

## Statement on Spring Budget 2017

8 March 2017

The Chancellor's decision to allocate £2bn for spending on social care in today's budget is, of course, a step in the right direction and we welcome the fact that this Government does seem to be publicly acknowledging the direct link between money that's largely spent by local authorities on caring for the elderly and the ability of the NHS to deliver the levels of care that all patients deserve. The quality of care people, especially older people, receive when they leave hospital is just as important as what happens to them when they are being cared for directly by doctors and nurses. We welcome too the announcement of £100m to ease the burden on A&E at some trusts and the long awaited sugar tax on fizzy drinks which is prompting manufacturers to reformulate their products.

The announcement of a Green Paper to consider options for sustainable funding of the social care system in the future is our last chance to get this right. The Academy will participate fully in that debate on behalf of patients and doctors, because we all have a duty to help decide what sort of services we want, how they are funded and how we want them to be delivered. We have just come through one of the worst winters on record for the NHS, we've now got to get real and recognise that short term measures of the kind we've seen today won't help in the longer term.

Professor Dame Sue Bailey, Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

Peter Rees, Chair, Academy Patient Lay Committee