



BRIEFING FOR GREEN COUNCILLORS AND MAYORS ON TRANSFORMING ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVISION

Green Party policy, more than any other party, is transformative for adult social care. You are committed to All Social Care, Support and Independent Living services for disabled adults being:

- Free at the point of use
- Fully publicly funded
- Subject to national standards based on Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People
- Accountable to local democratic bodies, within a secure national framework of laws, guidance and funding
- Designed and delivered locally and co-productively involving Local Authorities, the NHS, disabled adults, carers and staff unions
- Underpinned by a workforce with good pay, conditions, training and career structure
- Committed to giving informal carers the rights and support they need

End Social Care Disgrace www.endsocialcaredisgrace.org
wants to help you move along that path.

Across the country, Social Care is failing disabled and older people, unpaid carers and care workers. You have a unique chance to transform services for your residents! The nation is looking for bold transformative change – this is a wonderful example.

- 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.

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. Here are some actions you and the council could take:

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 care service users from poverty.** Raise the Minimum Income Guarantee used in the means test for care services, 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. Facilitate local job creation in care services so that more of the spend stays in the community and improves local incomes.
7. **Develop plans for free home care** like Hammersmith and Fulham and Tower Hamlets LAs, whilst avoiding reductions in the scope or positive outcomes of care services. Consider co-design for more effective service delivery, reduction of profit extraction, preventive health work, and combatting homelessness as ways to increase resources for care.
8. **Encourage the 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 support our campaign. Help us press for the Government to set up a radically reimagined, National Care, Support and Independent Living Service. We are calling for the same ends as the Green Party.

1. **The Government will establish a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service (NaCSILS)** based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, promoting choice, dignity and independence for disabled and older people.
2. **The service will be publicly funded through progressive taxation, free at the point of need, and available to everyone.**
3. **Publicly provided and accountable.**
NaCSILS will oversee publicly run services, support not-for-profit and user-led organisations, promote community-based living, and end profiteering in social care.
4. **National standards, locally delivered.**
Services will be co-produced and delivered locally by partnerships involving service users, care workers, Local Authorities and the NHS.
5. **Supporting carers.**
NaCSILS will reduce pressure on families and friends while recognising and valuing their contribution.

6. **Workforce strategy.**

Care staff will receive proper training, career development, pay and conditions reflecting the importance of their role.

7. **Independent living taskforce.**

A user-led national taskforce will help shape independent living policy and remove barriers faced by disabled people.

We also argue that a NACSILS should be independent from the NHS.

Viewing disability through a medical model reduces people to tasks and needs. We believe people using support, alongside families and communities, should be recognised as experts and contributors. Social care must not be absorbed into NHS priorities, though effective co-ordination between services remains essential.

There is a strong national economic argument for this plan. Funding social care is an investment, not just a cost – there is already significant benefit to the economy and it could be greatly enhanced by more investment. Here we look at the current cost of doing nothing and look at the costs and benefits to the whole economy of investing in a National Care Service. It's affordable and would transform the NHS as well as care. <https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Adult-Social-Care-and-its-funding-ESCaD-draft-for-comment.pdf>

End Social Care Disgrace is non-party affiliated. We work with a wide range of organisations and groups: trades unions, Women's Budget Group, National Pensioners' Convention, Keep Our NHS Public.

End Social Care Disgrace would be happy to help you explore these ideas further. Can we find a time to meet? Please contact endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com