



END SOCIAL CARE DISGRACE'S RESPONSE TO THE FABIAN REPORT ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN ENGLAND

Commissioned by Unison to assist in developing Labour Party policy, the recommendations need to be bolder and more radical, go further and faster. It must operationalise the commitment throughout to co-produce change with disabled people, unpaid carers and carers working in the sector. We welcome the publication of the report but submit these comments for consideration.

ESCaD supports the following elements of the report:

- Supporting co-production at all levels, including developing strategy at national level as well as local working
- Extending rights, making them explicit, incorporating the UN right to independent living into UK law and making advocacy universal
- Arrange services for everyone regardless of means
- Significantly and urgently improving pay, career structure and terms and conditions for workers in the sector through national workforce planning
- Supporting unpaid carers
- Developing clear additional responsibilities for care and support at SoS and government level
- Investing in skills and personnel in Local Authorities
- Improve research and its application in the real world
- Promote public sector and non-profit providers
- Support investment in modern care homes, while supporting prevention and de-institutionalisation
- Raising expenditure every year
- Ensuring the NHS and social care remain separate but coordinate services around the person.

However, there are key changes that ESCaD wants to see:

- **The planned change in the report is too slow. Rapid progress is essential.** An NHS was built in one parliament – so can a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service (NaCSILS). Spreading the process over 10 years suggests a lack of commitment and urgency. A new administration in that time could unravel progress. Get it done swiftly!
- **Free at the point of use is the only comprehensive solution**, protecting all for all time. Imagine what a burden that would remove from all families. Removing the cost, delay, anxiety and injustice of the assessment process.
- **We need a tax funded NaCSILS**, spreading risk across the population fairly.
- **We want more guarantees that co-production and independent living will not only be principles, but will be enacted**, working with disabled people's organisations to effect change. The report itself was not adequately coproduced.
- **ESCaD sees a rapid transition to eliminating the private sector.** We cannot see benefit from the private sector, fragmenting care, creaming off profits and often providing poor care, particularly the larger companies. We need a commitment to make the transition to publicly

provided not-for-profit provision. This to be based on the development of comprehensive community-based support in partnership with DPOs.

- **The last Labour Government had a comprehensive strategy** – Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People and Putting People First as a means of delivering more choice and control in adult social care. Direct payments are seen by many disabled people as useful and a route to independence. The lessons of the Independent Living Fund need to be integrated into the new system.
- **The cost to the country is manageable.** The Fabians make a good case for the funding of social care offering a return on investment. The paper skirts around the issue of funding. See our funding analysis [here](#)¹

Here are the differences represented in The Fabian’s diagram. Our column, showing our separate recommendations, is at the left hand side.

The position now	A National Care Service	A National Care and Independent Living Service (NaCSILS)
Structure & identity: LAs supposedly in charge but without the money or powers they need	National ministerial responsibility and leadership working in partnership with strong councils	National ministerial responsibility and leadership working in partnership with strong councils. Co-production: councils working in genuine partnership with disabled people and carers.
Rights: Unclear entitlements that are often not realised in practice	Clear rights and entitlements and the ability to enforce them	Clear rights and entitlements through legislation bringing the UNCRPD and a legal right to Independent Living into UK Law and the ability to enforce them.
Access: Inconsistency in access to support and quality of care	Nationwide entitlements and geographical consistency	Nationwide entitlements with local co-production with LAs, disabled people and carers. This should be nationally organised, as with the Independent Living Fund, but delivered locally.
Providers: A fragile, fragmented and sometimes extractive market of care providers	Commissioners and partners working together as part of a public service	No private providers, no slicing off of profits, no commissioning or commissioners, just managers of a publicly funded and employed workforce which can provide across all needs and wants. Support and

¹ Fully Funded Social Care. Simon Duffy and Gordon Peters. <https://citizen-network.org/uploads/attachment/660/fully-funded-social-care.pdf>

		involvement for non-profits such as co-ops.
Access: Support only for people of limited means	Support and peace of mind for everyone	Free at the point of use liberates everyone reduces bureaucracy and ensures that care is delivered to meet need not budgets.
Funding structure: Inadequate funding and emergency cash injections	Long-term and sustainable approach to finance	Adequate funding in the short term and long-term to support independent living, to support unpaid carers and ensure care sector workers have a pay system that reflects and rewards them well for the work they do.
Resource infrastructure: Insufficient development of specialist housing and modern care homes	Long-term certainty and funding to build new facilities	Long-term certainty, funding to build new facilities if needed and funding to upgrade existing facilities. A re-envisaging of a society that cares and provision of the structures needed to support it, including prevention and de-institutionalisation where possible. Any forward planning to include those who use the services and those who provide them for free.
Workforce terms and conditions: Inadequately rewarded staff and a recruitment and retention crisis	National terms and conditions working towards parity with the NHS	Scaling up and investment in direct payments and recruitment of personal assistants (PAs) to give users choice and control. We expect pay to reflect the value and skills of the work, starting with £15 per hour minimum wage now, along with decent pay and conditions and training with funding to ensure this. We also need trade union recognition. Rapid parity with NHS pay, conditions and career structures. Workforce planning to ensure staff are in place to meet need.
Charging at point of use: Unaffordable fees and inability to pool risks	Improvements to affordability by reducing the scope of charging over time	No fees. A NaCSILS paid by national taxation. There are means to pump prime and the service is likely to pay back to the economy in savings and

		<p>spending of those employed in the sector.</p> <p>Needs to be linked to green policies for localised economic regeneration/investment in people and a green environment. Users of Independent Living services contributing to the local/regional economy by providing good quality jobs through employing local people.</p>
		<p>Separate NHS and NaCSILS, but coordination around those who draw on services. Other services may also need to be included in long term restructuring of the service to meet evolving need.</p>