



The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care
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Councillor Kate Taylor
Cabinet Member for Health and
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Dear Secretary of State,

DEMENTIA FUNDING

Plymouth City Council recently voted unanimously across all political parties to support a Motion on Notice regarding the funding of services to support people living with Dementia.

As you are aware there is a growing number of people in Plymouth and across the country who are living with a diagnosis of dementia. Plymouth City Council itself, through its integrated Commissioning function, funds and supports some really positive work to support people with dementia to live independently in the community. For example, Plymouth's Dementia Friendly City initiative has been nationally recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as best practice and we commission a Dementia Support Worker Service to support people on diagnosis of dementia. We have an in-house Care Quality Assurance & Improvement Team (QAiT) which implements our Dementia Quality Mark and a workforce development programme for care providers which has led to an improvement in care quality in the city and has been recognised as being excellent by the CQC.

I am incredibly proud of the way our city has come together and try and improve the lives of people living with dementia, and those caring for them. However, Plymouth City Council would like to raise the important issue of funding for those living with a dementia diagnosis with the Secretary of State. Currently the unfair funding system means that when people living with dementia need care, they face higher charges for care than those with other health conditions, many of which are free on the NHS, due to the inequity in which care for the condition is funded.

Additionally, due to the significant underfunding of local authorities, coupled with rising demand and costs for care and support, Plymouth's Adult Social Care services, along with other local authorities nationally, have been pushed to breaking point. With the Adult Social Care Green Paper promised multiple times by the government nowhere in sight and no clear, fit for purpose funding system developed for the funding of Adult Social Care in the future, I am seriously concerned that those living with a dementia diagnosis risk missing out on much needed care and support in the future because we are simply unable to afford to support everyone that we need to within the financial envelope we have to deliver our services.

OFFICIAL

Plymouth City Council believes that the system of support for people living with dementia is unfair, unsustainable and needs a long-term overhaul, to ensure that people with dementia receive affordable and high quality care when and in the manner they need it.

Therefore, Plymouth City Council is writing to you as Secretary of State, to address this unfairness and to ensure that dementia is funded by the NHS like any other health condition through a dedicated Dementia Fund worth £2.4billion. This request is supported by the Alzheimer's Society, who provide extensive help and support to those living with dementia and their loved ones.

I look forward to receiving a response to this letter in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Kate Taylor
Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care