

1. I am very pleased to invite you to provide evidence to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Rural Health and Social Care.

This Inquiry has been established to look at the key issues facing the country in terms of providing good quality and effective health and social care in rural settings. The Inquiry seeks to explore how England has developed its systems post-Beverage, testing the thesis that it has evolved on a one size fits all model based on a centralising and urban focus.

The Inquiry is focusing on current practice and what needs to change if an equitable approach, taking account of the specific challenges facing rural communities is to be achieved.

We would be very grateful if you could answer the following questions which help define the broader context for the Inquiry.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

2. How would you define “rural”? There are different types of rural settings: Cumbria, Surrey and Devon are for example very different. How important is the spatial context of a place as a starting point for planning key services?

3. What do we mean by deprivation in a rural setting? How do we currently take account of these issues in our planning and strategy development and do we do it effectively?

4. Do we need improved identification of the “hidden” nature of isolated pockets of rural deprivation which are masked by the relative affluence of surrounding areas?

5. There is a preponderance of over 65 year olds in rural areas - what are the impacts on health and care needs – and medical training?

6. Rural areas suffer problems with recruitment across the spectrum of health and adult social care– how do these manifest themselves?

7. What are the threats arising from them these recruitment issues and how do we address them? Does this cover some occupations and services more than others and if so how?

8. Could technology play a central role in rural health and care? What are the features of rural health challenges it could overcome? What are the practical issues to be addressed in using it? Where are there sustainable examples of good practice?

9. What is the impact of housing on the key features of rural health and care? Is there enough of the right type of housing to enable people to stay at home into their old age in rural communities?

10. What are the challenges to housing supply in the context of vulnerable old people and people with disabilities in rural settings? Are there examples of rural innovation?

11. What are the cost drivers in rural settings? How do these apply to people's lives generally? How do they manifest themselves in relation to the health and care agenda?