

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



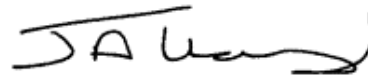
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Independent Chair
Hertfordshire and West Essex ICS



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Independent Chair
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John Govett
Independent Chair
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly ICS



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Independent Chair
Frimley ICS



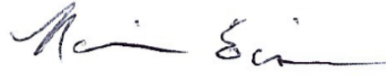
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Independent Chair
Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS



Professor Sir Chris Ham
Independent Chair
Coventry and Warwickshire ICS



Millie Banerjee CBE
Independent Chair
South West London ICS



Naomi Eisenstadt CB
Independent Chair
Northamptonshire ICS



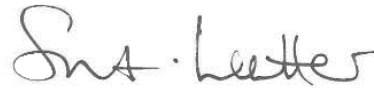
Dr Kathy McLean OBE
Independent Chair
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS



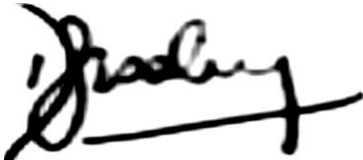
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Berkshire West ICS



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Cheshire and Merseyside ICS



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Devon ICS



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Lesley Smith
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