

Green Party: Urgent investment needed to fix social care crisis



Green Party

20 March 2017

The Green Party has responded to a BBC investigation which revealed care firms have cancelled contracts with 95 UK councils, saying they cannot deliver services for the amount they are being paid [1].

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

“We are staring down the barrel of a social care crisis and the only way to fix it is proper investment. It is ludicrous that the Government keeps starving councils of funding and still expects them to deliver high quality social care and other vital services like libraries and youth centres.

“The £2bn over three years added in the budget for social care is simply not enough to sustain a system that is already on the verge of collapse because of the Government’s failure to act. Proper social care for the elderly should be a red line.

“The Green Party is the only party proposing that we make the right choice to invest in a secure future for our older people with free social care for everyone over 65.”

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39321579>

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Barbara Keeley responds to Panorama's upcoming report on care contract closures

Barbara Keeley

MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Social Care, commenting on Panorama's upcoming report on care contract closures, said:

"This is yet more evidence of this Government's social care crisis.

"With £4.6 billion cuts to social care in the last Parliament and rising pressures from demand, costs and wages, it is no surprise that an increasing number of care providers are finding it impossible to make their contracts work.

"The funding in the Budget for social care was only half what was needed for this year. It's time the Government gave social care the money it needs and develops a fair, long-term funding solution to provide sufficient good quality and dignified care for those who need it."

News story: Veterinary medicines containing zinc oxide: European referral process

The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use ([CVMP](#)) has reached a final conclusion that the benefit-risk for veterinary medicines containing zinc oxide is negative and that this class of products should be withdrawn.

The European Commission will now make the final decision on these products. It will consider the CVMP's recommendation and the evidence submitted by Member States. The Commission's decision is expected some time after June this year.

The VMD, in consultation with stakeholders, has submitted evidence to support a proposal for a 10 year transition period if medicines containing zinc oxide are to be withdrawn.

The background to the referral of these products and the developments since

our last announcement on GOV.UK on 6 February are set out below.

In February 2016 the Netherlands and France submitted a referral to the EMA for all veterinary medicines containing zinc oxide administered orally to food producing animals. The grounds for the referral were concerns regarding the potential risk that zinc oxide presents to the environment and the risk for co-selection of antimicrobial resistance. In order to evaluate the overall benefit:risk balance for the products, consideration was also to be given to the authorised treatment benefits.

In December 2016, the CVMP concluded that the treatment benefits of zinc oxide for the prevention of diarrhoea in pigs did not outweigh the environmental risk associated with their use. Based on its scientific conclusions, the CVMP recommended withdrawal of the marketing authorisations for these products. The committee's conclusion was challenged by the marketing authorisation holders of the affected products earlier this year. The CVMP undertook a re-examination of the opinion and concluded at its meeting in March 2017 that the benefit-risk balance for the products remains negative and the opinion should be upheld. The press release summary can be found on the [EMA website](#).

The initial conclusions of the CVMP were forwarded to Member States and the European Commission as it is the Commission that decides if and when a CVMP recommendation is adopted. Prior to adopting a final Decision, the Commission invited Member States to a meeting of its 'Standing Committee'.

At this meeting in January 2017, the potential impact that a withdrawal of these medicines would have on the pig industry was discussed. All Member States requested a transition period, if the medicines were to be withdrawn, but the requested length of such a period varied. The Commission representative invited Member States to submit evidence to support their proposed transition period by mid-March 2017.

The VMD, in consultation with stakeholders, has submitted evidence to support a request for a 10 year transition period if the medicines are to be withdrawn. This will allow for changes in pig farming practices to avoid increases in the occurrence of diarrhoea at weaning, to ensure animal welfare and prevent increases in the use of antibiotics.

Once the Commission has considered the evidence from all Member States, there will be a further meeting of the Standing Committee. This is expected to be in June (date to be confirmed). The Commission will then issue its Decision on the products.

The detailed grounds for the CVMP's opinion will be published on the EMA's website after the Commission adopts its final Decision.

[Previous news items](#)

Notice: NG34 9SL, Moy Park Limited: environmental permit application advertisement

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency office you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

Weekly Road Report – West End Ward



DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL – WEEKLY ROAD REPORT

REPORT FOR WEST END WARD WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 20 MARCH 2017

Perth Road (at Arnhall Drive) – temporary traffic lights for one week for gas main renewal. (However, please see my update from Scotland Gas Networks yesterday).

Blackness Road (at Rosefield Street) – temporary traffic lights for one week for Scottish Water mains renewal.

Nethergate (West Marketgait to South Tay Street) – closed for up to one week for carriageway resurfacing works.

SSE Glenagnes Cable Renewal – Lochee Road lane restrictions and closures on Blinshall Street, Fleuchar Street and Scott Street for 5 months.

Perth Road (at Springfield) – temporary traffic lights for up to one week for footway works.