

HAVERING **FABIAN** SOCIETY

HAVERING FABIAN

Volume 2 Edition 48 December 2021

**Havering
Fabian Society**
Covering: Jack
Stephens RIP,
meetings with John
Cruddas and on
Autism, articles
from Andy Achilleos
on COP 26 and an
article on Care Costs
plus future
meetings

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HAVERING FABIAN

VOLUME 2 EDITION 48 December 2021

Introduction

Welcome to the new edition of the Havering Fabian Newsletter. These are unusual times with the country on partial lockdown, and we have suspended meetings in person until some unknown point in the future. The newsletter will continue to provide updates and an opportunity for those of you confined to home to finalise those articles you always promised to write for us.

This edition contains a tribute to Jack Stephens from Alan Williams, a review of recent meetings, and an article from Andrew Achileos that previously appeared in Fabian Review. There is also an article on issues with Care Costs which we will no doubt revisit several times.

We now have 1,309 followers on twitter. Keep up to date at our twitter site @haveringfabians for the latest news. We have a blog now as well as our website <https://haveringfabians.org/posts/> You will need to follow us to get updates.

We are affiliated to the four local Labour Parties, and will do all we can to support their campaigns. Havering and Dagenham Young Labour are on twitter @HavAndDagYL and hope they reflect a growing interest in Labour politics in Havering.

As opinions are the lifeblood of politics, we welcome a reply to any of the articles. The Fabian Society exists to promote political debate, both within and outside the Labour Party. Progressive politics extends beyond the Labour Party and contributions from the Labour Movement as a whole are welcome.

With traditional meetings no longer possible, we moved discussion online, and have made use of Zoom to host a series of online sessions. Issues with technology have been limited and we have had an interesting range of speakers. We welcomed some interesting visitors from across Europe – Zoom is something we will use in future and is ideal if you cannot get to

our meetings in person. We have now resumed in person meeting and trialled a hybrid meeting. The recent surge in Covid infections may mean we resume Zoom meetings for a while – watch social media and e-mails for updates.



Our website address is <http://haverinfabians.org>. As you are no doubt aware GDPR means we need to keep our mailing list up to date. If you are not on our mailing list (we use Mailchimp – please check your spam folders!) contact us via the website or email and we will add you in.

A brief review of 2021.

The year began with Brexit allegedly sorted and the country under lockdown. The year ends with the Chief Brexit negotiator resigning from the Cabinet, and the county on the brink of another lockdown. Over the last month or so the government has lost the lead in the polls and a formerly safe seat. So the times may be changing?

The pandemic limited discussion on other matters. Although the government made some noises about levelling up, a remarkable number of fairly affluent northern seats managed to be included in the band of councils eligible for financial support including the Chancellors Richmond seat, one of the wealthiest in the North.

Also included in the top tier of funding was Barking and Dagenham Council. The Beam Park project appeared to be an ideal scheme to attract funding in terms of levelling up. The proposed station is necessary infrastructure requirement. This seems to have run into trouble reflecting that perhaps the levelling up agenda is not working as well as the government would wish.

Proposals were included in the budget for increasing funding to the National Health Service and Social Care. Although initially this would be

allocated to the NHS to deal with Covid related issues the longer term intention was to transfer funds to Social Care. A necessary decision but one that leaves no great certainty as to how Social Care might be funded in the long run. There is a separate article on this issue elsewhere in the newsletter.

Local Fabian meetings were mostly conducted by zoom, although towards the end of the year there were two in person meetings, the first was with Jon Cruddas primarily discussing COP26 and local regeneration issues. The second meeting was around autism with Steve Dixon from the Sycamore Trust and Angelina Leatherbarrow. The newsletter contains details of the discussion and both of these meetings which I hope you find interesting. In the year we had a zoom meeting with the then Shadow Minister for Education Kate Green which attracted our biggest attendance, a minimum of 37 although some estimates were significantly higher.

We are pleased that local member Sanchia Alasia was re-elected to a Local Societies seat on Fabian National Executive, which she marked by bringing cakes at the meeting in December. Looking forward, we are delighted to have Shadow Health Minister Wes Streeting MP who has recovered from cancer as the speaker at the AGM in February. We are also pleased that speaker the main meeting will be current Chair of the local Health Trust and former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith.

Obituaries were included within earlier editions of the newsletter. These including former Havering Councillor Del Smith, former Romford MP Dick Leonard and the former Chair of Hornchurch Labour Party Jack Steven, whose obituary appears December newsletter.

In May the GLA elections saw a fairly comfortable win for the incumbent Mayor Sadiq Khan. Locally, Judith Garfield failed to dent the Conservative majority in Redbridge and Havering. In an unexpected twist, the only ward in East London (from Waltham Forest, Hackney through Newham, Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge to show a swing to Labour in the Party section of the vote was – Upminster. Something that no one has been able to adequately to explain. Perhaps a quirk in the postal vote system?

Local election prospects for Labour in 2022 to remain bright with a range of new candidates and active campaigning throughout the borough. The

hope is Labour can break through in Havering in a way that's been anticipated at least 2 of the last 3 council elections. An increased Labour Group would bring a degree of stability to Havering Council, which is floundering at present as the result of a number of governance issues in particular to attempt of the Council Leader to influence boundary reorganisation.

2022 will also see Denis O Flynn standing down from the Council. Denis was first elected in 1971 While he has not served continuously, he would have completed 48 years of public service on the Council when he steps down. As many of you will know Maureen his wife died towards the end of 2021 and we send condolences to Dennis and all his family.

Another departure from the borough will see Ray Harris move North. Ray was the last Labour Leader of Havering Council. Labour lost control in 2002. Ray remained a Councillor until May 2006 and previously been uniquely Councillor in Barking and Dagenham and Newham. We wish Ray and wife Denise all the best in their move to the North of England and hope that they will stay in touch by social media where right actively posts on political matters.

While we have continued to function during the lockdown. Paid up Membership is down and one of the tasks for the New Year is to rebuild links with Members. The ability of the Society to attract speakers should help to achieve this and we are very pleased to have a current Shadow Cabinet Minister and a former Home Secretary on the list of people that will be speaking to this society over the coming year.

Jack Stephens RIP - Alan Williams pays tribute

Jack Stevens and his wife Betty were two of the first members of Hornchurch Labour Party I met when I attended my first meeting of the Hacton Labour Party in 1971. They soon became firm friends.

Their contribution to Hornchurch Labour Party cannot be overestimated. They were loyal though thick and thin, in success and defeat. They were always there whether at election time, Branch meetings or fish and chip suppers.

They supported me in a very real way when I was elected to the GLC in 1981 and in our gloomy days of the 1983 and 1987. But how they enjoyed coming to County Hall!

Jack of course went on to be Chairman of Hornchurch Labour Party. I always recall his delight when John Cryer won the seat in 1997 and he went on to support John in his time in the House of Commons in the 8 years he represented Hornchurch. I know that John joins me in saluting a hard working man who had a great social conscience and was admired not just in the Party but in the wider community. He had a full and active life. He will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with his son Gary and his family.

Alan Williams

Former GLC Member for Hornchurch , Havering Councillor and Labour candidate for Hornchurch in the 1983 and 1987 General Elections

We must be bold to tackle climate change - and electric vehicles are not a panacea, writes Andrew Achilleos

The outcomes from COP26 are, at best, modest – a far cry from the transformational policies we need to avert climate disaster. Analysis of the deal shows that we are on course for a global temperature rise of 2.4C, instead of the 1.5C outlined in the Paris Agreement. I know people don't want doom and gloom, and there are positives to learn from, but to really tackle the issue with any success we need the urgency of a Covid-style global response to climate change – not hollow words and forced tears from the podiums of power.

Climate change does not pose a distant threat. It is here now. Whilst we can mitigate some of the worst impacts on communities and protect the most vulnerable through, for example, innovative coastal defence measures or land management, we cannot avert climate change itself. Flood risks will increase year on year, heatwaves will be fatal for many, and freak weather events such as Barking's recent tornado will become commonplace.

So what can we do? As individuals we can all make more responsible choices, but if we are to bring about real change we need commitments from government. Labour government has promised it would spend £28bn per year until 2030 to invest in green jobs, cleaner air, and warmer homes, which is a good start. However, we also need to reimagine global supply chains to reduce emissions and unethical practices. Passing the buck with creative carbon accounting won't cut it anymore.

As we transition society away from fossil fuels towards an electrified future there is much to consider, not least whether we have the national grid capacity to power our ambitious plans for electric vehicles and heat networks. For many areas with older infrastructure the reality is that unless we invest in local renewable energy and energy storage solutions we will not be able to support our electric dreams. We must also consider how sustainable sourcing the materials needed and generating energy at such an enormous scale will be for the planet and for society.

A recent report from the APPG for Fair Fuel for UK Motorists and UK Hauliers outlined how 70 per cent of the world's cobalt, a key component of electric vehicle batteries, was sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2020. The DRC is one of the most politically corrupt nations in the world and the trade of cobalt relies heavily on child labour, allegedly under exploitation of Chinese tech giants.

At an electric vehicle infrastructure conference earlier this year, I asked the head of sustainability at a major UK car manufacturer whether they have safeguards in place to ensure the raw materials used in their vehicles are ethically sourced. The answer I got was: "The supply chain and the procurement process operate as ethically as they can given the availability of rare earth minerals." The industrial revolution that kickstarted the climate crisis was powered by exploiting the working classes, and people from poorer nations. The green industrial revolution must be a just transition for all.

Electric vehicles are definitely part of the solution, but they are not a panacea. Reducing emissions from transport is only one part of the challenge, but our interventions must be bold and broad. Any emission reduction plan should hold companies to account over their supply chains, devise a national strategy to increase grid capacity, and invest heavily in a public transport network fit for a net-zero climate positive Britain.

This article first appeared in the December Edition of Fabian Review

Councillor Andrew Achilleos is a Barking and Dagenham Councillor and Member Champion for climate change, as well as Chair and campaign organiser for Dagenham and Rainham CLP.

Jon Cruddas MP

Havering Fabians resumed in person meeting after a long break with a meeting on Thursday 11th November. The last meeting had been in February 2020, since which the Society has kept going by having regular meetings on line. It was encouraging that a number of regulars returned, with a few new faces attending as well. The speaker was Labour MP Jon Cruddas, a welcome guest who has spoken several times before and is always interesting.



Figure 1 We are glad to be back and the joy is clear!

Jon began by stating Parliament has not covered itself in glory with so many MPs maximising their earning power through second jobs.

He questioned exactly what was going on at COP26. There was a danger of "green washing" ¹ when the need was for changes that would deal with climate change. The conference was clearly dealing with an immediate

¹ Greenwashing is where a firm spends time and money advertising and marketing that their goods or services are environmentally friendly (when in fact, they are not!). In other words, greenwashing is the act of making false or misleading claims about the environmental benefits of a product, service, technology, etc.

crisis but without being clear what the intended outcome of the event was. This made it uncertain whether it will actually lead to addressing the critical temperate rise globally.

Jon had discussed the issue with the Labour Shadow Environment Minister Ed Miliband and they questioned the political will to achieve a carbon neutral position by 2050. A positive aspect of the conference to this point was that some politicians' who had regarded Global Climate Change as not a real threat now seem to have changed their position.



Figure 2 Jon expands on a point

Sustainability is a key issue for the Environment and has an impact on local developments. Buildings and population expansion are challenging. The

A13 is one of the worst roads for air quality in Greater London. There is an issue on how to manage growth in Greater London. You can drive along the A13 from Barking-to-Wennington and you will see so many cranes in the air as buildings are in progress

Infrastructure for sustainability locally would include improved and upgraded public transport, thus honouring previous promises, including provision of Beam Park station. The inclusion of a new station was a key element in the marketing of new homes in the Beam Park area, which had led to purchase of accommodation in good faith with signage currently on the site giving prominence to “*20 minutes to Fenchurch Street. Station*” on hoardings surrounding the development.

The delay in approval and confirming funding for the implementation of Beam Park Station was baffling. Barking and Dagenham was one of two Councils in London in the top tier for receipt of levelling up funding (the other being Newham) and not funding the infrastructure would have a detrimental impact on the development of much needed homes.

With significant new housing development in place and with more planned between Barking and Wennington, there is a need for significant public infrastructure needed (schools/public transport etc.,). The proposed Beam Park Station was a key element of this, but by no means the only facilities required. Not having the station would provide a less attractive proposition for potential residents and so less profit for the developers as sales prices and rents would be lower

Housing Developers were a powerful lobby that neither Gordon Brown nor Dave Cameron were able to constrain. If the infrastructure costs are funded by them there will be pressure to reduce the number of affordable homes to maintain the developers profit levels. Public Sector subsidy is therefore essential if new homes are to be delivered. The commitment from developers must be homes of decent size with high environmental standards. There was a flurry of questions and comments, with over 50% of attendees making a contribution.

David Marshall

Autism – what are the issues to address?

We had previously discussed what subjects we should discuss and autism was identified as an area of interest.

We had intended to have a further in person meeting. Events dictated otherwise and with help from Sanchia Alasia, we had our first hybrid meeting with people in the room and on Zoom.

This appeared to work quite well – feedback welcome from those who attended. We also recorded the session so it is available if anyone wants to catch up on proceedings let us know and a link can be provided.

We had two speakers; Steve Dixon from the Sycamore Trust and Angelina Leatherbarrow from Romford Labour Party.



Figure 3 The Sycamore Trust Logo

The Sycamore Trust are a local charity who work in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

[Sycamore Trust - Rooted in the community - Homepage](#)

Steve spoke first.

It was important to remember that autism is like a number of disabilities, which may not be immediately apparent and not visible to those who meet the individual. There are a number of people on the autism spectrum, with

an increasing number being diagnosed later in life. For example, recently Melanie Sykes (In her early 50s) and Christine McGuinness (who is 33/34) have had a lot of publicity over their diagnosis. This has helped others to realise that they too may be on the spectrum

The trust started in 1996 and hope to be around longer.

The Sycamore Trust needs to raise funds in order to keep services going and this has been very difficult for them. In the post Covid era national charities have done reasonably well, while local charities have struggled; for example, approaches to the banks to access some of their corporate social responsibility funding have tended to be unsuccessful as their support tends to go towards the bigger, national charities.

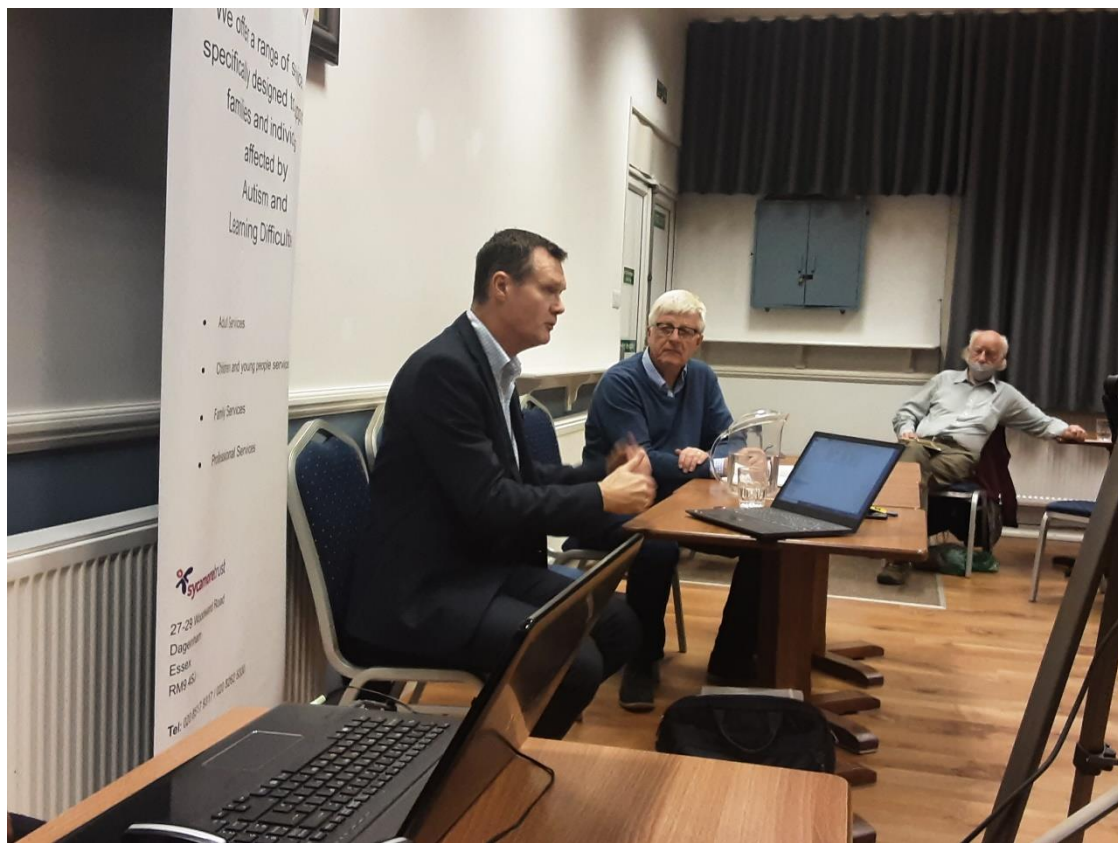


Figure 4 Steve Dixon starts the meeting with Keith Darvill and David Marshall looking on

Steve began by setting out what support the Sycamore Trust provided

One of the schemes that the Sycamore Trust is promoting is a project for 2, 3 and 4-year olds that are non-verbal and helping them be able to speak with pictures. The picture board is used and enables them to communicate

and from this to build sentences which has in some cases led to improvement

Youth clubs have the provided for the 12-18 year olds, and classes for 16 year olds teaching life skills such as ironing, how to cook beans on toast, how to stay safe online and using the tube - all things

that people can take for granted, but can be very difficult for those who are on the autism spectrum'

During the Covid period, working on teen interaction has been very difficult; some of those who have autism actually like being in an isolated position, making communication and interaction more problematic.

The position where schools had prepared to go back for some weeks announced this and then that was overturned within a day was particularly disorientating for number of those who suffer from autism as it's all about establishing a routine and avoiding surprises,



Figure 5 Steve and Keith take questions

The Sycamore Trust do also provide parental support group in Romford and Dagenham although mostly this is conducted via zoom,

A common call to the Sycamore Trust is that parents have had a diagnosis of their child as autistic and then don't know what to do next. This reflects a gap in service provision nationally which the Sycamore Trust helps to address

There is a post-18 support group and the trust provides parenting pathways for (young) women with children and mothers to be. This helps to keep the families together and keep the child out of care. The Trust also provides a law clinic via the University of East London on employment and housing issues as these can be particularly important to those with autism, who are not always aware of their rights for example a woman was paid £2.90 an hour was unaware that this was way below the minimum wage.

There is an autism shop in Romford with a sensory room so that if a child is over stimulated there by the noise or the smells they can go somewhere in order to find relief. This has become the focal point for the Trust activities

The Trust also provide autism awareness training to show what it's like for people that are on the spectrum. They are looking to extend this to businesses. People who are on the spectrum are not without ability, they just need to be assisted in a way that is supportive. It helps people with autism to be in employment although the levels of employment are particularly low and unemployment amongst autistic adults is high. This is despite characteristics normally regarded as desirable in employees – punctual, attention to detail, ability to follow instructions – being typical behaviours of those with autism.

The pandemic had limited funding and the Trust had received limited donations and Grant funding. The received significant support from the National Lottery, Children in Need and the Mayor of London. Most of the funding is for a two or three-year project and when these projects are complete, there is currently no further funding identified.

Autism awareness in the community as a whole is low. The Autism Awareness week at the beginning of April is an important way of raising the profile. The trust was visited by the Secretary for Health Matt Hancock in 2019 and this also helped to raise the profile. The Trust received support

from the Mayor's charities in Barking and Dagenham and Havering. A number of people that help have been affected by autism themselves.

The level of service provided within schools can be good but often isn't and that causes some of the problems that the next speaker discussed.

Angelina Leatherbarrow from Romford Labour Party has a particular interest in the impact on girls and women affected by autism. She had been referred and diagnosed as suffering from ADHD.

One of the significant issues is it takes a long time to be diagnosed, and this itself cause a problem as until a diagnosis is in place the levels of support that are available are limited. This is particularly the case with children where a long wait can be very detrimental to their progress.

Labour's autism manifesto² was seen as a positive step forward in order to stimulate debate and enable the issues that are inherent with autistic children to be talked about discussed in more detail. Needs differ a range of support needs to be provided.

Girls they tend to be quiet and compliant, so issues do not manifest themselves at school in the same way that young boys would. This does not mean that they are not suffering from stress and anxiety that's being stoked up within them and can manifest itself in different ways at a later date. For example, it is not unknown for children to begin to self-harm and unload their problems in a way that would not be apparent to the school.

This can make receiving support within the schools harder to obtain as whilst at school the children are not giving them the teachers any problem that does not necessarily mean that they are not suffering mental health issues themselves.

If this is not dealt with the inequalities will continue to be built in and it is a real danger that girls with autism will fall through the net and not get the support that would enable and their families to deal with the issues

Another of the other problems with autism that is often misdiagnosed for girls and provision is given to boys earlier because the way that the problems manifest themselves is more obvious.

² [The Labour Party Autism and Neurodiversity Manifesto – Neurodivergent Labour \(ndlabour.co.uk\)](https://ndlabour.co.uk)

There is a position of real need and there is a lack of funding available in order to address issues

Early Intervention is one of the important factors in being able to deal with issues and can make a big difference and prevent issues developing that lead to long-term mental health interventions. These are much more expensive so it is important to bake into the education system and children's social services the ability to provide autism interventions where they are required.

Typically, services are very intensive with perhaps one adult for two three children It has been estimated that around 700,000 ³people in the country are autistic and the National Autism Strategy⁴ will help to deal with this.

It is important to train teachers on autism awareness so that they are aware of the issues to look for and will be able to identify autistic children early. Intervention can be planned at an earlier stage and it is very important that teachers know what they should be looking for.

During the questions one of the issues that was raised with the ability of the council to intervene in within schools and that this was felt to be much reduced.

Where there are academies dealing with autism becomes the responsibility of the school. While some may deal with this in a positive and enlightened way, others may look more to a containment strategy and this does not address the issues.

The Council had limited powers to intervene in such positions. Silo's often exist within in schools with mean that teachers do not talk to each other. So there can be a real problem in being able to address the issues that affect many children in schools.

The Sycamore trust as a provider of services is already oversubscribed and would find it really difficult to deal with more cases. Greater identification leads to greater need for intervention leading to greater costs but does not generate additional funding. One of the longer-term issues is the ability to be able to deal with this particularly important to have a cohesive preschool service that would deal with the early Intervention. This is a gap in service

³ [Autism Statistics - The Autism Page Autism and SEN in numbers](#)

⁴ [National strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

provision generally the Sycamore Trust being one of the few agencies in the area that provides this.

A very interesting evening which helped pull together a number of issues. This is an area that needs more focus, and will form part of the increased focus on Mental Health, all the more important as a result of lockdown.

[Sycamore Trust - Rooted in the community - Donate](#)

After the meeting, Carole Tongue passed on some information. She had been involved in a fledging project to create a community room/training project for those on the spectrum to combat the appallingly low level of employment for those with Autism. Then Covid struck and there was no space to continue it. The Methodist Church has an enormous number of premises and a mission to support the most disadvantaged, and they were going to offer premises. Maybe the project can be revived someday.

She had supported a family member into employment in the Coop and now they realise what they have to do to support someone with autism. The relative also has a front of house theatre job which she was trained for, once again it shows what can be done. The owner of the theatre has a disabled child herself and that helped. Labour/Greens/Lib Dems must have an autism strategy with targets for employers and support for them to achieve that. Her relative had support, through government's access to work scheme, on nine shifts with someone working alongside her until she was absolutely sure of the job. It worked!

Care costs – a lot of issues and no easy answers

Care costs are a political issue. The population is getting older, and as a result there is a greater number of older people require care. The cost is increasing and has to be paid for.

There have been several attempts to address this and all have failed. The political fallout has been considerable. The 2017 Conservative election campaign floundered on this issue ⁵ as the manifesto position was overturned mid campaign.⁶

The previous government had tried to adopt an insurance based system without success. Private insurance is possible but on a limited scale.

Cross party consensus is probably essential as this is a long term issue that will not be resolved within the election cycle.

This is always going to be difficult so key principles are required.

The recent debate seemed focused on cost alone. This misses the bigger issue of what level of care should be provided. Overlap with health provision will be considerable although the desire to provide care outside of hospitals is understandable and necessary to avoid bed blocking.

Care needs will vary on an individual basis which complicates the issue as needs will vary. Any contributions from the individual or their families will vary with income and potentially wealth, also different in each case.

The approach to wealth being accessed to fund care is a matter contention. Inherited wealth is a major dividing line between the main parties. At one level high taxation on inheritance is used to redistribute, while at the other low tax is favoured so that wealth can be passed on to subsequent generations. A solution that meets both is not feasible.

⁵ [Conservative manifesto: Social care plans spark criticism - BBC News](#)

⁶ [Social care and the election – a divide in the road? | The King's Fund \(kingsfund.org.uk\)](#)

The level of care provided should be;

- at a level that provides dignity and independence
- allows individuals to live independently for as long as is practical
- meets basic standards at all times

There is an inherent danger in this approach in being able to reconcile the level of care provided (families are almost always going to want the best available) with the cost.

Society has shown a reluctance to meet costs via higher taxation, an unsustainable position with increasing demand.

If Society wants to limit the cost to the family, either by providing care for free or with a capped contribution, the balance needs to be funded from somewhere.

General taxation seems the best source. An across the board increase of 1 per cent would raise £4.5 billion⁷. This would seem a far better source than the National Insurance increase favoured by the current government and be much more equitable.

What we need to consider is how much funding will be required both now and as the population ages. Estimates from The Kings Fund⁸ put the sum at around £8 billion per annum for 2020/21 a figure that will only increase.

There are a number of other issues to address. Care staff are woefully undervalued and generally poorly paid. A better paid workforce would be beneficial in terms of motivation and career path for the individuals. This would increase cost further.

The cost of care is already significant with press reports suggesting some care packages can reach £4,500 per week. This seems on the high side and should not be acceptable as a starting point.

⁷ Increase basic rate of Income Tax by 1p The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has estimated that if this change was brought in this April, it would raise £4 billion in its first year and £4.45 billion in each of the two subsequent years

⁸ [How much money does the NHS need? | The King's Fund \(kingsfund.org.uk\)](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/how-much-money-does-the-nhs-need)

Private care homes can generate significant profits for the owners, although some have suffered as a result of the pandemic. While there is a philosophical angle that would want to see profit removed from care provision, there is not a developed public sector alternative available, so a mix of private and third sector provision is needed to meet (some of) the gap.

There could be a role for local authorities to step in, but if they do a stable funding regime would be a prerequisite. This is not yet in place.

The extent to which contributions from the individuals or their families are required is another dividing point. Completely free provision would leave individuals with pensions and private income. Some contribution for food and where relevant lodgings would seem equitable – for most people, entry into a care home is a move to another stage in life, and return to their own home is unlikely.

Given care packages would need to require provision of food and shelter, it is not unreasonable for there to be some charge. There may well be a desire from those that can afford it to pay for additional quality which it would be hard to oppose. This is likely to lead to a call from the free market right for vouchers.

Given that care packages are so different, and for some families and individuals will not be required, a tax based system seems more appropriate - everyone contributes but care is only provided to those that need it, as per the Health Service. People would be expected to contribute for the non-care element.

If £8 billion is required income tax would need to rise by 2%. This is the hard sell for any Government, and will be another case of the current taxpayers meeting the cost of their elders – so there needs to be a long term commitment to this approach so that the 20 years' olds paying additional tax now can be assured that if and when they have the need for care, there will be a regime in place that they can rely on. Hence the need for a consensus that will ensure the policies eventually adopted will continue after a change of Government.

Links

| | |
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| Blog | http://haveringfabians.wordpress.com/ |
| Website | https://haveringfabians.org/ |
| Twitter | https://twitter.com/HaveringFabians |
| Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/havering.fabians |
| LinkedIn | https://uk.linkedin.com/in/havering-fabians |

On line payment

There was a positive response to paying annual subscriptions on line with 70 % of those responding willing to pay on line. Details will be included in the next Havering Fabians email. Contact us for further details if you are not on the current mailing list. Thanks to the many of you that have paid for 2021 – *and to those of you that are about to ...*

Future Meetings

The indications around the vaccine are positive, but it will be some time before we can resume meetings in person. We will keep this under review and hope to meet at some point during 2022. We may continue with hybrid meetings to allow those who want to participate remotely to do so.

We will again have a panel of Councillors in the lead up to the Borough elections in May 2022. The meeting is provisionally on 17th January 2022, although we will confirm this once arrangements are finalised.

Wes Streeting had agreed to speak at our AGM in February 2022. The meeting will be on Friday 5th 7.30 pm either at Fairkytes or via Zoom.

Politics in Havering

Many of you will already be aware of the excellent Politics in Havering Blog, which we repost via our twitter feed. This gives a regular update on politics within the borough – a link is below, please follow them (and our blog!) for regular updates!

<https://haverling.blog/>

We value your input!

The Society invites speakers on a range of subjects; if you would like us to invite speakers on a particular subject let us know and we will try to oblige. The Society has a policy of rotating meetings around the Borough; if you need or can offer a lift or if you know of any suitable venues we could use, contact David Marshall.

Local Fabian Society Contacts

| | | |
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| Vice Chair Sam Gould | | |
| Treasurer Dave Baldock | | |



Chair Keith Darvill reports ...

Future Editions

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. The Fabian Society exists to promote progressive ideas from within and outside of the Labour movement. As such we are happy to publish articles in keeping with this broad ethos, but reserve the right not to include all or part of any material which falls outside of this parameter. Our next edition will be in March 2022 and will hopefully reflect being ever nearer to a return to something like normality, and we can stop looking at screens all day.

Havering Fabian Society is affiliated to

- National Fabian Society
- Dagenham and Rainham Labour Party
- Romford Labour Party
- Upminster and Hornchurch Labour Party
- Barking Labour Party
- Havering and Dagenham Young Labour

Havering Fabian Membership

To join Havering Fabian Society, please complete the following and send to David Marshall. You can also join the Society nationally; David has more details. You do not have to be a member of the Labour Party to join Havering Fabians, but you will need to be a Labour Party member to take part in Labour Party selections and elections.



Havering Fabian Society

Founded in 1974, the Society promotes progressive political thought in Havering and beyond. Membership of the Society is not necessary to attend meetings, and neither is membership of the Labour Party.

However, to participate in nominations to the Local Labour Parties or in selection conferences, membership of both is required. The Society meets regularly throughout the year, apart from the summer and during election campaigns. Local Membership is currently £10 waged, £5 unwaged.

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I\ we wish to join Havering Fabians

Name

Address

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.....postcode.....

E-mail.....

Phone number

Waged (£10) unwaged £5