

Sally Tsoukaris
General Secretary
Civil Service Pensioners Alliance
Grosvenor House, 125 High Street
Croydon, Surrey
CR0 9XP

21st February 2024

Dear Sally

Thank you for both your letters on local authority funding and resources, and reablement respectively. We absolutely share your frustration at stresses on local authority resources and staffing and the impact this has on services. Equally, we share your concerns regarding reablement services and agree that it is necessary to strengthen support in the community to better support those who draw on care, including your members, and relieve pressures across the health and care system.

As you rightly point out, the LGA works with councils 'at the coalface' on these issues, both through our support and improvement offer to councils (<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support>) and through our lobbying and influencing of government policy and implementation. We have done a lot of work on the issues outlined in your letters and you can see this at our website (www.local.gov.uk) which contains all our relevant submissions on funding and social care reform such as Spending Reviews, Budgets and parliamentary select committees. Our website also contains all our considerable media work on local government funding, social care, and other issues.

The announcement of additional funding for councils in late January this year for 2024/25 was in direct response to the LGA's work to highlight the severe financial pressures facing councils, particularly children and adult services. While we welcomed this additional funding, we continue to highlight that councils in England continue to face a £4 billion funding gap over the next two years. We will continue to highlight the consequences of underfunding across the sector and the real benefits for people of all ages if investment increased. Sustainable long-term funding for adult social care, as well as wider reform of care and support, remain key priorities for the LGA.

On reablement, we agree that the answer to tackling hospital pressures is a considerable bolstering of primary and community-based support – both to support discharge from hospital and to prevent people attending hospital in the first place. In January 2023, we collaborated with the NHS Confederation and ADASS to publish a joint vision highlighting community-based care at the core of a sustainable health system (<https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/joint-vision-high-quality-and-sustainable-health-and-care-system>). This vision calls on government to invest in prevention and early intervention; create the ability to plan for the long term; and deliver a long-term, fully funded workforce plan that covers health and social care – including the public health workforce. This approach would ensure that responses to individuals' needs are centred around what matters most, fostering meaningful and independent lives.

Your letter mentioned some of your members remaining in hospital due to lack of suitable social care and accessible housing solutions. The LGA recognises housing as a key issue and has

called for councils to be given greater planning powers and resources to hold developers to account, that government work with councils and housing associations to provide a sustainable funding framework and a Disabled Facilities Grant keeping pace with demand. We published a report on housing our ageing population in 2022 (<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/housing-ageing-population>) prior to the announcement of the older people's housing taskforce, which we are feeding into.

We appreciate you sending us these letters and that the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, and its members, feel so strongly about these issues and are doing their part to let Government and the political parties know that. The LGA will continue to work collaboratively with partners to champion these (and many other linked) issues.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cllr Shaun Davies