

Thousands being left hungry in care homes

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AT LEAST 11,000 care home residents a year are not being properly fed, or are left without food and drink, inspections have revealed.

Since the start of last year, 312 homes were found to be in breach of basic standards to ensure residents are not hungry or dehydrated. Elderly people were denied help with meals, with others at risk of neglect and malnutrition.

The figures, revealed in a parliamentary answer, suggest that more than 11,500 residents are living in care homes which are breaching standards on nutrition and hydration.

Jonathan Ashworth, shadow health secretary, said: "These figures show that there are literally thousands of elderly care homes residents at risk of being left to starve and go thirsty. It is a scandal.

"Our care system is no longer fit for purpose. Council budgets have been cut year after year and care homes are left struggling to pay the bills."

David Mowat, the health minister, said that between Jan 1, 2015, and Nov 7 this year, 312 care homes inspected by the CQC were found to be breaking nutrition and safety regulations.

They include Amicus Care Home in Strood, Kent, which was found to be failing in October, and Atherton Lodge, in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. Concerns were also raised over the safety of residents at Barrisle Care Home, in Leyland, Lancs, and Donwell House, in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

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