

18th June 2019

Dear Conservative Party Leadership Candidate,

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) welcomed Matt Hancock's pledge to increase spending on social care by £3.5b. We invite all other candidates to set out their views on social care and specifically to clarify when they will publish the Green Paper on Adult Social Care promised by the Government since 2017.

Whilst Matt Hancock is still in post, we urge him to show leadership in working to resolve the crisis in social care, which will only continue to deteriorate and threatens further difficulties in the health service this Winter. He should act now as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to produce the Green Paper he promised earlier this year.

When Jeremy Hunt was Secretary of State for Health and Social Care he promised in a speech to BASW on 20th March 2018 that in addition to producing a sustainable funding model for social care that the Green Paper would include how to implement the following commitments:

- "tackle poor care with minimum standards enforced throughout the system so that those using social care services are always kept safe and treated with the highest standards of dignity and compassion"
- "the full integration of health and social care centred around the person"
- "the greater control people have over their care, the better their outcomes and the lower the cost"
- "ensure we have enough people within all of these skilled roles to support people to live the best possible lives"
- "make the needs of carers central to our new social care strategy"
- "greater security for all – for those born or developing a care need early in life and for those entering old age who do not know what their future care needs may be"

The BBC Panorama programmes of 29th May 2019 and 6th June 2019 showed social workers struggling to provide services to vulnerable people in the face of growing demand and diminishing resources. These programmes also showed that Local Authorities are coming to

the end of their ability to stretch finances to meet this demand. While the situation has long been of concern to users of services and professionals, it is now clear that the general public is becoming impatient by the delay.

We urge you to show political leadership on this vital issue for families and communities across the country and to set out the action you will take.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Pete Feldon

Chair of BASW England Adult Policy, Practice and Education Group