



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Helen Whately MP
Minister of State for Care

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

25 January 2024

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 November about dementia and NHS continuing healthcare (CHC). I apologise for the delay in replying.

We want a society where every person with dementia, and their families and carers, receives high-quality, compassionate care, from diagnosis through to the end of life. Timely diagnosis is vital to ensure that a person with dementia can access the advice, information, care and support that can help them to live well with the condition and remain independent for as long as possible.

CHC is a package of NHS-funded ongoing healthcare and social care for adults who have been assessed as having a primary health need; this means that the main aspects or major part of the care they require are focused on addressing or preventing health needs. Eligibility for CHC is not determined by age, diagnosis or condition, or financial means. It is assessed on a case-by-case basis by a multidisciplinary team, taking into account all of the individual's needs, including the ways in which these needs interact with one another.

The *National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care* sets out that assessments should place the individual at the centre of the assessment and care-planning process. The national framework also states how important it is that those contributing to the process have the relevant skills and knowledge, and that where the individual concerned has, for example, a learning disability, brain injury or dementia, someone with specialist knowledge is involved.

Dementia UK has written to the Department about this important subject, and we are considering the points it has raised. We will continue to engage with Dementia UK and other key stakeholders to ensure that people with dementia can access the vital support and advice they need.

Yours,

HELEN WHATELY