

Mr Charles Coleman  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2nd floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

5 January 2017

Dear Mr Coleman,

**Provisional 2017-18 local government finance settlement**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Department for Local Government and Communities' local government finance settlement for 2017-18 consultation, which I have the pleasure to do on behalf of the United Kingdom Homecare Association (UKHCA).

The enclosed paper responds to the issues that the Committee has raised. Please do contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



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## **Evidence submitted by UKHCA for the Department for Local Government and Communities' local government finance settlement for 2017-18 consultation**

### **Do you agree with the proposal to provide £240 million in 2017-18 from additional savings resulting from New Homes Bonus reforms to authorities with adult social care responsibilities allocated using the Relative Needs Formula?**

1. UKHCA welcomes the Government's proposal to the extent that it acknowledges the immediate pressures on the social care system; pressures which have been identified by commissioners and providers of care, sector experts and NHS leaders.
2. However, we believe that a more flexible social care precept and the one-off redistribution of a £240 million to an adult social care support grant do not remedy the funding gap sufficiently which the Local Government Association predicts to be £2.6 billion in 2020.
3. Furthermore, there is evidence that many local authorities do not ensure that funding intended for adult social care reaches the front-line care services, where it is needed most. There appears to be few measures in place to ensure the possible 3% precept in 2017-18 would be spent in ways which will effectively reduce instability of the state-funded care market and we fear this may also be the case of some of the £240 million. We believe this is a matter which the Government should investigate thoroughly to ensure public money is spent wisely.
4. An effective solution to the funding of adult social care services is still pressing and must be addressed by the Government in a way which will provide safe, effective and sustainable care services for service providers and their users.