



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Helen Whately MP
Minister of State for Care

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

PO-1426093

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

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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 November about support for carers for people with motor neurone disease (MND).

Unpaid carers play a vital role in our communities, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. For the vast majority of people, care begins at home with their families. The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to deliver a wide range of sustainable high-quality care and support services, including support for unpaid carers and local authorities are required to undertake a Carer's Assessment for any unpaid carer who appears to have a need for support and to meet their eligible needs on request from the carer.

The Government is committed to reforming adult social care. In December 2021, we published *People at the Heart of Care*, setting out a 10-year vision for reforming adult social care, backed by a £5.4 billion investment over three years. The 10-year reform vision aims to make sure that people have the choice, control and support they need to live independent lives, can access outstanding quality as well as tailored care and support, and find adult social care fair and accessible. As with any change in Government, the department is currently reviewing its plans to reflect the priorities of the new administration. More details will be announced in due course.

The Government is dedicated to ensuring that everyone with MND receives the care and support they need. NHS England has set out that all services for patients with MND should be specialised. It has published a service specification setting out national standards for organisations that provide specialised neurological care. This sets out that the service should improve quality of life and experience of services for patients and for carers.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides guidance for clinicians, providers of MND health and social care services and adults with MND, their families and carers, in *Motor neurone disease: assessment and management*. This guidance can be found at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng42. The NICE guidance makes several recommendations for carers, including the need to ensure they are provided with information about MND, their legal rights and the support available to them, including information on social care support, employment rights and benefits. There is also guidance on access to and assessment for home adaptation funding, and the provision of information on and support with arranging home environment adaptations. While it is not mandatory, health authorities must take the guidance into account and the Government expects commissioners to consider it when planning and providing services.

I hope this reply is helpful.

HELEN WHATELY