

**COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW 2004 – GAP BETWEEN NHS
AND SOCIAL SERVICES GETTING WIDER**

Responding to the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), John Knight, Head of Policy at Leonard Cheshire said:

Health Funding:

“The NHS and social care services are inter-dependent and in the rush to push more money into the NHS, social care services are getting left behind. This will hold back progress across the board. If the money the Chancellor is ploughing into the NHS is going to be really effective then he must also invest equally in social services.

“All increases in funding to frontline health services are very warmly welcomed, but the Chancellor's announcement means that the gap between Social Services and the National Health Service continues to get wider. This means that some people who cannot access social care services may find that their needs are exacerbated, throwing people into acute NHS care. This artificial demand is avoidable and serves only to undermine both the NHS and disabled people.”

Local Authority Funding:

“If local authorities can in the future plan three years ahead then they have no excuse for holding back in offering full and fair longer term contracts to care providers. The Chancellor has given the councils more freedom to plan – now the councils must pass that benefit on to the care providers.”

--ENDS--

For further information:

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Notes to Editors:

1. In the CSR presented to Parliament on the 12th July 2004 the Chancellor announced an increase of NHS funding of 7.2% in real terms per year, and an increase in funding to Social Services of 2.7% in real terms per year.
2. Leonard Cheshire (www.leonard-cheshire.org) is the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of support to disabled people. It supports over 21,000 disabled people in the UK (85% in own homes, 15% in care homes) offering flexible services to meet their needs. The charity campaigns for the rights of disabled people in the UK and raises awareness of the issues affecting them. The charity also works with disabled people in 57 countries worldwide working in partnership with more than 255 autonomous and locally managed services and organisations.

Leonard Cheshire offers care at home services; care homes with and without nursing, including respite care; day services including resource centres and mobile day centres; independent/supported living units; acquired brain injury rehabilitation services; recreational services and education, training and employment support through Workability and jobability.com.