Statement for The Socialist Health Association

I am proud of our parties' affiliation with the Socialist Health Association, your historic role in the formation of our NHS and your ongoing leadership in developing our policies for the future.

I'm passionate about both challenging Tory austerity that has seen health inequalities widen and campaigning for a universal, publicly provided healthcare service free at the point of use, funded by taxation now under threat more than ever by Tory plans.

The formation of our NHS was one of the greatest achievements of our Labour party. I was delighted to stand for election on our 2019 manifesto which committed the Labour party to end NHS privatisation. I fully oppose our NHS being used for profit. The increased privatisation in our health service has a detrimental impact on the service and a damaging impact on the staff who no longer work directly for the NHS. I will not allow our commitment to ending privatisation to be abandoned.

I was a home carer before I came into politics, I know how important a properly publicly funded social care system is for those who rely on the service and the people who work there. I know the struggle to provide high quality care when you are given just 15 minutes to support someone. The indignity of this must not be allowed to continue and as deputy leader I would argue for the a free public social care service.

As a trade unionist who represented tens of thousands of NHS staff, I know they must be supported. I have organised and stood on picket lines against outsourcing and in support of junior doctors. As Deputy Leader, I will always campaign alongside trade unionists and health campaigners across the country to defend our party's proudest achievement - the NHS.

Angela Rayner