



the brain injury association



Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Friday 14 March 2025

Dear Chancellor

Budget for Brain Injury

Every 90 seconds someone is admitted to hospital with an acquired brain injury (ABI). An ABI is an injury sustained to the brain after birth that can profoundly impact vital functions like walking, talking, thinking, and feeling, often resulting in severe and permanent losses. Brain injury can strike anyone at any moment, instantly altering the course of life.

Many brain injury survivors will require a form of neurorehabilitation and for some, this will be a lifelong need. As Chief Executive of Headway – the brain injury association, I urge you to address the dire situation facing brain injury charities ahead of the Spring Statement. Please Budget for Brain Injury this year to ensure sustainable investment in brain injury reablement and support vital Headway services.

The Headway network operates across communities in the UK, providing essential rehabilitation and support services for brain injury survivors and their carers. These services include brain injury rehabilitation, caregiver assistance, social reintegration programmes, vocational support, community outreach, and respite care. However, these crucial services are under increasing threat due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, reduced local authority funding, a decline in public donations, and increases in National Insurance employer contributions.

Already, over the past two years, almost 10% of the Headway network of local affiliated charities have been forced to close their doors. Many more are having to drastically

scale back services or are in danger of closure. Only government support can fix this unsustainable situation.

I ask you with urgency to address the crisis facing community-based rehabilitation organisations that provide essential services to individuals living with acquired brain injuries. These organisations are crucial partners for the government in delivering vital support to survivors and their families, but they need assistance without delay.

Without these services, the strain placed on families will be unsustainable. Many will not cope, leading to family breakdown due to carers becoming unable to meet their loved ones' needs that previously were met by Headway services, and unable to access respite from caring.

This will add further pressure on already struggling local authorities, with statutory services called upon to provide more costly, long-term support such as costly residential care or supported living.

Ensuring the survival of these vital community services will protect local authorities from additional crisis care costs, while continuing to provide significant costs savings to the public purse in the long run.

Please support brain injury survivors and their families by allocating additional funds for community-based reablement services in the upcoming Spring Statement.

Yours sincerely,

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

Luke Griggs

Chief Executive

Headway – the brain injury association