Dear INSERT YOUR LOCAL MP NAME HERE,

I am writing to you about the very critical situation facing many autistic people and people with learning disabilities in this country.

It is now over ten years since the events of Winterbourne View exposed serious failings and abuse of people with learning disabilities and autism. Since then, commitments have been made by Government to move people out of long-term inpatient settings and back into their communities where they can live fulfilling and independent lives.

Despite numerous commitments, the crisis continues. As of December 2023 figures showed that 2,030 people with learning disabilities or autistic people were in hospital in England, with the average length of stay standing at over 5 years.

These settings often lead to worse outcomes for this group of people who often then display distressed behaviour due to living in isolation without any meaningful social contact.

**This cannot go on.**

**Therefore, I am supporting the British Association of Social Workers Homes Not Hospitals campaign.**

The campaign seeks to support people with autism or learning disabilities to live independently in their own communities with properly funded local provision to support them to do so.

You can find a link to our newly launched campaign pack **here** which helps explain the situation as it is today and how you can help support us.

As part of this campaign we are asking you to:

1. **Challenge your Local Authority and Integrated Care Board** to share information on the number of people in your local area with learning disabilities and/or who are autistic who are in Assessment and Treatment Units or Mental Health Units.
2. Engage with families and campaigners for those affected by **meeting with the Homes Not Hospitals campaign.**
3. **Spread the word to help make Homes Not Hospitals a reality** by showing your support and tagging @BASW\_UK and using the #HomesNotHospitals hashtag.

I really hope you would consider supporting our campaign and should you wish to learn more please contact us on england@basw.co.uk and we could meet with you at a time of your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

INSERT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS HERE