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**PRIME MINISTER'S UNPRECEDENTED PLEDGE FOR BETTER CARE FOR
OLDER PEOPLE 'MUST BE BACKED BY RADICAL VISION AND PROPER
FUNDING'**

The Prime Minister's unprecedented pledge made today for better care for all older people has been welcomed by the national charity Counsel and Care. But it warns that it will only become reality if backed by a radical vision for a national care service and sufficient funding to meet current and future needs.

Stephen Burke, Chief Executive of Counsel and Care, said: "We welcome the Prime Minister's commitment today that 'everyone has dignity and security in their old age'. The Prime Minister has rightly recognised that the care system is 'not fit for purpose' and that the status quo must be challenged.

"The forthcoming White Paper on the future of care must set out a radical vision of better care for all and how it will be properly funded. People want to know what care and support they and their family will be entitled to and how much they will have to pay.

"Counsel and Care has welcomed the broad vision of a national care service. But it will cost a lot more to meet the needs of our ageing population. We have

called for a care duty on estates to bring in much needed extra funding in a way that is fair for all.

“The new care bill is a step on the way to this vision. The devil will be in the detail. We need to see who will be helped and how it will be funded. Care must be taken to avoid creating negative trade-offs for other older people still with considerable needs trying to access care at home. The commitment to investing further in helping older people leave hospital, regain independence, and return to their own home rather than moving into a care home before they need to is key to investing in prevention.

“Support for older people and their carers has become a crucial issue in the forthcoming election. We now need to end the postcode lottery in access to and quality of care and deliver a care and support system we are all proud of.”

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Copies of Counsel and Care’s response to the green paper ‘Shaping the Future of Care Together’ can be downloaded from:
www.counselandcare.org.uk/influence/consultation
- Counsel and Care is a national charity getting the best care and support for older people, their families and carers. Advice on issues affecting older people and carers can be obtained by calling 0845 300 7585 or emailing advice@counselandcare.org.uk
- Counsel and Care’s Advice Service opening hours are 10am-4pm Monday-Friday except Wednesday afternoons.
- More information about Counsel and Care can be obtained from www.counselandcare.org.uk