

Open Letter to The Secretary of State for Health & Social Care

To Sajid Javid

Regarding your highly offensive, ill-informed, and harmful statement that families should take responsibility for care of loved ones.

Firstly, after those rare abuse cases that make the news, an ill-informed minority of people take to social media with vitriolic comments at already distressed families, that it's their own fault their loved ones were abused, because they are so sure they would never put their parents in a care home. This is the ignorant minority, you on the hand are the secretary of state and should know better.

I will now inform you of the real world and what families have to endure.

Those who need care are not the healthy, fit, active elderly. Those who need care have complex health needs and an estimated 70% of people in care homes will have some form of dementia.

Many family members across this country are unpaid carers left with no respite or support and all too often no help at all, due to sever cutbacks by local authorities.

You have obviously never cared for someone with dementia. imagine never being able to leave the house because there is no one to watch your relative. You will often have little sleep at night because your relative will being trying to leave the house or calling out at regular intervals, asking the same questions over and over.

If you have a shower, be prepared to find your loved one has in your absence put the electric kettle on the gas hob to boil, has eaten something dangerous or wandered into the garden without clothing on. This is hour after hour, week after week with no respite.

Your loved one may become violent when you try to stop them leaving the house. They may constantly ask who you are.

Working in care is the best job in the world, but it's absolutely gruelling physical work and mentally exhausting also. But a care worker goes home to sleep at the end of a shift and also gets at least one break in 12 hours if their lucky.

Most people have a fall, are taken to hospital and assessed as needing 24-hour care, often nursing care. A family member cannot provide this, their relative may be immobile due to the lack of physiotherapy available in the NHS, therefore needing hoisting. Families are pressurised by hospitals to find a care home or insist on discharging into a certain care home and families told they can move their relative to a different home later.

It's almost impossible to get someone out of a care home, families even attempting this will be targeted with malicious safeguarding allegations. Taking someone out of hospital who is assessed as needing nursing care and taking them back home will result in the police turning up on your doorstep and arresting you.

Most women have to work now, not because they want a hobby but because they will be evicted if they do not pay their rent or mortgage, are you going to pay their wages so they can stay home and care instead? We very much doubt it.

Many families can live far apart, care often falling on one individual. I could say much more but I think this shows clearly why your comments are not only ignorant, they are absolutely appalling.

Its so hard to find your loved one is in a care home, not for any lack of love but due to circumstances way beyond your control.

We are absolutely disgusted that you could make such a public statement, the distress you have caused is lamentable, you should make an immediate public apology and resign, such a level of ignorance makes your position untenable

Your Sincerely

Eileen Chubb