

Health (composite motion 15)

The motion, put forward by the Socialist Health Association, calls on Labour to repeal the Health and Care Act 2022 and eliminate integrated care systems. It was backed by conference on Wednesday morning.

The motion insists that the party establish a “publicly-funded, publicly-provided, publicly accountable, universal and comprehensive” National Health Service and return all privatised portions of the NHS to public control upon forming a government.

It also urges the party to establish a publicly-funded and publicly-provided National Care Service and to ensure that a Labour government and economy are fit to handle another pandemic

Composite 15 - HEALTH

Conference notes:

12 years of Conservative underfunding, neglect and mismanagement have left our NHS with waiting lists at the highest on record and the lowest level of patient satisfaction since 1997

- those needing mental health support have been particularly let down
- that the imposition of US-style structures such as Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in the Health and Care Act 2022 shows how corporate involvement in 11 policy making leads to private profits at the expense of patient care and workers' pay
- that the ICSs, rather than integrate, obstruct high quality social care alongside the NHS
- that the personal experiences of many in countries with healthcare for profit systems, most notably the USA, warn of the dangers of privatised healthcare systems
- that there is a crisis in which GPs work under extreme pressure, beyond contracted hours; numbers entering training will not sustain the workforce
- that good mental health runs through all aspects of life and can only be tackled as an embedded part of wider living standards
- a quarter of mental health beds have been cut, over a third of children were turned away from mental health services last year alone, and right now 1.6 million people are waiting for mental health treatment
- that Labour created the NHS and should be its primary defender and reject any plan to increase privatisation in the healthcare system.

Conference reaffirms:

- A. Labour's unequivocal commitment to a publicly funded, publicly provided, publicly accountable, universal and comprehensive National Health Service.
- B. There must be direct employment of NHS workers, ending commercialisation and fragmentation and the use of outsourcing, private providers and public private partnerships within the NHS.

- C. Ending outsourcing better enables our friends and allies in the union movement to secure fair pay and conditions for their members, whose work during the pandemic saved tens of thousands of lives.
- D. Health services are of better quality, more equitable and cost-effective when nationally planned and provided by democratically-accountable, public authorities with local expertise.
- E. The socialist achievements of the Welsh government in publicly providing and funding a public Welsh NHS

Conference resolves Labour must:

1. adopt a position of unequivocal support for the National Health Service and a position of outright opposition and commit to vote against any and all forms of privatisation of the NHS;
2. commit to returning all privatised portions of the NHS to public control upon forming a Government;
3. not accept donations from companies interested in outsourcing NHS functions;
4. immediately launch a public campaign against privatisation of the NHS and actively support current campaigns and activist groups;
5. publicly support all NHS Trade Unions campaigning to return to and retain all public control of the NHS, including, but not limited to any legal Industrial action;
6. commit to support GPs so that everyone can access care when needed and staff are developed and valued;
7. guarantee an appointment for all citizens
8. allow medical professionals to use a variety of appointment types (e.g. virtual or in-person) based on medical need
9. provide more places for General Practice, Nurse Practitioners, and other staff roles where a shortage exists
10. build and maintain an NHS fit for the future, by providing the staff, equipment and modern technology needed to treat patients on time.
11. commit to a national well-being strategy in which mental health prevention is embedded within wider aims. The strategy would elevate the importance of mental health and link to other policy areas of our society and economy. Conference therefore resolves:
12. To repeal the Health and Care Act 2022 and to reverse and eliminate Integrated Care Systems To establish a publicly funded, publicly provided, publicly accountable, universal and comprehensive National Health Service
13. To return all privatised portions of the NHS to public control upon forming a Government;
14. To ensure a Labour government and economy are fit to handle another pandemic with proper preparations and regulations.
15. To ensure Labour invests in research that focuses on epidemiology, biomedical sciences and research in other STEM fields, bracing for all forms of a pandemic.
16. To establish comprehensively improved public health

Social care, composite motion six, was carried by delegates on a show of hands. Colchester Constituency Labour Party (CLP), calls upon the next Labour government to transform care provision, widen entitlement and reduce barriers to access.

The motion urges the party to raise the quality of care based on enforced national standards and shift the focus to prevention and early intervention with a new principle of 'home first' to ensure choice and control.

It calls on Labour to deliver a National Care Service with nationally mandated standards "but designed and delivered locally" and to introduce a new deal for care workers, which ensures staff are recognised for the work they do "with the pay, terms and conditions they deserve".

Composite 6 – SOCIAL CARE

Labour notes the crisis in social care and calls for a plan that would transform care provision and would empower those accessing care - and their families - to live the life they choose.

Our Social Care system is broken and in need of urgent reform.

Many years of Tory cuts and privatisation of public services have largely obliterated early help services and care for people at home. For want of such help more people are being admitted to hospital in an emergency, and more are stuck in hospital because their needs cannot be met in the community. Most care and support is marketised, much of which is charity based, privatised and unstable leaving thousands of disabled people in poverty.

Private equity companies are making money by stripping assets from care companies while paying poor wages and depriving care staff of the training and resources needed to provide safe and compassionate care. There is a staffing crisis as staff are being forced out of their jobs by poverty pay and poor conditions. The contributions of 8 million unpaid, overworked family carers, including children and older relatives, are unrecognised. Planned funding is dangerously inadequate, leaving those who draw on services, their families and unpaid carers facing increasing impoverishment, exclusion and harm. Women are the main family carers for disabled children, working age adults and frail older people at the sacrifice of careers, earnings and pensions.

Disabled people and carers face increased isolation, indignity, maltreatment and neglect and barriers to inclusion and independent living are in breach of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People. The current system doesn't reflect users' needs, wishes and diversity.

Conference calls upon the next Labour government to transform care provision, widen entitlement, reduce barriers to access, raise the quality of care based on enforced national

standards and shift the focus to prevention and early intervention with a new principle of Home First, ensuring choice and control.

Conference agrees Labour must deliver a National Care Service with nationally mandated standards but designed and delivered locally, which is:

- co-produced with service users
- guided by a taskforce on independent living
- democratically accountable
- publicly funded
- publicly provided
- free at the point of use, and
- not for profit.

Labour must ensure people get the care and support when and where they need it through national assessment criteria to avoid any post code lottery for care

Labour must deliver A New Deal for Care Workers ensuring staff are recognised for the vital work they do with the pay, terms and conditions they deserve, tackling high vacancy rates, and transforming training. Labour must fully recognise and support the contribution of 8 million family carers.

Labour should deliver a new partnership with carers and families so unpaid family carers get a generous allowance, proper information, advice and breaks and more flexibility in the workplace.

Labour should provide investment to improve and expand on facilities for care provision within the public sector. Mover: Colchester CLP Seconder: Banbury CLP