

Adult Social Care Motion

Moved: Cllr Simon Brown

Seconded: Cllr Maxine Henson

Speaker: Adam Swersky

Recent analysis by AgeUK has found that a record 1.4 million people in the UK aged over 65 now have some level of unmet social care need. AgeUK blamed this on a “catastrophic lack of government funding for social care”. This analysis has been echoed by the head of the CQC who said that support available for older people was “now so threadbare that Britain’s status as a civilised society was diminished.”

Moreover, the LGA has estimated that by the 2019/20 financial year, local authorities will be facing a funding shortfall for adult social care of £2.6 billion.

The knock-on effects of this are significant: delayed discharges due to a lack of social care support, cost the NHS £289.1 million annually, not to mention the suffering caused to patients who are forced to spend additional days in hospital.

In Harrow, we have the highest number of over 65s in North-West London, while, ~~due to demographic factors,~~ the borough has the third-highest level of diabetes in the country. Moreover, the proportion of those over 80s within the borough is forecast to continue to rise. All of this will have the cumulative effect of significantly increasing the social care burden on the Harrow Council and further exacerbating funding shortfalls.

Harrow Council recognises:

- That ~~there has been a failure by successive governments to deal with the funding crisis enveloping adult social care, funding crisis enveloping adult social care amounts to a dereliction of duty by central government,~~ putting thousands of adults at risk across the country and that there will be the best chance of achieving an enduring resolution if one can be agreed cross-party in Parliament-
- Local authorities have been put under unacceptable levels pressure to deliver on their statutory obligations to provide care, without being given adequate levels of funding to do so.

Harrow Council, therefore, agrees to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, demanding that one of his first actions in his new post should be to take the positive actions, including making an early announcement regarding a publication date for the delayed Green Paper on Care and Support for Older Paper, so that local authorities in England may have some clarity on future

~~funding arrangements for social care required to find an urgent resolution to the emerging crisis in adult social care funding in Harrow and other local authorities.~~

- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and request a cash injection so that Harrow Council is able to provide for the increasing demand for adult social care. ~~council services, including adult social care.~~
- Continue to work with the CCG, GPs, acute and mental health trusts, and other partners in the local health economy, as well as the local voluntary and community organisations, to ensure that the needs of Harrow residents for adult social care continue to be met, regardless of whether central government takes the steps which all agree are necessary.