



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Care Homes: Quality and Transparency

Thank you for contacting me about the quality of elderly care.

Improving the quality of elderly care in the UK is one of our highest priorities. 1.4 million people work in the country's social care sector, and I would like to pay tribute to all those delivering excellent care to those who need it.

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, very importantly, they are publicly available, so people can make well-informed choices when they come to choosing a care home.

I am encouraged by the latest report from the CQC, which has found that, despite financial pressure, four out of five adult social care services in England were rated good or outstanding. The CQC report has also, however, highlighted areas for concern, such as the regional disparity in quality of care, and the rate of improvement of care services.

More needs to be done, clearly, and I will be monitoring developments as the Government works with all interested parties so as to build on recent improvements to social care.

Whilst it is clear that money alone will not solve all the difficulties faced by our care sector, I support the Chancellor's announcement in the 2017 Spring Budget of an additional £2 billion in 2017-18 and 2019-20 to help councils in England improve social care and relieve pressure on the rest of the NHS. This funding will be supplemented by measures to accelerate changes to provision in the areas in need of greatest improvement. Over the following three years, councils will have access to £9.25 billion funding for social care.

Furthermore, the Department of Health is implementing Quality Matters, a vital scheme for improving the care sector for patients, families, and carers alike. This scheme makes it clear that care home providers must be transparent and work closely with the public in order to develop care services which are not only of the highest quality possible, but also adapted to and responsive to the needs of local people.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker'.

Craig Whittaker MP