



**Ealing Reclaim Social Care Action Group Newsletter**  
**January 2022**

**Update on recent developments**

Nationally, ERSCAG held its first meeting of 2022 with James Murray MP, one of the three local Ealing MPs, to discuss parliamentary developments on the Health & Care Bill; the recent White Paper and its relevance to local authority funding, care commissioning, and the need to re-position public service in a largely privatised care sector; as well as practical social care issues on the ground.

Locally, the new year started with participation by ERSCAG at meetings of the Health & Adult Services Standing Scrutiny Panel (12 January) and the Health and Well-Being Board (HWBB, 26 January). A long-planned ERSCAG meeting with the Council Leader (Peter Mason) and Cllr Blacker (chair of the HWBB) took place (17 January) and discussed care staffing levels, the London Living Wage, charging for social care, and how best to keep Councillors and senior Council staff informed about practical problems on the ground. The demands and challenges of receiving and delivering good social care and support are not always self-evident, so both Cllrs Mason and Blacker confirmed that they find it helpful to ensure that policy making is directly influenced by those most directly affected.

ERSCAG attended the launch of the final report of Ealing's Racial Equality Commission (27 January): we have still to study the document, but the Council's agreement to establish a Citizen Tribunal to monitor change seems excellent.

Local government elections are due on 5 May 2022. For updates on what your Council is doing see (for example) - [Council stands up for residents facing the cost-of-living hit and asks for help](#) and check if you are registered to vote - [Are you registered to vote?](#)

**Campaigns – current or upcoming**

On Thursday 3 February (7-9pm) a public meeting will discuss how to “End Social Care Disgrace”. The event (on zoom) will hear from Jan Shortt (National Pensioners Convention), Ali Treacher (UNITE), Tony O’Sullivan (chair of Keep Our NHS Public), Don O’Neal (disabled activist and author), & others. Organised

by the campaign for a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service (NaCSILS), the focus will be on what is *practically* to be done to improve social care. Register <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUoc-mtrD8rHdJ-jtmwJCOXwdAajK2yWqwL> ERSCAG is actively involved in the NaCSILS campaign.

Another national campaign involving ERSCAG aims to Scrap Social Care Charges. The House of Lords, when discussing the Health and Care legislation, have an amendment which tackles at least one aspect of the inequity of charging: <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3022/stages/15953/amendments/90380>.

Campaigners wrote in support of this amendment, and asked the bishops who take seats in the House of Lords to pay heed to the recent call by the Archbishop of Canterbury: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jan/07/provide-social-care-on-par-with-nhs-or-education-says-justin-welby>

A new coalition of campaign groups and trade unionists -“SOS NHS campaign” - is demanding emergency funding for the NHS, investment in a fully publicly owned NHS and guaranteed free healthcare for future generations, and proper pay and conditions for staff. See <https://sosnhs.org/our-vision/>. A national Day of Action is being called for Saturday 26 February – check out Ealing Save Our NHS ([info@ealingsaveournhs.org.uk](mailto:info@ealingsaveournhs.org.uk)) for details of local protests on the day (outside Ealing Hospital from noon). For some recent articles on privatisation: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jan/21/incentives-used-to-entice-nhs-consultants-to-do-private-work-must-be-disclosed>; <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jan/21/hundreds-of-englands-nhs-consultants-have-shares-in-private-clinics>

## Information and latest developments nationally

### Covid & Vaccinations:

- New regulations require frontline health and social care staff and volunteers, carrying out face to face CQC regulated activity, to be fully vaccinated by 1 April, unless medically exempt. (DHSC circular, 7/1/22).
- <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jan/12/use-of-vip-lane-to-award-covid-ppe-contracts-unlawful-high-court-rules>
- For reports on the human rights consequences of covid around the world see <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jan/25/governments-around-the-world-used-covid-to-erode-human-rights-report>

### Reports/reporting:

- A Radio 4 programme (24 January) entitled Valuing Care <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0012qh4> talked of the need to

value caring, and carers. Ai-jen, from a US organisation representing domestic workers, many of them carers, talks personally and powerfully about the very different experiences of two of her grandparents.

- The People's Inquiry into covid issued a final report (December 2021) entitled: *Misconduct in public office – why did so many people die unnecessarily?* Download report from: [www.peoplescovidinquiry.com](http://www.peoplescovidinquiry.com)
- Healthwatch Ealing provides a regular newsletter – contact them direct if you would like to subscribe or get an easy-read version – see their [website](#). If you want a copy in the post, phone on 0203 8860 830.
- Relatives and Residents Association gave evidence to the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights *“In the name of keeping people safe from the virus, other rights are being infringed and untold harm is being caused to lives and wellbeing. People in care are being left behind whilst the rest of the country gets back to normal. If this is what the Government meant by a protective ring, it is suffocating.”* Watch their oral evidence session [here](#); and written evidence [here](#)

#### **Staffing:**

- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jan/05/90-care-home-operators-in-england-declare-red-alert-over-staffing-covid>
- As part of the Made with Care recruitment campaign to fill around 105,000 sector vacancies, some [well-known faces](#) are inspiring more people to consider careers in adult social care. Ade Adepitan, paralympic medalist, journalist and TV presenter said on twitter: *"Adult social care workers have changed our family's life... If you think you too could make a difference in not one, but many people's lives, visit [Adult Social Care](#) to find a job that makes you proud."*

#### **Your Help Sought:**

A range of organisations are asking people to engage and feed in their lived experience to better inform policy making. For example:

- The Council is also running a “Safer Ealing for Women” listening exercise, including an anonymous [survey](#) (live until 4 February) with interactive map and focus groups where these issues will be discussed in greater depth. For more information around the listening exercise please visit [www.givemyview.com/saferforwomen](http://www.givemyview.com/saferforwomen).
- Healthwatch Ealing is run by Your Voice in Health & Social Care (YVHSC) which is looking for people who have recent experience of using Medequip services. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining a User Group Panel (which involves monthly meetings for 6 months-meeting virtually, to begin with; drafting a survey; and using the survey

results to make recommendations for Medequip. For more info contact David on 07944 391 223 or email [vip@yvpsc.org.uk](mailto:vip@yvpsc.org.uk)

- Ealing Carers Group plans a zoom meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February (11.30-1pm) about updating the Emergency Card & Contingency Planning for Carers: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82774034489?pwd=ZkFScU5pQ3M4K0p6VWt5bFBYd3dZUT09>

### **Sources of official advice/help**

Current official guidance about covid can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). The Department of Health & Social Care also issues regular updates about adult social care – to join their mailing list see [news@dhsc-mail.co.uk](mailto:news@dhsc-mail.co.uk) At the Ealing level, the Council also offers a lot of guidance – see [www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus) and/or [www.ealingtogether.org](http://www.ealingtogether.org)

### **Social care over the longer term**

In a study about the global increase in people suffering from dementia (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jan/06/number-adults-with-dementia-exceed-150-million-2050-study>) experts said it was clear that dementia presented “*a major and rapidly growing threat to future health and social care systems*” in every community, country and continent.

Perhaps, to end on a more positive note, you want to play a part in determining a better future, in which case you may be interested in a full day event being organised by Social Care Futures on 24<sup>th</sup> February. The morning session will be 'A big conversation about directing our own lives supporting the Whose Social Care is it Anyway inquiry' and the afternoon session will be 'Going again with self-directed support'. You can find more information [HERE](#); an 'easy read' version [HERE](#); and to book a place [Living the Lives we Want to Lead](#).

Follow Us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) at [Ealing Reclaim Social Care Action](#) and join our Facebook group [Ealing Reclaim Social Care Action Group](#). For more information, or copies of any of the ERSCAG papers mentioned here, contact ERSCAG Secretary [maggielbeirne@googlemail.com](mailto:maggielbeirne@googlemail.com) or [erscaginfo@gmail.com](mailto:erscaginfo@gmail.com)