Brent

Item 9.1

Full Council – 16 November 2026

Labour Group Motion

A National Care Service: A new settlement for Dignity and Care

Brent Council supports the creation of a National Care Service, a service built around people, not profit, free at the point of use, properly funded and delivered with dignity, fairness and compassion.

This Council notes

- Social care is as essential as the NHS, helping older and disabled people and adults with support needs live safely, independently and with dignity.

- On 29 September 2026, Prime Minister Andy Burnham set out plans for a National Care Service, including free personal care for older people based on need, not ability to pay.

- UNISON's long running campaign highlights a fragmented, increasingly privatised care system where public money can become profit while workers face low pay, insecure conditions and inconsistent standards. It calls for quality care, fair national pay and conditions, workforce planning and sustainable funding.

- Brent allocates £182.8 million to adult social care in 2026/27, approximately 34% of the Council's published service-spending breakdown. Brent's Adult Social Care services are experiencing sustained growth in demand, at around 5% annually.

- People can face substantial care costs, exhausting lifetime savings and, in some cases, having to consider selling their homes.

- Councils face rising demand, increasingly complex needs and growing costs, which cannot be met indefinitely through council tax and short-term grants alone.

- Baroness Louise Casey's Independent Commission on Adult Social Care is developing reform proposals, with a report expected by summer 2027.

This Council believes

- The Labour Government's creation of the NHS in 1948 transformed healthcare. A National Care Service could be equally transformative, making care depend on need, not ability to pay.

- Care is not a commodity. Support should be determined by people's needs, not their wealth or postcode.

- Older people and families should not face anxiety over care costs while private providers extract profits from a publicly funded service sustained by dedicated care workers.

- A National Care Service must put people before profit, guarantee high-quality care free at the point of use, and provide fair pay, secure conditions and career progression.

- Lasting reform must be shaped by people receiving care, unpaid carers and the workforce, with cross-party and public support to endure across governments.

This Council resolves

(1) To support a National Care Service, free at the point of use, and back UNISON's campaign for care that puts people before profit and values its workforce.

(2) To call on the Government to ensure sustainable funding and reduce the financial burden on individuals, families and local councils so care is based on need rather than ability to pay.

(3) To submit evidence to the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care on Brent's pressures and work with UNISON, other unions, people receiving care, unpaid carers, providers, NHS partners and community organisations to help shape proposals, to ensure Brent has a strong voice in the design and funding of the National Care Service.

(4) To work with NHS and care partners on integration, prevention and hospital discharge, preparing Brent to help deliver a future National Care Service.

Councillor Ryan Hack
Brondesbury Park Ward