



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Eddie Dryden  
Chair, Health Scrutiny Panel  
Middlesbrough Council  
Middlesbrough Town Hall  
Corporation Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 2QQ

8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Re: Referral of respite care provision to Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**

Dear Eddie,

I understand that the final decision has been taken to refer the recent changes in respite care provision to the Secretary of State for Health. I would like to offer my support to this decision.

I do not doubt the sincerity and best intentions of local CCG officers who I believe are trying to provide a greater level of choice and widen options for carers in terms of local provision.

However, constituents have raised issues with me referring to the new system of resource allocation and what they will be entitled to in terms of number of nights of respite care. They are concerned that the new assessment criteria have not yet been completed and as such they are not able to see, prior to any assessment of their needs being carried out, what they will be entitled to in terms of overnight stays in facilities such as Bankfields or Aysgarth.

It is my belief that the assessment criteria should have been finalised prior to any consultation in terms of changes in provision of care. This would have allowed for carers and their families to have had a much greater degree of trust in the new system and to clearly see what their allocation of resources would have meant in practice.

As it is, families who access Bankfields have been left in the dark and remain unclear as to the implications of the proposed changes to respite care provision.



I trust that the Secretary of State will look in some detail at these matters and I hope that a satisfactory conclusion can be reached between the constituents concerned and the CCG as a result.

Your sincerely,

**ANDY MCDONALD**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR MIDDLESBROUGH**