



Health and Social Care Committee

Stephen Kinnock MP
Minister of State for Care

Friday 3 July 2026

Social care reforms and the Modern Service Framework for dementia and frailty

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on Wednesday 24 June 2026 at our session on the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care (Casey Commission). I am writing to you to follow up on some issues raised during that meeting.

Local authority representation on integrated care boards

The Committee has previously raised the importance of close and integrated working between the NHS and local authorities. In our report on the Health Bill, we raised concerns that the Bill would amend integrated care board (ICB) membership requirements, removing the requirement to have at least one local authority representative. In our view, this undermines government efforts to deliver a more integrated health and care system and removes direct strategic input from those delivering social care services. In her evidence, Baroness Casey told us she was concerned that local authorities would continue to not be viewed as equal partners while “acute trusts run the show, and local authorities are bit parts that get the crumbs that fall from the table.”¹ She added that the commission would be looking carefully at how health and wellbeing boards will bring together the NHS and local authorities. Baroness Casey said she does not want to have to make restructuring recommendations in response to finding that the changes made in the Health Bill are “all wrong.”²

The Committee did not feel that you or your officials provided a compelling or coherent argument for the benefit of removing local authorities from ICBs or for how the Health Bill would increase integration between ICBs and strategic local authorities through health and wellbeing boards. **The Committee asks you to set out clearly and simply why you believe local authorities should be removed from ICB membership and what will be put in place to encourage this integration to happen. We are also keen to better understand why mayors are explicitly mentioned in the Bill when not all mayors have the same powers and not all areas will have mayors in place when the bill is enacted. We would further appreciate more detail on how integration between the NHS and local authorities is already taking place, including through the alignment of funding cycles.**

¹ [Q28](#)

² [Q48- 49](#)



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Visas for the social care workforce

The Committee welcomed your comments that the social care workforce should have parity of esteem with the health care workforce and the fact that they will be included in the upcoming NHS workforce plan. However, we are concerned that the government's proposed reforms to immigration and visa rules undermine the ability for there to be true parity. Current proposals leave the social care workforce vulnerable and risk losing skilled and dedicated people from the social care sector. We asked you if a single national care visa could help tackle many of the issues you raised, including exploitation by unscrupulous employers, and you signalled that the Department should explore this proposal. **We therefore recommend that the Department, in collaboration with the Home Office, explore the potential to create a single national care visa and keep the Committee updated on developments. The Committee also asks that you provide us with a copy of any modelling the Department has done on the impact that changes to care worker visas will have on the social care sector.**

Modern Service Framework for dementia and frailty

While the Committee welcomes the government's focus on dementia and frailty, we remain sceptical about the ability of Modern Service Frameworks to deliver the improvements in care that they promise. We are concerned that they will lack specific measures and mechanisms for accountability for improving early diagnosis, care pathways and access to treatment and research. **We would therefore be grateful if you could set out what powers the Dementia Tsar will have to push through change and hold delivery partners to account for implementation. We also ask that you provide us with further information about the accountability mechanisms that will be within the Modern Service Framework, including if it will set any performance targets and what support will be offered to providers that do not meet these standards.**

I would be grateful for a reply to this letter by 16 July.

Yours sincerely,

Layla Moran
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee