

Rt Hon Theresa May MP

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

21 May 2018

Re: Social Care Green Paper Principles

Dear Prime Minister,

This year is the 70th birthday of the National Health Service and of the National Assistance Act:

'An Act to terminate the existing poor law and to provide in lieu thereof for the assistance of persons in need by the National Assistance Board and by local authorities; to make further provision for the welfare of disabled, sick, aged and other persons and for regulating homes for disabled and aged persons and charities for disabled persons; to amend the law relating to non-contributory old age pensions; to make provision as to the burial or cremation of deceased persons; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid'.

It is also the year in which you and your government have pledged a Green Paper for social care alongside of which is a programme considering the future needs of disabled and mentally ill working age adults. You will know that good care and support can transform a person's life, help people live the life they want, in a variety of circumstances – a vital connector between individuals, their families and wider community. It enhances health and wellbeing, increasing independence, choice and control. It is distinctive, valued, and personal. Social work and social care provide essential care, support and safeguards for all of us.

We recognise the effort by your Government in recent times to provide short term funding to avoid a crisis in care. However, this is set against what our annual budget survey clearly indicates: some 8 years of real term reductions in funding for social care, at the same time as significant increases in need and complexity and significant increases in costs due to welcome policies such as the National Living Wage. In turn, this has had a material impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. For older and disabled people and their families this has resulted in a failing care market, limiting availability, choice, and affecting quality - and has a well-rehearsed impact on the NHS. Investing in social care pays dividends for us, our communities, our economy and our NHS: the reductions in delayed transfers of care over the last year as a result of the Improved Better Care Fund are evidence of this.

I urge you to read and support our statements in response to the Secretary of State's principles for the Green Paper. Our concerns are genuine and shared. We very much welcome your government's intent to address the issues we have identified that face us all and we are ready to support change.

Yours sincerely,



Glen Garrod
ADASS President

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
ADASS, 18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
Tel: 020 7072 7433 Email: team@adass.org.uk Website: www.adass.org.uk

ADASS is a charity with objectives to articulate the needs of older and disabled people and to promote good social care practice. Our members include the 152 Directors of Adults Social Services (DASSs) in England, their immediate reports and previous Directors of Adult Social Services. Our members are at the sharp end of delivery, key to local places and key to relationships between Local Government and the NHS. We have an independent voice.

Cc: Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government