

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2NS

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Tuesday 6 December 2016

Dear Jeremy and Sajid,

We are writing collectively as the leaders of England's care and support system to express our shock and frustration at the Autumn Statement's failure to address the funding crisis facing adult social care.

The message we conveyed, individually and collectively, in the run up to the Autumn Statement could not have been clearer; the consequences of inaction to address the perilous financial position of care and support will have far-reaching consequences. Providers will leave the publicly-funded care market or cease to be viable businesses. Demand on the NHS will increase. And most importantly, unmet need will increase and elderly and vulnerable people, and those that care for them, will continue to face an uncertain future in which they might not receive the care and support they need to support their independence and wellbeing. These people may not be as visible as those on trolleys in hospital corridors but their plight is no less real and their needs are no less urgent.

In the days since the Autumn Statement there has been an overwhelming sense of disappointment that people who require care services, their carers, and the system that supports them, have been let down. With no announcements on adult social care in the Autumn Statement we are left to infer that the Government believes the current resource available is sufficient. We are not aware of any organisation representing people who use care and support services that shares this opinion.

Adult social care funding cannot be ignored any longer and must become a far more prominent national priority that is dealt with through genuinely new additional funding – not just by tinkering with the social care precept. In the short term we call for £700 million of the new Better Care Fund resources to be brought forward to assist with immediate pressures, although this is certainly not enough to resolve even existing funding challenges never mind the additional pressure that councils face over the remainder of this Spending Review period and beyond.

As leading organisations within adult social care we are proud to represent this sector and equally proud of our working relationship with national governments past and present. This relationship, and our willingness to try and help find solutions, is now more important than ever if we are to help realise a society that works for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Izzi Seccombe  
Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Cllr Linda Thomas  
Vice-Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Cllr Richard Kemp CBE  
Deputy Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Elected Mayor Kate Allsop  
Deputy Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Ray James  
Immediate Past President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services  
Director of Health, Housing and Adult Social Care, London Borough of Enfield

Heléna Herklots  
Chief Executive, Carers UK

Jeremy Hughes  
Chief Executive, Alzheimer's Society

Professor Martin Green OBE  
Chief Executive, Care England

Bridget Warr CBE  
Chief Executive, United Kingdom Homecare Association

Janet Morrison  
Chief Executive, Independent Age

Rhidian Hughes  
Chief Executive, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group

Vicky McDermott  
Chief Executive, Papworth Trust  
Chair, Care and Support Alliance

Kathy Roberts  
Chair, Think Local Act Personal Programme Board  
Chief Executive, Mental Health Providers Forum  
Co-Chair, Care Provider Alliance

Caroline Abrahams  
Charity Director, Age UK

Gail Scott-Spicer  
Chief Executive, Carers Trust

Vic Rayner  
Executive Director, National Care Forum

Alex Fox  
Chief Executive, Shared Lives Plus

Frank Ursell  
Chief Executive, Registered Nursing Home Association

Chris Hopson  
Chief Executive, NHS Providers

Andrew Cannon  
Chief Executive, Voyage Care  
Co-Chair, Learning Disability Voices