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The Rt Hon. Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health & Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care,
39 Victoria Street,
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16th October 2024

To the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care,

We are writing to you as healthcare professionals supporting people living with excess weight to ask for your support in improving the delivery of treatment services for overweight and obesity in England.

Treatments to support people to reach and maintain a healthy weight can be positively life-changing. There is huge potential for these services to improve people's health, prevent the development of serious health conditions, reduce devastating health inequalities and represent long-term savings to the health system. For many people, these treatments can radically improve people's quality of life and support people returning to or staying in the workforce.

However, these services have faced serious long-term issues. These include chronic funding and workforce challenges, unequal access to services across the country and a disjointed patient pathway that makes it difficult for people to get the patient-centred care that they vitally need.

New pharmaceutical treatments have resulted in unprecedented public demand for treatment services and added enormous pressure on already stretched commissioning structures. This has made action to address longstanding issues across the entire scope of treatment services an immediate priority.

Today, the Obesity Health Alliance (which represents 60 leading health charities, medical royal colleges and campaign groups) has launched a new position statement laying out tangible recommendations to begin to address these major challenges and improve the delivery of effective overweight and obesity management services in England.

Our vision is for a fully resourced system that delivers equitable access to appropriate, tailored and sustained support services to people living with overweight and obesity. This means guaranteeing a consistent, equitable and evidence-informed treatment pathway based on individual needs, providing appropriate person-centred support for all, in a non-stigmatising way.

These measures go hand-in-hand with the very welcome steps you have announced to prevent the development of obesity in the first place. By addressing the needs of people currently living with overweight and obesity, we can also maximise the impact of those upstream prevention measures. This is a crucial step in delivering a fundamental shift from ill-health to prevention.

We strongly urge you to take forward the recommendations made in this position statement¹.

Yours Sincerely,



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¹ [Obesity Health Alliance Treatment of Overweight and Obesity Position Statement & Evidence Review](#)

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