



6 May 2019

**Investment in Public Health**

Dear Health Secretary and Communities Secretary,

We are writing on behalf of more than 80 organisations and charities who have united to call on the Government to increase investment in public health in England.

We believe that the Government wants everyone to have access to the services they need. However, the £200m cut to the public health grant in 2015, followed by further annual real terms reductions, has left our local authorities struggling. Public health funding is at crisis point. We are already seeing most public health functions, from sexual and mental health services to smoking cessation and drug and alcohol services, being slashed across England. Health inequalities are widening and pressure on our health service continues to grow.

The Health Secretary's vision of putting prevention at the heart of policy is encouraging, as long as it recognises the vital role local services have to play and the support they need is provided. If the Government truly wants to deliver on the NHS Long Term Plan, make the 'Prevention is Better than Cure' vision a reality, and ensure its £20.5bn investment in the NHS is not wasted, the health sector is in agreement: the Government must find a sustainable funding solution for public health.

Please find attached a statement that sets out our case. We would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss with you further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE  
BMA Council chair

Ian Hudspeth  
Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board

Michelle Mitchell,  
Chief Executive, Cancer Research UK

Paul Farmer  
Chief Executive, Mind