

Ms Helen Whateley MP

Department for Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street

London

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15/3/24

Dear Minister,

Urgent Reevaluation of Social Care Funding Models Needed

My name is Tony Stein, Chief Executive of Healthcare Management Solutions, the UK's leading care home management company. Having managed hundreds of care homes throughout my career, I wish to express my concerns regarding the funding of social care, as discussed in your recent comments in the I newspaper. My points are as follows:

- **Centralised Funding Feasibility:** While local authorities understand social care needs, centralised funding is viable. Local authorities can manage care requirements with funds from a central source.
- **Split Funding Issues:** The division of funding between the NHS and social care leads to sub-optimal decisions, driven by affordability rather than need.
- **Impact on NHS and Care Home Transfers:** This funding model results in patients remaining in hospital (under NHS budget) instead of moving to less costly care home beds, thus blocking vital NHS resources.
- **Local Authority Financial Strains:** Financially strained local authorities fail to meet constituent needs, leaving vulnerable individuals without care or with inadequate home visits.

Inadequate care leads to increased social isolation, leading to depression, dementia, heart disease, malnutrition, and medication non-compliance. There is a higher risk of falls, necessitating expensive emergency and hospital care, followed by costlier long-term care for those immobilised.

Despite the growing need due to an ageing population, successive governments have struggled to adequately fund social care. The sector remains underfunded, as starkly highlighted during the Covid pandemic when social care was the poor relation to the NHS, as has always been, and remains, the case.

The current state of social care funding necessitates urgent attention and reform. I believe that through constructive dialogue, we can address these challenges and improve the care system for our ageing population.

I am eager to discuss these issues in detail, possibly at one of our care homes, to explore viable solutions.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Stein

Chief Executive

Healthcare Management Solutions