



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

20 February 2023

Dear Michael,

Long-term funding of adult social care

When the then DLUHC Permanent Secretary, Jeremy Pocklington, gave evidence to my Committee on 9 January 2023, I asked him for an update on several outstanding responses to my Committee's reports. Among them is our report on long-term funding of adult social care, the response to which is now more than four months overdue. Mr Pocklington said: "The Department of Health and Social Care [DHSC] will respond to your report on adult social care".¹

While we fully understand that social care policy is set by DHSC, local authorities are key to its delivery, funding, and overall market sustainability, and your Department has the role – to quote Mr Pocklington again – of "stewards of the local government sector".²

A prime example of this is that this month DLUHC has provided an explanatory note on social care resources "to enable local authorities to plan for 2023/24".³ The note explains certain DHSC conditions and targets that councils must meet in order to be eligible for grant funding, which the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services has described as potentially setting councils up to fail.⁴

Many of our recommendations are still relevant despite the Government's delay of its proposals for charging reforms. Several of our recommendations relate to your Department specifically, as well as to cross-government working between your Department and DHSC. As a result, I expect the overdue Government response to the report, as per our

¹ [Q119](#)

² [Letter from the Permanent Secretary to the Chair](#), dated 30 January 2023

³ DLUHC, [Social care resources explanatory note](#), 6 February 2023

⁴ ["Councils to face targets in return for adult social care funding"](#), Community Care, 9 February 2023



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

recommendation, to “show clear evidence of joint working from the departments” (paragraph 87).

My predecessor Committee’s joint report with the Health and Social Care Select Committee in 2018 on long-term funding of adult social care did not receive a Government response. Since social care accounts for two thirds of local government expenditure and is the single biggest challenge to the sustainability of local government finances, and thus to the services councils provide to residents, we think it is imperative that your Department engages with my Committee’s scrutiny of the Government’s long-term plans for adult social care funding.

I would be grateful for a date by which my Committee can expect to receive the Government response to its report.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Care and the Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee.

Best wishes,

Mr Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee