

## **Appendix A: LGA Local Welfare Assistance joint letter with Child Poverty Action Group, Crisis and Children's Society**

Chancellor of the Exchequer, UK Treasury  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

20 November 2014

Dear Ministers

### **Local Welfare Assistance**

We write to you to raise our shared concerns about the funding of local welfare assistance in 2015/16 and beyond.

Local welfare assistance provides the last line of support to people with nowhere else to turn. It provides basic essentials for vulnerable residents and their children who face an unforeseen personal crisis or are in need of help to re-establish themselves in society after illness or a period in residential care.

The localisation of key elements of the Discretionary Social Fund gave responsibility to councils for establishing Local Welfare Assistance schemes. In a context of exceptionally high levels of demand for crisis support, many councils have designed schemes that have responded to local needs in an innovative and successful way.

The withdrawal of separately identifiable funding for local authorities in 2015/16 on top of a £3.13 billion reduction<sup>1</sup> in core grant will lead to three quarters of council schemes being scaled back or abolished altogether.<sup>2</sup> This will have an acute impact on vulnerable residents and their children and will mean they have nowhere to turn in their time of greatest need.

To ensure this provision continues to be available **it is imperative that the government provides clear and separately identifiable funding that is in addition to the existing planned local government core grant funding in 2015/16.**

Yours sincerely



Cllr David Sparks  
Chairman  
Local Government Association



Alison Garnham  
Chief Executive  
Child Poverty Action Group

<sup>1</sup> This represents a 13 per cent reduction on 2014/15 local government core grant settlement

<sup>2</sup> LGA survey of upper tier councils in September 2014: [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/6583322/NEWS](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/6583322/NEWS)

7 January 2015



Matthew Reed  
Chief Executive  
Children's Society



Jon Sparkes  
Chief Executive  
Crisis

Copied to:

Steve Webb MP, Minister of State for Pensions, Department of Work and Pensions

Kris Hopkins MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Communities and Local Government

Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Rachel Reeves MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Hilary Benn MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Ed Balls MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer

Chris Leslie MP, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Clive Betts MP, Communities and Local Government Committee Chair

Dame Anne Begg, Work and Pensions Committee Chair

Andrew Tyrie MP, Treasury Select Committee Chair