Letter content: From provider to local MP or councillor

Dear xxxxxx

**We’re speaking up for care**

As I’m sure you know, either through your own family members who are in receipt of care, or from conversations with your constituents, the adult social care system in England is in desperate need of reform.  There is growing unmet need, with local authorities reporting 470,576 people in England are waiting for a care assessment, care or direct payments to begin or a review of their care plan – and that is just known unmet need. Not-for-profit care providers are punching above their weight in supporting people in the context of significant underfunding and local government commissioning challenges but only so much can be done while there are 131,000 unfilled care vacancies in England. Ultimately, all of this results in the people who need care and support not being to access it where, when and how they need it.

We need things to change, and we need more people to value adult social care. This is why we’re **speaking up for care** and support and joining our fellow members of the National Care Forum by contacting you as your constituent, a not-for-profit employer operating in your constituency and a key part of the community you represent in Parliament.

There are **1.6 million people working in care**, **2 million people in receipt of adult care and support**, **10 million unpaid carers** and **millions receiving unregulated care through the voluntary and community sector**. Together with their families, there’s a huge number of people with a stake in a well-funded and effective care system and yet their voices are not being heard in Parliament.

[Insert name of organisation] plays a hugely important role in your constituency’s community. We bring together people from all backgrounds and faiths, provide employment and help reduce social isolation. The essential nature of adult social care means that public services, such as the NHS, which people rely on, will only work well where social care works well. As a not-for-profit care provider, we are rooted in supporting our community and our focus is on investment in the people we support and those who work with us. If you’ve never visited one of our services, I’d like to personally invite you and your team so you can see first-hand how our care changes lives.

[Perhaps insert case study with a quote & photo of a person who receives care and support if appropriate]. We’re sure that [insert name of person in case study if including] would be very happy to talk to you about their experiences during your visit.

Please contact me on [insert email address] to arrange a date for you and your team to visit and feel free to arrange local media to accompany you. I would be very happy to facilitate some photo opportunities during your visit which I’m sure would appeal to your constituents.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely