



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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2 July 2021

To my social care colleagues,

As we lift more restrictions in the weeks ahead, I can't think of any group that has borne these restrictions so heavily as those who work in our care sector. Throughout this pandemic, you've taken on so many extra responsibilities, and done so with dedication and compassion.

Whether you've been visiting people's homes or working in care settings, you've combined care with controlling COVID-19. I understand how it has made your job so much harder, but the whole country has seen that it hasn't stopped you from delivering the very best care. You've kept people safe and kept up their spirits, and I know the return of small pleasures, like visits indoors from family members and walks in the garden, is making a great deal of difference.

You've helped us through this pandemic; now you're helping us vaccinate our way out of it. I've been impressed by how you worked so closely with NHS colleagues to offer COVID-19 jabs to all older residents in those few short weeks after we began vaccinating. It was an astonishing pace, and I'm so grateful. I now ask that those working in care who are yet to get the jab make it their top priority. It's a step that we know saves lives.

The importance of social care—and the people who deliver it—has played a big part in many of the jobs I've taken on in government. As Local Government Secretary, I was your voice calling for billions of pounds of extra funding into the sector. As Chancellor, I worked to put in billions more.

As Health and Social Care Secretary, it's now my job to help put social care on a sustainable footing for the future. I'll be working closely with the Prime Minister and so many others on that vital national challenge. I'm determined we get it right. Any proposal we bring forward will build on the spirit of integrated working you've embraced so enthusiastically, because we know we're at our best when we work as one.

This past 18 months, you've all moved mountains to keep people safe. You don't only have my gratitude, but my word that I will now do everything I can to look out for you.

Yours ever,

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP