

This week the Government published its long term funding plans for social care. This is a real issue of concern for many local people who are either seeing their own or family's assets being depleted to pay for their personal care.

Care for the elderly is one of the issues I set out to champion when I got elected in 2010. There are so many different aspects however, ranging from those who experience extreme loneliness and isolation while living at home, the diagnosis and treatment of dementia, through to the quality of care provision in a residential or nursing setting. But one aspect that keeps coming back is how unfair it is that people who have worked hard to save and secure their future end up paying extortionate costs for their care, spending almost all they've put aside.

The Government announced three important parts to future funding this week. There will be cap of lifetime care costs of £75K, the threshold for full payment of care costs has been increased to £123K and there will be a cap on accommodation costs of £12k per year. All this sounds good in theory but I worry that it will make little difference here in the South East and doesn't necessarily help with the underfunding of local authority social care, which means that those with wealth effectively cross-subsidise the real cost of care, particularly those with accommodation needs.

This is, in my view, one of the most important issues facing the current and next generation. We are an ageing society and the state is creaking under the strain of the cost of care. However are these proposals right and will they make a difference? I would really like to hear your personal experiences of care costs and your views on these proposals.