

From the Permanent Secretary
Sir Chris Wormald



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Rt Hon Meg Hillier MP
Chair of Public Accounts Committee
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Sent via email to: pubaccom@parliament.uk

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Dear Chair

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts Thirty-Eighth Report of Session 2017-19, Adult Social Care Workforce in England

I am writing to provide the committee with an update from the Department of Health and Social Care on progress against the outstanding Recommendation 1 in the above-named report.

Recommendation 1: The forthcoming Green Paper must not be the start of yet another protracted debate about the future funding of care. The Department should establish quickly the funding local authorities need to commission care at fair prices, to support a workforce of the right size and shape to deliver a sustainable care sector in the long-term. It should publish a credible plan, by the end of 2018, and implement it swiftly.

We are acutely aware of the long-term challenges to the social care system in England. One of the biggest challenges society faces is putting social care on a sustainable footing, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We recognise the pressures on the care system are ever-increasing and we remain committed to longer term reform. The Government will continue to work with the sector to grow and develop the social care workforce.

However, our current priority for adult social care is that all recipients of care receive the support they need throughout the covid-19 pandemic and the winter period ahead. In this we place equal focus.

Next year we have given local authorities access to over £1 billion of spending for social care through £300 million of social care grant and the ability to levy a 3 per cent adult social care precept. This funding is additional to the £1 billion social care grant announced last year which is being maintained. The government will also be providing local authorities with £1.55 billion to address Covid-19 pressures, including in adult social care. This will support councils to maintain care services while keeping up with rising demand and recovering from the impact of Covid-19.

*From the Permanent Secretary
Sir Chris Wormald*



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Given the pandemic and the uncertainties it creates, the one-year Spending Review must be used to stabilise the social care system. Future funding decisions will be made at the next Spending Review and proposals to improve social care will be brought forward next year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Wormald".

**SIR CHRIS WORMALD
PERMANENT SECRETARY**

A large, sweeping, handwritten flourish or signature element, consisting of a single, continuous, curved line that starts from the left and curves upwards and to the right.