

Dear Chancellor,

## **The Spending Review and Social Care**

We are delighted you are standing shoulder to shoulder with the Prime Minister in a joint mission to ‘fix social care’, as you demonstrated at the recent Downing Street press conference.

We are writing to you to ask you to fulfil your obligation now by giving local authorities a funding settlement at the Spending Review that enables them to stabilise, strengthen and ultimately improve social care in our country. Chancellor, to be candid, care simply can’t wait any longer.

The great bulk of the money announced by the Government in the last few weeks benefits the NHS, not social care, and hardly any comes on stream until 2023, but older and disabled people need care now. They and their families and carers are being asked to put up with underfunded and inadequate services that do not enable them to live good lives and that, unless you act, will go on getting worse in the face of growing demand.

We support the Health and Social Care Select Committee’s view:

“We believe the starting point must be an increase in annual funding of £3.9bn by 2023–24 to meet demographic changes and planned increases in the National Living Wage. However, such an increase alone will not address shortfalls in the quality of care currently provided, reverse the decline in access or stop the market retreating to providing only for self-payers. Further funding to address these issues is therefore also required as a matter of urgency.” [1]

It is in your power to deliver these extra resources through the Spending Review and we are in no doubt that your decision will make or break social care over the next three years. The Prime Minister’s promise to fix social care will simply not be met without this cash injection. It will also make or break the reforms which the Government has brought forward. Without substantial extra investment now over the next Spending Review period the Government’s reform agenda will fail.

We have read reports suggesting that the Government’s response to the short and medium term funding pressures in social care may be to permit local authorities to increase the level of the precept they raise, in order to bring more local funding into social care in their areas. However, this would be bound to increase local variation and inequality (undermining ‘levelling up’), with those living in Red Wall areas likely to lose out.

We believe that only substantially more money from central Government to local authorities can provide the financial certainty needed to ‘fix social care’ and we look to you as Chancellor to deliver it at the Spending Review. It’s all down to you now.

Yours sincerely,

---

[1] <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3120/documents/29193/default/>