Brent

# Item 9.1(a)

## Full Council – 16 November 2026

## Amendment submitted by the Green Group to the Labour Group Motion

***Proposed amendment – To delete the wording indicated add the wording underlined in red:***

## 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, but has not set out an implementation timeline or interim support funding.

- 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~~ and 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 recipients, unpaid carers and ~~the workforce,~~ workers with cross-party and public support to endure across governments.

- Local councils cannot wait until the 2030s for reform. NCS rollout will be meaningless if the social care system collapses in the meantime.

**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~~ not ability to pay.

(3) To call on the Government to provide interim funding and support to councils to cope with the increased cost of private social care until the NCS is implemented.

(~~3~~ 4) 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~~ stakeholders and 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~~ NCS.

(~~4~~ 5) To work with NHS and care partners on integration, prevention and hospital discharge, preparing Brent ~~to help deliver~~ for a future National Care Service.

Councillor Mary Mitchell
Willesden Green Ward