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**C**ampaign for an **E**nglish **P**arliament  
*The Voice of England*

# **Think of England**

## **Number 88 : February 2019**



**Championing England  
& Challenging Prejudice**

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Number 88 February 2019

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## Campaign for an English Parliament Aims, Principles and Policies.

We campaign for an English Parliament, meaning a parliament for the people of England, for whom England is their chosen or inherited home and who are legally entitled to vote.

We campaign for an English Parliament with powers at least as great as those of Scotland's, i.e. a Parliament and Executive (Government) that can make Acts (primary legislation) on the same domestic issues (e.g. health, welfare & education) that are devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

The CEP works with academics, business groups, trades unions, think tanks and the media to create the conditions whereby UK MPs see that there is no alternative to the re-establishment of the English Parliament.

The CEP is a pressure group. It is not a political party. It does not contest elections.

The CEP is not and will not be affiliated to or formally linked with any political party

## Editorial:

The presentation I gave to the event in Winchester entitled Routes to an English Parliament included a section on the conflation of English and British and a particular offender being the BBC. Only the other day I was watching a BBC2 programme titled "A very British Renaissance" and presented by an 'historian' called Dr James Fox. The subject was Elizabethan England's achievement and discoveries. When talking about Francis Drake's voyage he referred to him as British and there were other occasions when British and English were used interchangeably or incorrectly. I have complained to the BBC quoting their advice to that they should be sensitive to the difference. (PRODUCERS GUIDELINES. STYLE & LANGUAGE. Be careful when using the word British and English. They are not interchangeable. Say British when you mean British and English when you mean English). On previous occasions when I have complained the answer has been that England is part of Britain. However this never seems to be applied to Scotland and Wales. I have included excerpts from the presentation in this edition but it can be found in full on our website. The UK Government continues to concrete over our countryside to service the continuing demands of our increased population. While the UK Government are so focussed on Brexit its duty to England is neglected. All last year the UK government's select committees were agonising over the state of social care in England. The results are less than reassuring and we are likely to hear more of "Citizens' Assemblies"!



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## Campaigning for England : Routes to an English Parliament

Outside the Conservative party conference in the spring of 1998 stood 6 members of the public. They were concerned that Scotland and to a lesser extent Wales were to be given forms of self governance that was not to be offered to England. They were the founding fathers (and mothers) of the Campaign for an English Parliament. They were unionists who were concerned that this policy would lead to the fracture of the UK along lines that ran counter to the intention of the 1707 Act (or Treaty) of Union. That Act of the then English Parliament decreed in Article III "That the United Kingdom of Great Britain be represented by one and the same Parliament, and Articles IV and VI : That all the subjects and parts of the United Kingdom shall be treated the same".



Statue of Alfred the Great, Winchester

The Founders were also concerned that their nascent organisation should not suffer from any kind of entryism. So they set up The Campaign for an English Parliament (CEP) as a company limited by guarantee. It has a board of Directors, the National Council, chosen from a pool of company members. Company members are elected from active supporters.

The fundamental policy of The Campaign for an English Parliament is that an English Parliament will represent all those for whom England is their chosen or inherited home and who are entitled to vote. Unfortunately it is necessary to emphasize this policy. Because, uniquely in the UK, an English Parliament is considered to be racially based or biased despite no such accusation being levied against proponents of national devolution in the rest of the UK. Such accusations betray the prejudices of the accusers themselves.

The first meeting of the CEP took place in London in June 1998 and members subsequently leafleted the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative conferences in the autumn of that year.

The newsletter was started in summer 1999 and in June 2000 about 50 members lobbied their MPs at the Houses of Parliament. In the autumn of 2003 the CEP mounted in London the first of 3 conferences on the future of England called "Parliament or Partition", which was addressed by the Liberal Democrat MP, Simon Hughes. This was in response to the UK government's intention to hold referenda on devolution to Regional Assemblies, which are 20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts. We opposed this and other types of destabilisation on a number of grounds but principally because it destroys the ancient unity of England.

Since then we have organised 2 further such conferences which were addressed by Simon Hughes MP, Canon Kenyon Wright, formerly chair of the Scottish constitutional convention, who supported an English Parliament and other academics such as Dr Simon Lee, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Hull University, Professor Hugo de Burgh, Professor of Journalism, Westminster University, Professor Colin Copus, de Montfort University and Professor Richard Wyn Jones

We have organised fringe meetings at party conferences in 2005 and 2008. In 2006 we were one of the founder sponsors of the English Music Festival

We have given written and oral evidence to the Justice Department's Committee on Devolution and the House of Lords Constitution Committee. We made written and oral submissions to the Calman and McKay Commissions. We were also invited to make a video presentation of our case to the British Library's exhibition called "Taking Liberties", which charted the rise of liberal thinking and the struggle for liberty by people in Britain.

Particular challenges for the CEP include prejudice, fear and conflation and confusion between British and English. In the UK there is a deep seated prejudice against anything that includes the word 'English'. Early on a well known Guardian columnist, when interviewed on the BBC, called the idea of an English Parliament racist. Strangely when my sister, who had heard the broadcast, asked for a transcript it was unavailable – shades of Watergate?

A noble baroness stated that campaigners for an English Parliament advocate an Aryan supremacy. That apparently unimpeachable organisation Hope not Hate has had to be challenged on two occasions for linking us with the far right. On one occasion that was traced back to the office of a prominent MP via the London School of Economics.

Despite being essentially an academic movement respected in academic circles we still receive underhand treatment such as agreeing to print articles, inviting us to speak or interviewing us and then withdrawing the facility at the last moment. Other forms of discrimination include exclusion from debates and personal insults such as walking away and refusing to listen. Rags have been shoved into the faces of our campaigners such that they could not speak and our camera pulled away in public. We have experienced physical assault and abuse such that we no longer leaflet or campaign on University campuses and have been barred from two.

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In addition there is the false and insulting accusation that the English flag is racist when, whatever the behaviour of members of other nationalities, their flag is never insulted. Examples of intimidation and harassment by the police experienced when the English flag is displayed or an English anthem is played include the police confiscating our national flags and our campaigners told to stop playing Jerusalem when campaigning in Stoke. Sometimes this comes in quite vicious forms such as reporting us to the police on the grounds that we would create a public nuisance.

The BBC and other British media conflate and confuse Britain and England. The presenter of a BBC programme called the mediaeval English composers Thomas Tallis and William Byrd British when they were unequivocally English. Dr. David Starkey's series based on his book the Monarchs of England was billed as a series on British monarchs! When were the monarchs, Macbeth, Malcolm and Alexander of Scotland ever called British? Other current examples are supermarkets that routinely use the national flags of Scotland and Wales but not England to mark their wares. Most recently in Lidl - Welsh cheddar with dragon flag, Scottish cheddar with the saltire, Somerset cheddar with British flag. An English Folk Group was described as a UK act on posters whilst Scottish, Welsh and Irish bands were billed as Scottish, Welsh or Irish.

With regard to politicians I could not put it better than Gareth Young and John Denham did in Open Democracy last year. "Where once politicians spoke of England when they meant Britain, they now speak of Britain when they mean England".

The people of England have been conditioned to think of themselves only as British so that they are confused into believing that the UK Parliament is an English Parliament. Indeed that confusion is perpetuated by the British media when reporting devolved matters. They rarely make it clear that these reports refer only to England. So it is not surprising that those who are not political geeks are unaware of the differences between the UK countries. This is particularly the case when reporting on the NHS and the full burden of tuition fees on students from England.

We know from campaigning on the street how much support there is for self-determination.

However there is a fear of association with anything described as English and we find that, like life in the Soviet Union, our supporters are afraid to raise their heads above the parapet for fear of losing their livelihoods. Even now as recently as last autumn we had a long time supporter ask for his details to be scrubbed from our records as he was concerned for his career.

Individually these events may be dismissed but cumulatively they portray a common prejudice.

In conclusion the issues that regionalisation, by whatever scheme, do not answer, cannot continually be ignored. Continued conversations around the subject is simply navel gazing.

The real questions are who speaks for England with central government, to ensure we are treated fairly, and who legislates for England?

We have always approached our campaign with grim determination. Tony Benn said "It's the same each time with progress. First they ignore you, then they say you're mad, then dangerous, then there's a pause and then you can't find anyone who disagrees with you."

It is interesting to speculate where we are on Tony Benn's scale.

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### **Current English Affairs: England's countryside, health and social care**

The UK government's assault on our countryside has been continually reported. In November 2017, from Matt Ridley in *The Times*

#### **Britain (they mean England! Ed.) doesn't need another green quango**

Michael Gove the environment secretary's proposed watchdog would lead to more interference when the countryside should be offered a revolution. He is right to promise higher, not lower, environmental standards once we leave the European Union. Britain has always been a pioneer of environmental policy, and indeed many of our protections pre-date our joining the EU. Besides, thanks to the productivity of our farmers, we can spare land for nature in increasing amounts, and thanks to new science and technology, we can afford ever more effective interventions on behalf of wildlife. Improvement, not just protection, is the aim. But if Mr Gove thinks that the way to achieve this is to set up a new statutory body, "independent of government" with "clear authority" whose job is to "uphold environmental standards", then he has clearly been spending far too much time with north London greens rather than real conservationists. This is their agenda, not wildlife's. Too many urban activists in the environmental movement simply see policy as a cash cow to be milked to support paper-pushers enforcing rules while doing precious little on the ground to help the environment.



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**Last October** Ben Webster, Environment Editor, The Times, reported:

### **Green belt is eaten up to meet appetite for new homes**

The green belt shrank by the biggest amount on record last year as councils sacrificed land to meet housing targets. More than 12,350 acres were cut from England's green belt by redrawing boundaries in the year to March 31, six times as much as in the previous year. The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) said that the figures, published by the ministry of housing, contradicted the government's claim that it was protecting the green belt.

England's green belts, which cover almost four million acres, are meant to prevent cities from sprawling by forbidding development in all but "exceptional circumstances". The Institute of Economic Affairs, a free-market think tank, says much of the protected land is not environmentally valuable or scenic. Councils are allocating it for development to meet government housing targets. If they miss the targets they could lose the right to determine where development takes place.

Developers target sites in the green belt because they are rural but within commuting distance of cities, making them more profitable than building on brownfield, or previously developed, land.

Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Warwick, Coventry, Sunderland, Croydon and Sefton in Merseyside were among the councils that released large amounts of green-belt land last year. Most of the changes were for housing, but Sunderland released green belt land for industrial development and the London borough of Sutton allocated protected land for traveller sites.

The CPRE's planning campaigner, said: "The government must stop heaping pressure on councils to deliver unrealistic targets that result in the green belt being chipped away. Building within or on land released from the green belt is not the solution: it results in low density, unaffordable homes. There was enough brownfield land in England for more than a million homes.

### **Plan for a million houses between Oxford and Cambridge puts countryside at risk**

The plans could lead to the loss of 67,000 acres of greenfield farmland and woodland and destroy an area of countryside larger than Birmingham, the CPRE has warned.

That is the number of homes the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has recommended by 2050 to boost economic growth in an area known as the "Oxford-Cambridge Arc".

The CPRE found that there was capacity for only 50,000 houses on previously developed land within the arc and added that only 2,200 affordable homes were built each year in the area, despite local authorities identifying a need for 12,000 such properties in the region.

About 230,000 homes are already proposed or under construction in the area, so meeting the one million target would require a huge increase in building, most of which would be on open countryside.

**In December** he reported: The government wants 300,000 homes to be built each year in England by the mid-2020s. Developers will be allowed to build on woodland and open countryside if they pay a tariff to promote wildlife hundreds of miles away under government plans published yesterday. Cherished green spaces may be destroyed without alternative sites being created nearby, conservationists said.

Under the wildlife offsetting scheme, a developer could pay a few hundred pounds per home to a "land broker" or "habitat bank" to compensate for damage. The value of the wildlife on a proposed development site would be assessed using a government metric to calculate the number of "biodiversity units" it was worth. The developer would have to buy 10 per cent more units than were destroyed to provide a so-called biodiversity net gain.

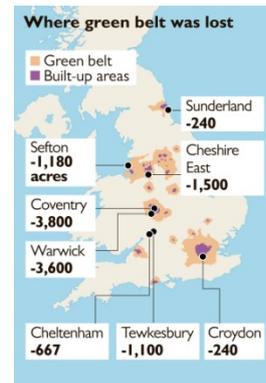
The money could be spent locally or elsewhere to improve a site's potential for hosting wildlife. The "compensatory habitat" might not be permanent, with the government suggesting one option might be that it was maintained for less than 25 years. The CPRE, said that trees planted in one area to compensate for those removed in another might be uprooted before they had matured to make way for development. The consultation document refers to a 255-home development in Teignmouth, Devon, as an example of how well the scheme works but local people have complained that the development will concrete over fields that are havens for wildlife.

Nick Atkinson, of the Woodland Trust, called for ancient woodland to be excluded from the scheme, saying that no amount of offsetting could compensate for its loss.

**Comment under article:** Furthermore the creation of new woodlands does not offset the damage done by destroying settled habitats which have an established ecosystem.

### **Map error puts ancient woodlands in jeopardy**

**January 26 2019**, The Times: Ben Webster, Environment Editor



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Thousands of woods that have stood for centuries risk being destroyed by development because they have been overlooked by an official register. The Ancient Woodland Inventory for England, produced in the 1980s, excluded most ancient woodlands under five acres because the mapping technology of the time failed to identify them, the Woodland Trust said.

Last year the government strengthened the protection of woodlands on the list, saying they could be built on only for “wholly exceptional reasons”. The Woodland Trust said that sites not on the inventory did not have that protection, despite evidence in old maps that they met the definition of ancient woodland: any area that has been wooded continuously since 1600.

Eagles Nest Wood, near Lancaster, is among thousands of sites under threat despite being recorded as woodland by the Ordnance Survey in 1847, 1895, 1919 and 1931, the trust said.

The Woodland Trust said that more than 540 of 52,000 ancient woods on the inventory were under threat from development in England but thousands more unlisted ones were at risk from future planning applications. “The inventory is currently maintained by just one member of staff at Natural England. It’s vital more resources are devoted to it,” a spokeswoman said.

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### Times 30/1/19: **Wildlife clock ticking**

The government's failure to make its environmental targets legally binding means that there is a "real danger" of missing them, Professor Dieter Helm, who advises ministers on wildlife in England, has said. Only 66 per cent of the most important sites were in a favourable condition. The target is 90 per cent by next year. The government reiterated its intention to put its 25-year plan on a statutory footing.

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### **Social care ignored in £20bn NHS reforms, says watchdog**

January 18 2019, The Times: Chris Smyth, Health Editor

Cuts to public health and training coupled with the neglect of social care risk derailing the £20 billion NHS reform plan, the spending watchdog warns today.

A ten-year plan focused on preventing ill health, boosting the NHS workforce and joining up care has not yet been backed by funding for these areas, the National Audit Office (NAO) says. Ministers have funnelled cash into the NHS but “key areas of health spending” have so far been ignored and unless money is committed to them the health service might not be able to deliver its promises to patients, the NAO says in a report.

Last week Theresa May made pledges on cancer and mental health as she revealed details of how annual funding increases averaging 3.4 per cent over five years would be spent.

However, while praising the move away from short-term bailouts, the watchdog points out that the money applies only to NHS England rather than broader health spending. Councils’ public health budgets for issues such as obesity and smoking have been cut by a quarter since 2014, even as ministers say that preventing illness will be crucial to the future of the NHS.

A shortage of doctors and nurses is now the most acute problem facing the health service but the ten-year plan delayed setting out a strategy to boost the workforce, while the training quango has repeatedly faced cuts. The NAO says that staff shortages could mean money is wasted on expensive agency doctors and nurses. Billions of pounds raided from infrastructure budgets has also hampered reform of services while the NHS repair backlog has risen to £6 billion, half of it classed as dangerous.

Sir Amyas Morse, head of the watchdog, said that while the NHS will “undoubtedly be the envy of other departments”, decisions about public health, social care and training in this year’s spending review will determine whether the NHS plan is achievable.

Reform plans for social care are now a year late and ministers have signalled that there is unlikely to be significant extra money, despite hundreds of thousands more elderly people going without help with daily tasks like washing. Simon Stevens, head of NHS England, warned that the long-term plan is reliant on social care not piling any more pressure on hospitals, but Ian Hudspeth of the Local Government Association, said that elderly care would “buckle under the weight of demand without more money”. Anita Charlesworth, of the Health Foundation think tank, said of the report: “It is essential that the government takes heed of this clear, independent evidence and recognises that further investment is needed to shore up the health service.”

Jonathan Ashworth, the shadow health secretary, said ministers were “robbing Peter to pay Paul by moving money designated for longer-term investment into day-to-day spending”.

A government spokesman said: “The NAO recognises that ‘the NHS long-term plan sets out a prudent approach to achieving the priorities and tests set by government’. The long-term plan, backed by a signifi-



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cant funding increase of £20.5 billion a year by 2023-24, rightly sets out that putting the NHS back on to a sustainable financial path is a key priority, and is essential to allowing the NHS to deliver further improvements in care.”

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### English politics: England’s environment, health and social care

**In November 2017 the Lords considered how environmental policy can be improved after Brexit.** Issues including the extent to which Natural England relies on obligations under EU law to fulfil its nature conservation objectives, the potential need for a new environmental enforcement body, and whether public authorities are given the resources to properly consider the duty to promote biodiversity featured in two evidence sessions of the Select Committee on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.



#### Questions were:

What powers should a new environmental body hold after we leave the EU?

What relationship could a new environmental body have with devolved administrations?

What opportunities and threats could Brexit bring to rural communities and agriculture?

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### House of Commons: Public Accounts Committee

*In March the Public Accounts Committee kicked off with a new Chief Executive of the Care Quality Commission (CQC), following the retirement of Sir David Behan. The CQC is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. It plays a vital role in ensuring people receive safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care.*

#### **New Chief Exec faces challenge to ensure CQC is fit for future**

The report says this is the third time it has reported on the Commission since 2012, which has improved significantly over this period. Areas where the Commission still needs to improve its current performance include making inspection reports available to the public quickly enough following an inspection and it needs to improve how it interacts with and regulates GP practices. It also has a number of challenges ahead. With health and care providers under severe financial pressure, the Commission’s workload is likely to increase if services deteriorate. The Commission needs to monitor this closely and understand the impact on its staff requirements.

The Commission wants to move to a more intelligence-driven regulatory approach, but to do so it must improve its information systems. It also has more work to do to ensure it has the wide range of intelligence it needs to identify early warning signs of poor care. The new Chief Executive will have a big task to ensure the Commission is able to tackle the big challenges that are on the horizon.

**In June** the Committee’s report warned that hospitals, GPs, community services and social care need to work together more effectively. Emergency admissions to hospitals continue to rise, despite the NHS’s efforts to reduce them. It is lamentable that nearly 1.5 million people could have avoided emergency admissions in 2016–17 if hospitals, GPs, community services and social care had worked together more effectively.

It is frustrating that NHS England and partners are making some progress in reducing the impact of emergency admissions for patients and hospitals when they do happen, but no impact on reducing the numbers of admissions that could have been avoided. NHS England needs to deliver on its five-year plan to move care into the community and out of hospitals.

**In July** the Committee considered the National Audit Office (NAO) report on the health and social care interface. The NAO found that financial pressure on the NHS and local government made it difficult for them to work together to transform services. Further, as local authorities and the NHS operate in different ways, it can be difficult for them to understand how they each make decisions and coordinate properly. The Committee took evidence from the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to explore how to improve the health and social care interface in a way that not only saves money, but gives a better experience for patients and those requiring care.

**In October** the Committee commented that the Government still lacked an effective overall strategy or plan to achieve the aim of integrating sectors. It should set out a costed 10-year plan for social care to go with its 10-year plan for the NHS. There has been a lot of talk within government over how to support and accelerate the integration of health and social care. In the past 20 years alone, there have been 12 white papers, green papers and consultations, and five independent reviews and consultations.

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There is widespread consensus that integration and joint working is the right way forward for the health and social care system to deliver the best and most effective outcomes for people and their families. There are examples across England where integrated working has been successfully applied. But it is a long way from being in place everywhere, with a range of longstanding legal, structural and cultural barriers hindering the pace and scale at which change can happen.



NHS logo in England

Financial pressures and an ageing population have both increased the need for joined-up working, with local authorities reducing real-terms spending on adult social care by 5.3% between 2010-11 and 2016-17, while the number of people in England aged 85 and over rose by 28% between 2006 and 2016.

The renaming of a Government department [Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)] is a sign of intent but with local authorities squeezed (as the Committee made clear in its report on the financial sustainability of local authorities) there is no realistic prospect of progress. Without this, people risk not getting joined-up, co-ordinated care that they need and risk getting poorer outcomes.

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### **House of Commons: Health and Social Care Committee**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has consulted on changes to existing regulations to enable an Accountable Care Contract (ACC) to be introduced. NHS England plans to consult on a draft contract. It has delayed its consultation pending the outcome of our inquiry and two judicial reviews on the legality of the changes it proposes. The DHSC signalled its intentions to consult again on legal directions to ensure “criteria for an accountable care organisations (ACOs) delivering primary medical services (GP services) are consistent with the criteria for existing providers of primary medical services.”



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

### **Government and NHS must improve communication of health and care reforms**

**In June** the Committee said that the (UK) Government and the NHS must improve how they communicate NHS reforms to the public in their report on integrated care. NHS and social care services are looking after a population which is living longer and with increasingly complex health and care needs, including multiple long-term conditions. Services need to change to reflect that and to be better organised around patients. Rising demand and costs for health and care are taking place alongside an unprecedented and prolonged squeeze on resources.

There are many examples of NHS and care services coming together to deliver better care and this kind of integration has been happening at local level for some time. However, further integration of services, and the organisations planning and delivering them, is too often hampered by current legislation.

The (UK) Government and national bodies have yet to explain the case for change clearly and persuasively. There has also been a failure to consistently engage with local leaders in the design of service changes. This has been true in the case of sustainability and transformation partnerships, STPs, and, more recently, ACOs— forms of healthcare services that share their name with but are essentially different to models from the US.

The Committee recognised the potential benefits of further integration and called on the Government to bring forward legislation to remove legal barriers imposed by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Many of the necessary changes require primary legislation. To rebuild the trust that previous and repeated top-down reorganisations have eroded, the Committee recommends representatives from the health and care community – the NHS, local government, professional bodies, patient groups and the voluntary sector – lead on the development of new legislative proposals for the Government to lay before the House in draft and present to the Health and Social Care Committee for pre-legislative scrutiny. If a decision is taken, following a careful evaluation of pilots, to extend the use of ACOs in the English NHS then the Committee recommends that these should be introduced in primary legislation as NHS bodies.

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### **MPs Call for Social Care Premium to fund personal care for all**

**In June** the Housing, Communities and Local Government and Health and Social Care Committees' joint report called for a sustainable funding solution for adult social care. It called for the introduction of a 'Social Care Premium', either as an additional element of National Insurance or with the premium paid into dedicated not-for-profit social insurance fund that people would be confident could only be used for social care. To ensure fairness between the generations, the premium should only be paid by those aged over 40 and extended to those over the age of 65, with the money being held in an independent, dedicated and audited fund to help gain public trust and acceptance for the measure.

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Individuals and employers should pay a new contribution into a dedicated fund set aside to help pay for the growing demand for adult social care and implement funding reforms.

Ahead of the Government's Green Paper, which is now expected in the autumn, the report highlights the urgent need to plug a funding gap estimated at up to £2.5 billion in the next financial year, before introducing wider funding reforms at both a local and national level to raise extra revenue with a long-term aspiration of providing social care free at the point of delivery.

The Committees say that the personal element of social care, such as help with washing, dressing and eating, should eventually be delivered free to everyone who needs it, although accommodation costs should continue to be paid on a means-tested basis. The Committees recommended that reform should begin by extending free personal care to people deemed to have 'critical' needs. Extra funds will also need to be raised to extend the care to those with moderate needs as well as those with substantial and critical needs and to provide sufficient resources to ensure the stability of the workforce and financial viability of care providers. Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee, said: " We heard during the inquiry that people would be willing to pay more if there was an absolute guarantee that the extra money would go on social care".

This report from MPs across the political spectrum also draws on the informed views of a Citizens' Assembly in setting out our recommendations to Government. Doing nothing cannot be an option."

**The Citizens' Assembly:** Reflecting the importance of public engagement in decision-making about this issue, as a key part of the inquiry, the Committees commissioned a Citizens' Assembly, with a representative sample of nearly 50 members of the public asked to consider how best to fund social care. Assembly members were taken through a process of learning, deliberating and decision-making. The Committees acknowledge that the challenge is not just addressing



the existing gap but to meet future need. They recommend that an independent body should be tasked with modelling requirements and providing the Government with two-yearly forecasts.

Further funding reforms outlined in the report include levying an extra amount of Inheritance Tax on estates valued above a certain threshold and capped at a percentage of the total value. This would enable the pooling of risk and prevent catastrophic costs to those receiving long term care. At a local level, the Committees are calling for reform of council tax valuations and bands and for local authorities to be able to use new funding from additional business rates retention in 2020 to fund social care rather than as a replacement of grants from the Government. The report is based on six principles for funding social care:

Providing high quality care

Considering working age adults as well as older people

Ensuring fairness on the 'who and how' we pay for social care, including between the generations

Aspiring over time towards universal access to personal care free at the point of delivery

Risk pooling - protecting people from catastrophic costs, and protecting a greater portion of their savings and assets

'Earmarking' of contributions to maintain public support

**In October** the Committee considered the Care Quality Commission's (CQC's) 2017/2018 State of Care report and is expected to examine the performance of service providers as reflected by the regulator. The report evaluated the quality of care provided across the health and social care sectors. The Committee will also question the Chair, Chief Executive and Chief Inspectors of the CQC about the CQC's own performance.

**In November** The Health and Social Care Committee heard from policy analysts and leading bodies in health and social care, on the implications of the Budget on areas of health spending not covered by the announcement of funding for the NHS over the next five years, made earlier that year (on which the Committee took evidence on 2 July). The Committee is also expected to consider the impact on the NHS of funding for those non-NHS services. Other areas expected to be covered include NHS capital expenditure and PFI, mental health spending, workforce spending, and the scope for improving productivity and efficiency as required by the Government's "financial tests" for the NHS. Further sessions are expected to be held following publication of the NHS 10-year plan.

**House of Lords:** The Lords Economic Affairs Committee

**In September** the Committee launched its inquiry into the social care system in England.

It focussed on the funding challenges faced by the social care system in England. They are seeking to assess

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the effectiveness of different funding models, the shortfalls in delivery and to make recommendations on how future social care demands can be met in England.

The Committee is seeking evidence to address and/or all of the following questions:

What are the funding challenges for social care in England, and how can they be overcome?

Why have successive governments been reluctant to address challenges in the delivery of social care?

How can a sustainable funding model for social care supported by a diverse and stable market be created?

How can the cost of the provision of social care be fairly distributed?

What lessons can be learnt from elsewhere in the United Kingdom, or from other countries, in how they approach social care?

**In October** the Committee began taking oral evidence. The witnesses were asked about the range of funding models available, the challenges faced by the sector and the pros and cons of different approaches to social care. They were also asked about the principles that should underpin the funding of social care, the role that the government should take in addressing the issue and the expectations held by the general public around how social care should be financed.

**In December** the Committee took evidence on the challenges for social care funding from the Alzheimer's Society, the Royal Mencap Society and Versus Arthritis. They were asked:

How well does the current social care system in England work for the people that these charities support?

What are the funding challenges for social care? Is the present means-tested system fair? Should there be greater integration between health and social care? If so, how can this be achieved? Are there any international or UK practices that England could learn from in the delivery of social care?

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**England's heroes/heroines: William Henry Fox Talbot**, (11 February 1800 – 17 September 1877) Dorset-born pioneer of photography which he developed independently of Daguerre in 1838. He went on to invent flash photography and the use of photographic negatives to make prints

He was an English scientist, inventor and photography pioneer who invented the salted paper and calotype processes, precursors to photographic processes of the later 19th and 20th centuries. His work, in the 1840s on photomechanical reproduction, led to the creation of the photoglyphic engraving process, the precursor to photogravure. He was the holder of a controversial patent which affected the early development of commercial photography in Britain. He was also a noted photographer who contributed to the development of photography as an artistic medium. He published *The Pencil of Nature* (1844–46), which was illustrated with original salted paper prints from his calotype negatives, and made some important early photographs of Oxford, Paris, Reading, and York.

A polymath, Talbot was elected to the Royal Society in 1831 for his work on the integral calculus, and researched in optics, chemistry, electricity and other subjects such as etymology and ancient history. Shortly after Louis Daguerre's invention of the daguerreotype was announced in early January 1839, without details, Talbot asserted priority of invention based on experiments he had begun in early 1834. At a meeting of the Royal Institution on 25 January 1839, Talbot exhibited several paper photographs he had made in 1835. Within a fortnight, he communicated the general nature of his process to the Royal Society, followed by more complete details a few weeks later. Daguerre did not publicly reveal any useful details until mid-August, although by the spring it had become clear that his process and Talbot's were very different. Earlier experimenters such as Thomas Wedgwood and Nicéphore Niépce had captured shadows and camera images with silver salts years before, but they could find no way to prevent their photographs from fatally darkening all over when exposed to daylight. Talbot devised several ways of chemically stabilizing his results, making them sufficiently insensitive to further exposure that direct sunlight could be used to print the negative image produced in the camera onto another sheet of salted paper, creating a positive. The translucent calotype negative made it possible to produce as many positive prints as desired by simple contact printing, whereas the daguerreotype was an opaque direct positive that could only be reproduced by copying it with a camera

On the other hand, the calotype, despite waxing of the negative to make the image clearer, still was not pin-sharp like the metallic daguerreotype, because the paper fibres blurred the printed image. The simpler salted paper process was normally used when making prints from calotype negatives.



William Henry Fox Talbot, by John Moffat, 1864

## IF YOU AGREE WITH US-JOIN US

**England's history: 2 Feb 1665 English forces captured New Amsterdam**, the centre of the Dutch colony in North America. The trading settlement on the island of Manhattan was re-named New York in honour of its new governor the Duke of York (later James II of England). New Amsterdam was a 17th-century Dutch settlement established at the southern tip of Manhattan Island that served as the seat of the colonial government in New Netherland. Its fort was meant to defend the fur trade operations of the Dutch West India Company in the North River (Hudson River). In 1624, it became a provincial extension of the Dutch Republic and was designated as the capital of the province in 1625. By 1655, the population of New Netherland had grown to 2,000 people, with 1,500 living in New Amsterdam. By 1664, the population had exploded to almost 9,000 people in New Netherland, 2,500 of whom lived in New Amsterdam, 1,000 lived near Fort Orange, and the remainder in other towns and villages.



The original city map of New Amsterdam, called the Castello Plan, from 1660 (the bottom left corner is approximately south, while the top right corner is approximately north)

After the Second Anglo-Dutch War of 1665–1667, England and the United Provinces of the Netherlands agreed to the status quo in the Treaty of Breda. The English kept the island of Manhattan, the Dutch giving up their claim to the town and the rest of the colony, while the English formally abandoned Surinam in South America, and the island of Run in the East Indies to the Dutch, confirming their control of the valuable Spice Islands. Today much of what was once New Amsterdam is New York City

### English culture: Candlemas Day: Also known in England as The Wives' Feast.

*"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight  
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,  
Winter is gone, and will not come again."*

Candlemas also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22–40. In accordance with Leviticus 12: a woman was to be presented for purification by sacrifice 33 days after a boy's circumcision. It falls on February 2, which is traditionally the 40th day of the Christmas–Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas. On Candlemas, many Christians (especially Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans, Orthodox and Roman Catholics) also bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year; for Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who referred to himself as the Light of the World. The Feast of the Presentation is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4th century AD in Jerusalem.



A tapestry from Strasbourg depicting the Purification of the Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

### Promotion: Parsnips

The parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is a root vegetable closely related to the carrot and parsley. It is a biennial plant usually grown as an annual. Its long, tuberous root has cream-colored skin and flesh, and left in the ground to mature, it becomes sweeter in flavour after winter frosts.

The parsnip is native to Eurasia. It has been used as a vegetable since antiquity and was cultivated by the Romans, although some confusion exists in the literature of the time between parsnips and carrots. It was used as a sweetener before the arrival in Europe of cane sugar.

The parsnip is usually cooked, but can also be eaten raw. It is high in vitamins and minerals, especially potassium. It also contains antioxidants and both soluble and insoluble dietary fiber. British parsnips are available in the shops for 11 months of the year, with the new season crop available from July. Thanks to their long UK season they are very eco-friendly as they are seldom transported from abroad. Similarly to other root vegetables their flavour intensifies throughout the year, making the later crop capable of standing up to stronger flavours in casseroles.

## IF YOU AGREE WITH US-JOIN US

While there are lots of parsnip varieties available, in the UK growers tend to grow either the Gladiator variety, which has a more bulbous top, or the Javelin variety, with a more tapering shape. Both varieties are ideal for UK growing due to their reliability, damage resistance and producing a good yield. Growing best on free draining sandy soil, parsnips were traditionally grown in the East of the country on the Norfolk Sands, the Fens region and up on the Lancaster peats. Over the years this has altered with Nottinghamshire also becoming an important production area.



### Recipe: Honey-mustard parsnip & potato bake

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/2138669/honeymustard-parsnip-and-potato-bake>

By Sarah Cook

Preparation 35 mins: Cook 1 hour: Serves 6

A versatile accompaniment with a creamy gratin sauce and crunchy breadcrumb topping

#### Ingredients

|                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 800g potato cut into 2½ cm cubes | 800g parsnip cut into 2½ cm cubes |
| 85g butter                       | 85g plain flour                   |
| 600ml milk                       | 2 tbsp wholegrain mustard         |
| 2 tbsp clear honey               | 2 tbsp white wine vinegar         |
| 85g fresh white bread, crumbled  | 25g grated parmesan               |



#### Method

Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Tip in the potatoes and parsnips, bring back to the boil and simmer for 5 mins. Gently drain so they don't rough up too much, then tip into a baking dish.

Melt the butter in a big saucepan, then stir in the flour and cook for 2 mins. Gradually stir in the milk to a smooth, lump-free sauce. Cook gently, stirring constantly, until the sauce is nicely thickened – about 5 mins. Stir in the mustard, honey, vinegar and some seasoning. Pour evenly over the potatoes. Mix the crumbs and cheese together, then scatter over the top and set aside until ready to bake. You can cover the dish and chill for up to 24 hrs before finishing.

Cook the bake at 200C/180C fan/ gas 6 for 30-40 mins until the top is crisp and golden and the sauce hot through.

Recipe from Good Food magazine, May 2012

**Trivia:** Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard: I'll support England at football and rugby

#### Hamish Macdonell, Scottish Political Editor, The Times

Richard Leonard, who was born in Yorkshire, said that he watched football with his Scottish wife. It is a revelation that will test even the most loyal Scottish Labour voter. The party's leader said that he would always support England in matches against Scotland. Richard Leonard, the Yorkshire-born trade unionist who was elected to lead Scottish Labour, said that although he had lived north of the border since university, his sporting heart resided with his birth country. Asked about football and rugby, Mr Leonard said: "If it's England v Scotland, I do support England. Every other game I will support either Scotland or England. I'm not going to make up something which would be inaccurate . . . my wife, who is Scottish, would bear that out. We watch football together."

**OUR PRECIOUS UNION! Theresa May June 2017**

**(Sucking England dry)**

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