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|  | Your Name |
|  | Your Address |
|  | Your Address |
|  | Your Telephone |

[Insert Date]

[Name of MP]

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Dear [insert MP/Council Leader name],

I am writing to you, as a local resident and constituent of [xxxxxxx] to express serious ongoing concerns about funding for mental health social care across our [LA area]. As a tax paying citizen and an employee of a mental health charity, I am deeply concerned that, once again, suggested uplifts in fees received will not cover the 2024/25 operating costs we are already aware of. You will be aware of the anticipated inflationary pressures relating to the Government set National Living Wage rate of £11.44, an increase of circa 10%, announced in the Autumn Statement, and the Office for Budgetary Responsibility (OBR) assessment of inflation for next year of 3% (as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Social care is a sector that remains chronically underfunded with increased expectations year on year of supporting people with complex health care needs. This underfunding only serves to widen the deep inequalities that exist in our society especially for racialised communities and cannot be allowed to worsen any further. As an organisational member of the **Association of Mental Health Providers,** which represents the voice of more than 300 VCSE mental health service providers across the sector, colleagues across the country and I are appealing to you and your fellow parliamentarians/councillors to ***support the social care sector call for full budgetary funding****.* We believe that there is an urgency to ensure that we can continue to deliver care and support to some of the most vulnerable members of our society as we enter another financial year and to meet the circa **£12- £14** billion shortfall identified by independent analysts of the sector.

We are painfully aware of the financial challenges faced by our nation, but it is time that our sector was prioritised within the health and care economy and valued for its **£50+ billion contribution** to the public purse. You will be aware that this Government commissioned and accepted the findings of the Fair Cost of Care (FCC) exercise. The intention was that these would be used to ensure that Local Authorities (LA) would be compelled to pay the true cost of care – clearly the findings of the exercise led them to abandon any promises once again.

The irony is that despite the recognised shortfalls this government and the LA’s persist in underfunding the social care and support budget required by your constituents on which the very part of the health economy the NHS is heavily reliant.

The NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan provides the detail underpinning the NHS Long Term Plan ambitions for mental health and sets the expectation that all systems need to reduce mental health inequalities. This must be in conjunction with local care providers and it should be noted that the recent figures within the membership of The Association alone show we are supporting **8+ million people in our communities who experience poor mental health** and as a valuable partner to the NHS.

**Key facts**:

I would like to emphasis to you the reality and the implications of the human cost this lack of funding has on all the services that we provide and on my staff and supported individuals who live and work within your constituency:

Please use this space to include your personal experiences, elaborating on the difficulties of the constituency of the MP you are writing to – use the following example headlines:

* **Recruitment & retention issues**
* **Cost of living pressures food/energy etc**
* **Actual inflationary pressures and sustainability of contracts**
* **Impact on acuity and prevalence of people being supported**

We have had an extended period of underfunding and broken promises in relation to mental health social care by successive governments. We have witnessed a continued lack of support over the past two decades and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, sadly no lessons have been learned and the neglect of our sector and those we support continues in the aftermath.

We must not underestimate the impact of the changes we are seeing under the Reform of Social Care banner which includes the suggested changes to the health and social care visa for international recruits. The impact of this on those already recruited is substantial and will create challenges until the domestic workforce pipeline matures. These changes create an atmosphere of uncertainty, especially following the recent cost of living crisis, increased energy and insurance costs and ongoing inflationary challenges.

In order to meet the budgetary shortfalls, we see LA’s being forced to increases council tax which also affects us as constituents. We are cognisant to the fact that a large proportion of LA is spent in social care which includes children’s services, which clearly indicates that LA funding is insufficient.

**Given the additional and ongoing problems for providers, our workforce, and the people we support set out in this letter, I would urge you to question the Government on the much-needed support and plan for within adult social care to create a sustainable future for those who need and work in our sector?**

The Association and its members are calling for the following as a bare minimum:

* **An urgent review of support available to mental health social care, with a review on why LA’s and Health commissioners are not appropriately funded to support proportionate fee 24/25 budget uplifts for the sector.**
* **Communication as to what the long-term plan for social care is to support in its sustainability, including a sustainable national workforce plan and the challenges to provide sufficient accommodation-based housing.**
* **We ask that you, as our MP, to raise our concerns in parliament, calling for support from your party in addressing these issues and their real-life impact on the most marginalised in our society.**

We urgently require your help to get assistance with this ongoing crisis.

Yours sincerely,

[Your signature]

[Your name]

CC. Association of Mental Health Providers