



the brain injury association



March 2024

Open letter to the Chancellor

Dear Chancellor

When I last wrote to you in Autumn 2023, I explained that local Headway charities, which provide specialist rehabilitation and reablement services for people living with the effects of brain injury, were facing financial crises.

I warned that without intervention, some would not survive. Since then, the situation has deteriorated, with more charities at breaking point.

These charities, which support thousands of families affected by brain injury, are at risk of collapse. Should they close, the effect on these families would be devastating.

Furthermore, the financial implications on local authorities would be significant. For many brain injury survivors, the services provided by their local Headway charity are critical to them continuing to live independently. For families, the respite and support they receive can be the difference between a family staying together or a loved one requiring specialist residential living – at a huge cost to the public purse.

Having visited your local Headway group, you know the fantastic work they do to support people in their communities, and you also know the huge challenges they are facing right now.

What is striking is that these likely closures of some local Headway charities across the country could coincide with the publication of the government-led ABI Strategy – designed to prevent brain injury and improve the lives of those affected by it.

While we welcome the government's commitment to the ongoing development of the strategy, we cannot ignore our concerns regarding the absence of any commitment to supplemental funding.

It is clear that without additional funds, the strategy will struggle to yield transformative outcomes for those dealing with the aftermath of brain injuries.

It is evident that effective interventions as early as possible after brain injury improve the rehabilitation and recovery chances of individuals. Providing services at this early

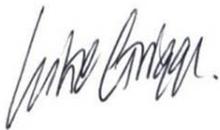
stage also prevents individuals from requiring more costly state-funded services in the long term.

We note the government's commitment to partnering with community-based rehabilitation organisations for this purpose. Indeed, these organisations will be an essential partner in helping to deliver the government's strategy once published. However, many are currently facing a dire financial situation due to impacts from the cost-of-living increase whilst local authority funding has failed to keep pace with demand.

In order for brain injury survivors to lead the independent lives they deserve, access to these essential services must be maintained.

That's why we are asking you to set aside funds for brain injury survivors in your budget and ensure the government's words of commitment to survivors are backed up with positive action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luke Griggs'.

Luke Griggs
Chief Executive
Headway – the brain injury association