



MEDIA RELEASE

Leap Year proposal to Chancellor over care

Call for increase in tax or NI to save sector

Campaigners are using this Leap Year day to make a proposal to new Chancellor Rishi Sunak to boost social care funding in his first Budget speech.

The Independent Care Group (ICG) says the Chancellor should not be afraid to increase tax or National Insurance to fund a cash injection for care.

It says that is the only thing that can end a crisis in social care that has left 1.5m people without the care they need.

The Group's Chair, Mike Padgham, has had a poem commissioned, urging the Chancellor to act. [attached]

He said: "We have a Leap Year day in February this year, a day when traditionally women can propose to men.

"Instead, we are getting down on one knee and proposing that the Chancellor finds a solution to the social care crisis. Here is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Chancellor to be bold, offer a solution to the crisis in social care and go down in history as the politician who solved the social care crisis and gave care to 1.5m people and thousands more in the future.

"Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised to end the crisis in social care and now, with the right measures in the Budget, the Chancellor has the chance to deliver on that promise before the crisis deepens any further."

He has warned that the extra £1.5bn already pledged by the Government for social care won't even touch the sides in terms of solving the crisis as it will be swallowed up by providers having to meet the increase in the National Minimum Wage.

He argues that the sector needs a proper pledge of extra money, funded by an increase in taxation or National Insurance. A state of the nation poll by the Daily Express recently found that 56% of people would be prepared to see an increase in taxation to pay for better social care.

"We have to be honest and say 'if the country wants to be properly looked after then we have to pay for it'," Mr Padgham added.

“I believe that if people know they are going to have a social care system that looks after them properly, they would be willing to pay a little more in taxation of NI payments. Invest in social care: give people a better life and save money for the NHS.”

A Poem for Rishi Sunak

Level up —
Go on.
Unleash the country’s potential,
but let that be human,
not simply
Fiscal.

Make the funds you proffer
ensure that care be offered
to all those people neglected —
1.5 million affected
by
a
Lack
of
Care.

Are you aware?

It won’t just take more money,
but a massive policy shift.
It’s your opportunity
to act without impunity.
And fix this national rift.

Take this chance,
shake it up.
Perhaps with Cummings and Johnson
sit, and have a cup...
A cup of kindness
Of mindfulness
About humankind
And the kind of humans
We
Strive
To
Be.

– how can any government rest easily?

When
1.5 million people
Need your help

Desperately.

Let's have a National Health and Social Care Service:
fund them together
— your citizens deserve it.
Let social care go under...
And
The NHS
will be knocked
asunder.

Come and meet us;
we can advise,
we can consult,
and open up your eyes
to the needs of the people,
so many out there —
vulnerable people,
requiring your care.

So, please, do crack on.
Crack it all open
Mix it up
Take a risk

And write the words that dare not be spoken.

Level up with yourself
About Social Care.
Think about the nation's health —

Real people
out there.

*Karen Noble
Noble Words Creative Writing*

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Note to editors: The Independent Care Group is a recognised representative body for independent care providers (private and voluntary). It works on behalf of care providers for all client groups including care homes, domiciliary care agencies, supported living and extra care housing providers, and day care centres in the private and voluntary parts of the independent sector.