[Name of MP]

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Dear [name of MP]

I am contacting you as someone who lives in your constituency to express my concern about ‘the state of care’ in this country and to ask you for your support in promoting the valuable role the Independent Social Care Sector plays, in delivering quality services to our most vulnerable citizens.

The independent residential care sector consists of approximately 14,864 services and is one of the largest employers in the country and yet it continues to be under-valued and under resourced, both at national and local government level, why?

Currently approximately 70% of people living in independent residential care homes are funded by Local Authorities and the criteria used to purchase these places is based on care homes  who offer the cheapest rates, irrespective of the ‘quality of care and services’ they provide. This approach deprives vulnerable citizens’ of their statutory right to choice and encourages poor quality providers not to improve.

Older people who are in acute hospitals unnecessarily because there is not a planned approach to discharging them into independent care services. This could be prevented if the artificial financial barriers between Health and Social Care were removed and residential care homes were given the opportunity to provide innovative care and services to these people, prior to their return home.

I would be grateful if you would write to the Minister responsible for Care, on my behalf,  to ask her to help restore public faith in care homes, implement a long term funding settlement built on a foundation of quality and sustainability and introduce a reliable independent guide to identify quality care homes to assist choice.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely