

Dear Candidate for Councillor in the Local Elections

I am very concerned that Social Care is failing disabled and older people, carers, care workers and all!

- Half of those seeking support get no help at all.
- Much care and support is focused on meeting basic physical needs. It offers little choice, control, stimulation or dignity.
- Local Authorities are [underwriting profit extraction](#) by private companies including large equity firms.
- Many disabled people cannot afford ever increasing charges for care without cutting down on heating, eating or leisure activities.
- An estimated 10 million unpaid carers, often stressed and sometimes impoverished receive little or no help.
- Wages and conditions in the care sector are rock bottom. [Turnover is 30% per year](#). Gaps are plugged by overseas workers, some of whom live in conditions akin to modern slavery. The Government is cracking down on migration and migrant workers, further compromising services.
- Disabled people and their families account for half of the 14 million people living in poverty in the UK.

I fully appreciate that Local Authorities are struggling because of shortfalls in Government policy and funding. However Councils do have power and responsibility to take steps towards ending this Social Care Disgrace.

I am asking that if / when you become a councillor will you:

1. **Insist on assessing what support people really need** rather than what the LA can afford and passing that off as need. Recognising unmet need is a small step towards being part of the solution not part of the problem.
2. **Protect Income Support.** Raise the Minimum Income Guarantee at least in line with inflation and stop pursuing care charge arrears that people are unable to pay.
3. **Democratise decision making processes.** Move beyond consultations to genuine co-design and co-production, involving disabled people, carers, care workers and local communities.
4. **Ensure fair pay and conditions for all care and support staff.** Require all providers to pay at least the real living wage and work towards a £15ph minimum, as well as sick pay, travel time and monitor compliance! Address the exploitation of staff from overseas.
5. **Provide a wide range of practical and financial support to unpaid carers** and value their expertise.
6. **Seek to develop and support non- profit options** for providing care and support, bring services back in house, encourage alternative provision such as Coops and micro-enterprises.
7. **Develop plans for free home care** like Hammersmith and Fulham and Tower Hamlets LAs.
8. **Encourage our Council to join with others to insist that Social Care is reframed as an essential part of the social wage, an asset not a drain on the economy and pressure Government for decent funding.** Be honest with local people - don't spin cuts as cost efficiencies.

Please also support the non- party political, cross sector “End Social Care Disgrace Campaign” and help us press for the Government to set up a radically reimagined, National Care, Support and Independent Living Service, which is

funded through Government investment and progressive taxation: free at the point of use: not for profit: publicly accountable: nationally mandated but locally provided: co-produced with disabled people, carers, care workers, local communities; offering choice, control, dignity and independence, a range of practical and financial support to carers and pay and conditions for care staff which reflects their high value and skills. See: www.endsocialcaredisgrace.org and on funding the change: <https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Adult-Social-Care-and-its-funding-ESCaD-draft-for-comment.pdf>.

Please let me know if you are willing and able to pursue any of these demands.

Yours Name Address
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