



Newsletter

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UN Commission: Govt. missing in inaction

On Monday 28th August the Government was supposed to attend an Enquiry session to explain what has changed since 2016 when they were found guilty of grave and systematic violations of disabled people's rights. They cried off promising to appear in March.

Much respect to the representatives of Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations who did attend and presented their damning shadow report, outlining how the situation has not only failed to improve but got worse.

See: <https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Westminster-Government-Civil-Society-Shadow-Report-Inclusion-London.pdf>

More emerges regarding the abuse of young disabled people in Doncaster

Twelve years on from the BBC's exposure of gross abuse at Winterbourne View Hospital with much official handwringing re never again and six years after Whorlton Hall, three residential schools are on trial for horrific abuse of young learning disabled and autistic people between 2018 and 2021. The schools are run by the Hesley Group, which is owned by Antin Infrastructure, a multinational private equity group chiefly known for investing in gas pipelines!

In October 2022, an official review found that children had suffered abuse and neglect. Then, in January this year, documents leaked to the BBC revealed that vinegar had been poured into children's open cuts, one child had been locked outside in freezing temperatures while they were naked. Others were punched and kicked in the stomach, made to sit in cold baths and force-fed chilli flakes. It also emerged that abuse of adults and children in Hesley Group facilities goes back 10 years. The Government's child safeguarding Practice review has set out proposals for change

but the Hesley Group is still running educational and supported living services for people with autism and learning disabilities.

Only a month ago, Channel 4 'Dispatches' exposed the appalling treatment of young people with autism in hospitals and treatment centres across England – which included a hospital in Kent where 18 reports of sexual assault and 24 of rape were made to the police between 2020 and 2023, but no charges have yet been brought.

Read more if you can bear it and look out for protests in the pipeline from DPAC et al
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/24/learning-disabled-autistic-neglect-uk-institutional-abuse>

Proposed benefit changes will cut income

Proposed benefit changes that the Government says will help disabled people benefit from the chance to work from home could lead to many losing out on almost £400 a month in support. Mel Stride, the Work and Pensions Secretary, claims this is about ensuring "no one who can work is permanently written out of this country's strong Labour market story"! However Tony Wilson, the director of the think tank "Institute for Employment Studies" said: "They're presenting this as about extending employment support to more people but that is a red herring. This is primarily about trying to save money."

There is widespread concern that people will be pushed to seek work when not well enough to do so and lose their benefits if they don't. The Executive Director of Strategy at the disability charity SCOPE said that "In the grips of a cost of living crisis, this could be catastrophic."
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/sep/06/work-capability-test-changes-could-cost-some-claimants-400-a-month>

Exploitation and low pay causing poverty among care workers – says TUC report

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-08/a-strategy-for-the-care-workforce-23.pdf>

The report highlights the fact that over 60% of care workers earn less than the real living wage, a quarter of adult social care workers are on zero hours contracts and [a quarter of children with a parent working in social care are growing up in poverty](#). The vacancy rate stands at 9.9% and in spring 2023 over half a million hours of domiciliary care (worth £14.7m) were not delivered across the English regions due to lack of staff.

We welcome the TUC demanding a minimum £15 per hour, better conditions, training and career structure for care and support workers and hope that they will press for a radical re-evaluation of the intrinsic value of care work and its vital role in the economy. However, care workers are only part of the landscape. If we are to get anything like a free and fair National Care, Support and Independent Living Service which can provide dignity, choice and control for all, we need the trade unions to come together with the 8m plus unpaid, largely family carers, and the 16 million disabled people, who are also impoverished and quite often institutionalised and abused.

The shameful undervaluing of care and support workers is a mirror image of the undervaluing of disabled and older people at the heart of a society where people are seen as commodities, valuable largely to the extent that they generate profit for the few. To even start to change this we need a boldness and willingness to work across boundaries and amplify our voices.

Labour talks the talk - doesn't walk the walk

The Labour Party has just published their final policy document before their Party conference in October. This talks about promoting independent living, choice, control and co-production, non-profit delivery of support services and supporting carers. However it doesn't commit to scrapping care charges, making social care and support free at the point of use, nor to undoing privatisation, stating only that "A Labour Government would not allow new contracts to be given to care providers who do not meet high standards –and "will not tolerate poor quality, extractive providers that have opaque and irresponsible financial practices and poor working conditions, in the care sector."

Despite support for ESCaD from a number of MPs it is hard to get past the mantra of affordability. Labour insists must be attached to all its policies.

While we don't want to get stuck in that trap we have been working on a document to put more flesh on the argument that a NaCSILS would be a net contributor to the economy – to the tune of £50bn, that taking profit out of care and support would liberate £1.5bn a year and that taxing wealth, dividends and capital gains would raise more than enough for social care and support alone. As a starter just a 2% tax on assets above £10m held by all members of the [Sunday Times rich list](#) could raise as much as £22bn.

Our Labour politicians should be calling out a situation where Britain's 50 richest families hold more wealth than the entire bottom 50% of the nation's population.

While we welcome a commitment to improve staff pay and conditions it is disappointing that little of substance is included regarding support to unpaid carers and there is scant acknowledgment that there are many ways people contribute to community life and the economy other than paid work. See the Women's Budget Group's piece: <https://wbg.org.uk/analysis/a-feminist-approach-to-macroeconomics/>

One bit of good news is that Tottenham Labour Party has submitted what are more or less the ESCaD demands as a motion to Conference. However motions to Conference rarely have legs.

Raising a mighty roar

If we can't see much joy coming from politicians it is even more important to try to build up a head of steam for radical change from the ground up.



Please help to take our messages on to the streets this autumn

- ❖ **Join us on Sun. Oct. 1st on the demonstration in Manchester outside Tory Conference.**
Assemble 12 noon at the entrance to Manchester Museum on Oxford St. We will have our banner, flags, placards and tee-shirts
- ❖ **And again on the march in Liverpool at the start of Labour Conference on Sat. 7th Oct.**
Assemble at 12.30 outside Liverpool Women's Hospital (corner of Upper Parliament St./Grove St./Mulgrave St.). March to Albert Dock. We will also have an ESCaD speaker at the Socialist Health Association fringe meeting on Monday 9th at 7.30pm at the Tate Liverpool and at the Liverpool Women's Hospital/ NW Keep Our NHS Public's meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 10th in the Quaker Meeting House
- ❖ **Look out for our postcards at the Green Party Conference in Brighton starting 6th October**
- ❖ **Join our next public zoom meeting on**

A Fair Deal for Care and Support Workers **Monday 23rd October 6.30-8pm**

Help us shine a spotlight on care and support work and develop action plans – with:

Billie Cooper	Co-Secretary of 'Care and Support Workers Organise' (CASWO)
Barbara Tanyanyiwa	Pan African Workers Association supporting migrant care workers
Alison Treacher	CASWO founding member and Unite the Union activist
Steve North	Unison Vice President & Branch Secretary, Salford Unison
Nadia Whittome	MP FOR Nottingham East, former care worker – invited / tbc
Andrew Gwynne	Shadow Minister of State for Social Care – invited/ tbc

Register here :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtfuGgqjosGNTmqytKghSwTax156FCCwQL>



Alison and Billie with Care and Support Workers Organise and our old NaCSILS banner behind

What else you can do

- ❖ **Come to a follow up discussion from the Fair Deal for Disabled People meeting on Thursday 26th Oct. 4pm and help plan action.** Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84645968079?pwd=WjRKSFxBxQWtsYnNnSG1rQm1Wak9vdz09>
Meeting ID: 846 4596 8079 Passcode:195073
You can watch the July meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYrmEJil15o>
- ❖ **If you are not on our mailing list, please sign up on the web or Email:**
endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com. There is no fee to become a supporter although donations are welcome via the PayPal button, bank transfer or cheque to 'NaCSILS' at 11 Regina Drive, Leeds LS7 4LR. If you can get your local trade union branch, TUC or other organisation to affiliate that would be great. We ask organisations to pay £40 to affiliate if possible but that is flexible. You can download a form at <https://endsocialcaredisgrace.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/NaCSILS-affiliation-form-23.1.22.pdf>. If you would like an ESCaD speaker at your meeting, just email.
- ❖ **Join one of our working groups (all on Zoom)**
The Carers Group is making a film of carers speaking and trying to organise some action on the ground for Carer's Rights Day, 25th Nov.
The Politicians Group continues to press politicians of all stripes, both MPs and Councillors to support our objectives, fight current injustice and pursue radical reform.
The Publicity Group looks after our Social media & aims to develop out-facing messaging. Please look for our tweets, follow & retweet.
The Trade Union Group is trying to push ESCaD's demands within the TU movement. We are planning a discussion with affiliated groups on 16th October and have a speaker from Unite (Yorks & Humber) booked for 13th November to talk about their initiative to set up a carers' group for Unite members.

Email endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com or text 07419 295754 for more information and Zoom links for working group meetings

- ❖ **ORDER COPIES OF OUR NEW POSTCARD** to distribute at meeting and events. Just email a delivery address to endsocialcaredisgrace@gmail.com or text/phone 07419 295754 and we will post out a bundle free of charge.



End Social Care Disgrace

Campaign for a National Care, Support
and Independent Living Service

Free at the point of use

Publicly funded and provided

**Radically re-imagined and
co-produced with service users,
carers, workers and local communities**

**Offering choice, control, dignity
and independence**

Flexible support for carers

**Staff pay and conditions which
reflect their high value and
skills**

We are a non-party political alliance of disabled and older people's organisations, health campaigns and trade unionists etc., Please join us, work with us, affiliate your organisation

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Our social care system is failing everyone except the private providers who are rinsing it for profit

Half those requesting support get no help. 14,000 are stuck in hospital for want of support in the community. Increased charges have led some people to give up support and thousands are being hounded over debts. Many are struggling to survive, stay safe and avoid total isolation. Care and support workers are leaving in droves because of rock bottom wages. Over 8m unpaid carers get little or no support. Almost half those living in poverty are in families where someone is disabled. Institutionalisation and abuse are rife.

Join us and help to raise a mighty roar to end this social care disgrace and violation of human rights

RESIST ALL MEASURES
which increase poverty and exclusion

FIGHT FOR A 'NOT FOR PROFIT'
RADICALLY RE-IMAGINED
National Care Support and
Independent Living Service



Best wishes and much solidarity from ESCaD

