



Newsletter

June 2024

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Desperate Tories axe the planks

As the Tories prepared to abandon their sinking ship they hacked at the thin planks that help to keep disabled people afloat, in a desperate attempt to generate division and dodge blame. They have already ensured that disabled people and their families account for one third of people living in poverty. Thousands can't afford rising care charges; many are being hounded for debts while family carers, who save the State an estimated £162bn per year, are criminalised because of failures in the benefit system.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/may/16/ministers-knew-about-carers-allowance-problems-three-years-ago-report-reveals>

In the latest slash and burn action, the Government initiated plans to cut disability benefits to force sick and disabled people into work with rhetoric reminiscent of Oliver Twist and pushing children up chimneys. Meanwhile they have blocked vitally needed care workers from bringing their children to the UK and done nothing to stop their gross exploitation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/jun/02/uk-care-agencies-accused-of-exploiting-foreign-workers-caught-in-debt-traps>. Well done to the RCN for pitching this to the politicians.

Does the election offer hope?

The bottom line is an alternative Government can't be worse so yes our hearts should lift up. Sadly however Labour, who are most likely to get a majority are not committing to stop the war on disabled people or take radical steps to implement a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service other than improving the pay and conditions of care workers. They are utterly hamstrung by being wedded to the status quo with - fiscal prudence, "growth" and a narrow notion of work as making profit for someone else,

which excludes the crucial work of caring and mutual support on which we all rely from cradle to grave. However we do have some allies in the Labour Party and will be turning the heat up not down after the election.

The Green Party's policy is close to ours as both grew out of ESCaD's precursor, 'Reclaim Social Care' but so far they have only one MP.

The Lib Dems are something of a dark horse as they have been much less cagey about speaking up about Social Care than Labour and have expressed a commitment to pursuing free personal care along the limited Scottish model as well as providing more support to carers. It probably helps that Ed Davey, their leader, has relevant personal experience

What can we do? For starters >

- ❖ **Wherever you are and whoever you are planning to vote for, please do what you can to put pressure on all prospective parliamentary candidates.** You will find a template letter, direct links to your PPC and lots of useful information on our website at <https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/national-election-campaign/>

❖ **JOIN OUR HUSTINGS ON ZOOM**

Tuesday 25th June 6.30 –8pm

with

John McDonnell

Labour Party

Dr. Pallavi Devulapalli

Green Party

Lib Dem and Conservative speakers invited

REGISTER IN ADVANCE HERE:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuc-2trj8tGtzU5B53PXzldlwi7XEIs0kB>

❖ **Support live hustings organised by DPOs across the country.** See <https://www.ruils.co.uk/news/richmond-borough-hustings/> and look out for more at <https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/>

❖ **Give out ESCaD postcards** at meetings, stalls, hustings, conferences etc. Just Email endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com or text 07419 295754 with a delivery address and we will send a bundle of our updated postcards to you at no cost.

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

Free at the point of use	Publicly funded, provided and accountable
Radically re-imagined and co – produced with service users, carers, workers and local communities	Offering choice, control, dignity and independence
Full, fair support for carers	Staff pay and conditions to reflect their high value and skills: one workforce - no exploitation

We are a non – party political alliance of disabled and older people’s organisations, health campaigns, trade unionists etc. Please join us, work with us, affiliate your org. www.endsocialcaredisgrace.org endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com Tel. 07419 295754
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❖ **Help with our ESCaD stall & workshop** at Keep Our NHS Public’s London Conference on RESTORE THE PEOPLE’S NHS Sat. 22nd June in the Irish Centre, Camden. Register here: <https://keepournhspublic.com/event/restore-the-peoples-nhs-london-launch/>

❖ **Turn out on July 18th to support DPAC** in an exciting and entertaining action in central London which will present disabled people's demands to the incoming government. Details waiting confirmation.



❖ **Become an ESCaD Activist.**

Come along to our working groups – Politicians, Carers, Trade Unions or Publicity - and help to plan the campaign. They are all on Zoom. To express an interest, get more info and details of meetings Email: endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com and/or text 07419295754

JOIN OUR NEXT QUARTERLY ACTIVISTS' MEETING on THURS. 11th JULY 4- 5.30pm:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86463495963?pwd=YXpCUXhRcHFLYUhgOTA1Z3R2Qkdxdz09>
Mtg ID: 864 6349 5963 Passcode: 399054

Whoever wins the next election, the battle will have only just started in earnest and there will be no cavalry coming over the hill!

❖ **Try to stay hopeful when hope is in short supply! Individually we may be weak but together we are strong**

