

SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT IN ENGLAND – CHAOS AND TRANSFORMATION

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End Social Care Disgrace campaign

GALLOPING THROUGH

- What is social care and support?
- Impact of austerity
- Economic value of social care
- Privatisation
- Workforce
- Policy
- Fightback

WHAT IS SOCIAL CARE?

- **Social work, personal care, protection or social support services to children or adults in need or at risk, or adults with needs arising from illness, disability, old age or poverty. It includes younger adults with physical or learning disabilities or mental health issues, as well as older people.**
- **Domiciliary care** – people living at home and receiving care to meet needs and /or support independent living.
- **Residential care** – people living in a care home
- Social care is paid for either privately or from non-ring-fenced local authority budgets, with councils retaining discretion over spend



HOW PEOPLE PAY FOR SOCIAL CARE

Full care funding is available only to people with assets of less than £14,250

Part-funding is available to those with assets above this but less than £23,250

For nursing and residential care, 'assets' are considered in the value of their home but not for homecare

The Commission on Funding of Care and Support estimated that 1 in 10 people faced lifetime care costs of £100,000

In Scotland free personal and nursing care has been available since 2002

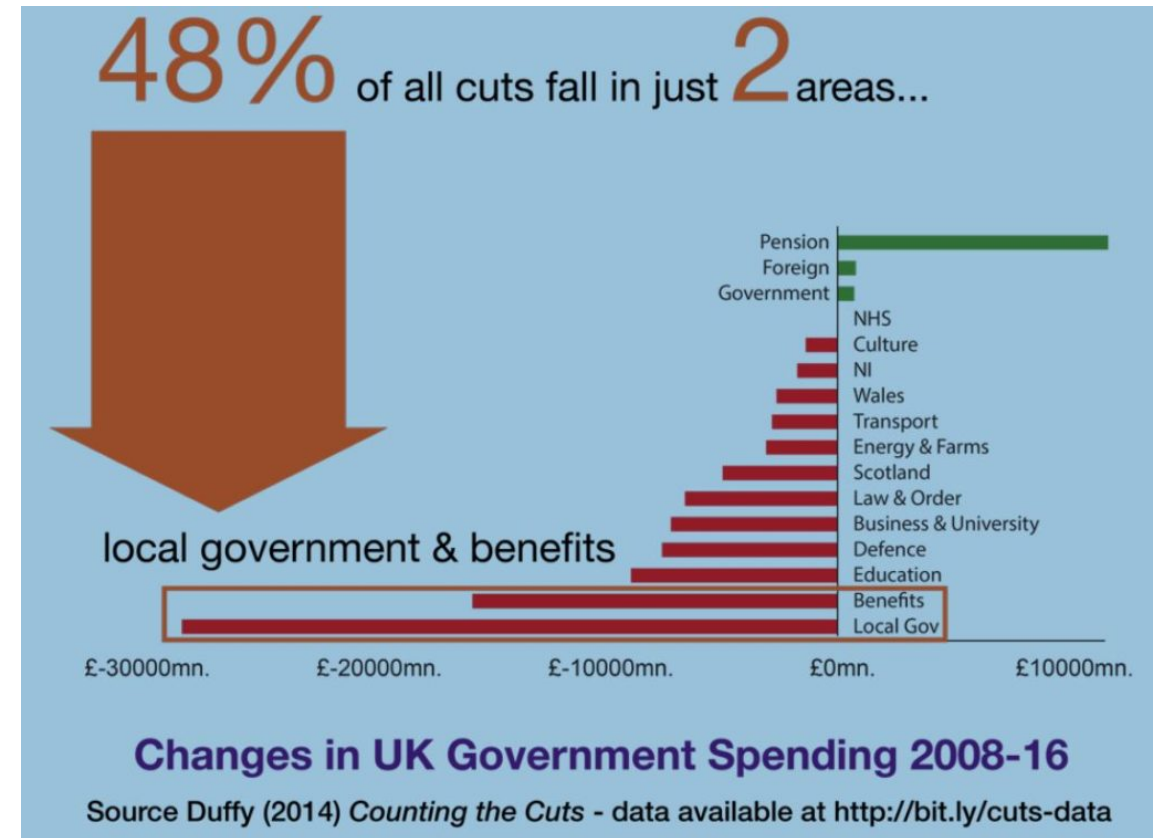
THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

- **The Social Model of Disability** explains how society often prevents disabled people from having real choice and control in achieving independent living.
- **Independent Living** - everyone with lived experience of disability or health conditions can participate equally as full citizens.
- Independent Living would enable disabled people to move out from institutions, be equal citizens with rights, live an ordinary life (rather than living in institutions) and positively participating in mainstream society.

AUSTERITY

60% CUTS TO SOCIAL CARE NATIONALLY

- £7 billion slashed from LAs since 2010
- Local Authorities face £700m cuts in 2018-19
- Local Authorities are £2.3 billion short to maintain services this year.
- 54% of total budgets now spent on Adult and Children's Social Care – more in some councils
- 33% reduction in all other services



THE IMPACT

- 26% fewer older people receiving support since 2010
- 1.2 million older people have care needs unmet.
- The number of people 65+ will grow by 20% over 10 years.
- Tighter eligibility criteria for help at home
- Nursing care beds have reduced
- Fewer people get financial support for residential care.
- UN: UK Gov has committed “grave” and “systematic” violations of disabled people’s human rights.



PROBLEMS WITH CARE - ENGLAND

Inequalities in
delivery and
funding

15-minute visits

Doesn't meet
users' or carers'
needs

Little user
involvement

Not integrated
with health care
and other services

Workforce
exploited

ECONOMIC VALUE OF SOCIAL CARE

- £38.5 billion contribution to economy in England
- £5.2 billion in London
- £210 million in Lewisham



PRIVATISATION

PRIVATE SECTOR CARE HOMES

- Difference between large and small care homes.
- In state-funded home-care services the private sector provided
 - 5% in 1993.
 - 89% by 2012
- Large care home chains extract cash
- Recurrent crises - chains bought and sold using debt leveraged buyouts
 - sale prices are inflated
 - chains are loaded with ever more debt
 - cash flow cannot cover the financing cost.
- **High and risk-free returns with 12% rate of return on capital.**
- <http://hummedia.manchester.ac.uk/institutes/cresc/research/WDTMG%20FINAL%20-01-3-2016.pdf>



LESSONS

- **Lesson one:** Introducing competition as a means of reducing costs impacts significantly on the quality of services
- **Lesson two:** The drive to keep costs down through competitive market pressures has led to the de-regulation and casualisation of the social care workforce
- **Lesson three:** Provider failure is an inevitable consequence of any care market, with significant implications for patients, care users and their families - 58% increase in private providers leaving the care market in the last year
- <https://chpi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CHPI-Lessons-from-the-social-care-market-October-2013.pdf>

WORKFORCE

SOCIAL CARE STAFF

- 100K vacancies
- Poorly paid
- Poorly unionized
- No career progression
- Poor conditions – zero hour contracts
- Mainly women
- Brexit has meant fewer staff available



POLICY

LABOUR INITIATIVES

- **Stabilisation**
 - Extra funding
 - Immediate workforce support
 - Technology and integration improvements
- **Workforce reform**
 - Career pathway framework
 - Plans for fair pay agreements
 - Expanded roles and training
- **Long-term structural ambition**
 - National Care Service
 - Independent commission



End Social Care Disgrace

Campaign for a National Care, Support and
Independent Living Service

Non-party political

Unions, NPC, KONP, SHA, A4I, CASUO,
HCT, Women's Budget Group

Contacting MPs, TUs and celebrities

Independent Living

SEVEN DEMANDS

**A new National Care, Support and Independent Living Service
(NaCSILS) which is:**

- ❖ **Publicly funded, free at the point of use**
-
- ❖ **Publicly provided, not for profit**
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- ❖ **Nationally mandated but designed and delivered locally**
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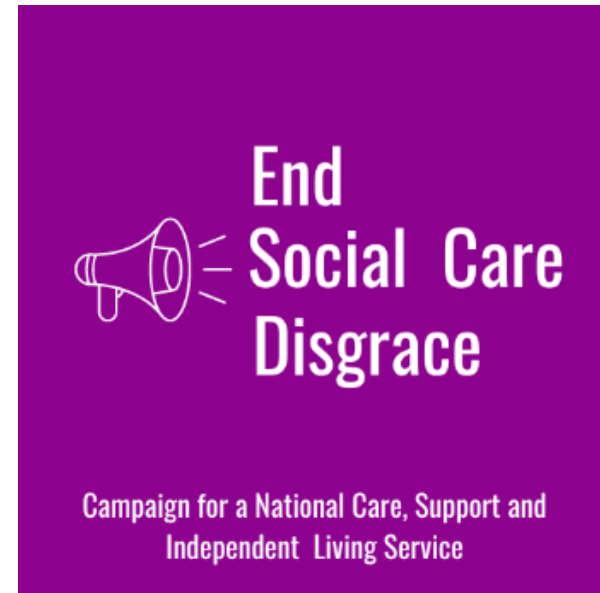


**End
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SEVEN DEMANDS 2

- ❖ **Co-produced with service users and democratically accountable**
- ❖ **Underpinned by staff whose pay and conditions reflect true value and skills**
- ❖ **Designed to meet the needs of informal carers**
- ❖ **Informed by a task force on independent living led by user-controlled groups from diverse backgrounds**



BOTTOM UP

UNISON'S ETHICAL CARE CHARTER

- Principle of quality employment for a quality service
- Adopted by Lewisham and 44 other councils/providers
- Requires payment of London Living Wage
- End to zero hours contracts...
- Statutory sick pay
- Payment for travel time between visits
- End to 15-minute visits
- Provision of training
- Is Lewisham complying?



FIGHTBACK

- **Councils doing it for themselves**
 - Hammersmith and Fulham
 - Tower Hamlets
- **Campaigns**
 - Wages
 - Conditions
 - Council charging
 - Local elections in May



**THANK YOU
FOR
LISTENING!**

What reforms to initiate in first year [i.e. from 2024]

- Bringing contracts into public sector – and co-operative and NGO enablement
- Increasing local authority capacity for added or returned responsibilities
- Start process of boosting pay and conditions for care workers – including:
- Making personal care free [as in Scotland, & example of Hammersmith & Fulham on free home care]
- Every local authority to fund a local Disabled Peoples Organisation –on lines of co-production
- Stop re-assessing those on long term conditions that can't improve for benefits control
- Increase care benefits by rate of inflation each year
- Produce a long term plan for NaCSILS, on proposals outlined