

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing on behalf of the Care and Support Alliance (CSA) to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The CSA is a coalition of more than 50 organisations representing millions of older people, disabled people and unpaid carers, campaigning for the care and support people need and deserve. We look forward to working constructively with you at this important moment for adult social care reform.

We note your long-standing commitment to both the NHS and social care, including your maiden speech in March 2020, in which you reflected on your own experience of being treated by the NHS following your diagnosis with myasthenia gravis. In that speech, you rightly said that Parliament “must win the battle for the NHS and the social care system that we need”.

Your experience in local government will have provided a direct insight into the pressures facing councils and local communities, as well as the importance of prevention, independence and joined-up public services in helping people to live well.

Equally, we recognise the valuable perspective you bring from your roles at HM Treasury. Adult social care is not only fundamental to people’s dignity, independence and wellbeing; it is also essential to the country’s economic resilience and prosperity. When social care works well, disabled people and older people can stay connected to their communities, unpaid carers are better able to remain in work and maintain their own health, and pressure on the NHS is reduced through prevention and early support. Investment in social care is therefore an investment in people, communities, productivity and the sustainability of public services.

For too long, adult social care has been treated as the “Cinderella service” - too often overlooked despite the vital role it plays in people’s lives and in the wider health and care system. Yet good social care transforms lives. It enables older people to remain independent and connected to their communities, supports working-age disabled people to work, volunteer and participate fully in society, and helps unpaid carers balance caring with their own health, finances and family life.

At the same time, too many people continue to struggle with unmet need, workforce shortages and growing pressure on unpaid carers and local services. As our population ages and more people live longer with complex needs and long-term conditions, fixing social care becomes ever more urgent — not only for

individuals and families, but for the sustainability of the NHS and the economy itself.

We therefore welcome the Government's commitment to creating a National Care Service, the work of the Commission on Adult Social Care Reform led by Baroness Casey, and the focus on neighbourhood health, prevention and Fair Pay Agreements. Together, these reforms present a real opportunity to build a more sustainable, person-centred adult social care system.

The Care and Support Alliance looks forward to supporting you and your department to help deliver that vision. We appreciate the positive and constructive working relationship that we have with Sally Warren and her team, and we look forward to building on that collaboration in the months ahead.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to ensure adult social care receives the investment and long-term reform it urgently needs.

Yours sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Caroline Abrahams', the second is 'Emily Holzhausen', and the third is 'Jackie O'Sullivan'.

Caroline Abrahams, Emily Holzhausen, Jackie O'Sullivan

Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Care and Support Alliance