

Our Social Care System is ~~BRICKBEN!~~

Not right, not safe, not fair!

England's social care system is not fit for purpose. Every Local Authority is facing a crisis, with a swingeing £700m cut to care budgets in 2018-19.

£7 billion has been slashed since 2010, 26% FEWER older people are receiving support, while demand grows. The consequences include isolation, indignity, maltreatment.

Disabled people are still having to fight barriers to inclusion and independent living. The axing of the Independent Living Fund and the tightening of criteria for service support has been damaging.

Thousands are stranded in hospital because of the lack of home help, rehabilitation or care home places, increasing waiting times for patients across the NHS.

Corporates and private companies now own most residential and nursing homes. Taking profits and paying dividends are their priority.

Public money is draining into the pockets of owners, shareholders and hedge funds, while people are forced to

sell their homes to pay exorbitant care home fees.

Service users and their families face frightening instability as companies go bust overnight or walk away if profits drop, leaving people totally stranded.

Staff wages, training and conditions are pared to the bone. Annual staff turnover is over 27% – and that's before Brexit!

What was once an effective Home Help service is now history. Today's care consists of 15 minute flying visits from exploited staff on zero hours contracts, no care continuity, with few or no weekend calls.

Family and friends now make up by far the biggest number of carers filling in the gaps left by the system. 8 million people, unpaid and overworked, are providing vital support for disabled people and the seriously ill of all ages.

Carers are often elderly or disabled themselves and are struggling to cope. Others are children and teenagers looking after a parent, to the detriment of the young person's development & wellbeing.

Our answers ... see overleaf



Help build a powerful campaign to force elected politicians of all parties to take action. **Join us at** www.healthcampaignstogether.com.

WE SAY:

- We need a social care system that gives proper support to carers and personal assistants.
- We need a properly funded, not for profit care system.
- Disabled people and people with long term illnesses, whatever their age, should be entitled to a direct influence on shaping services that assist them to lead fulfilling lives
- Older people should be able to look forward to a happy old age without worrying how they will pay for their care, or fearing they may be a burden on their friends and family.

SOCIAL CARE should be

- A universal service, available to all on basis of need, and free at the point of use to all who need it
- Fully funded through progressive taxation
- Publicly provided
- Subject to national standards
- Locally provided, locally accountable and designed as far as possible by service users
- Addressing people's aims, aspirations and choices not just bare needs
- Providing staff with training, qualifications career structure, and decent pay
- Giving informal carers support and respite care as required.

Join the Campaign

Health Campaigns Together held a successful conference on social care in November.

We are now organising with the Socialist Health Association, National Pensioners Convention, Keep Our NHS Public and many other supporting organisations to launch a specific campaign on social care.

We will bring together the widest

possible alliance of organisations wanting to fight cuts and privatisation and press for a new social care system that supports and cares for people, not profits.

We need your support.

Get your organisation to **affiliate** to Health Campaigns Together, www.healthcampaignstogether.com, or send us a donation online or by post to **Health Campaigns Together, 102, Corve St, Ludlow, SY8 1EB**

Help build a powerful campaign. Check out our resources and information at <https://healthcampaignstogether.com/socialcare.php..>