



Our ref: WQ90289

Andrew R.T. Davies MS
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

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22 January 2024

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your Written Questions asking how I will ensure that social care services continue to function and provide quality, safe, and effective services, given that social services in Wales are facing a £646 million funding gap over the next 3 years.

As Government we are committed to supporting our most vulnerable people and those who care for them. Despite the challenging financial situation that we face within Welsh Government we have continued to protect and increase the Local Government settlement with a 3.1% increase proposed in the next financial year which is on top of the 7.9% and 9.4% increases in the previous two years. We have had to make some very difficult decisions in relation to our budget for the coming financial year and we know that Local Government is also committed to do all they can to protect key services such as social services.

In addition to the funding to local authorities we provide £146m Regional Integration Funding to Regional Partnership Boards to support integrated health and social care services in our communities and also from 2022 we have invested £42 million to deliver support to unpaid carers.

We are committed to ensuring the effective delivery of social care services in Wales and we have an ambitious programme of reform of services in children services and the establishment of a National Office for Care and Support as well as a National Framework for commissioning care and support. These are important building blocks towards our shared ambition with Plaid Cymru to create a National Care Service for Wales.

It is the remit of Care Inspectorate Wales, as regulators, to inspect social care services and take action to improve the quality and safety of services for the well-being of the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services