

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 15 March 2021



Budget for NHS and Carers

Last year Plymouth took to its doorsteps to loudly show our appreciation for our NHS staff and carers in our communities, care homes and supported living accommodation.

NHS staff and carers have cared for our sick and dying in Plymouth during the pandemic and are going above and beyond to rapidly deliver the vaccination programme to get us all back to normal life.

Despite this, the Government has yet again delivered a budget that fails to recognise the value of our NHS staff and carers, or address the significant pressures on our Adult Social Care system.

The 1% rise for NHS staff is an insult and it is clear that Plymouth's frontline health and care workers are being asked to pick up the cost of the pandemic which they have heroically fought, and in which some staff have lost their lives.

With the workforce already on its knees, this budget will make recruitment and retention even more difficult. It will lead to more doctors, nurses and carers leaving the profession and this will mean longer waiting lists for patients in Plymouth. Waiting lists for non-urgent treatment are at a record high, and with the £8 billion cuts against frontline services, the NHS will struggle to cope.

Additionally, the Government has failed to address the urgently needed, long-term reform of Adult Social Care, despite the Prime Minister promising that he would bring forward plans for reform as part of his election manifesto. This has led to Local Authorities being able to support less people, despite rising need, and invest less in preventative services whilst receiving less funding from Government.

The pandemic has also shown the health and social care sector needs additional investment and yet the Government has not provided the funding to the NHS, Local Authorities or care providers to match this, nor have they confirmed the extension of the Infection Control Fund which has allowed care workers to access sick pay and care providers to fund infection control measures to keep staff and residents safe.

Plymouth City Council condemns this government's budgetary failure for Plymouth's NHS and carers and calls on the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to:

A) Acknowledge that the government's offer of a 1% rise is an insult and simply not good enough, and to provide a fair pay settlement for NHS and care workers which recognises the contribution that the current workforce has made during the pandemic. This will encourage others to come into caring professions to support the recovery and ensure that the growing NHS waiting lists can be tackled.

B) Live up to their election promise which they have so far failed to carry out, by urgently providing a clear, date-led timescale for the reform of Adult Social Care to give Plymouth City Council and other Local Authorities and care providers the assurances that they need to plan for the future;

C) Urgently provide confirmation that the Infection Control Fund will continue after March to ensure that our hard-working care staff are able to continue accessing sick pay during the pandemic.

Proposer: Councillor Kate Taylor

Signature "By email"

Seconded: Councillor Darren Winter

Signature "By email"