

Better social care

SIR - Two years ago the Government rightly recognised the scale of the problem of adult social care, and the need to find a long-term, sustainable solution. Two years later and its long-promised green paper still hasn't been published.

High-quality, properly funded social care and support enable people to live the lives they want to lead. But with more people needing care, increases in costs and decreases in funding, this is becoming very difficult. More than two million people in England have left their jobs to provide unpaid care for family or friends.

While one-off funding injections have helped to curb immediate pressures, they do not address the underlying structural problems facing the care and support system.

Adult social care services face a funding gap of £3.6 billion by 2025. This is what is needed simply to keep on providing support at current levels, and would not meet the cost of changing the model of provision, or include the funding needed to tackle under-met and unmet need.

We urge the Government to be bold in its upcoming adult social care green paper and spending review, and urgently invest in these essential services, which also help to reduce demand on the NHS, prevent sickness and reduce hospital admissions. Older and disabled people who need dignified care and support, and unpaid carers, deserve action now.

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Chairman, Community Wellbeing Board, Local Government Association and 11 others; see telegraph.co.uk

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