

## Yorkshire Leaders statement on Adult Social Care Reforms

### Statement from Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE and Cllr Carl Les

As Co-Chairs of the Yorkshire Leaders Board on behalf of all Yorkshire and the Humber councils, we have written to the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask him to take some important steps to support the adult social care sector and ensure the government's reforms are a success.

We fully support the government's ambition to reform and improve adult social care. However, the adult social care system has been fragile for many years, and the additional challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, a highly competitive labour market and the cost of living crisis have further exacerbated the instability of the system. This has compounded the historic underinvestment in adult social care, something that the CQC identifies in their 2022 State of Care report.

We, therefore, believe that there are three clear actions that government should consider to mitigate these risks and enable the reform agenda to be successful:

1. Delay the implementation of the funding reforms to enable authorities and markets to better prepare and mitigate the associated risks to their implementation (whilst recognising some implementation costs will need to be incurred and therefore funded in 22/23).
2. To ensure sufficient preparation and increased likelihood of successful implementation, delay the introduction of the new CQC Assurance regime and adopt a more phased approach.
3. Prioritise fully funding the fair cost of care so the reform can meet its aims to "ensure a fair rate for care is paid to care providers" while also moving beyond addressing solely the issue of cross subsidisation between council funded individuals and people funding their own care.

A report accompanies the letter on behalf of the 22 Yorkshire and Humber councils, which includes evidence highlighting the risks to our region, and councils across the country if the current reforms are implemented as planned.

Read the letter in full here:

[Publications - Yorkshire & Humber Councils | Yorkshire Leaders Board \(yhcouncils.org.uk\)](https://www.yhcouncils.org.uk/publications)

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Editor's note: The Yorkshire Leaders Board is a partnership of 22 local authorities and two mayoral combined authorities working together for the betterment of the whole of the Yorkshire and the Humber region. More information on its members can be found at [www.yhcouncils.org.uk](https://www.yhcouncils.org.uk).

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