

Template letter tailored for relevant social care charities, provider organisations, campaigning organisations etc across the UK

Dear (organisation CEO)

Support for the wider adult social care sector from the British Association of Social Workers (BASW)

BASW supports, represents and promotes registered social workers and social work practice across all countries of the UK. Our work happens in the context of wider social care and is delivered in collaboration with colleagues from other regulated professions (such as nurses and occupational therapists), in other care, support, management and administrative roles, and in informal caring roles.

We are writing to you and your organisation to offer our recognition of the immense stress the adult social care sector has been experiencing during the Covid-19 pandemic, to acknowledge the determination and strength shown in the sector in difficult circumstances, and to offer support for the ongoing challenges for organisations such as yours and for the people you support and represent. We also recognise and celebrate the diversity of the care and health workforces, including ethnic diversity, but this has also been linked with unequal risk of poor outcomes for black and minority ethnic colleagues.

The pandemic came at a time when adult social care across the UK was already affected by underfunding to different degrees and, in the case of England, confusing delays in much needed strategic reform. While so much has been achieved in recent years in developing more personalised social care models, higher quality, more self-determination and better citizen experience, the opportunity to fulfil the promise of excellent adult social care has been undermined by these problems. Now is the time for governments and devolved administrations across the UK to resolve them.

BASW is writing to key organisations such as yours to offer support and dialogue on any matters about which you think our organisations might work together and/or to lend each other support, informally or formally.

Northern Ireland
Douglas House
397 Ormeau Road
Belfast BT7 3GP
Tel: (02890) 648873
Email: n.ireland@basw.co.uk

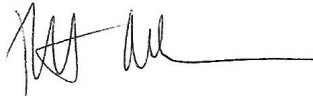
Scotland
Shandwick House
2nd Floor, 67 Shandwick Place
Edinburgh EH2 4SD
Tel: (0131) 221 9445
Email: scotland@basw.co.uk

Wales/Cymru
Ground Floor, 8 Coopers Yard
Curran Road
Cardiff CF10 5NB
Tel: (02922) 401892
Email: wales@basw.co.uk

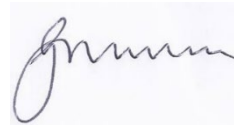
Below this letter is our statement about the losses and negative impacts of the pandemic on people using and working in adult social care services and key areas we believe require attention and recognition.

If you think there is a way BASW and your organisation could work together more or support each other on these or other relevant issues, do get in touch. If you are not already, we would also like to add you to our stakeholder list and contact you on matters of mutual concern and interest.

Yours sincerely



Dr Ruth Allen
BASW Chief Executive



Geraldine Nosowska
Chair

British Association of Social Workers (BASW) statement on social work and the impact of Covid-19 across adult social care in the UK

1st August 2020

Social workers have a key role in social care. We provide direct therapeutic, relational support to enable people to manage difficulties in crisis and in the longer term. We use specialist knowledge and skills in diverse fields of practice and complex needs. We work with others to coordinate and ensure quality care and support. We are advocates and use our social work and legal expertise to uphold people's human rights, to enable people to make decisions, and to be safe from abuse and neglect. With others, we advocate and campaign for social care support that is life-enhancing and promotes equality and social justice.

Social workers only achieve their aims through working collaboratively with colleagues, informal carers and citizens using services within systems of social care and health support.

BASW is profoundly concerned about the impact of Covid-19 on people using and working in social care services during Covid-19. We seek to work with allies in the sector and with governments to strengthen social care and improve the experience of citizens and staff.

BASW fully supports and is solidarity with all colleagues in social care who have provided vital services to people at risk from Covid-19 - whilst often managing huge pressures on services on top of personal risks and worries.

The hugely disproportionate number of deaths from Covid-19 of people who need care and support – particularly fellow citizens in care homes – and deaths of colleagues has demonstrated that we urgently require:

- Recognition of the importance of good social care for all who need it
 - Commitment to sufficient resources to provide good social care
 - A better way of ensuring that social care can uphold everyone's human rights, dignity and wellbeing
 - Fair pay and safe working conditions for all staff within social care
- We will continue to work with allies to end the tragedy of avoidable deaths from Covid-19 of people receiving social care and working in social care. This requires:

Northern Ireland
Douglas House
397 Ormeau Road
Belfast BT7 3GP
Tel: (02890) 648873
Email: n.ireland@basw.co.uk

Scotland
Shandwick House
2nd Floor, 67 Shandwick Place
Edinburgh EH2 4SD
Tel: (0131) 221 9445
Email: scotland@basw.co.uk

Wales/Cymru
Ground Floor, 8 Coopers Yard
Curran Road
Cardiff CF10 5NB
Tel: (02922) 401892
Email: wales@basw.co.uk

- Personal Protective Equipment for all care workers (no charge fee guarantee)
- Accessible, reliable testing for care workers, carers and people at risk who are Covid-19 asymptomatic and symptomatic
- 3 weeks repeat testing cycle and discharge from hospital to care home based on the Scottish model (2 negative tests after testing positive prior to hospital discharge)
- Clear and consistent infection control advice for residents and staff in all settings

Our pledges of support

- We lend our voice to all social care organisations and individuals who are speaking up for dignity and human rights for all in our society.
- We pay tribute to the selfless dedication of social care workers, who are so often unrecognised and who are not adequately supported or rewarded by our society.
- We recognise the tragic loss of colleagues and people using services to the virus and recognise the urgent need to understand and address ethnic and other inequalities in death rates.
- We acknowledge the huge impact on informal carers of all ages who look after family members and friends many of whom have been directly affected by the pandemic. We are concerned that additional caring responsibilities have disproportionately fallen on women.
- We will continue to work with others to challenge the injustices, human rights issues and inequalities of Covid-19's risk and outcomes, and pressure government to ensure consistent, well-funded, local services for the long term.
- We call on UK governments/devolved administrations to protect people's rights by refreshing and keeping under review guidance about personalised 'Do Not Resuscitate' notifications within Advance Care planning records/equivalent across the nations.

Northern Ireland
Douglas House
397 Ormeau Road
Belfast BT7 3GP
Tel: (02890) 648873
Email: n.ireland@basw.co.uk

Scotland
Shandwick House
2nd Floor, 67 Shandwick Place
Edinburgh EH2 4SD
Tel: (0131) 221 9445
Email: scotland@basw.co.uk

Wales/Cymru
Ground Floor, 8 Coopers Yard
Curran Road
Cardiff CF10 5NB
Tel: (02922) 401892
Email: wales@basw.co.uk

- We particularly advocate, for people living in care homes and receiving social care support, where the full protection of public health expertise and action should have been ensured by all UK governments since the pandemic started and must now be guaranteed.
- We will support effective actions that may be forthcoming now, from governments and others. But we must have accountability, learning and determination to ensure the best of social care and support is available for everyone in every part of the UK with sound national and local governance. **BASW will do all it can to ensure this happens.**

Northern Ireland
Douglas House
397 Ormeau Road
Belfast BT7 3GP
Tel: (02890) 648873
Email: n.ireland@basw.co.uk

Scotland
Shandwick House
2nd Floor, 67 Shandwick Place
Edinburgh EH2 4SD
Tel: (0131) 221 9445
Email: scotland@basw.co.uk

Wales/Cymru
Ground Floor, 8 Coopers Yard
Curran Road
Cardiff CF10 5NB
Tel: (02922) 401892
Email: wales@basw.co.uk