

# The Wrekin Housing Group

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Colliers Way, Old Park, Telford TF3 4AW  
Tel: (01952) 217100

10th July 2020

Dear Members of Parliament,

Through Choices we provide care, housing and support for adults with learning disabilities, older people and those suffering from dementia across 23 locations in Staffordshire and Shropshire. Choices is part of The Wrekin Housing Group, a not-for-profit organisation that also provides housing and drives social investment across the region.

In many ways the social care sector has been no different to any other in needing to respond to meet the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. The difference for us is that we care for vulnerable people, most of whom are in the very highest risk categories in terms of their susceptibility to Covid 19.

Meeting the challenge of coronavirus has been down to our people – our staff, our service users, their families and our management and I have thanked them all for their hard work during the crisis. Our 600 well trained and professional care staff have chosen care as their vocation and they are passionate about the work they do.

It is therefore disappointing to us as a decent and honourable employer, and for all of our people, to hear about the Prime Minister's recent remarks about the role and management of care homes during the crisis. These remarks do nothing to motivate or energise those working in the adult social care sector and do everything to downplay and devalue the role they play.

Our experience of partnership working with local authorities, the NHS, the CQC and Public Health England during recent months has been purposeful and pragmatic. There has been a great sense of coming together to tackle the challenges that we are all facing and we look forward to building on this for the long term.

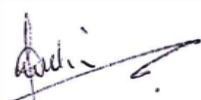
At a time when we already needed a serious national conversation about how we care for the elderly and most vulnerable in society, and including the economics of social care and being able to better remunerate frontline care workers. We call on you to raise this issue of the de valuing of the social care sector in government.

We would be very happy to discuss the points raised in this letter with you at your convenience. In the longer term, when restrictions allow, we would also be very keen to welcome you to one of our homes so you can see for yourself how much hard work and dedication goes in to what we do.

Yours sincerely,



Desmond Hudson  
Chair, The Wrekin Housing  
Group



Jim Dickson  
Chair, Choices



Wayne Gethings  
Group Chief Executive



Nigel Downs  
Managing Director,  
Choices