

From the Permanent Secretary  
Sir Chris Wormald



## Department of Health & Social Care

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU  
[Permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk)

Dame Meg Hillier MP  
Chair of Public Accounts Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 9NA

Sent via email to: [pubaccomm@parliament.uk](mailto:pubaccomm@parliament.uk)

31 May 2022

Dear Chair,

**Re: Public Accounts Committee, Fourteenth Report of Session 2019-21, Readyng the NHS and social care for the COVID-19 peak**

***3: PAC recommendation: After years of promises and false starts, we expect the Department to set out in writing to us by October 2020 what it will be doing, organisationally, legislatively and financially, and by when, to make sure the needs of social care are given as much weight as those of the NHS in future. We will be challenging them on this at future sessions.***

The department welcomes the committee's recommendations and thanks them for their continued engagement on this incredibly important area.

We all recognise the vital role that adult social care has in our communities, providing care to those who need it most, and supporting people to live independent, enriching lives. The government recognises that there are a number of challenges with the current system that affect how people experience care and support. We know that the sector made huge efforts during the pandemic and we do not underestimate the challenge of building back better. Going forward, we want to ensure that the sector has what it needs to deliver our ambitious programme of reform and that we draw on the experience of the pandemic to bridge the gap between health and social care.

We have therefore announced an investment of £5.4 billion over three years to begin a social care reform programme. This includes £3.6 billion to reform the social care charging system and enable all local authorities to move towards paying providers a fair cost of care and a further £1.7 billion to begin major improvements across adult social care in England. This is backed by the new Health and Social Care levy which came into effect on 6 April 2022 and provides a long-term funding solution for health and social care.

In December 2021, the government published a reform white paper, *People at the Heart of Care*, which set out a 10-year vision for adult social care and outlined priorities for investing the £1.7 billion in the adult social care system over the next three years. This includes:

- an investment of at least £500 million in the workforce;
- at least £300 million to integrate housing into local health and care strategies;
- at least £150 million to improve technology and increase digitisation across social care;
- £30 million to help local areas innovate around the support and care they provide;
- up to £25 million to work with the sector to kick start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers;

- funding of at least £5 million to pilot new ways to help people understand and access the care and support available; and,
- £70 million to increase the support offer across adult social care to improve the delivery of care and support services.

We recognise the importance of meeting the needs of the social care sector and those who draw on care and support. These reforms will bring tangible benefit to the lives of people who draw on care and support, their families, and their carers.

Through extensive stakeholder engagement, the department found that the Care Act 2014 should serve as the legislative foundation for social care reform and our 10-year vision. The Care Act 2014 was landmark legislation informed by a range of partners and its ambition and intent continues to have widespread support to this day.

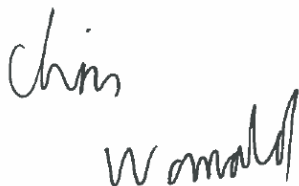
Partly drawing on the lessons from the pandemic, the Government published "[Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all](#)" in February 2021. This white paper highlighted some targeted legislative improvements which would strengthen accountability and collaboration between health and social care, and also remove specific barriers to reform. The resulting adult social care measures in the Health and Care Bill build on the foundation provided by the Care Act, and will make it a legislative requirement for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to assess the performance of local authorities' delivery of their Care Act duties, with new powers for the Secretary of State to intervene where these assessments identify a persistent and serious threat to peoples' wellbeing. The Bill measures also support better data sharing; enable joint decision-making; and put more power and autonomy in the hands of local systems.

In addition, the integration white paper, which was published in February 2022, aligns with and builds both on the proposals in the Health and Care Bill and those in the adult social care reform white paper to go further and faster in joining up health and social care for people, places, and populations.

The white paper sets out our approach to designing a shared outcomes framework and single accountable person to help deliver these shared outcomes for people locally. This will support local organisations to work closer together to jointly prioritise the things that matter most for people locally. We expect that all places will identify a single accountable person by Spring 2023.

It also sets out proposals to strengthen key enablers of integration at place level including financial frameworks, accountability, oversight and leadership, data and technology and workforce.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Wormald', written in a cursive style.

**SIR CHRIS WORMALD**  
**PERMANENT SECRETARY**