



Homecare Association

The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
The Correspondence and Enquiry Unit
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster
London SW1A 2HQ

15 November 2022

Dear Chancellor,

We are writing ahead of the budget to emphasise the importance of investing in homecare and community support and protecting social care funding. In your former role as Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, you always listened carefully and supportively to those receiving and giving homecare. We know you understand the value of homecare for individuals, families, communities, the health and social care system and the wider economy. You are also acutely aware that the absence of timely and appropriate care can be devastating.

Amid the difficult decisions you must make, we call on you to remember the stories you have heard over the years, both as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and as Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee. People struggling to live and work without support. Family carers having to give up their jobs to provide care for their loved ones. Careworkers, who put their own lives at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, now forced to leave their profession because they can no longer afford to put food on the table or fuel in their cars. Older people who have fallen lying for hours outside in the cold waiting for an ambulance, or on trolleys in A&E or in hospital beds waiting to go home as there is not enough care available. You know, too, of many heart-warming stories of transformation and improved lives resulting from high quality health and care services. It makes sense on many levels to invest in social care.

You have talked publicly of the need for compassion, and for focus on those least able to support themselves. Our hope is that, despite the constraints, you can honour this commitment.

When you spoke at our Homecare Association conference last year, you said: “we are at real risk of the social care sector falling over if we don’t recognise that adequate

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funding for local authorities to commission what they are required to do in law is going to be a central part of this solution.” Local authorities need funding now to meet their legal duties. Councils are unable to raise funds in an equitable or sufficient way through Council Tax. Without more central government funding for councils, we will continue to see inadequate availability of homecare resulting in huge unmet demand in the community and even greater pressure on the NHS.

You also said: “it’s very short-sighted not to put adequate funding into the social care sector, into the homecare sector, because it means that we will miss our extremely challenging [NHS] targets...”. The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services reported that [over 540,000](#) people are waiting for care, assessment, review or a direct payment. NHS data suggest that 13,000 people are currently stuck in hospital though deemed fit to leave. A [quarter of delayed discharges from hospital](#) are due to people waiting for homecare. NHS waiting lists are now [over 7 million](#). I’m sure you know that this situation will worsen if local authority funding is cut.

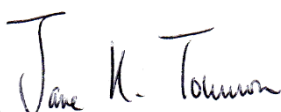
As you pointed out: “We have got to make people understand that when it comes to homecare, it really is the way you deliver prevention.” We know you understand that it is a false economy to cut care services. If we neglect people in the community, they are more likely to deteriorate and require most costly acute or critical care in hospital or residential care.

In your upcoming fiscal statement, we urge you to ensure that:

- The budget for the Department of Health and Social Care is protected.
- Local authorities receive adequate funding to meet their duties under the Care Act 2014; including meeting unmet need.
- The results of the Fair Cost of Care exercises are made public and the true costs of care met by Government to ensure we can maintain and grow the workforce. A care sector disintegrating and unable to meet need is a source of national shame. This must be addressed.

Now you have the power to act, please use it to ensure everyone can live well at home and flourish in their communities.

Yours sincerely



Dr Jane Townson

Chief Executive

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