

## Tory Health Ministers should be acting to address the challenges on the costs of care – Barbara Keeley

**Barbara**

**Keeley, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Social Care**, commenting on an investigation by the Health Service Journal and Disability United, which reveals that Clinical Commissioning Groups are drawing up new restrictions governing care for older and disabled people, said:

"It is deeply worrying that thousands of vulnerable people could be forced to move into care homes against their will just because that is a cheaper option than living at home.

"Evicting older or disabled people from their homes due to decisions about the cost of their care is unacceptable. This could also affect people who need care at home at the end of their lives.

"Tory Health Ministers should be acting to address the challenges on the costs of care. The Government must ensure that the NHS and social care has the funding it needs."

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## Arbitrary cap on the number of children the Government will support is not only cruel, but is bad policy – Debbie Abrahams

**Debbie**

**Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary**, commenting on the Government's two child limit on tax credits, said:

"An arbitrary cap on the number of children that the Government will support is not only cruel, but is bad policy.

As 90 per cent of lone parents are female, it is a further example of how

these

six years of wasted austerity have been borne on the backs of low income mothers.

“Of equal concern is the lack of detail surrounding the so-called ‘rape clause’. Should the burden of proof be placed upon survivors of rape by the Department for Work and Pensions, this would constitute a wholly unacceptable extension of the Department’s remit into deeply sensitive areas of women’s lives.

“People would be right to feel little confidence in the Government’s competence when approaching this highly sensitive issue. More so when viewed in the context of the punitive DWP culture fostered by this government.

“The sum of these deeply concerning questions, which hang over the policy as a whole, suggests that the only solution can be to scrap this policy once and for all. I urge the Prime Minister to do so before it takes effect.”

**Ends**

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## **The number of people forced to sleep rough on our streets is spiralling – John Healey**

**John Healey MP, Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Housing,** commenting on the latest rough sleeping statistics released today, said:

“It is a national scandal that in England in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the number of people forced to sleep rough on our streets is spiralling upwards – and this is only the tip of the iceberg.

“These figures are a terrible reminder of the consequences of Conservative Ministers’ seven years of failure on housing.

“The number of people sleeping rough fell under Labour but has more than doubled since 2010, and has risen every year under the Conservatives.

“This is a direct result of decisions made by Conservative Ministers: a steep drop in investment for affordable homes, crude cuts to housing benefit, reduced funding for homelessness services, and a refusal to

help private renters.

“Ministers’ long-promised housing white paper will fall at the first hurdle if it does not set out how they will end the national shame of rough sleeping, as Labour has committed to do.”

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## [This is a significant and welcome U-turn from the Prime Minister – Keir Starmer](#)

**Keir**

**Starmer MP, Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union**, commenting on

the Government’s announcement that they will publish a White Paper, said:

“This is a significant and welcome U-turn from the Prime Minister.

“Labour has repeatedly called for the Government to publish a plan for Brexit before Article 50 is triggered and we made clear Labour would table amendments on this to the Article 50 Bill.

“This U-turn comes just 24 hours after David Davis seemed to rule out a White Paper, and failed to answer repeated questions from MPs on all sides of the House.

“The Prime Minister now needs to confirm that this White Paper will be published in time to inform the Article 50 process, and that it will clear up the inconsistencies, gaps and risks outlined in her speech.”

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## [All workers deserve dignity safety and equality in the workplace and](#)

# respectful dress codes must be part of that – Sarah Champion

**Sarah Champion MP, Labour's**

**Secretary of State for Women and Equalities**, responding to a joint report from the parliamentary committees for Petitions and for Women and Equalities, said:

“All workers deserve dignity, safety and equality in the workplace and respectful dress codes must be part of that.

“The Government's insistence that the status quo is adequate on this issue is clearly not true. This report is clear that many women feel compelled to wear discriminatory outfits at work or face disciplinary action.

“Labour urges the Government to undertake its own review into lack of compliance amongst employers in this area and to bring forward suggestions on how greater equality in the workplace can be realised.”