



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

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Professor Vic Rayner et al  
National Care Forum & others  
[By email]

Dear all,

4 September 2024

Thank you for your letter. We have an enormous task ahead of us given the huge challenges the country faces, including in adult social care. However, I want to assure everyone working in the adult social care sector and those drawing on care and support, that we are dedicated to building the consensus for a new system that transforms how care and support is delivered - that includes long overdue reform of the social care workforce.

We recognise people are suffering without the care they need or fighting a complicated system just to receive poor quality care, and that care workers are under a lot of pressure. Things should never have got to this point. I want us to harness the huge potential of adult social care to empower local communities, give the workforce more professional standing, and support people to live their lives to the full. I value the chance we now have to change course and take positive action together.

As you note in your letter, without high-quality social care, it will also be impossible to fix our broken NHS: shifting care out of hospital and into the community, will set us up for the future. That's why we want people to have fair access to locally delivered services, that start at home, so they can leave hospital as soon as they are ready and live independently at home for as long as possible.

Reforming adult social care is critical and urgent. I greatly appreciate your statement of solidarity and offer to share your expertise to build a National Care Service and a Fair Pay Agreement. We want to work closely with the sector on these and your input will be invaluable.

This Government is being honest about the dire economic circumstances we inherited and takes seriously our responsibility to help manage down overall fiscal pressures in 2024/25. This has required me to take the difficult decision to keep funding for adult social care training and development at the same levels as previous years. Additionally, upon entering Government, I discovered the proposed charging reforms could not be delivered to the October 2025 timetable, and that the previous government had no plan to fund them. I recognise the announcement will be disappointing for many people, but I am determined this Government makes commitments it can keep.

I feel deeply the frustration I have heard so often, that the previous government made big commitments, and then failed to deliver on them. My decisions in recent weeks are a

break from that legacy. I agree that adult social care is key to a great number of Government priorities and the plans we will set out to reform social care will be funded and deliverable.

I am determined to get this right and I look forward to working with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Streeting', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

**RT HON WES STREETING MP**

Bea with me! I see myself very much as  
the Secretary of State for Social Care  
and I'm determined to deliver.