

31 March 2017

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about adult social care.

I believe that it is important to ensure that as people get older, they are able to receive the dignified care they deserve. I support the Government's commitment to making sure this is a country that works for everyone and that the most vulnerable in society can access the support they need.

I know that the Government recognises the current pressures facing local areas and short-term measures have been introduced to support councils to manage adult social care which will deliver more than £7 billion extra spending power to the system over the next three years. This includes greater flexibility over the use of the council tax social care precept, so that local authorities can choose to raise extra money as well as retaining savings from the New Homes Bonus, totalling £240 million.

There will be further support in the medium term, with the Chancellor's recent announcement of an additional £2 billion to councils in England over the next three years to spend on adult social care services. I am encouraged that £1 billion will be provided in 2017-18, to ensure councils can take immediate action. As a result of measures introduced since 2015, councils will have access in total to £9.25 billion more dedicated funding for social care over the next three years.

Money alone will not fix the problem and far-reaching reform is needed to encourage high standards across the whole country. Some councils are already providing high quality social care within their existing budgets, showing that reform can be achieved and half of all delayed discharges from hospital to home arise in just 24 local authorities. I understand proposals will be set out in a green paper to put the social care system on a more secure and sustainable long term footing for everyone who needs it.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP