



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

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Dear Secretary of State

SUPPORT FOR OUR NHS AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Last year Plymouth rightly 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 national outpouring of emotion, the Government has yet again delivered a financial settlement 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% pay rise for NHS staff completely fails to recognise and value their contribution in keeping us all safe. Not only does it not adequately reward their contribution but it will almost certainly impact on morale and make recruitment and retention even more difficult. It will undoubtedly 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 this will do nothing to resolve this matter.

In addition, the recent budget announcement yet again failed to deal with the need to reform Adult Social Care - which was an election promise. Whilst the continuation of the Infection Control Fund is welcome, it does not negate the need for a comprehensive, long term and sustainable funding settlement. Without it, Adult Social Care will continue to be in crisis with providers going out of business, recruitment of carers proving impossible and our most vulnerable in society not receiving the care they need and deserve.

At a recent meeting of our full Council I tabled a Motion on Notice on these issues which was overwhelmingly passed. As such, I therefore ask that you review the pay settlement and provide a fair settlement for our NHS workers, which recognises the contribution that the workforce made during the pandemic.

In addition I call on you to fulfil your election promise and set down a detailed timetable for the reform of Adult Social Care. This will provide Local Authorities, Care Providers and Service Users some certainty so that they can plan for the future.

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The time to resolve this issue once and for all is now – the pandemic has shown us the very best of our health and social care system, our city and our country, but it has also highlighted the deep cracks in a system which is designed to support those who need it most. Please do not let us down.

Yours sincerely

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

Councillor Kate Taylor

Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care