

END THE SOCIAL CARE CRISIS CONFERENCE



[Register for the event here](#)

The pandemic has shed a harsh light on the failing of the social care system. Yet the appreciation of our carers has never been higher. As Keir said in his conference speech: "Our care workers are national heroes yet the care system is a disgrace. The Tories have done nothing to fix that." Labour in Wales is working to bring in reforms. A number of Councils are experimenting with alternative solutions. There is a yearning for change. We think that this is the best time for decades to campaign for a real alternative.

SHA and Keep Our NHS Public [link to KONP website please](#) and others have teamed up to dig deep into the problems facing social care and have come up with a set of alternatives to end the crisis. To launch our campaign we've called a conference to take the debate to the next level.

Please join our online launch meeting on Saturday 10 October, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, to start the debate and get involved to help us end the social care crisis. Speakers include:

John Mc Donnell MP

Jan Shortt NPC President

Stephen Cowan, Leader of London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Sandra Daniels and Bob Williams-Findlay, leading disabled rights activists,

Heather Wakefield, former Unison Local Govt. Head & Women's Budget Group,

Rachel Harrison, GMB Public Services national officer

Barry Rawlings, Barnet Council

[Register for the event here](#)

OUR DEMANDS

With ideas from a range of organisations, particularly of disabled people, we have agreed these demands. We hope that they are radical enough to transform social care if implemented and to bring together a wide range of views across the system.

1. National Care Support and Independent Living Service (NaCSILS)

The Government shall have responsibility for and duty to provide a National Care and Supported Living Service to provide care, independent and supported living, adopting into English Law Articles from the UN Convention on rights of disabled people that establish choice and control, dignity and respect, at the heart of person-centred planning.

2. Fully funded through government investment and progressive taxation, free at the point of need and fully available to everyone living in this country.

3. Publicly provided and publicly accountable:

The NaCSILS will have overall responsibility for publicly provided residential homes and service providers and, where appropriate, for the supervision of not-for-profit organisations and user-led cooperatives funded through grants allocated by the NaCSILS. A long-term strategy would place an emphasis on de-institutionalisation and community-based independent and supported living. All provision will deliver to NaCSILS national standards. There will be no place for profiteering and the market in social care will be brought to an end.

4. Mandated nationally, locally delivered:

The Government will be responsible for developing within the principles of co-production, a nationally mandated set of services that will be democratically run, designed, and delivered locally. Local partnerships would be led by stakeholders who are delivering, monitoring, referring to or receiving supported services or budgets, e.g. organisations representing disabled people (DPOs), older people, and people who use mental health and other services, in partnership with local authorities and the NHS.

5. Identify and address needs of informal carers, family and friends providing personal support:

The NaCSILS will ensure a comprehensive level of support freeing up family members from personal and/or social support tasks so that the needs of those offering informal support, e.g. family and friends, are acknowledged in ways which values each person's lifestyles, interests, and contributions.

6. National NaCSILS employee strategy fit for purpose:

The NaCSILS standards for independent and supported living will be underpinned by care and support staff or personal assistants who have appropriate training, qualifications, career structure, pay and conditions to reflect the skills required to provide support services worthy of a decent society.

7. Support the formation of a taskforce on independent and supported living with a meaningful influence, led by those who require independent living support, from all demographic backgrounds and regions. This would also make recommendations to address wider changes in public policy.

SUPPORT IS GATHERING

The social care landscape is complex, with many different and sometimes conflicting opinions and interests. We have had commitment from the GMB and support from Unite, Unison and the TUC. We have been in positive discussions with the National Pensioners' Convention, ROFA and Reclaim Social Care. Liz Kendall has been sympathetic. We have had solid commitment from John McDonnell who will help in any way he can. We have support from some councils.

We are trying to contact Tory MPs with an interest in social care – we want to reach out as widely as possible. We want to work on issues of mutual agreement where we can.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Contact SHA secretary Jean on jeanhardimansmith@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.
- Join the launch and publicise the campaign [Register for the event here](#)
- Talk to your MP and council
- Set up local campaign groups – we can help you do that.
- **Take this petition to your CLP and ward:**

Campaign for a National Care Support and Independent Living Service (NaCSILS)¹

England's social care is broken. 26% fewer people are supported than in 2010, while demand soars. People face isolation, indignity, maltreatment, neglect, barriers to inclusion and independent living. Care is marketised and privatised. Many small providers have folded; care homes are increasingly managed by unstable corporates and hedge funds that often deliver poor care in large institutional settings while extracting massive offshore profits. Disabled and elderly people who need social care and support face high charges, leaving thousands in poverty. Care and support doesn't reflect users' needs or wishes. Staff wages, training and conditions are at rock bottom – turnover exceeds 30%. 8 million unpaid, overworked family carers, including children and elderly relatives, provide vital support.

- **This (*organisation/party branch/union branch etc*) demands the Government establish and new National Care, Support and Independent Living Service (NaCSILS) which is:**
- **Publicly funded, free at the point of use**
- **Publicly provided, not for profit**
- **Nationally mandated but designed and delivered locally**
- **Co- produced with service users and democratically accountable**
- **Underpinned by staff whose pay & conditions reflects true value and skills**
- **Designed to meet the needs of informal carers**
- **And sets up a taskforce on independent living**

¹ This campaign was founded jointly by Keep Our NHS Public (KONP) and the Socialist Health Association (SHA). It has wideranging support from many organisations and individuals. For more information on the campaign, see: <https://www.sochealth.co.uk/> & <https://keepournhspublic.com/>