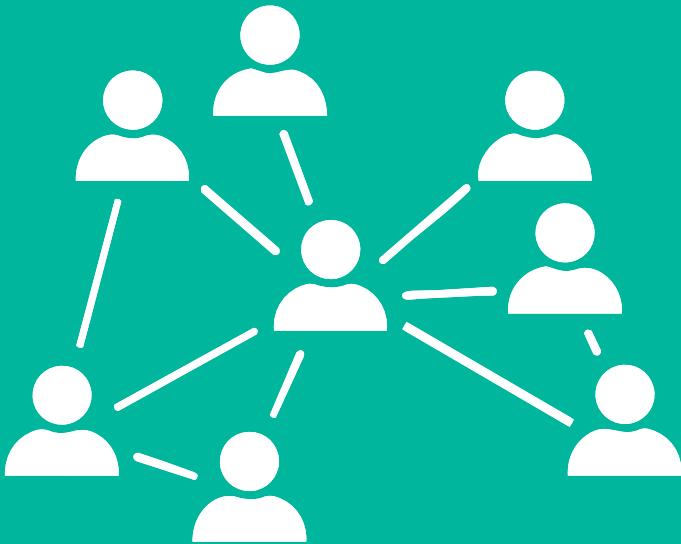

CARE TO SHARE

BUILDING THE NATIONAL CARE SERVICE

EDITED BY BEN COOPER, IGGY WOOD AND MILES WARD



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FOREWORD	2
Wes Streeting MP	
CHAPTER 1	4
Anna Dixon MP: standards, staff and the market	
CHAPTER 2	7
Louise Woodruff and Abby Jitendra: the cost of care for older people	
CHAPTER 3	10
Vicky Foxcroft MP: coproduction	
CHAPTER 4	12
Andrew Harrop: funding a National Care Service	
CHAPTER 5	16
Samantha Clark: perspectives on charging	
CHAPTER 6	19
Ben Cooper: first-term progress	
CHAPTER 7	22
Sara Hyde: local government's role	
CHAPTER 8	28
Paulette Hamilton MP: the NHS-NCS relationship	
CHAPTER 9	30
Gavin Edwards: the staffing crisis	
CHAPTER 10	33
Daniel Monaghan: the co-op model	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	47
ENDNOTES	48

form of modern slavery in 21st century Britain. We need a social care sponsorship body to remove employers' power over workers and allow people working in social care to stay in this country and put down roots. We owe them and we need them.

It is not too late for us to meet the public's expectations and deliver the change they voted for. Our party used to run headfirst toward the biggest

challenges of our times, and we still can. Just three years after the 1945 election, out of the rubble of war, Labour built the NHS. We are still capable of doing big things. My ambition is to build a National Care Service that guarantees no one goes without the high-quality, compassionate care they need. We still can.

Wes Streeting MP is the former secretary of state for health and social care

now and burdening younger, working-age taxpayers who are struggling to even get on to the housing ladder. And to make a reformed system fair, assessments of care needs would likely need to be carried out consistently at a national level.

With social care, politicians of all colours have found that there are no easy answers. But we have a clear view of the problems, and the cost of care is high up the list. The government should now act to make care affordable, once and for all.

viability without excess profits.

Standardised approaches to contracting with large providers, stronger local commissioning capabilities, and national financial regulation modelled on the social housing sector should all be explored.

The promise of the National Care Service remains huge. But now we need a financial reckoning. Creating an adult social care system of which we can be proud will only be achieved if we raise and spend more money, allocate it fairly and use it well.

at the next election with the slow pace of change and the consequences of failure.

The government should use the remainder of this parliament to start the process of reform, using its powers to make support more accessible and affordable. It should continue with the Casey commission while preparing for other political parties to reject improvements that are necessary to establish the National Care Service.

And if other political parties back out, Labour should take the argument to the

public at the next election, and show them that only they have a plan to fix social care – and ensure everyone has access to the care and support needed to live a good life.

While social care is unlikely to be at the forefront of voters' minds, it could be the clearest signal of what Labour stands for. When the next election is called, Labour must ensure it can campaign on its progress in building the National Care Service and its promise of 'support guaranteed.'

the most important work in society. A National Care Service could create clearer career pathways, improve training, strengthen professional recognition and better align health and care roles. The workforce crisis cannot be solved by recruitment alone. We must focus on retention, development and valuing those already delivering care every day.

Of course, reform requires sustainable funding. For too long, governments have searched for short-term fixes. Adult social care needs a stable settlement that gives certainty to providers, confidence to staff, and security to those who rely on support. Investment must come with reform, but reform without investment

will not deliver the transformation people deserve.

As someone who has worked on the frontline, I know what good care looks like. It is personal, preventative, delivered by skilled professionals working together around the individual. Most of all, it treats people with dignity and respect.

This is the vision we should pursue: a health and care system that is truly integrated, properly funded and built around people rather than institutions. If we get this right, we can create a National Care Service that supports those who need care today, and secures the future of both social care and our NHS for generations to come.

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ABOUT JRF

JRF is an independent social change organisation working to support and speed up the transition to a more equitable and just future, free from poverty, where people and planet can flourish.



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Three years ago, the Fabian Society set out what a National Care Service should look like in *Support Guaranteed*. A year later, in its manifesto, Labour drew on the ideas in *Support Guaranteed* and committed to a new service “delivering consistency of care across the country.”

Since the election, the social care situation has significantly improved. Yet there is still a long way to go to fulfil the manifesto promise. In this pamphlet, experts and policymakers identify the decisions the government will need to get right.

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