



Eluned Morgan MS,
Minister for Health and Social Services,
Welsh Government
Via Email

16/02/2021

REF: CO/JFS/TM

Re: Social Care provision in Aberconwy

Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales

Constituency Office

29 Madoc Street,
Llandudno LL30 2TL

Swyddfa'r Etholaeth

29 Stryd Madog,
Llandudno LL30 2TL

01492 871 198

Dear Minister, Eluned,

I am writing to raise my serious concerns regarding the provision of social care in Aberconwy, which is seeing an increasing number of my constituents being forced into social care facilities significant distances from their family and friends.

As I am sure you are aware, taking the decision of moving into, or moving a relative into, a care or nursing home can be a difficult and emotional decision for all involved. However, I am being approached by a growing number of constituents who are advising me that their relatives are being placed in facilities outside of Conwy County, some considerable distances from their home, family and friends.

In one case, a constituent of mine was relocated to a home in Denbighshire over 20 miles from the home address, making routine visits by friends and family extremely difficult and challenging. In another case a constituent was placed in a facility over an hour's drive from his home in order to receive the care required. This move had a detrimental impact on the individual's ability to work, and relatives who were forced to undertake a two hour round trip to simply visit the constituent.

This situation has left my constituents and their families deeply distressed, frustrated and isolated from their home and closets friends and family. These individuals are active parts of our community, contributing to our local economy and society throughout their lives and it is truly reprehensible that they have been required to be moved over such distances to simply obtain the care they need and deserve.

Both of these deeply troubling cases highlight the ongoing social care crisis in Wales. Aberconwy has a clear shortage of available and suitable residential, nursing and EMI care facilities. Additionally, we are seeing increasing budgetary pressures on Conwy County Borough Council because of the continued outdated Welsh Government funding formula, a formula which does not adequately fund Councils, with larger older populations, to meet the additional social cares pressures they face. Furthermore, I am aware that across my constituency there is an ongoing lack of recruitment, training and retention of new social care workers, leaving this vitally important industry short staffed.

[Continued overleaf].



[Continued].

It is clear to see from Ms Katie Sutherland, Acting Senior Coroner for North West Wales, report published on 31/01/2022, that these concerns are not limited to Aberconwy. Ms Sutherland outlined her concerns that the ongoing social care shortages mean that the specific needs of the elderly cannot always be met in a timely manner or indeed at all.

Given this, I am writing to urge the Welsh Government to conduct an urgent review of the social care system in Wales and publish a series of strategic proposals to address this crisis. Additionally, in order to discuss this pressing situation further with you, I would kindly ask that a meeting be arranged at the earliest opportunity.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to receiving your response at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS