Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing as Independent Chairs of Integrated Care Systems to strongly support the urgent need for a programme of reform of England’s social care system.

In common with our local government colleagues, we await the details of the reforms promised in the Queen’s Speech. Now, more than ever, there is a need for reform to be delivered.

The past year has underlined the vital role that our social care services play in supporting children, young and older people and those of working age. The pandemic has exposed the fragility of those services and amplified the workforce challenge.

The forthcoming NHS Bill will put Integrated Care Systems onto a statutory footing. We welcome this development but believe that if the integration between the NHS and local government is to be successful, it will require clarity and certainty about the future arrangements for social care. In particular this requires:

1. A long-term plan for social care that sets the priorities for investment and transformation of services and systematically addresses the workforce challenges;
2. A funding settlement that provides local government with the necessary finance to implement the long term plan over the next five years; and
3. Arrangements to protect people from incurring catastrophic care costs by pooling the risk and making the current means-test more generous.

Each of these three pillars is essential to create the conditions for social care to be a full and equal partner with the NHS in enabling more people to remain independent, living in their own home or in their community.

Date
22.06.2021

For the attention of
Prime Minister’s Office
10 Downing St
London
SW1A 2AA
We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you and stand ready to work with the Government to ensure that Integrated Care Systems play their part in implementing reform.

Yours faithfully,

Dame Gill Morgan  
Independent Chair  
Gloucestershire ICS

Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt  
Independent Chair  
Norfolk and Waveney ICS

Rt Hon Paul Burstow  
Independent Chair  
Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS

Dr Rima Makarem  
Independent Chair  
Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes ICS

John Govett  
Independent Chair  
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly ICS

Andrew Lloyd  
Independent Chair  
Frimley ICS

Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE  
Independent Chair  
Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS

Professor Sir Chris Ham  
Independent Chair  
Coventry and Warwickshire ICS
Millie Banerjee CBE
Independent Chair
South West London ICS

Dr Kathy McLean OBE
Independent Chair
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS

Alan Yates
Independent Chair
Cheshire and Merseyside ICS

David Sissling
Independent Chair
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICS

John Goulston
Independent Chair
Kent and Medway ICS

Naomi Eisenstadt CB
Independent Chair
Northamptonshire ICS

David Clayton-Smith
Independent Chair
Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICS

Dame Suzi Leather
Independent Chair
Devon ICS

Jonathan Fellows
Independent Chair
Black Country and West Birmingham ICS

Marie Gabriel CBE
Independent Chair
North East London ICS
John MacDonald  
Independent Chair  
Derbyshire ICS

Tim Oliver  
Independent Chair  
Surrey Heartlands ICS

Professor Stephen Eames CBE  
Independent Chair  
Humber Coast and Vale ICS

Cllr Tim Swift  
Independent Chair  
West Yorkshire and Harrogate ICS

Stephanie Elsy  
Independent Chair  
Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire ICS

Jenni Douglas-Todd  
Independent Chair  
Dorset ICS

Patrick Flaherty  
Independent Chair  
Somerset ICS

Lesley Smith  
Deputy System Lead  
South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS