



House of Commons  
London  
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**Sarah Champion**  
**Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Immediate release**  
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### **Sarah Champion MP Hits Out at Lack of NHS Funding**

Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham, says too many people are suffering due to a lack of NHS funding. A recent report by the Richmond Group of Charities has found that 22.4% of Rotherham residents say their quality of life is compromised by a long-term illness.

Thousands of people in Rotherham alone are living with a long term condition such as diabetes or the long term effects of a stroke or cancer. Currently, the care for these patients accounts for £7 out of every £10 spent on health and social care. Privatisation and cuts by the Coalition Government over the past five years have left NHS services and budgets struggling to cope under the pressure.

The report entitled *'Vital Signs: Taking the temperature of health and care services for people living with long-term conditions'* claims much of this pressure is avoidable. It suggests that the NHS needs to get the basics right and put the people who use the service first. Solutions include good care coordination, shared decision making and support for self-management for those living with long term conditions.

Sarah is fully behind Labour's plans to invest an extra £2.5 billion into the NHS as part of "The Time to Care" fund. The money will help bring in 20,000 nurses and 8,000 GPs, as well as 5,000 new homecare workers to work in integrated care teams. This will lead to a joined up approach by the NHS to provide support and help people to stay in their homes.

Discussing the report, Sarah said:

*"It's shocking that almost a quarter of people in Rotherham say their quality of life is compromised by a long-term illness. For me, it clearly shows that this Government's approach to the NHS is having a hugely detrimental effect on the public. The Tory policy of budget cuts and privatisation has only served to bring services to their knees."*

*"This report highlights the fact that without change there is a real risk to the sustainability of the NHS. Too many people are now suffering. The service they receive isn't what they need because resources are far too stretched."*

*"A Labour Government will provide the NHS this country deserves. An extra £2.5 billion means more nurses, more GPs, more homecare workers and ultimately a better experience for patients. This funding is vital for the long-term future of the NHS, something which appears to have been disregarded by the Tories."*

NOTES TO EDITOR

Full report here - <http://www.richmondgroupofcharities.org.uk/PDFs/richmond-group-vital-signs-report.pdf>

Labour's NHS 'Time to Care Fund' - <http://www.labour.org.uk/issues/detail/nhs-time-to-care-fund>

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**If you would like to receive Sarah's E-newsletter to learn more about her work representing Rotherham - please click [here](#) to subscribe**