

Government must come forward with immediate funding and sustainable vision for social care – Pearce

Teresa Pearce, Labour's Shadow

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, responding to the Local Government Finance Settlement, said:

"Time and time again, this Government has ignored warnings of the social care crisis, from health, social care and local government experts and from MPs across the political spectrum."

"This Local Government Finance Settlement is no different to what's come before. It is all smoke and mirrors – pushing numbers around but not offering any new money. Shifting the burden on to council tax payers creates a postcode lottery in social care services. Wealthy areas will prosper whilst poorer communities will struggle. This was made clear by the revelation of the sweetheart deal offered to Surrey County Council behind closed doors, whilst the rest of the country suffers."

"The brutal cuts handed down by this Tory government will leave local councils facing a £5.8 billion funding gap in just two years' time. Libraries, youth centres and Sure Start centres have closed. Child protection services are creaking. Frail elderly people and vulnerable disabled people are being left lonely and isolated."

"This is a crisis made in Westminster but, as per usual, the Tories are pushing the blame on to councils, communities, carers and families. The Government must come forward with immediate funding, as well as a long-term, sustainable and strategic vision for social care."

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