**We demand a National Care and Support Service: 2020**

In the aftermath of World War II people in the UK demanded a National Health Service that would provide comprehensive health care to those who need it, free at the point of delivery.

**In the face of the near collapse of social care services following years of austerity, profiteering by private companies and the devastation wreaked by Covid-19, we demand the Government establish a National Care and Support Service with the following principles**:

1. **A National Care and Support Service:**

The Government shall have responsibility for and duty to provide a National Care and Support Service (NCSS) to provide care, support and independent living as set out in the Care Act 2014 [[1]](#footnote-1) and Article 19 of the UN Convention on rights of disabled people. [[2]](#footnote-2)

1. **Fully funded through progressive taxation, free at the point of need and fully available to everyone living in this country.**
2. **Publicly provided and publicly accountable:**

The NCSS will have overall responsibility for publicly provided care homes and care providers and, where appropriate, for the supervision of not-for-profit organisations funded through grants allocated by the NCSS. All provision will deliver to NCSS national standards.  The market in social care, including the profiteering that exists within sections of social care, will be ended.

1. **Nationally organised, locally delivered:**

The Government will be responsible for delivery by the NCSS, of democratically run services, designed and delivered locally and co-productively, involving service users and carers, local authorities and the NHS.

1. **Support for carers:**

The NCSS will ensure that informal and family carers are well supported, can have a full life of their own and are not expected to provide more care than they willingly offer.

1. **National NCSS workforce strategy fit for purpose:**

The NCSS services and standards will be underpinned by a workforce who have appropriate training, qualifications, career structure, pay and conditions to reflect the skills required to provide support and care services worthy of a decent society

**Support for a National Care & Support Service and associated demands**

Organisations across the political spectrum have called for a National Care Service and including many of the proposals set out above. Our demands are self-explanatory, and they are also based on wide-ranging support as well as detailed and careful analysis.

**Key analysis of the crisis facing social care & economic issues**

**Women’s Budget Group: Social Care and Gender** <https://wbg.org.uk/analysis/uk-policy-briefings/2019-wbg-briefing-social-care-and-gender/>

**Centre for Health and Public Interest: Profits and tax avoidance in the care sector**: <https://chpi.org.uk/papers/reports/plugging-the-leaks-in-the-uk-care-home-industry/>

**Local Government Association 2020**: <https://www.local.gov.uk/lives-we-want-lead-towards-change-towards-hope>

**Here are just a few links to the many hundreds of calls to support some or all of our demands:**

**A National Care and Support Service**

The Women’s Budget Group: <https://wbg.org.uk/blog/social-care-is-in-crisis-we-need-a-national-care-service/>

The Mirror: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/voice-mirror-need-national-care-21330804>

The Express: <https://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/1242905/National-Care-Service-tax-rise-end-of-life-care>

The National Pensioners Convention: <https://www.npcuk.org/policy>

Daily Mail: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-8219153/IAN-BIRRELL-care-home-coronavirus-scandal-goes-bedrock-society.html>

**Fully funded through progressive taxation**

**Age UK** <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/campaigning/care-in-crisis/>

**Women’s Budget Group: Social Care and Gender** <https://wbg.org.uk/analysis/uk-policy-briefings/2019-wbg-briefing-social-care-and-gender/>

**Local Government Association 2020 (see costings proposed as one option for future funding)**: <https://www.local.gov.uk/lives-we-want-lead-towards-change-towards-hope>

**Managed locally through democratic structures**

**Disability Rights UK** <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/policy-campaigns>

**Disabled People Against The Cuts:** <https://dpac.uk.net/2020/04/videos-to-highlight-the-importance-of-independent-living-to-you-needed/>

**Womens Budget Group** <https://wbg.org.uk/analysis/uk-policy-briefings/2019-wbg-briefing-social-care-and-gender/>

**Carers UK** [**https://www.carersuk.org/for-professionals/policy/policy-library?task=download&file=policy\_file&id=6916**](https://www.carersuk.org/for-professionals/policy/policy-library?task=download&file=policy_file&id=6916)

**Learning Disability Alliance**

**Nationalisation of Care Homes and care providers**

**Centre for Health and Public Interest: Profits and tax avoidance in the care sector**: <https://chpi.org.uk/papers/reports/plugging-the-leaks-in-the-uk-care-home-industry/>

**Staffing structures and pay**

(see health unions for further detail)

**Political support**

There is wide support from across the political spectrum which can be built on

1. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23> (The Care Act 2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-19-living-independently-and-being-included-in-the-community.html) (UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)