifts** which are needed to overcome the immense challenges we face:

- Shift 1: To shift the sector from surviving hand-to-mouth, to the point where it has long-term and sustainable funding
- Shift 2: To shift investment and focus away from remedial and acute services, towards community-centred preventative models of care, support, housing and technology
- Shift 3: To shift the workforce away from low pay, low recognition and poor conditions, towards higher pay, better conditions and parity of esteem with the NHS

Under these three shifts are **21 recommendations** which will help facilitate rapid progress towards these goals.

SCIE is calling on the Government, along with other national bodies with responsibilities for social care, to consider these proposals as they develop their thinking on the long-term plan and the Taskforce’s recommendations.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/files/care-providers/coronavirus/beyond/new-thinking-adult-social-care.pdf>