



Derby City Council

Councillor Martin Repton
Labour – Darley Ward
Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Care

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health
Richmond House
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Date 15 January 2018

Dear Minister

I am writing to you as the Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Care at Derby City Council because as a Labour administration, we are concerned about the NHS and adult social care not being funded properly. This issue is one the administration and Council takes very seriously and has been debated innumerable times in the Council Chamber.

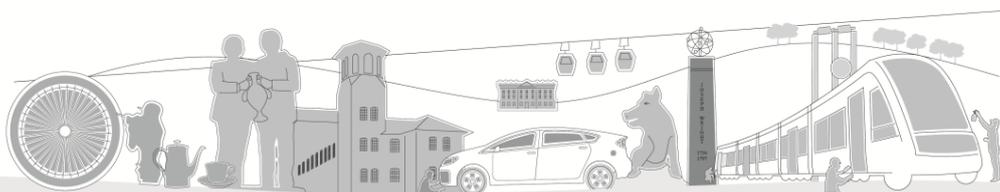
In relation to adult social care, the Labour administration was very disappointed that your Government ignored sector-wide calls to address the urgent need for extra funding in the recent budget. There has been a vibrant chorus of well informed and respected voices coming from the Kings Fund, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, NHS Confederation, ADASS and the British Medical Association, but sadly this does not seem to resonate with your Government or result in the scale of action needed.

In our view, allowing Councils to increase council tax by an additional 1% next year is wholly insufficient to address the significant and ever growing funding gap facing adult social care, raises the least funding in areas of greatest need such as the challenges we have in Derby, and frankly is not the best solution to address the crisis we are facing in the sector. Our fear is that with no fresh injection of funding the increasing number of older and disabled people will not get the care and support they need. We are already seeing real challenges this winter and this will only get worse as we progress throughout the year.

By the end of this financial year, £6 billion will have been cut from Councils' adult social care budgets since 2010; this is an astronomical figure in the face of the rising demand for our services. What appears to be lacking in Government is any emotional

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DERBY...300 YEARS OF THINKING, MAKING AND DOING

and human compassion or intelligence of the real situation facing the gravely ill, disabled, elderly and vulnerable people with too many people waiting longer and longer to get basic access to health and social care, suffering pain, hardship and isolation in the process – this is totally unacceptable in the 21st century.

It is disappointing that the Green Paper on social care is not being published until the summer; much more needs to be done now to secure extra recurring money to address the funding gaps, to deal with the growing demand for services, including the National Living Wage, and the stability of the every fragile care market. I would urge the Government to act immediately and proportionately to the scale and depth of the crisis we are facing in the social care sector.

In relation to funding for the NHS, this very issue was debated at the last meeting of full Council where it was agreed that I would write to you and strongly request that your Government reinstate the 4% annual uplift. Under the last Labour Government the NHS budget was increased by 4% per year; since 2010 the budget has only increased by 1%. A recent YouGov poll showed that 58% of the public were in favour of a 1% increase in National Insurance contributions to support our ailing NHS; 48% of people in this same YouGov poll were in favour of increasing income tax to help deal with the problems and pressures facing our precious NHS.

I have been a ward Councillor for over 30 years and it is a privilege being the Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Care; I see every day the hard work and commitment of senior leaders, middle managers and front line staff, as well as partner agencies, working together to provide the best care and support we can to younger adults and older people and we truly do excellent work here in Derby. However, in all my years in local politics, I have never seen public finances so squeezed and with such an impact on our ability to do the right thing for the vulnerable citizens of his city.

Mr Hunt. There is now an impending year round crisis in adult social care and health. Sadly we could already be in that perilous state. Every MP and every Councillor of all political persuasions knows that. The public knows that. Yet you and your Government seem worryingly in a state of denial. It is now time to address these problems in a robust and sustainable manner before events force yours and your Government's hand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Repton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Martin Repton
Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Care