

Ideas for a National Care Service



**Easy
Read**

Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some hard information. It may not include all of the information but will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read information uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About these ideas



The Fabian Society is an organisation that works to make the country fairer for everyone.



The **Labour Party** asked us for ideas about how to make a National Care Service.



The **Labour Party** want to be the next Government and make choices that affect the country.



A National Care Service would be for all **care and support services** in England.

Care and support services include:



- Supporting people to live independently at home.



- Supporting people to do the things they want.



- Caring for people who live in a care home.

We want to explain:



- How a National Care Service would work.



- How it would help everyone.



- Why we need it now.

A National Care Service



A National Care Service would be run by the Government and local councils.



It would provide care and support for everyone who needs it.



It would give everyone the **right** to have the care and support they need.

Rights are things that every person should have by law.



It would make sure everyone can get very good care wherever they live.



It would help people to stay healthy, so they do not need so much help from the NHS.

Why change?



At the moment, local councils arrange care for you when you need it.



But local councils do not have enough money to pay for all the care people need.

Local councils work hard to improve the care people get, but in many places:



- Care is not as good as it should be.



- Care staff do not have the time and support to do a good job.

Also in many places:



- Care staff are not paid enough.



- Some people who need care do not get any.



It is hard to find enough people to be care workers because of the low wages.



People who give care to members of their family do not get enough help.

More money

If the Government spent more money on care:



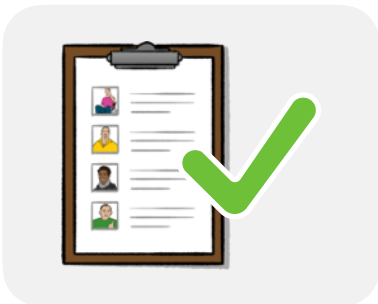
- People would be able to do more.



- People would not need the NHS so much.



- More disabled people and carers would be able to get a job.



- There would be more jobs for everyone.

What would change?

If there was a National Care Service, there would be:



- A Government minister who would work with local councils to make sure everyone got the care they need.



- More **rights** for disabled people and family carers.

Rights are things that every person should have by law.



- Care for everyone who needs it.



- Enough money to pay for the care people need.



There would also be:

- Better pay for care workers.



A National Care Service would mean you have to pay less towards the cost of your care.

How it would work

If we had a National Care Service:



- The NHS would stay the same as it is.



- Local councils would still organise care in their area.



- Local councils would still pay local companies to provide care services to local people.

A National Care Service would:



- Help families choose and control the care that they need.



- Have the same very good service everywhere.



- Be easy to use and suit people with different needs.



- Help people to stay healthy so they need less help from the NHS.



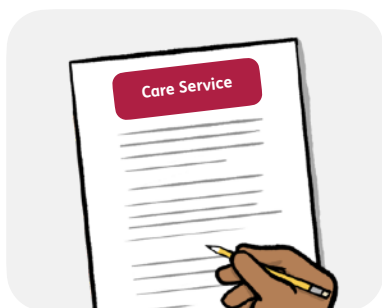
- Provide good support to people with different needs and from different backgrounds.

A new organisation



The National Care Service would be a new organisation.

It would:



- Have a new name and **logo**.

A **logo** is a picture or design that each company or organisation has.



- Have a strong leader who would be a Government minister.



- Be run by the Government when decisions are about all of England.



- Be run by local councils when decisions are about the local area.

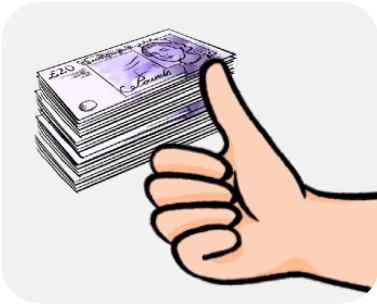
It would also:



- Let local councils choose ways of caring for and supporting people that are right for their area.

Care workers

The National Care Service would:



- Pay workers a fair wage.



- Support care workers to work well.



- Train care workers so they can learn new skills.



- Make sure there are enough care workers.

Working together

The National Care Service would:



- Work with people who use care services to plan new services.



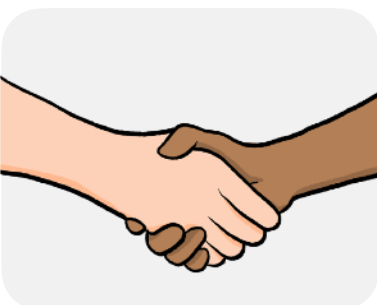
- Make sure government ministers and government staff work with people who use care services.



- Make sure local councils:
 - Work with people who use services.



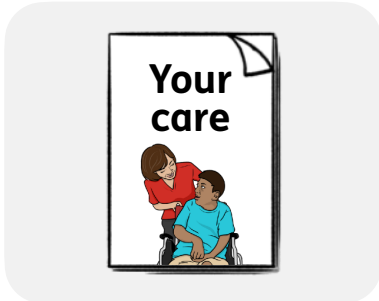
- Set up meetings with people who use services.



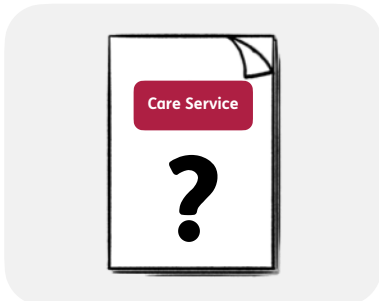
- Support local organisations that help people who use services.

Rights

The Government should write down in a special document:



- The care you can have.



- What the National Care Service will do.

The Government should write a new law saying:



- That you can choose where you want to live.



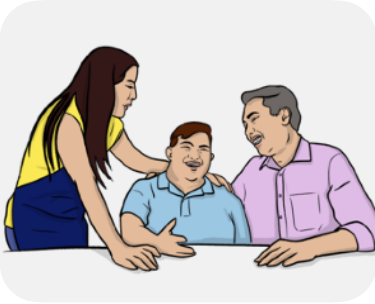
- That you are able to do things you want to.



The Government should help people understand what they can have by law.

Family carers

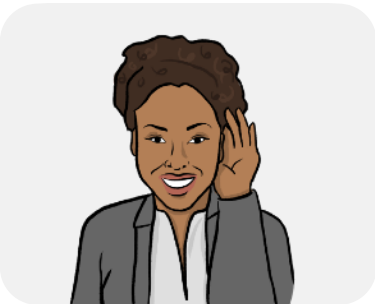
The National Care Service should:



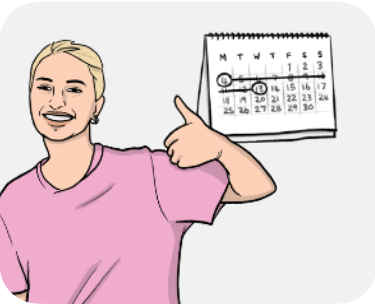
- Support family carers more.



- Make sure local councils explain what rights family carers have.



- Make sure local councils listen to family carers when they are working out what care you can have.



- Make sure family carers can have short breaks.



Other government services should tell the National Care Service if someone is a family carer.

Access

The National Care Service would:



- Help people stay active.



- Stop people being lonely.



- Make changes to people's homes so they are safe.



- Make other parts of the Government tell local councils about you if you are disabled.



Your local council can give you information about the care you can have.

The National Care Service would also:



- Help people to get care sooner when they need some help to stay safe and well.



- Help you to live independently.



- Work with the NHS to help you when you leave hospital.



- Help everyone to get the care they need whether they are rich or poor.

Different types of care

The National Care Service would:



- Look into new ways of caring for people.



- Help people to get **direct payments**, if they want it.

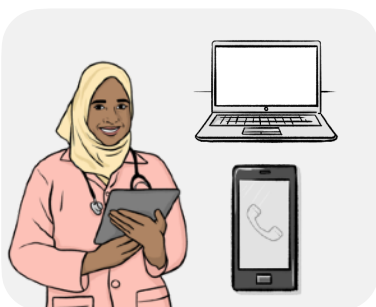
A **Direct Payment** is money given to you to pay for your own care and support.



- Work with the NHS to care for people who need a lot of care and support.



- Look at different types of housing that may be better for different people.



- Use new technology to improve your care and support - this is computers, phones and the internet.

Care organisations

The National Care Service would:



- Work closely with organisations that provide care and support services.



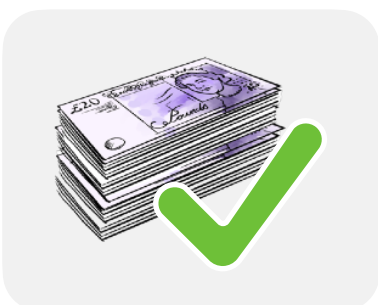
- Work with different types of organisations, like companies, charities, housing associations and councils' own services.



- Help care organisations and local councils to work together.



- Have a fair way to pay care organisations.



- Make sure that care organisations are using their money in the right way.

What you might pay



The National Care Service would change the way you pay towards the cost of your care.



Services will always be fairly priced and leave you enough money to spend on other things.



The National Care Service would look at ideas for reducing how much people have to pay. This includes:

- Free care for people who were disabled before the age of 25.

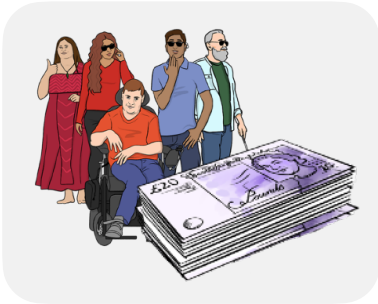


- Only charging you up to a certain amount for your care.

This also includes:



- Free care for people who need a lot of care and support.



- Paying some of the costs for everyone who needs care.

Money

The National Care Service would:



- Need more money at the start so we can pay a fair wage to all the care staff that we need.



- Work out how much money is needed over 10 years.

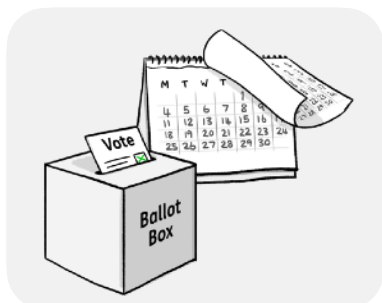


- Make sure that a fair amount is spent in each part of England.

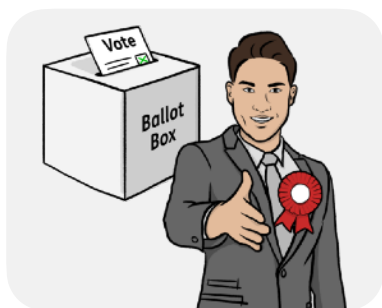


- Have enough money to pay for new housing, care homes and equipment.

How we make a National Care Service



The Government should start working on a National Care Service after the next **general election**.



A **general election** is when we vote for people to be in Parliament and make a new Government.



The new Government should:

- Use the laws that we already have to improve care services.



- Make changes straight away to improve health and care services.



- Start working with people who use care services to plan what changes are needed.

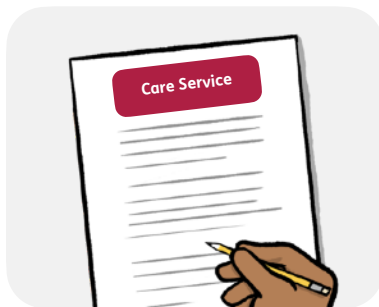
The new Government should also:



- Write a new law to create:
 - New rights for people.



- New rules for the Government and local councils.



- Set up the National Care Service, with a new logo and name.



- Make sure there is enough money for the National Care service to work well.

After a few years, the Government should:



- Look at how things are going.



- Find ways that the National Care Service can improve in the future.

For more information

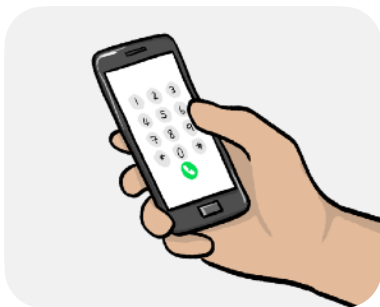


You can look at our website here:
www.fabians.org.uk

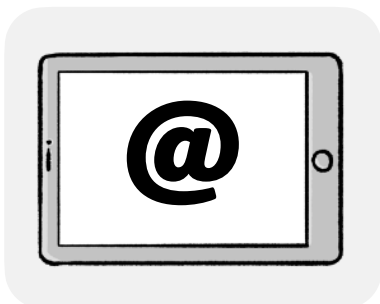
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