

Healthwatch Worcestershire  
Civic Centre  
Queen Elizabeth Drive  
Persore  
WR10 1PT  
Tel: 01386 550 264  
[info@healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk)  
[www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk)



25 October 2013

Caring for our Future – Implementing funding reform  
Department of Health  
Area 313B, Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Dear Sir

Ref: response to consultation on **Caring for our Future**  
**Consultation on reforming what and how people pay for their care and support**

I refer to the above consultation which closes today and enclose a response from Healthwatch Worcestershire.

The response has been informed by a methodology that included a survey of Worcestershire's residents that participate in a citizens panel "The Worcestershire Viewpoint", a focus group and a workshop attended by voluntary sector organisations and 'Experts by Experience' in social care matters.

I would also like to add that the bigger issue which appears to have gone unnoticed until the LSE research was published, and was not understood by those attending our workshops is that the proposals to limit personal expenditure and hence protect personal wealth will only apply to care purchased to support substantial/critical needs. The current criteria are so high that many people who may have moderate needs which require support may well never, i.e. die, get to the higher threshold therefore there is no protection of assets!

Our full report of the research together with this submission will be published on our website at [www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk). In addition we will be sharing the report with Healthwatch England and local commissioners of social care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Pinfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'P' and 'f'.

Peter Pinfield  
Chairman Healthwatch Worcestershire