

Academy statement on funding for Social Care

15 December 2016

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges is seriously concerned that today's announcement of an increase in the amount local authorities can raise from council tax to pay for the growing cost of social care will do little to relieve the pressures on the NHS. Councils are already under struggling to cope with an estimated £1.3bn shortfall in the money allocated for services such as nursing homes or support for the elderly. The accounting manoeuvre revealed today, along with £240m taken from a housing budget, are not going to be anywhere near enough to cover the costs being faced by local authorities. It will also mean that local authorities serving the most disadvantaged and therefore facing the greatest need, will in all likelihood, not be able to raise as much as their wealthier counterparts in other parts of the country.

Professor Dame Sue Bailey, Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges said, *'Today's announcement looks and feels like Government is passing the buck and offering what barely even counts as a short term fix. What it really should be doing is finding ways to take some of the pressure off the NHS through a properly funded social care system. It is high time we tackled this issue head on by looking at ways to properly integrate the two systems which are inextricably linked. National issues need national solutions, the only way forward is to have a national conversation about how we meet the health and care challenges ahead in a way that's realistic and fair to all generations.'*