



me PA
celu

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 October 1989

Dear Andy,

COMMUNITY CARE WHITE PAPER

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's letter of 20 October to the Lord President and the attached annex and draft White Paper. She has comments both on the policy substance and the presentation.

The Prime Minister is puzzled by the various references to limiting rights to preserved entitlements in the annex and in paragraphs 9.2 - 9.6. These do not seem to make clear exactly what is proposed. The Prime Minister considers that there should be full preserved rights to income support for all those in residential homes on 1 April 1991.

The Prime Minister has also noted that the position on whether or not there should be local authority topping-up of preserved income support has yet to be settled; she would be grateful if your Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Social Security could seek to resolve this point.

The Prime Minister thinks that the presentation of the draft White Paper could be improved. In particular she feels that Chapter 1 might be re-written, to make the language more personal, more upbeat and more specific; to include a section on the Government's achievements; and to be more positive about the benefits for people flowing from the changes. I also attach some detailed comments on the draft as set out in the attached annex.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of H and E(A) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Yours,
Paul

(PAUL GRAY)

Andy McKeon, Esq.,
Department of Health.

[Handwritten signature]

DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT WHITE PAPERContents page

There is no clear delineation between some of the chapter headings. For example, 'Better Community Care Services' (Chapter 1) seems very similar to 'Community Care in Practice' (Chapter 2). And the heading 'Quality Control: Partnership between the Centre and Local Agencies' (Chapter 5) could be changed to 'Achieving High Standards of Care'.

Para 1.4.

Background to the White Paper

Sir Roy Griffiths was not asked to 'undertake an overview of community care policy' (line 4). The precise remit was:

"To review the way in which public funds are used to support community care policy and to advise me on the options for action that would improve the use of these funds as a contribution to more effective community care."

Para 2.1.

Responsibilities of health authorities

Rephrase the fourth sentence which starts 'The responsibilities of the Health Service are unaltered ...'. Otherwise, this sentence does not reconcile with the increased responsibility given to health authorities for making specific grants to social services authorities for mental illness services (Chapter 8).

Para 3.7.6/7

Paying for places

These two paragraphs appear more concerned about the 'extra work for social services authorities' than the increased burden on vulnerable people. Under the changes, residential costs will be funded from three sources:

Housing Benefit - Local Authority Housing
Department

Income Support - Social Security

Care Element - County Council Social
Services.

The Government's intention to provide a straightforward system for consumers should be stressed.

Para 3.7.12 Care for people with terminal illnesses

This paragraph is misleading. It gives the distinct impression that hospices are always funded by health authorities.

Para 5.20/
5.21 Inspection of Homes

Para 5.20 should be redrafted to clarify the position along the lines of the Scottish Chapter 10 para 11.

Para 7.22 Mental Illness among the homeless population

THE INDEPENDENT has highlighted the need to tackle the problem of homeless people who are mentally ill, by stating 'One in four psychiatric patients sent from Central London hospitals to be cared for in the community is homeless, a survey of the mentally ill has found'.

Paragraph 7.22 should be expanded to explain the Department of Health's new initiative with St. Mungo Housing.