

Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Cllr Geoff Raw
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Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
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Dear Cllr, Raw,

Thank you for your letter of 8 August to the Prime Minister about funding for adult social care. I have been asked to reply as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

Growing demand for services has meant that all levels of government, including councils, have had to make some tough decisions to balance the books, and I am grateful for the hard work of elected members and officers across the country to make this happen.

I am therefore delighted that the Chancellor has announced the biggest year-on-year real terms increase in spending power for local government in almost a decade.

Next year's settlement for local government responds to the pressures councils are facing by providing access to the largest increase Core Spending Power (CSP) since 2015. CSP is expected to rise from £46.2 billion to £49.1 billion in 2020-21, an estimated 4.3% real terms increase.

We are also able to confirm that all social care grants available this year will continue at least flat in cash terms, which I know was one of the key concerns for councils and the Local Government Association.

Including a £1bn cash grant for social care and a £700m increase in grant funding for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, councils will benefit from having £3.5bn of extra funding available to them for the services that are so important to residents.

Outside of the main Local Government Finance Settlement, local government will also see increases from wider resources made available this Spending Round. The settlement has confirmed a real-terms increase for the Public Health Grant. This means local authorities can continue to invest in prevention and essential frontline health services. The Department of Health and Social Care's contribution to the Better Care Fund will grow in line with the additional investment in the NHS.

This package comes in recognition of the central role that local authorities play in supporting communities and our most vulnerable across the country. We will continue work to make the funding formula fairer and increase the amount of business rates growth which local authorities retain, aiming to implement major reforms in 2021-22.

I hope you will share my view that this is a positive outcome for local government, providing clarity that will support councils to plan your budget for next year but also a significant increase in funding.

As the Prime Minister said on the steps of Downing Street, the Government will set out its plans to fix the crisis in social care once and for all, to give every older person the dignity and security that they deserve. We want to ensure that no one will have to sell their home to pay for care.

We will set out our proposals as soon as possible.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP

