

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

June 2020

Dear Government

Thank you for contacting me about this government's support of carers.

I believe that improving the quality of care in the UK should be one of our highest priorities. Around 1.4 million people work in our country's social care sector, and I would like to pay tribute to their dedication in helping some of the most vulnerable in our society especially during this Covid pandemic.

As a member of a family, I have provided support to my Stepfather who acted as a carer to my mum in the last ten years of her life whilst she was wheelchair bound, I have supported my partner being a carer for his elderly grandmother who came to live with us in the final years of her life, and I have watched other family members and supported them in their caring roles for elderly relatives, and children with complex needs. I wholeheartedly understand the responsibility carers take on and the strain this takes.

Caring for the elderly is one of the most significant challenges facing our ageing society. The independent Care Quality Commission (CQC) rightly holds our care system to the highest possible standards, and has recently completed a comprehensive survey of social care in England. CQC ratings are authoritative and independent, and publicly available, so people can make well-informed choices when they come to choosing a care home.

Yours,
Peter Gibson

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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I am encouraged by the latest report from the CQC, which has found that, despite financial pressure, 84 per cent of adult social care services in England rated good or outstanding. The CQC report has, however, highlighted areas for concern, such as the regional disparity in quality of care, and the rate of improvement of care services. I will make every effort to persuade the Government to build on its recent improvements to social care.

The 2014 Care Act ensured that rights for carers were ensured in law, but this government has recently announced a two-year programme to extend this support. This programme is based upon a lengthy consultation programme with carers themselves. Further, the government has pledged to publish a Green Paper on Social Care at the nearest opportunity. This will ensure that there is a sustainable settlement for long-term social care, and it will include a clear strategic focus on how to support unpaid carers in their vital work.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

PETER GIBSON MP