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PRIME MINISTER

20 March 1989

COMMUNITY CARE ROY GRIFFITHS' NOTE

Roy Griffiths makes a very reasonable point in his note. The pros and cons of <u>eight</u> options have been well aired in a report by an Inter-Departmental Group (IDG).

On this basis, the Group chose the local authority model as the preferred solution. But we should be wary of placing undue emphasis on the IDG report.

After the publication of Roy Griffiths' report, the IDG was asked to make 'a more detailed appraisal of the organisational options and to advise'. The IDG report is managerial in style. It does not seek to address wider issues. None of the eight options examines the possibility of introducing 'community care allowances' as an alternative to income support for residential care. Surely, choice should be our main objective. Not bureaucratic control.

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IAN WHITEHEAD