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"The set of recommendations for reform set out by the NPC in this report and supported by well referenced arguments and data are a fantastic road map for the future which I wish politicians and public alike would get behind."

"Let us move towards a national care service with national standards of care and registration for staff, tax funded, working with the NHS, with the capacity to provide services to all those with needs and fully integrated with housing and preventative services."

Professor David Oliver

# "GOODBYE CINDERELLA" ORDER FORM

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## The Key Issues

The Coronavirus pandemic has exposed all of these failings with the tragic loss of more than 16,000 lives in care homes alone. The care sector was already in extreme difficulties, especially given government austerity measures since 2010, but Covid-19 has starkly highlighted the weaknesses. There is every reason to be concerned about the future of care services; this level of neglect by government must never happen again.

Over the last 40 years there has been a systematic attempt to redefine illnesses affecting old age as "social" rather than "medical" and to shift such patients from the NHS to local authorities. This has meant that hard-pressed and inadequate local authority social services departments are called upon to deal with the complex health problems of many frail elderly people. It has also meant that an average of 40,000 people a year have to sell their homes to pay for care.

There is a way forward – through a National Care Service, free at the point of need, funded through taxation. It will restore dignity, respect and equality to older people and the generations that follow them. Every citizen has the right to equal access to health and care services when they need them.

The NPC has produced a full booklet, intended to create a debate that has never been seen as acceptable by politicians, and we hope you will join us in our campaign for a better, fairer and sustainable future for care.

Goodbye Cinderella: A New Settlement For Care Services. Moving Forward From The Pandemic, is available for pre-order. Please see the order form.

#### **Care Recommendations**

- **1.** A National Care Service funded by general taxation delivering high quality care free at the point of need with the service user at its heart.
- **2.** A National Care Service must be fully funded. It also requires the full funding of the NHS and Local Government to ensure that assessments are carried out and needs met.
- **3.** A 'joined-up' service with no division between health and social care provision. Individuals and their carers will be entitled to receive a variety of care services from a range of regulated providers with communication the key to ensuring a seamless transition process between providers.
- 4. A new approach to training the care workforce (including managers) that raises the status and skills of the workforce in order to respond to individual needs. Urgently develop a mandatory programme of training, publicly provided, nationally accredited and transferable qualifications to ensure stability and raise standards. The policies of other government departments, for example, immigration, should not work against the need for, or operation of, a National Care Service.
- **5.** All employed care workers to be required to register. England is the only nation in the UK that does not require care workers to be registered by a professional body.
- **6.** Recognition of the important and different role played by 'family/informal carers' against that of employed care workers. Support services must be in place to assess their needs and meet them. Implement the Care Act fully and ensure the long-awaited Appeals Procedure is in place.
- **7.** Parity of illness and impairment, so that those with dementia and other long-term conditions are no longer means-tested for care or treatment, whether they receive it at home, in residential care or respite care.

#### **Care Recommendations**

- **8.** Preventative services such as care, support and advocacy need to be widely available to enable individuals and their carers to maintain their independence, health and well-being and social inclusion wherever they are.
- **9.**Investment in the long-term housing needs of older people, as sub-standard housing conditions exacerbate the poor health of many older people.
- **10.** A robust, independent regulatory body to oversee and ensure that individuals are protected, their rights safeguarded, complaints investigated, recommendations acted upon and feedback encouraged.
- 11. More frequent inspections carried out by highly trained inspectors working in a multi-disciplinary setting to help providers improve standards and to use enforcement more appropriately when vulnerable people are shown to be at risk of abuse, neglect or poor standards of service.
- **12**. Reintroduce a mixed economy of care so that residential care and other key services for older people can be increasingly provided by Local Authorities, the not-for-profit Voluntary Sector, the NHS and others, thereby reducing the role of the private sector.
- **13.** The government must develop a strategy to remove private equity funded providers from care services in view of their precarious and unethical financial structures and practices. All contracts for care must be based on public sector criteria and standards.
- **14.** Generational Fairness no section of the population is penalised by regressive taxation or inequitable penalties.
- **15.** A national debate on how we move to a National Care Service and its structure, must take place with the public and other stakeholders, with the government of the day being open and honest about the cost and the need for current public spending to change.

#### **About the NPC**

The NPC works in a number of ways, and on a wide range of issues, to promote our concerns to government, politicians, other organisations and the public at large. This includes:

- ◆ Campaigning: Lobbying MPs, holding rallies around the country, issuing petitions and organising protests.
- ◆ Holding meetings: with ministers, officials, representatives of other parties and other official bodies. Organising events to look at important issues, including the annual 3-day Annual Convention in Southport.
- Public Profile: Issuing statements to the media, promoting our views on a particular issue and regularly appearing in the national and regional press.
- Research: Developing detailed policies and research material to support our arguments for improvements in pensions, health and social care, transport, housing and other areas of older living. We regularly publish pamphlets and briefings, alongside the Pensioners' Manifesto.

# Get involved today

### Join the NPC

NPC Marchmont Community Centre 62 Marchmont Street, London. WC1N 1AB.







# Goodbye Cinderella:

A New Settlement For Care Services

**Moving Forward From The Pandemic** 

