

The Rt Hon George Osborne MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

20<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Dear Chancellor,

As lead members for adult social care across London, we are writing to you personally to express our alarm at the potential impact of your announcement of 30 per cent cuts to local government over the next four years.

Given that Councils in London and other city areas have been disproportionately cut, we fear that the reality we face is worse than that.

We can see the political temptation of cuts to local government. When a politician says "health", people see a hospital. When a politician says "education", people see a school. When a politician says "local government", people may not see much past the bin collection and monthly invoice for council tax.

But in reality, adult social care is the single biggest item of local government spend at about 35 per cent of total expenditure.

It is the personal assistant who ensures that somebody's grandparent can have a bath. It is the respite service for the family carer who looks after a sibling with severe learning disabilities. It is the service that ensures our young disabled people can transition successfully into adulthood and live a full life in the community. These are the people in potential jeopardy because of your decision.

A 30 per cent to councils over the next four years means, in all likelihood, a very significant impact on adult social care services.

This puts at severe risk our ability to fund elderly residents who are supported in the community instead of occupying a hospital bed, which typically costs the public purse three times the amount. It puts at severe risk our support for the person experiencing mental ill health who needs help through a period of intense crisis

The NHS is already experiencing an enormous amount of strain and with winter approaching, the pressure on GPs and emergency departments is already beginning to increase.

As social care risks being stripped back to the barest of necessities, this will further undermine and increase strain on our much loved national institution.

The health service will face an increased workload that only the substantial level of increases in health spending currently unavailable would be able to meet. Headline writers will say that the "NHS" will end up paying for this crisis. What that means in reality is that the vulnerable - both those inside and outside Britain's hospitals - will suffer.

We do not write to you in an attempt to make political capital. We write to you because we know that if this decision stands our most vulnerable residents - who we hear from on a

regular basis as their elected representatives – will suffer. We also know that it makes little fiscal sense just to cut one area only to pass on much higher costs in another.

This is exactly the danger unless social care is viewed within the same financial envelope as the NHS.

London local authorities already work seamlessly with their NHS CCGs and provider trusts and health professionals as well as care providers.

Our partners have been absolutely clear that these potential cuts to social care will both put the NHS and the already fragile care infrastructure into a state of crisis, costing more in the long term but denying vulnerable patients the right level of care and support.

For them, please think again.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Angie Bean	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Cllr Chris Best	London Borough of Lewisham
Cllr Janet Burgess	London Borough of Islington
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu	London Borough of Enfield
Cllr Stephanie Cryan	London Borough of Southwark
Cllr David Gardner	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Sally Gimson	London Borough of Camden
Cllr Krupesh Hirani	London Borough of Brent
Cllr Kamaljit Kaur	London Borough of Hounslow
Cllr Vivienne Lukey	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Cllr Caroline.Cooper-Marbiah	London Borough of Merton
Cllr Jonathan McShane	London Borough of Hackney
Cllr Mark Santos	London Borough of Redbridge
Cllr Hitesh Tailor	London Borough of Ealing
Cllr Jackie Meldrum	London Borough of Lambeth
Cllr Anne Whitehead	London Borough of Harrow
Cllr Amy Whitelock-Gibbs	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Cllr Louisa Woodley	London Borough of Croydon
Cllr Maureen Worby	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham