

ANGELA RAYNER MP
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Our Ref: DM/AR

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20/12/2019

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter outlining the motion debated by full council on 6th November.

I fully agree that bold changes are needed to deliver a long-term funding solution for social care and it's heartbreaking to hear stories of the cost burdens placed on elderly people as they are forced to spend their life savings and sell the homes they wanted to leave to their loved ones to afford the basic care they require.

At last month's General Election, I stood on a manifesto that outlined Labour's plans to build a comprehensive National Care Service for England.

Social care funding cuts have left 1.5 million older people without the care they need and almost £8 billion has been lost from social care budgets since 2010. This is having a profound impact on unpaid carers in this country, with 2.6 million carers quitting their jobs to provide care to family members. The current care system is at risk of collapse.

Labour pledged to provide community-based, person-centred support, underpinned by the principles of ethical care and independent living. We also pledged to provide free personal care, beginning with investments to ensure that older people have their personal care needs met, with the ambition to extend this provision to all working-age adults.

We said we would develop eligibility criteria that ensures our service works for everyone, including people with complex conditions like dementia.

We want to ensure no one needs to face catastrophic care costs of more than £100,000 for the care they need in old age and pledged to bring in a lifetime cap on personal contributions to care costs.

We pledged to invest in other social care packages to reverse the damage done by Conservative cuts and provide additional care packages to support both older people and working-age adults living independently in their own homes.

Unfortunately, the Conservatives won a large majority so we are unable to implement the plans that would have been lifechanging for so many people across my constituency.

Labour's role now is to hold the Government to account and ensure we continue to stand up for the most vulnerable in our communities. I can assure you that I will always fight for my constituents in Parliament and be a strong voice as I strive to get the very best for them.

I would be grateful if you would keep me informed of any future policy decisions made by Oldham Council in this area.

Kind regards

Angela Rayner MP