



Newsletter Spring 2026



www.endsocialcaredisgrace.org X @EndSCDisgrace ✉ endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/EndSocialCareDisgrace> Tel. 07419 295754

Half a million march for Love, Hope and Unity

There was a fantastic buzz in London on 28th March as people surged down Park Lane from all directions making a stand against the Far Right.



It was a struggle to meet up but a few of us managed to come together with the banner



Farage, Fake Medicine Men & Robber Barons

With local elections coming up it is even more important to make a stand against Reform and the far Right.

Many people feel that the hope, security and opportunity we want is worn thin. They see our society becoming more deeply unfair and unequal. They find themselves doing business with machines rather than people in shops, banks, remaining libraries etc. Giving up on getting to speak to a human being, even on the phone, we are forced to go on line. There, in the interests of selling us all sorts of stuff if we don't need we are

made to feel not beautiful enough, not successful enough, not popular enough, not even well enough.

Most people know that there is something seriously amiss here; that this isn't the life we want but feel too powerless to change it

Along comes Farage and voices on the far right, like cowboy movie medicine men trying to convince everyone that the cause of our disquiet is the 15% of people born abroad who live in the UK - similar to the proportion in France and the Netherlands but much fewer than in Germany, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland etc. They suggest that all will be well if only we can get rid of migrants and bear down harshly on people on benefit, particularly disabled people not in paid employment, people on low wages, unpaid carers etc. i.e. many of us, our family and friends.

The reality is that it is the massive international super rich who call the shots across the globe, not just in the UK. They are delighted to see us fall into the trap of fighting with each other like kids in a playground over the coppers that they toss to the "common people".

Farage himself is part of the global rich, not "a man of the people" as he likes to pretend. He is part of the problem not part of the solution. His personal wealth is over £3m. On top of his MP salary he pockets over £1 million annually from side hustles including GB News, Cameo, and hosting which makes him the highest earning MP! Just weeks ago he featured in a video purchasing £2m in bit-coin to encourage people to invest in a crypto-currency firm in which he has shares.



Chasing donations to Reform he toadied up to Elon Musk, founder of X and part of the court of King Trump. More recently he accepted another £3m donation to Reform, on top of last year's £9m, from crypto-millionaire Christopher Harbourne who is based in Thailand. George Monbiot in the Guardian 23.4.26 reminds us that "the poor pay taxes, the rich pay accountants, the very rich pay lawyers – and the ultra- rich pay politicians!"

Reform buys into the Thatcherite notion that if we let people crawl over each other to get to the top of the pile and get rich with few constraints, some of the money they make will trickle down and make us all better off. The trouble it doesn't work and hasn't for decades; handing over substantial interest and power to a greedy, self-centred, sometimes deluded elite is dangerous.

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/research/research-for-the-world/economics/tax-cuts-for-the-wealthy-only-benefit-the-rich-debunking-trickle-down-economics>.

Reform want to shrink the state, privatise health and social care and maintain, if not grow current gross inequalities. They want to scrap the Human Rights Act and remove protections for ordinary people. They want to drive out migrants which will not only fan the flames of racism, make anyone who looks 'non-white' a possible target of abuse and turn our neighbourhoods into scary hostile environments, it risks collapsing much of our health and care services. About 20% of NHS staff and 30% of Care staff are from overseas.



On Social Care in England Reform have said little beyond that they will set up a Royal Commission to draw up a national plan - like the many which have gone before - On workforce, they have talked about tax breaks for health and care staff to improve retention and recruitment but not about fair wages that recognise the skill and value of care work nor about desperately needed support for the approximately 10m unpaid carers who sacrifice time time, income and often their own health to prop up a system that is bent double.

Where Reform has gained power in Local Councils, their promises to cut or freeze council tax by slashing local services have proved totally unrealistic. Council tax has risen in every Council under their control. They have closed care homes in Derbyshire, a council tax relief scheme in County Durham and health advice programme in Lincolnshire. <https://hopenothate.org.uk/reform-in-power/>. In Lancashire they had to drop plans to



close five Local Authority care homes in the face of local opposition.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crrnik8nvpvo>

We need to refuse to fight between us over the scraps, start seriously looking at what sort of society we want to live in and pull together to challenge the dehumanisation, atomisation and commodification of our lives.

We should refuse to be valued primarily as consumers, rather than thinking, feeling whole human beings, reverse the erasure of social spaces and create inclusive, mutually supportive and sustainable communities which embed support through the lifecycle and don't wreck the planet!

This is not idle day dreaming. It's about insisting on taking responsibility for our own future before the slide has become an avalanche and the snake oil merchants can laugh all the way to the bank!

News from Rachael Tomlinson at the frontline

<https://wheeliemsadvocate.co.uk>

This month has seen continued concern across three key areas many disabled people rely on: Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Access to Work and Motability Scheme.

On PIP, attention remains on the on-going Govt. Review being led by Stephen Timms. There is widespread concern that "reform" often means making support harder to access rather than fixing the real issues people face now, such as poor assessments, delays, inconsistent decisions, and stressful appeals. Claimants want a fair system built on trust and understanding, especially for fluctuating and invisible conditions.

Meanwhile, Access to Work faces criticism over delays and operational problems. Reports of long waits for assessments and support packages are deeply worrying, particularly for disabled people starting new jobs or trying to stay in employment. Employers also need to be confident of speedy support. When delays stretch for months, careers can stall before they begin. Access to Work should be opening doors, not creating new barriers.

Motability has also remained firmly in the spotlight following on-going debate around the Drive Smart policy and customer concerns. Questions continue around fairness, communication, privacy, and whether enough consideration has been given to the realities of disabled people's lives. A Motability vehicle is not a luxury; it is access to healthcare, work, caring responsibilities, and everyday independence.

The common thread through all three issues is simple: disabled people need stability, dignity and practical support. Systems designed to enable independence should not become sources of stress. Lived experience must be at the centre of decisions. Policies made about disabled people without listening to them get it right!

Cutting welfare to fund defence makes no sense - Polly Toynbee in the Guardian 17.4.

Responding to Labour Peer and ex-Nato Chief George Robertson demanding a cut in benefits to finance defence, Toynbee suggested that the mantra that "The benefit budget is out of control" is just not true. The Resolution Foundation note that benefits for older people have risen as the number of older people has increased but working age benefits have stayed flat at 10/11% of GDP for decades. Where the working age benefits bill is rising it is because the pension age has gone up and more older people who are unable to work are being forced to seek sickness benefits.

What has been out of control, Polly suggests, is the defence budget with a list of catastrophic overspending and failures amounting to many billions wasted. The £6bn Ajax armoured vehicle, eight years late and likely to be scrapped, is the latest. Vanguard-class submarine replacements expected for 2024 are now unlikely to arrive before the middle of the next decade.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/apr/17/george-robertson-cutting-welfare-to-fund-defence>

Collective resistance in N.Yorks bears fruit

Relatives of service users and local councillors have successfully halted or at least paused North Yorks plan to close a small, local day centre for young disabled adults with complex needs, at least until there is a full consultation. The closure plan was sprung on families with only a few weeks' notice. Not surprisingly they are concerned not only about the loss of security, independence and relationships the Centre provides for their adult children, they have justifiable concern that so called alternative community provision will go no way to replacing what the centre offers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3exqqvvgj8o>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEND LEGAL RIGHTS RALLY 9th May 11.30-1pm



in Parliament Square, Westminster and across the country. See here for details

<https://saveourchildrensrights.org.uk/join-send-protest/protest-locations/>

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Please ask questions, write to candidates, flag up Social Care and the need for radical change now! You can use our draft letter here:

<https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/local-elections-2026/>

ESCAD's NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: 18th June

We will be continuing our **Hidden/crushed Voices** theme throughout the year in public meetings and hopefully a meeting in Westminster next winter.

Next up is a meeting on OLDER PEOPLE on Thursday June 18th 6.30 – 8pm on Zoom with Neil Duncan Jordan MP, Gordon Peters, ex director of Social Care, and others. SAVE THE DATE. More info in the next newsletter. Meanwhile do get involved, join our working group meetings. Email: endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com for details.

And if you are in a position to donate to ESCAD that would be much appreciated. See

<https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/donate-to-nacsils/>

Take care, and take heart from this placard spotted on the march in London on 28.3!

