

## Good care 'requires more funding'

Good care for elderly people requires more funding than is being contributed currently, it has been suggested.

Responding to a recent programme on BBC's Panorama which highlighted how dementia patients are treated, Frank Ursell of the Registered Nursing Home Association said that "high-quality care costs money".

He explained that the government should recognise that dementia patients require higher levels of staffing and provide the necessary financial support.

"As health ministers are currently urging everyone to treat older people with dignity and respect, they should be the first to set an example by putting their money where their mouths are," he commented.

He added that "the gospel of high standards" cannot be advocated unless there are resources to back it up.

Mr Ursell's comments echo those of Unison, which recently warned the government to make sure that there is sufficient funding to support the Putting People First proposals - otherwise, staff shortages could be rife.