

**Full Council – 16 September 2019**

**Motion selected by the Conservative Group**

**Protecting and Raising the Quality of Adult Social Care in Brent**

**This Council notes:**

- The unprecedented times that the country is facing and the role local government has in providing local stability and leadership in these tumultuous times.
- The irreplaceable role that local council plays at the heart of communities, providing key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries and children's centres.
- That councils up and down the UK are at breaking point, with disproportionate reductions in local council funding and comparison to the rest of the public sector.
- That councils had to spend an extra £800m in the last financial year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children and that, with an ageing population and growing demand, adult social care faces a gap of over £2bn in the next financial year.
- In Brent, as with all other council departments, adult social care has had to make significant budget savings in the past, and continues to need to make savings in the future, with a target of reducing the overall spend by £4.1m on adult social care by 2021. This is in the context of an aging population and increasing demand for services.
- Brent has an estimated prevalence of 2,470 patients living with dementia, of whom only 1,834 (74.2%) are diagnosed. This leaves an estimated 1034 undiagnosed patients living with dementia who could benefit from early diagnosis and follow up and support in the community. Brent seeks to address this gap in service with a view to providing early interventions to support people with dementia and their carers to live longer in their own homes.
- The extra £1.5bn for social care in the Government's recent spending round - £1 billion through a new grant and £500 million through the adult social care precept.
- To implement reform – which will involve difficult choices about how to raise money to pay for services – the Government must set up an independent, cross-party inquiry on social care funding, as the Institute for Government recommended last year. This would be the best mechanism to build the public and parliamentary support needed to deliver change, with the last major attempt to reform social care funding. Then, once political support is secured, legislation will have to be passed.
- This council also notes and commends the work done with partners progressing Brent as a Dementia Friendly Borough which has been recognised nationally. This will include GP

practices, leisure services, libraries, the Alzheimer's Society, supermarkets such as Tesco, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, London Ambulance Service, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, local cinemas and art venues.

**The Council therefore resolves:**

To write to the Health Secretary Matt Hancock MP and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid MP.

**The Council requests that the Leader of the Council:**

- (1)** Asks the Health Secretary for the Social Care Green Paper which includes a range of options for securing a sustainable funding solution for adult social care, financial protection and support for informal carers.
- (2)** Asks the Health Secretary for increased accountability and regulatory powers for the Care Quality Commission.
- (3)** Ensures the Council sign up to the Ethical Care Charter which establishes a minimum baseline for the safety, quality and dignity of care by ensuring employment conditions support a more stable workforce.
- (4)** Improve access to care support through the Brent Dementia Steering Group in order to ensure that health professionals inform patients of the support available to them at the point of diagnosis.
- (5)** Continue to work with our strategic and community partners to progress actions which provides leadership on being a Dementia Friendly Borough.

Cllr Reg Colwill (Leader of the Conservative Group)  
Kenton Ward