



LIVERPOOL CITY REGION APPG SOCIAL CARE REFORM:

IMPLICATIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

TUESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 14:00-15:30

REWATCH THE SESSION HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuKNePRKnJ4>

NON VERBATUM MINUTES

Introductions and welcome

- Welcome and introductions by Chair, Kim Johnson MP, Liverpool Riverside

Dan Smith, Organiser, UNISON North-West

- Highlighted that there is a crisis in social care, made worse by the pandemic, where care workers were twice more likely to die from COVID-19 than other working age adults.
- Stressed that low pay, regular breaches of the National Minimum Wage, absence of occupational sick pay, no remuneration for travel time, call-cramming and clipping due to overworked schedules, and 0-hour contracts, have characterised social care even before the pandemic.
- Outlined existing solutions to this issue in the North West. This included the Ethical Care Charter, a commitment to pay above the National Minimum Wage, and the movement towards more in-house delivery of services, allowing for greater oversight. He also referenced more recent initiatives undertaken during the pandemic, including an Insourcing Commission in Salford, and the insourcing of Vivo in Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC), as well as programmes such as Care Workers Vs Covid 19.
- Called for more robust monitoring, enforcement and sanction to make sure that providers act appropriately.
- Highlighted importance of trade unions in the process.

Mo Baines, Director, Association for Public Service Excellence

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:





- Stated that local authorities' lack of in-house social care has led to an inability to refuse contractors increasingly "extortionate" demands, given the necessity to provide social care services.
- Explained how insourcing can be the solution to improving the quality of social care being provided. Demonstrated that it would benefit the current recruitment crisis faced by social care through the public sector's ability to regain the role as a training provider for the workforce. This control would enable career pathway projections, stabilise the workforce, allow movement between residential and domiciliary care, and address the issue of the poor pay that contributes to the constant changing of labour social care faces.

Sandra, Care Worker

- Described how she has worked up to 70 hours weekly since the pandemic began, ignoring regulation to give the standard of care needed.
- Explained how she and her co-workers have been in contract negotiations – where they faced the removal of bank holiday pay, overtime and sick pay, while making up for a 2 year old vacancy within their small team between them.
- Explained how staff shortages are faced primarily by the support workers themselves rather than management. With management routinely claiming they are underfunded by the council, whilst the social care workers feel they are underpaid.

Cllr Val Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Cheshire West and Chester Council

- Discussed CWaC's experience with Vivo, a CWaC-funded social care service across the North West. Vivo has been well received by trade unions, a reduction of complexity in terms of management and a general streamlining of governance and decision making.
- Detailed how by April 2022, all Vivo services will be incorporated entirely within the council. CWaC are very happy to share their learning experiences with other local councils.

Gillian Keegan MP, Minister for Social Care

- Explained how government are well aware of the challenges facing the social care sector, evoking the magnitude and longstanding history of its crises and urgent need for systemic

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:





reform. She spoke of her first-hand experience of witnessing the issues to do with understaffing and pay structures, and their direct effects on those working and experiencing social care.

- Cited government recent policies in regard to social care. This included the £162.5m Workplace Recruitment and Retention Fund as an initial support to providers, the newly announced Health and Social Care Levy – saying it would bring an additional £5.4 billion for social care reform, and the newly announced £86,000 social care cap.
- Spoke of an upcoming white paper on social care reform which would focus on increasing career progression and retention.

Questions and Comments

- Gilligan Keegan MP took question from Paul Cummings, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care in Sefton. He asked whether the Minister would comment on the Local Government Association’s projected shortfall of 7% in adult social finance for next year. The Minister cited this shortfall as the failure of previous governments to raise taxes in the past but acknowledged the increased demand for social care and the difficulties many face.
- Samantha, a former Knowsley support worker, raised her concerns with the 39% pay gap between healthcare and social care workers, saying the sector was experiencing the toughest situation it had ever been in. The Minister acknowledged the issues, reiterating the unprecedented level of “churn”, risk to the individual, and zero hours contracts in the social care sector – citing these insecurities as some of the sector’s main problems.
- The Minister then heard a question from the TUC’s Social Care’s Policy Officer. He asked whether there would be a commitment to work with care works and union representatives, and whether a significant amount of money could realistically be assigned to social care of the NHS. The Minister said that the white paper was “not a finish”, but, “a start”, so there’d be opportunity for further collaboration in future.
- Another question was asked by Suzanne, who noted that the Health and Social Care Levy was an increase in National Insurance, and thus would penalize minimum wage workers, such as care workers, causing them further difficulty. The Minister acknowledged this difficulty, stressing the benefits of having made the decision to raise taxes.
- Mandy – who has worked in the sector for over 30 years, posed a question to the minister. Mandy argued that social care should be seen as separate from health, given that it is not

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:





professionalised. The minister acknowledged this concern, stressing her hope for the future professionalisation of social care.

- The fourth question was asked by the Chair, who enquired as to how far the retention bonus would stretch. The Minister said the bonus should be used selectively by local authorities. The Minister finally stated her eagerness to work collaboratively in future.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Kim Johnson MP, Chair

- Thanked all the speakers and attendees as well as the Secretariat and sponsors.

ATTENDEES

First Name	Surname	Job Title	Company
Ian	Byrne	MP	Liverpool, West Derby
Dan	Carden	MP	Liverpool, Walton
Margaret	Greenwood	MP	Wirral West
George	Howarth	MP	Knowsley
Kim	Johnson	MP	Liverpool, Riverside
Marie	Rimmer	MP	St Helens South and Whiston
Office of Alison	McGovern	MP	Wirral South

Jon	Abrams	Campaigns and Justice Coordinator	Inclusion London
Edel	Anabwani	Associate organiser social care and living wage	Citizens UK
Emma	Baker	Commissioned Services manager	Hc-One
Carolyn	Barber	Project Manager	Good Mental Health Cooperative
Samantha	Baron	Head of School	The Open University

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:



Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place



Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

Chair
Vice Chairs

Kim Johnson MP
Lord Alton
Marie Rimmer MP
Margaret Greenwood MP
Mike Amesbury MP
Derek Twigg MP
Conor McGinn MP
Lord Hunt of Wirral

Lord Heselline
George Haworth MP
Paula Barker MP
Mick Whitley MP
Ian Byrne MP

Secretary
Treasurer

Steve	Barwick	Director	DevoConnect
Jo	Baxter	Policy Officer	Alzheimer's Society
Beatrice	Boateng	support worker	Phoenix (Bespoke Support) Limited
Elaine	Bowker	Principal & Chief Executive	The City of Liverpool College
Samantha	Brennan	Managing Director - North West	Community Integrated Care
David	Brindle	Chair	Ambient Support
Rosemary	Brotchie	Regional Campaigns and Public Affairs Manager	Alzheimer's Society
Debbie	Caine	Casework for MP	Alison MCGovern
Laura	Catchpole	Policy Manager	MHA
Hayley	Challoner	Service Manager	Riverside Housing Association
nova	charlton	Cllr	St Helens Council
Paul	Cody	Development Manager - North	United Response
Lynn	Collins	Equalities and Inclusion Advisor	LCRCA
Jane	Cox	Policy Adviser	MHA
Paul	Cummins	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care	Sefton MBC
Ami	Curley	Policy Officer	Knowsley Council
Meryl	Davies	CEO	Re-engage
Graeme	Dolphin	Parliamentary Assistant	Margaret Greenwood MP
Paul	Edwards	Director of Clinical Services	Dementia UK
Todor	Fidanski	Economist	Unemployed
Stephen	Field	Business Development Manager	Fairhome Group
Lauren	Flanagan	PR and External Relations	Community Integrated Care
Clarissa	Giebel	Senior Research Fellow	University of Liverpool

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:



Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place



Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

Chair
Vice Chairs

Kim Johnson MP
Lord Alton
Marie Rimmer MP
Margaret Greenwood MP
Mike Amesbury MP
Derek Twigg MP
Conor McGinn MP
Lord Hunt of Wirral

Lord Heseltine
George Haworth MP
Paula Barker MP
Mick Whitley MP
Ian Byrne MP

Secretary
Treasurer

Isabelle	Gogerty	Policy and Campaigns Assistant	Macmillan Cancer Support
Ali	Gunn	Public Affairs and Policy Lead	United Response
Louise	Harbour	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Knowsley MBC
Samantha	Haslam	Communications Business Partner- External Affairs	Onward Homes
John	Hughes	Director of Partnerships and Communities	Community Integrated Care
Shereen	Hussein	Professor of Health and Social Care Policy	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Louise	Jackson	Health & Care Policy Manager	Age UK
James	Jamieson	Chairman	LGA
Sue	Jarvis	Co-Director Heseltine Institute for Public Policy,	University of Liverpool
Mark	Jensen	Local area coordinator	Derby city council
Donna	Kelly	Group Director Neighbourhoods and Support	Jigsaw Homes Group
Louise	May	Director	Kare Plus Wirral & Liverpool
Ray	McHale	Secretary	West Cheshire TUC
Jay	McKenna	Policy Officer	TUC
Nick	Morgan	Student PhD	University of Sheffield
Lynne	Morris	Regional Manager	UNISON
Susan	Mullan	researcher	independent
Yasmin	Nasli	Policy and Parliamentary Officer	National Autistic Society
Kath	O'Dwyer	Chief Executive	St Helens Council
Didem Derya	Ozdemir Kaya	Research Fellow	Warwick Business School, the University of Warwick
Clive	Parry	England Director	Association for Real Change

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:



Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place



Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

Chair
Vice Chairs

Kim Johnson MP
Lord Alton
Marie Rimmer MP
Margaret Greenwood MP
Mike Amesbury MP
Derek Twigg MP
Conor McGinn MP
Lord Hunt of Wirral

Lord Heselline
George Haworth MP
Paula Barker MP
Mick Whitley MP
Ian Byrne MP

Secretary
Treasurer

Ian	Perrin	Policy and Delivery Manager	NHS Confederation
Jonathan	Rackham	Independent Advocate	Independent
Gus	Riddy	Government Relations & Public Affairs Officer	Liverpool Combined Authority
lynn	riley	Councillor	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Lesley	Robinson	Commissioned Services Manager	HC-One
Phoebe	Rowell	Head of Communications	Shared Lives Plus
Helen	Rowlands	Co-Chair	Cheshire Disabled People's Panel
Joan	Rutherford	MRTPI (Rtd.)	Care & Repair England
Anthony	Seasman	Project Manager	Liverpool John Moores University
Dan	Smith	Regional Organiser	UNISON North West
Heather	smith	Communications Director	The 99% Organisation
Jonathan	Steel	Lead fellow on social care	Royal College of Physicians
Barbie	Stoddart	Well-being C/O	HCONE
Owen	Stratford	Policy and Campaigns Advisor	DevoConnect
Dan	Sumners	Deputy director (Communications and policy)	Royal College of Physicians
Angela	Teeling	Asst branch sec & a Halton Cllr	Cwu Greater Mersey Amal Branch
Charlie	Whitford	Director North West & Regions	The MTC
Jayne	Wilson	Director of Development	Shared Lives Plus
Sue	Yeandle	Professor of Sociology	University of Sheffield

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:



Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place



Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group

Chair
Vice Chairs

Kim Johnson MP
Lord Alfon
Marie Rimmer MP
Margaret Greenwood MP
Mike Amesbury MP
Derek Twigg MP
Conor McGinn MP
Lord Hunt of Wirral

Lord Heselline
George Haworth MP
Paula Barker MP
Mick Whitley MP
Ian Byrne MP

Secretary
Treasurer

The Liverpool City Region All Party Parliamentary Group is kindly supported by:



Heseltine Institute for Public
Policy, Practice and Place