



# End Social Care Disgrace

Campaign for a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service

[www.nacsils.co.uk](http://www.nacsils.co.uk)



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# Newsletter

## April 2023

### Government reneges on promised funding

On 4<sup>th</sup> April the Government announced it is only going to provide half of the £500m promised in its Dec. 21 White Paper “People at the Heart of Care” to help plug staff shortages and transform support for the social care workforce. This is despite the fact that vacancies are at an all-time high of 165,000 and the CQC report last year noted that 2m hours of care went undelivered because of staff shortages! In response, the TUC and leaders of the largest unions representing social care staff have demanded an urgent meeting with the government to discuss the “workforce crisis” in the sector; best not hold your breath!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65171795>

### The Public see through the sham

A recent analysis of the British Social Attitudes survey revealed that almost two-thirds of people who have used or had contact with social care – for themselves or someone else – were dissatisfied and among the public as a whole, only one in seven said they were satisfied with social care services. The main source of dissatisfaction cited is people not getting all the care and support they need. Other issues were inadequate pay, working conditions and training for care workers and lack of support for unpaid carers.

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/public-satisfaction-with-the-nhs-and-social-care-in-2022-results-from-the-british-social-attitudes-survey>

### Money trickling away not trickling down

In March the Guardian revealed that five of the largest care home companies are taking £150m a year in taxpayers’ money for places in care homes that are inadequate or requiring improvement.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/mar/23/english-councils-spent-480m-on-inadequate-care-homes-in-four-years>

### And a small, welcome chink of light

On 1<sup>st</sup> march Tower Hamlets Council approved a budget which included help to provide free homecare for ‘qualifying’ residents from April 2024. Details of who qualifies are unclear but if they are following the lead of Hammersmith and Fulham, this is great grist for pressing all other Councils to follow suit.

### WHAT HAS ESCaD BEEN DOING?



Marching with SOSNHS in London on 11<sup>th</sup> March

### Holding a Meeting on a Fair Deal for Carers

On March 20<sup>th</sup> almost 70 people attended our zoom meeting on A Fair Deal for carers to hear 3 carers, Jo Walton, Jane Caygill and Paul Ridley talk movingly from the front line along with Judy Downey from the NPC, Will Fremont Smith, from the Archbishop’s Commission, John McDonnell, MP and chair of the Labour Carers Group as well as a number of people from the floor who contributed a wealth of experience and ideas. There seemed to be widespread agreement that key issues that need addressing are Invisibility, knowledge of entitlement and resources, funding, unfair assessments, lack of co- production, mutuality and trust, the quality of care and support and the lack of accountability. You can view the meeting here:

[https://www.facebook.com/keepournhspublic/videos/1177645432915614?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/keepournhspublic/videos/1177645432915614?locale=en_GB)

We held a follow up meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April which started trying to compress our demands into three - around a care income, support and co-production and shared ideas about potential allies and targets for action.

### We are meeting again to try to shape up an action plan on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1.30 -2.30pm

Anyone interested is very welcome to join us on Zoom:

**Topic: A Fair Deal for Carers Action Planning meeting**

Time: Apr 24, 2023 01:30 PM Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83698167024?pwd=UVAXQVFveFhKQzhsemhSYTdYMXNHdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 9816 7024 Passcode: 672332

## Local elections: what can we do?

Where local elections are taking place we have an opportunity to press Councillors to use the powers they have to stop ratcheting up care charges, freeze the minimum income guarantee, drop chasing care charge debts people can't afford to pay and think seriously about stopping charging for care in the home altogether, like Hammersmith and Fulham and now Tower Hamlets. We also need to press them to ensure all care and support workers are paid at least the living wage and to work with local disabled people and older people's organisations, the trade unions and local communities to develop mechanisms for the genuine co-production of services people really want and need.

You can find a briefing paper and other useful resources on our website here:

<https://nacsils.co.uk/local-election-campaign/>

With Labour councillors in particular, you might like to share the submission we made to the Labour's Policy Forum last month: <https://nacsils.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ESCaD-summary-for-CLP-debate-on-National-Policy-Forum.pdf>

and our contribution to the Fabian Society, who were commissioned by Unison and supported by Labour to produce a roadmap towards a national care service early this year. We are still waiting for their report!

<https://nacsils.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NaCSILS-response-to-Fabians-5-sept-22.pdf>

## Getting trade unions on board

On 5th April Unison launched its campaign for a National Care service which

- gives access to quality care for all those who need it;
- is focused on providing world-class social care, not delivering profits for shareholders;
- has national pay, terms and conditions for all care workers and a proper workforce plan;
- has the long-term and adequate funding for a high-quality care service; and
- Includes an emergency pay boost for all care workers, helping to end the staffing crisis.

<https://www.unison.org.uk/news/2023/04/unison-launches-its-campaign-for-a-national-care-service-in-england/>

While welcoming this move from Unison and the inclusion of a commitment to universal access, we hope that Unison will push beyond a focus on pay and conditions and national standards. We need to think about de-institutionalisation and what we want care and support work to look like. Trying to get things right for workers has to be part and parcel of getting the right kind of services that disabled and older people want and need, working in equal partnership with all those who draw on services, providing proper

financial and other support to family carers and building local communities that are not oppressive to whole sections of the community. The seven demands of End Social Care Disgrace are not a random list; they live and breathe together.

## Help to get our message across to your TU by

- Contacting [nacsilservice@gmail.com](mailto:nacsilservice@gmail.com) to ask for a speaker at your trade union branch or ask for our speaker's notes and do it yourself!
- Put a motion of support like this: <https://nacsils.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NaCSILS-motion-October-21.pdf>
- Ask them to affiliate to ESCaD/ NaCSILS by paying £40 to: NaCSILS, acc. no 49665263, sort code 30 98 97 (Lloyds Bank) or send a cheque made out to NaCSILS to 11 Regina Drive, Leeds, LS74LR. Alternatively you can use the donate button on the website: <https://nacsils.co.uk/donate-to-nacsils/> but please Email [nacsilservice@gmail.com](mailto:nacsilservice@gmail.com) to make sure your branch is listed as an affiliate and on our circulation list.
- Request End Social Care disgrace postcards. Email [nacsilservice@gmail.com](mailto:nacsilservice@gmail.com) with a delivery address and give them out at branch meetings, trade union Conferences, marches, rallies etc.

**END SOCIAL CARE DISGRACE**  
Campaign for a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service

Free at the point of use	Publicly funded and provided
Radically re-imagined and co-produced with service users, carers, workers and local communities	Offering choice, control, dignity and independence
	Staff pay and conditions which reflect their high value and skills

We are a non-party political alliance of disabled and older people's orgs., health campaigns, trade unionists etc. Please join us, work with us, affiliate your org.  
[www.nacsils.co.uk](http://www.nacsils.co.uk) [nacsilservice@gmail.com](mailto:nacsilservice@gmail.com) [@nacsils](https://twitter.com/nacsils)

We are trying to get cards to all of the events below. Please let us know if you can help.

- With Banners Held High Festival:** 13 May, Wakefield
- PCS National Conference:** 21-25 May in Brighton
- GMB Conference:** 4th – 8th June in Brighton
- UNISON NDC Conference:** 13 – 16 June, Liverpool
- Trades Council Conference:** 17-18 June, London
- National Pensioners Convention:** 28-29 June Blackpool
- Durham Miners Gala:** 8th July
- UNITE Conference:** 9-14<sup>th</sup> July, Brighton
- TUC Disabled Workers Conf:** 11-12 July, Bournemouth

And don't forget local May Day marches and rallies!



Spring Greetings and Solidarity

