**Press Release**

**For immediate use: 13 March 2018**

**Spring Statement silent over social care crisis**

Britain’s biggest pensioner organisation, the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) has criticised today’s Spring Statement by the Chancellor, Philip Hammond for failing to mention the ongoing crisis in social care funding and ignoring the call for some short-term financial support for the sector.

In March 2017, the Chancellor announced that £2bn would be made available for adult social care over the next three years - £1.2b in 2017/18, £800m in 2018/19 and £400m in 2019/20. However, the NPC, pensioner charities, think tanks and even the Conservative chair of the Health Select Committee, Dr Sarah Woollaston have questioned whether this was a missed opportunity by the Chancellor to do more. If the economy is doing as well as Mr Hammond now claims, why not inject some much urgently needed funding which could halt the ongoing collapse and decline of services across the country.

Jan Shortt (double t), NPC general secretary said: “Another statement from the Chancellor and another opportunity missed to address the terrible crisis in our social care system. The fact that he remained silent on the issue actually speaks volumes and proves the government has no real idea of what to do. In the meantime, 1.2m older people are no longer getting the help they need, over 40,000 homes are sold every year to pay for care and all the government can offer is more consultation in the summer. In the last twenty years there have been at least two dozen different reports into the social care sector, and all of them accept that there is a problem. The key is to be bold enough to do something about it, and today the Chancellor has let Britain’s older population down.”

**ENDS**