



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Helen Whately MP
Minister of State for Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

020 7210 4850

PO-1332656

The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email to: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

28 May 2021

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 May to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about social care reform.

Our country's adult social care system has never been under such pressure as over the last year. The COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges to the sector and beyond. However, the problems that our social care system faces predate the pandemic and it has long been recognised that reform is needed.

Improving the lives of people living with dementia is a top priority for this Government. We have been implementing the Challenge on Dementia 2020 published in February 2015 to make sure that dementia care, support, awareness and research are transformed by 2020. The Challenge is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prime-ministers-challenge-on-dementia-2020>.

We undertook a progress review on the Challenge in 2018 informed by a call for evidence. Respondents told us that we are largely on track to meet our commitments.

We have committed to updating the strategy and will be setting out our plans on dementia for England for future years in due course.

More generally, the Government is committed to reform of the adult social care system and will bring forward proposals this year.

I hope this reply is helpful.

HELEN WHATELY