**Meeting between the APPG on Adult Social Care and Andrew Gwynne MP, Shadow Minister for Social Care**

**Date and time:** Tuesday 12th December: 2pm

**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Andrew Gwynne Introduction**

**Andrew Gwynne (AG)** noted his previous involvement in the health and social care team under Andy Burham and as Public Health Minister. AG heighted that much of his Shadow Ministerial career has been in Health, and even as Shadow Secretary of State for Local Government he had an overarching remit involving social care.

AG said that a key reason behind taking on the role as Shadow Minister for Social Care is that this is an area that needs to be grasped and needs to be fixed. AG said that or far too long we’ve avoided the issues rather than tackling them. We want to make sure people live longer, healthier, more fulfilled lives.

AG said that to have geniality integrated person-centered social care we have to break down siloes. AG highlighted Labour’s commitment to making England a Marmot Nation is a mechanism to do this. AG said that the commitment states that the first time ever the next Labour Government will be serious about joining up health and wellbeing services including prevention and local Government. Social determinants of health need to be considered including jobs and housing, pushing for a cradle to grave ethos with social care at the centre.

AG has been tasked to oversee a 10-year programme of reform to achieve this. AG noted that Labour’s reform of the NHS can't be separate from the 10 year reform of social care.

The reform would be a 10 year pathway to a national care service. AG said that this would not be a new big organisation, but rather a Minister and the centre to set out a national framework of terms and conditions for pay and standards in the workforce and the services that are provided.

AG said that the ‘how’ has to be determined locally, what works in one area won't work in the other, there must be local solutions. AG emphasized the importance of co-production of these services, both with those who will access services and with the providers. AG said we can't have a top-down diktat from the Minister it has to be worked out locally.

AG shared three major elements of Labour’s Health Agenda, acute to community; analogue to digital; and fixing to preventing. AG said that these are equally relevant and perhaps even more so in social care.

AG highlighted the importance of social care as a facilitator of a good life. Noting that for some people it’s about having an independent life, for some it will be about returning to work, and for others it will be about being able to live social lives.

**Q & A Section**

**Nathan Jones (NJ)** noted that is was good of who Labour are are engaging with on co-production and how personalisation might work. NJ asked how can the APPG could help the Shadow team to achieve this?

**AG** said they are in the process of listening to the sector and the people who access social care services before building a vision for social care. AG said the team have built up a picture of what the issues are, what the pitfalls are and where delivery of services and outcomes should be for those who access them. AG said that the team would be grateful for any connection the APPG could make to make co-production a reality.

**NJ** asked how do we ensure that we have the proper pay, terms and conditions? And how do we ensure fair pay agreements are funded?

**AG** said noted that the reality is that neither the UK health or social care system can operate without immigration. Workforce planning requires that we train as many people as possible, but this must be alongside migrant labour.

AG said that fair pay and terms and conditions will have to be funded and conversations have been ongoing between Angela Rayner, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and Rachel Reeves, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer about how this would be funded.

AG shared the aspiration to professionalise the social care workforce. Noting the disparity between social care workers and health care works. AG said that he wants fluidity so that people can move between social care and the NHS. AG that that once pay structures, the terms and conditions, and training and career progressions are in place, fluidity between the NHS and social care becomes a reality.

**Isaac Samuels** asked what does this really mean for people's experience of good lives? Social care is very different from health care, and we need to understand the care as distinct from the NHS?

**AG** noted the concern around social care being a add on to medical care. AG said that for some people this will be the case, sharing experience of care home settings becoming more medical over the last 40 years. AG said that we need to ensure that funding flows appropriately from the NHS to social care.

AG said that a single pot of money and a single focus is required. AG noted the importance of getting ICSs involved in social care as well as providers and those who draw on care and support.

**Laura Catchpole** asked, what is Labour's plan for housing and a home first approach to social care?

**AG** said that housing and prevention is a personal priority. AG shared that he visited the University of Huddersfield to see a new centre on health and social care prevention. They have a smart home with innovative technology. AG said that if Labour is to deliver their promise of building over a 1 million homes, they must ensure that they are lifelong homes AG noted that this has no additional costs, rather it is about making sure that houses are made for across the life course. AG said that the problem with public housing is that there are limited options which leave people in limited options, emphasising the need to make sure that there is fluidity in the sector.

**Finn Turner Berry (FTB)** asked, what are Labour's plans for funding the pay differentials required for care career pathway to be realised and not be placed in competition between NHS and Social Care?

**AG** said that we must fund pay differentials if we're to ensure that people don't move across from social care to the NHS. AG said that having broadly similar pay differentials is integral if integration is to become a reality.

AG also noted the importance of transformation technology and artificial intelligence (AI). AG said he is looking to the idea of a Social Care Advisory Group, but noted the difficulty of who should be involved in the group.

The Chair thanked Andrew Gwynne for his time, offering the expertise of the APPG in any assistance he may need. The meeting closed.

**Outstanding Questions and Wider Contributions**

**Ella Owens, Home Care Association**

How do you plan to address zero-hours commissioning, which is the principal driver of the way in which care staff are employed?

**Laura Catchpole, MHA**

In the 10yr programme of reform that Andrew is thinking about, will it feature the care cap, due to be introduced in 2025?

**Kathryn Smith, Social Care Institute for Excellence**

I'm interested in the pledge for more affordable housing and would like to know how are the needs of people who draw on care and support, especially older people, going to be addressed in their plans?

**Finn Turner Berry, National Care Forum**

With Labour's deregulation of planning laws - how will they ensure quality? How will they ensure the availability of homes for individuals with a learning disability and autistic people. How will they enable ageing in place...? Deregulation carries huge risks.

**Michael Kazich, Shared Lives Plus**

Is this example of tangible integration of resources and planning in Glossop a model Labour would be interested in replicating elsewhere?

**Emily Bird, MHA**

What do you think of the idea of a Social Care Council, Andrew? Almost like a royal college for care professionals, to ensure consistency in training and the professionalisation you spoke about earlier?

**Documents shared relevant to conversation:**

[Putting People at the Heart of Care and Support: Emerging Approached to Co-Production](https://www.housinglin.org.uk/_assets/Resources/Housing/OtherOrganisation/20230830-Putting-People-at-the-heart-of-care-and-support-approaches-to-coproduction-final-version-for-the-improvement-board.pdf)

[Role of housing in the future of care and support](https://www.scie.org.uk/housing/role-of-housing)

**For more information**

Please contact the Secretariat of the Adult Social Care APPG via, ascappg@healthcommsconsulting.co.uk