

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA

By email only.
CC: The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP

21 July 2026

An Open Letter to the Prime Minister, Partner with the VCFSE Sector to Build a Healthier, Fairer and More Prosperous Britain

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you as Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations providing care, support, housing and advocacy for millions of disabled people, families and unpaid carers across the country. We very much welcome your early focus on social care and the need to act swiftly to put the sector on a surer, sustainable footing.

Every day, our organisations provide essential services that enable disabled children, young people, adults and older people to live independent, healthy and fulfilling lives. We deliver social care, health and wellbeing services, supported housing, mental health support, employment services, advocacy, early intervention, community activities and specialist advice. We help people navigate complex systems, prevent crises and ensure that individuals and families receive the support they need when they need it.

Our organisations are deeply rooted in communities. We are often the trusted partners people turn to first, particularly those who face barriers to accessing statutory services. Through strong relationships, local knowledge and lived experience, we reach people who might otherwise be left behind.

The value we create extends far beyond the services we deliver.

The VCFSE sector is a significant employer, creating skilled jobs in every part of the country while supporting volunteers, developing local talent and strengthening local economies. We contribute billions of pounds in social and economic value each year and help people enter, remain in and return to work, including disabled people and unpaid carers whose contribution to society is too often overlooked.

Our work is fundamental to reducing health inequalities.

Reports only last week demonstrate that disabled people continue to experience poorer health outcomes, unequal access to services, unsuitable housing and higher levels of poverty and social isolation. We work alongside the NHS, local authorities and housing providers to address these inequalities through preventative, person-

centred and community-based support. This approach improves lives while reducing pressure on public services.

As your government develops plans for the future of health, social care, housing and economic growth, we urge you to recognise that thriving communities are built through partnership. The VCFSE sector is not an optional addition to public services; it is an essential part of the nation's social and economic infrastructure.

However, too many organisations continue to operate with short-term contracts and funding, rising demand and increasing financial uncertainty – the impact of unfunded increases in employer national insurance contributions (ENICs) are still hard felt by VCFSE organisations. These cost pressures undermine workforce stability, innovation and the ability to plan for the future. Sustainable public services require sustainable investment in the organisations that help deliver them.

We therefore ask your government to:

- **Recognise the VCFSE sector as a strategic partner** in designing and delivering social care, health, housing and employment policy, ensuring the voices of disabled people, families and carers shape decision-making from the outset.
- **Accelerate reform and the development of a long-term investment strategy for the VCFSE sector**, moving away from short-term contracts and funding cycles towards sustainable commissioning and multi-year investment that enables organisations to innovate, collaborate and plan with confidence.
- **Prioritise prevention and early action**, recognising that investment in community-based support reduces demand on the NHS, social care and other public services while improving outcomes.
- **Strengthen the social care workforce**, recognising the critical contribution made by VCFSE providers in delivering high-quality, person-centred care and support.
- **Work in genuine partnership with people who have lived experience, Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations, carers' organisations and community organisations**, embedding co-production and lived experience at every stage of policy development and implementation.
- **Place reducing health and wider inequalities at the centre of Government policy**, ensuring disabled people have equitable access to healthcare, housing, employment, education and community life.

The challenges facing our country are significant, but so too are the opportunities.

Across the country, VCFSE organisations are already demonstrating how integrated, community-led support can improve lives, support co-occurring needs, reduce inequalities, strengthen resilience and deliver better value for public investment. We

stand ready to work with your government to build services that are more responsive, more sustainable and more effective.

We believe that a stronger partnership between Government and the VCFSE sector will help deliver healthier communities, a stronger economy and a fairer society, one in which disabled people, families and carers are enabled not simply to cope, but to thrive.

We would welcome the opportunity to host you and your team and share directly with you the work we do to realise this shared ambition.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rhidian Hughes, Chief Executive, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group

Aisling Duffy, Chief Executive, Certitude

Alex Brooks-Johnson, Chief Executive, Aldingbourne Trust

Alison Beachim, Chief Executive, New Outlook

Alison Cooper, Executive Director, Parity for Disability

Andrew Beland, Chief Executive, Choice Support

Andrew Willetts, Chief Executive, Orpheus Centre

Angela Duce, Chief Executive, Harpenden Mencap

Angela Murphy, Chief Executive, Fitzroy

Anna Lewis, Chief Executive, Centre 404

Anna O'Mahony, Chief Executive, Hollybank Trust

Azra Kirkby, Chief Executive, St Anne's Community Services

Be McCarroll, Chief Executive, Havencare

Caroline Collier, Chief Executive, Inclusion Barnet

Caroline Stevens, Chief Executive, National Autistic Society

Chris Askew, Chief Executive, Brainkind

Chris Hampson, Chief Executive, Look Ahead

Craig Crowley CBE, Chief Executive, Action Deafness

Daniel Carmel-Brown, Chief Executive, Jewish Care

Dawn Wood, Chief Executive, Mencap Kirklees

Diane Hesketh, Chief Executive, Natural Breaks

Emma Morris, Chief Executive, Stockdales

Emma Williams, Chief Executive, Avalon Group

Eva Eriksson, Chief Executive, Grace Eyre

Gabby Machell, Chief Executive, LDN London

Gareth Germer, Chief Executive, Chailey Heritage Foundation

Gary Jones, Chief Executive, Penderels Trust

Gill Bryant, Chief Executive, EveryStory

Hannah Tombs, Chief Executive, Ferring Country Centre

Hayley Connor, Group Chief Executive, The YOU Trust

Helen England, Chief Executive, Brandon Trust

Hilary Crowhurt, Chief Executive, Milestones

Holly Dagnall, Director, NCHA Homes and Wellbeing

Holly Spiers, Chief Executive, Walsingham

Ian Pritchard, Chief Executive, Alternative Futures Group

James Watson O'Neill, Chief Executive, Sense

Jane Hughes, Chief Executive, Mental Health Matters

Jeff Skipp, Chief Executive, Ability Housing Association

Jill Rankin, Chief Executive, St Elizabeths Centre

Jim Kane, Chief Executive, Community Integrated Care

Jo Adshead, Executive Director, Link-Ability

Jo Howell, Chief Executive, Northam Care Trust

Jo Land, Chief Executive, Avenues Group

John Heritage, Chief Executive, David Lewis

John Verge, Chief Executive, Golden Lane Housing

Jon Sparkes, Chief Executive, Mencap

Julie Bass, Chief Executive, Turning Point

Julie Davis, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Blind Children

Julie Doyle, Chief Executive, Amplius

Kathryn Courtenay-Evans, Chief Executive, Guideposts Trust

Katie Ghose, Chief Executive, Kids

Kerry Dearden, Chief Executive, Affinity Trust

Kevin Peacock, Chief Executive, Options

Laura Harper, Chief Executive, L'Arche

Linda Bryant, Chief Executive, Together for Mental Wellbeing

Lisa Chant, Chief Executive, FairOak Housing Association

Lisa Hopkins, Chief Executive, SeeAbility

Lisa Wimborne, Chief Executive, Jewish Blind & Disabled

Louise Parrott-Bates, Chief Executive, Pure Innovations

Lucy Brown, Chief Executive, Disability Initiative

Lucy Warnes, Chief Executive, SignHealth

Lynette Barrett, Chief Executive, National Star

Maria Mills, Chief Executive, Active Prospects

Mark Wheatley, Chief Executive, Royal Association for Deaf People

Naomi Dickson, Chief Executive, Norwood

Neil Blanchard, Chief Executive, Southdown

Nicky Boland, Chief Executive, Outward

Rachael Dodgson, Chief Executive, Dimensions

Rachel Koivunen, Chief Executive, People in Action (Yorkshire)

Rachel Law, Chief Executive, PossAbilities

Rachel Peacock, Chief Executive, Making Space

Richard Franklin, Chief Executive, Kisharon Langdon

Robert Shanahan, Chief Executive, Aspens

Ru Watkins, Chief Executive, Hamlin

Ruth Gorman, Chief Executive, Imagine Act and Succeed

Sally Daniels, Chief Executive, Henshaws

Sarah Burslem, Chief Executive, MacIntyre

Sean Tyrer, Chief Executive, Money Carer

Simon Antrobus, Chief Executive, RNIB

Stephen Veevers, Chief Executive, Hft

Tim Davies, Chief Executive, Camphill Milton Keynes & Northants Communities

Tom Harrison, Chief Executive, Autism West Midlands

Tracey Bush, Chief Executive, One Fylde

Valerie Waby, Chief Executive, Linkage Community Trust

Victoria Neish, Chief Executive, Coquet Trust

Zoe Richardson, Chief Executive, Muscular Dystrophy Support Centre

Zoheb Shariff, Chief Executive, Mosaic 1898

