

Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
The Correspondence and Inquiry Unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

18 August 2020

Dear Rt Hon Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer,

We are writing to you as a cross party group of MPs to ask for urgent action on behalf of CLIC Sargent – the UK's leading charity for children and young people with cancer. We ask you to provide them with **£750k to fund vital social care support for children and young people with cancer and their families.**

£750k would fund social care support for around 1,200 families at any one time, for up to 6 months.

Every year in the UK over 4,450 children and young people under 25 are diagnosed with cancer. That means every day 12 children and young people hear the news they have cancer. Cancer is the biggest killer of young people by disease in the UK.

CLIC Sargent is the only organisation that provides social care support to children and young people with cancer. This is an invaluable frontline service that supports the NHS and provides young people with practical, emotional and financial support from diagnosis onwards. CLIC Sargent also have ten Homes from Home across the UK to allow families travelling a significant distance for treatment to stay near the hospital. This allows families to be together during a worrying time in addition to helping to alleviate some financial costs. Finally, their financial grants provide families with vital economic support during one of the most worrying times of their lives.

We want to ensure the voices of children and young people with cancer are not forgotten during the coronavirus pandemic. It can be tough enough being a young person today – without the added complication of a cancer diagnosis and worldwide pandemic on top of that. CLIC Sargent's work is more important than ever before and they are seeing a rise in demand for services by about a third. This is alongside a 60% loss of income.

They have already furloughed and temporarily reduced the hours of a significant portion of their staff, including social care staff, meaning a direct impact on the support given to young people with cancer. Therefore we are asking you to consider providing CLIC Sargent with £750,000.

This would mean support for around 1,200 families for up to six months.

Without the services provided by CLIC Sargent there would be a significant additional cost to the healthcare system at an already challenging time. Children and young people with cancer need CLIC Sargent – and so does the NHS.

We are copying in Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Jo Churchill MP, Cancer Minister and Helen Whately, Social Care Minister.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Brown MP

Alison Thewliss MP

Allan Dorans MP

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP
Christine Jardine MP
Claire Hanna MP
Derek Twigg MP
Douglas Chapman MP
Dr Dan Poulter MP
Dr Philippa Whitford MP
Drew Hendry MP
Ed Davey MP
George Howarth MP
Henry Smith MP

James Sunderland MP
Jim Shannon MP
Kenny MacAskill MP
Liz Saville Roberts MP
Marion Fellows MP
Mark Tami MP
Mike Hill MP
Mohammad Yasin MP
Munira Wilson MP
Peter Dowd MP
Richard Thomson MP

Robert Halfon MP
Sammy Wilson MP
Sarah Champion MP
Sarah Olney MP
Stewart McDonald MP
Tim Farron MP
Tonia Antoniazzi MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
William Wragg MP