

Address for correspondence
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Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care

Dear Secretary of State,

The impact of the Budget on adult social care

We write as group of individuals and organisations united in our shared interest in the future of care and support services in England, to ask for your urgent attention to the need to mitigate the impact of the recent Budget on adult social care services.

Collectively, we represent and advocate for social care providers who deliver vital public services, councils which have a range of statutory responsibilities for delivering adult social care and supporting wellbeing locally, key partners in health, care and wellbeing, and, most crucially, people who draw on care and support.

We are convinced that without further action either to improve the budget allocations to local authorities to pay for care and support, or to exempt social care providers and people who employ personal assistants from additional contributions, more people who have reason to draw on care and support will see their packages of support reduced or removed, seriously impacting their rights to choice and control and their ability to live ordinary lives as citizens.

We recognise that the Government faces a very challenging economic situation, and has had to make difficult choices in bringing together this budget. However, we are concerned that the proposed rise in employer National Insurance Contributions and the lowering of the threshold will have serious consequences for social care providers and the public services they deliver. There are over 1.59m people employed in adult social care and around 45% of the workforce currently work part time. A large proportion of adult social care is paid for by local authorities, with the vast majority of provision for working age adults funded by local Government.

The impact on providers cannot be divorced from the impact on people. It is vital that there is an urgent solution identified to address the immediate impact that the Budget will have on people who draw on care and support. Organisations who deliver care are hugely concerned that they will be unable to offer the care that people need. The urgency of identifying a solution for social care cannot be underestimated. The NHS and other parts of the public sector have already received reassurance that they will not have to pay the national insurance increase. We believe that there needs to be a parity of approach to social care

Even before the Budget, ADASS forecast that councils would have to make nearly £1.4billion of savings next year. Clarity on the detail of the £600 million for social care announced in the Budget is urgently needed and it will take time to more fully

understand the cost implications of the employers' NICs and NLW increases. But initial analysis by parts of the sector suggests that the additional funding needed to cover the cost of these announcements could be more than double the £600m being made available. After years of austerity, there is nowhere left to look for savings, as social care is already cut to the bone – its “dire” state acknowledged most recently in Lord Darzi's review of the NHS.

If a new approach is not found, we will see providers forced to hand back contracts to local authorities, who in turn will need to reduce further the numbers of people supported, to meet the increased costs for those with the very greatest needs. In this way the proposed changes will fly directly in the face of the Government's missions to promote health, to intervene early and to bring care closer to communities, as well as undermining the social care sector's current contributions to local economies (GVA from social care was £68.1 billion according to the most recent Skills for Care data).

As organisations we have welcomed the Government's commitment to long-term reform of care and support in England, we look forward to working with you to deliver this, but there is also a need for action today. We are ready to work with you to identify solutions, and to offer whatever support you need in finding an effective route through.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Williams
President, ADASS

Anna Severwright
Convenor, Social Care Future

Isaac Samuel & Kate Sibthorp
Co-chairs, National Coproduction Advisory Group

Cllr David Fothergill
Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Mayor Brenda Dacres
Vice Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Cllr Sarah Osborne
Deputy Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Cllr Gillian Ford
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Clive Parry
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Michael Voges
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Martin Green
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Nadra Ahmed
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Melanie Weatherly MBE & Eddy McDowall
Co-Chairs, Care Association Alliance

Ewan King
CEO, Shared Lives Plus

Rhidian Hughes
CEO, VODG

Jane Townson
CEO, Home Care Association

Kathy Roberts
CEO, Association of Mental Health Providers

Sam Monaghan
CEO, MHA

Hope Lightowler
Co-Chair of Working Group and Chair of Lived Experience Advisory Group, APPG
Social Care

Caroline Stevens
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Karyn Kirkpatrick
CEO, KeyRing

Sarah Mistry
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Helen England
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Sarah Maguire
CEO, Choice Support

Aisling Duffy
CEO, Certitude

Rachael Dodgson
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Sarah Burslem
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Gill Morris FCIPR
Executive Chair, Future Social Care Coalition

Pip Cannons
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Geoffrey Cox
Director, Devon Care Homes Collaborative

Peter Evans
Chair, Buckinghamshire Care Providers Association

Emma Heath
CEO, Hampshire Care Association

CC

Stephen Kinnock MP, DHSC
Baroness Gillian Merron, DHSC
Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP, DWP

