

Hamilton's concerns echoed by Leeds Jewish care organisation

FABIAN Hamilton MP has called for an urgent reform of the care system and an increase in essential funding for older people.

The Leeds North East representative has pledged his support for Age UK's Crisis in-Care campaign calling for reform to ensure older people receive care which meets their needs.

Mr Hamilton has received backing from Jewish organisations.

"He has always been and still is a supporter of Donisthorpe Hall and has taken a great interest in the care of the elderly over the years," said chief executive Carol Whitehead.

"With an ageing population of



REFORM: Fabian Hamilton

people who have contributed to the country all their lives, they are being short changed by the government.

"There needs to be an urgent review of the funding arrangements and the way their care needs are met.

"People should be treated with dignity and respect and should not have to worry in later life."

"The issues raised by the campaign are only too real for older people in our community" added Rebecca Weinberg, Leeds Jewish Welfare Board chief executive.

"Social care provision is already stretched to the limit and we have seen vulnerable service users falling through the cracks in terms of meeting the criteria for statutory funded services.

"We only have to read the headlines about poor care and unmet need to see a clear trend.

"LJWB already plays a critical role in filling the gaps.

Mrs Weinberg continued: "This can only get worse. Over the next few years the number of people over the age of 85 will rise significantly at the same time as the impact is felt of unprecedented cuts in funding.

"It will become more difficult to meet the criteria for funded care as the qualification bar will be raised and increasing uncertainty will affect people at all income levels.

"Reforms are urgently needed to address the challenges and we echo Fabian's endorsement of the Care in Crisis campaign."

Age UK research shows that 800,000 people in England who currently need care receive no formal support from the state or private agencies.

And the figure may rise to one million over the next four years as a result of estimated cuts to social care budgets.

Mr Hamilton has signed a motion in Parliament and has written to Andrew Lansley MP, Health Secretary of State, and George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer on the issue.

Age UK has welcomed Mr Hamilton's support.