

# Prime Minister announces £25 million cash boost for hospices to secure their future

The future of hundreds of hospices and palliative care services which provide vital treatment and support for patients at the end of their life will now be protected thanks to a multi-million-pound funding boost from Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The Prime Minister today announces that £25 million will be pumped into the sector, building on funding already provided by the NHS.

The funding follows a reception hosted by the Prime Minister at Downing Street last week, to thank hospice front line staff for their work.

This new investment will help keep many of these facilities – which receive the majority of their funding from the voluntary sector – open and will also improve the quality of end of life care, ensuring people die as comfortably as possible. The money will also support the sector in relieving workforce pressures as well as introducing new services – such as out-of-hours support, respite care and specialist community teams.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Seeing a loved one nearing the end of their life is one of the hardest things a family will ever experience, so it's vital that we support our fantastic and hardworking hospice staff to deliver the highest quality palliative care.

As Prime Minister I am making sure that today our hospices and palliative care services are given a £25 million boost to alleviate the everyday pressures faced on the frontline, helping to ensure they have the resources they need, when they need them.

Today's announcement follows campaigning from Chief Executive of Hospice UK Tracey Bleakley and its Chair Robert Peston. They recently met with Health Secretary Matt Hancock to discuss the pressures facing hospices – from falling fundraising and legacies to reduced local statutory support.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said:

End of life is vitally important, and our NHS is committed to caring for you from cradle to grave. This cash boost will protect our precious hospices and palliative care services so people across the country will have the best, most personalised and dignified choices when they die.

We should expect the highest quality support, so we can spend the last days of our life with our loved ones, dying with dignity in the way that we want to.

The hospice care sector supports more than 200,000 people with terminal and life-limiting conditions in the UK each year, as well as supporting tens of thousands of family members with bereavement support.

In June, NHS England announced plans to increase the children's hospice grant to £25 million by 2023/24, from £12 million in 2019/20.

Tracey Bleakley, Chief Executive, Hospice UK, said:

We are pleased that the Government has responded to Hospice UK's call for extra funding for charitable hospices in England and recognises that many are currently overstretched, amidst rising service costs and increasing demand for the care they provide.

While this funding boost is welcome and timely, many charitable hospices are facing grave, financial challenges in the long-term and need to raise over £1 billion a year in a very tough fundraising climate. As demand grows and costs increase, the need for funding rises every year.

The support pledged today is an important first step to help protect the vital care provided by charitable hospices for people with life-limiting conditions and their families.

Robert Peston, Chair, Hospice UK, said:

Many hospices and palliative care providers are facing acute financial pressures and are struggling to meet the growing need for their desperately important services.

This injection of new funds by the Government could not have come at a more critical time. It will help many, but it will not completely alleviate the serious funding problems facing a swelling number of charitable hospices.

Debbie Raven, CEO, Thames Hospice said:

It was a privilege to meet with the Prime Minister last week. He was very knowledgeable about hospice care and genuinely concerned about the challenges we all face across the hospice sector.

This announcement of additional funding with the intent to conduct a more detailed review of hospice funding in the near future is extremely welcome and will make a huge difference to our ability to

meet the ever increasing needs of our community.

Specifically for Thames Hospice it will help us to continue to provide and develop high quality end of life and palliative care across our community.

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## PM call with Prime Minister Modi: 20 August 2019

A Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister spoke to Indian Prime Minister Modi this afternoon.

Prime Minister Modi began by congratulating the Prime Minister on his appointment.

The two leaders agreed on the importance of the UK-India partnership and the need to build on it further, particularly through trade and economic ties and through the living bridge that links our countries. Prime Minister Modi said there are immense possibilities for the UK and India which would increase prosperity in both countries.

The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Modi discussed the current situation in Kashmir. The Prime Minister made clear that the UK views the issue of Kashmir is one for India and Pakistan to resolve bilaterally. He underlined the importance of resolving issues through dialogue.

“Ahead of the G7, the Prime Minister and Prime Minister Modi agreed on the importance of working together to tackle climate change and other threats to biodiversity. They looked forward to meeting at the summit this weekend to discuss this and other issues.”

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# Education Secretary visits world-leading research centre

Gavin Williamson sees first-hand how high-quality technical training is boosting skills and jobs

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# Education Secretary visits world-leading research centre

Today (20 August) Education Secretary Gavin Williamson visited the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) where cutting edge technology is being used to drive innovations in manufacturing as well as offering training and apprenticeships in a range of crucial fields.

Since his appointment, Mr Williamson has made clear that technical education and training has played second fiddle to traditional academic options for too long, and as the first Education Secretary to personally take charge of this brief, he will make sure it is a priority for this Government.

On the visit the Education Secretary took a tour of the AMRC, which is based in Sheffield, including Factory 2050, a state of the art facility that sees partners like Boeing and McLaren Automotive, as well as smaller local employers using advanced technologies like robotics and virtual reality to develop innovative manufacturing techniques.

The centre also provides high-quality apprenticeship training and higher education in engineering and manufacturing designed to deliver the skills top firms like Boeing need to compete globally.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson, said:

It is absolutely vital that we continue to grow the nations' skills particularly in key areas like science, technology, engineering and maths so we have a workforce that is fit for the future. I am focused on making sure this is a priority area for this Government.

I've been hugely impressed by what I have seen here today at the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre. What they are doing here at is a brilliant example of how one of our top universities is collaborating with global firms like Boeing as well as smaller employers to boost skills and jobs across the region.

I would like to see more collaborations like this across the

country.

On the visit Mr Williamson met with University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre apprentices who work in local companies and Boeing's European production facility in Sheffield, seeing first-hand how their training is giving them the skills they need to forge great careers in the region.

He also tried out some of the impressive technologies on show at the AMRC, including augmented and virtual reality simulations, and learned about a project to help small and medium enterprises by retrofitting them with low-cost digital technologies.

Boeing opened its production facility in Sheffield in 2018 – the company's first manufacturing site in Europe. The £40 million, 6,200-square-metre facility, employs 70 people, more than 30 of which are apprentices. It offers high quality apprenticeship opportunities through the University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre in machining and technical support including at advanced, higher, degree and postgraduate levels apprenticeships.

Professor Koen Lamberts, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, said:

We were delighted to show the Education Secretary how our outstanding research translates into world class manufacturing capabilities and how we are working with our industrial and regional partners to develop the skills that businesses need.

We were particularly pleased to show the full breadth of what we have to offer – including apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses – and how they all contribute to an evolving education ecosystem.

Chris Greaves, Head of the Integrated Manufacturing Group at the University of Sheffield AMRC welcomed the Education Secretary to Factory 2050, telling him it is the place where digital meets manufacturing, helping companies de-risk and adopt Industry 4.0 technologies.

Chris Greaves said:

We are very grateful for the Secretary of State's support on apprenticeships. Our success is down to our people and apprentices are very much key to that for us. We've been delighted with the apprentices that have come to us through the AMRC Training Centre.

To invest more heavily in apprenticeships – to get the right skill sets into manufacturing – is not only important to us and the region but it's very important to the UK economy and manufacturing as a whole.

The Education Secretary also visited Grace Owen Nursery School in Sheffield, part of the Park Hill Estate, one of the city's most disadvantaged areas.

As a maintained nursery school, Grace Owen receives supplementary funding from the Department for Education in recognition of the role it plays supporting some of the most disadvantaged children in the country. Nearly 40 per cent of the children who attend Grace Owen are eligible for the Early Years Pupil Premium, compared to the national average of 11.4%.

The government announced an additional investment, worth £24 million, for maintained nursery schools in February, giving them certainty for the 2019-20 academic year, ahead of a Spending Review.

Mr Williamson met with headteacher Nancy Farrow and nursery staff to discuss their work to engage with families in the estate and surrounding area.

The Education Secretary added:

Children only get one chance at a good education. This must start in the very earliest years because a child's development at age five can determine their chances later in life, which is why we are investing £3.5 billion in our early education entitlements this year alone.

I'm grateful to the dedicated staff at Grace Owen Nursery for the important work they do in giving children the best start and putting them on a path to succeed.

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## **Presenting the draft Security Council Annual Report**

Statement by Stephen Hickey, UK Political Coordinator at the UN, at the Security Council presentation of the annual report