

# SOCIAL CARE STAKEHOLDER MAP

*Parliament, the House of Lords and the Department of Health and Social Care.*

POSITION AS AT

13 OCTOBER 2026

SCOPE

England. Social care is a devolved matter.

PREPARED BY

Bridgehead Communications

INSIDE

02

HOW THE PIECES FIT

Context, the decision chain and who scrutinises it.

03

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Ministers, officials, the Casey Commission and the Whitehall levers.

04

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRONT BENCHES

Party health teams and the Health and Social Care Committee.

05

HOUSE OF COMMONS: APPG AND BACKBENCH

The adult social care APPG, other committees and the most active questioners.

06

HOUSE OF LORDS: SPOKESPEOPLE

Front benches, the Casey Commission chair and Lords groups.

07

HOUSE OF LORDS: PEERS WHO SHAPE THE DEBATE

Frequent questioners and long-standing champions.

08

SOURCES AND METHOD

Where each fact came from, how activity was measured and what we could not confirm.

WHY NOW

29 SEP 2026

The Prime Minister announced a National Care Service, to be established in the next Parliament.

22 JUL 2026

Alison McGovern became Minister of State for social care and mental health.

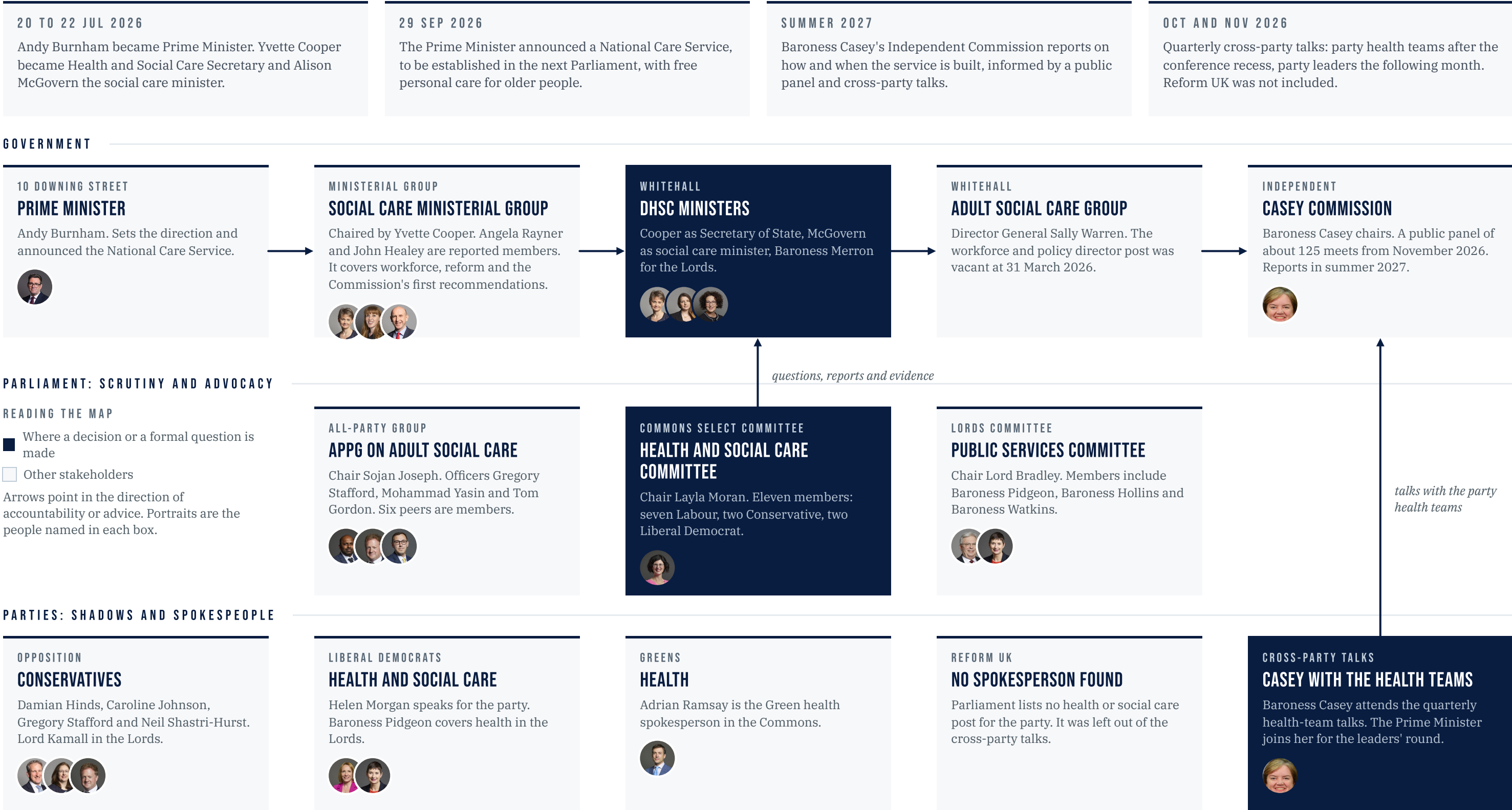
SUMMER 2027

Baroness Casey's Independent Commission on Adult Social Care is due to report.

STAKEHOLDER MAP / CONTEXT

HOW THE PIECES FIT

The decision chain, who scrutinises it and where the parties sit.



STAKEHOLDER MAP / WHITEHALL

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Ministers, officials and the Whitehall levers that decide how social care reform is built and paid for.

## MINISTERIAL TEAM



● LABOUR · PONTEFRAC, CASTLEFORD AND KNOTTINGLEY

### YVETTE COOPER MP

*Secretary of State for Health and Social Care* (since 20 Jul 2026)

Oversees social care policy. Chairs the ministerial group on social care, set up on 29 July 2026.



● LABOUR · BIRKENHEAD

### ALISON MCGOVERN MP

*Minister of State (Social Care and Mental Health)* (since 22 Jul 2026)

Responsible for adult social care, hospital discharge, frailty and dementia, end of life and palliative care, disabilities and SEND, mental health, and work and health.



● LABOUR · LIFE PEER

### BARONESS MERRON

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Women's Health and Maternity)* (in this role since 22 Jul 2026)

DHSC's minister in the House of Lords. Answered nearly all Lords written questions on social care in the past year.

## OTHER DHSC MINISTERS



● LABOUR · BRISTOL SOUTH

### KARIN SMYTH MP

*Minister of State for Health (Secondary Care)*

Brief includes health and social care integration, NHS workforce, urgent and emergency care, and devolution in England.



● LABOUR · KINGSTON UPON HULL NORTH AND COTTINGHAM

### DAME DIANA JOHNSON MP

*Minister of State (Public Health and Patient Safety)*

Brief includes neighbourhood health, community healthcare, general practice and pharmacy.



● LABOUR · BURY NORTH

### JAMES FRITH MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Health Innovation)*

Brief includes NHS data and technology, medtech, medicines, and research and innovation.



● LABOUR · STOCKTON NORTH

### CHRIS MCDONALD MP

*Minister of State (Science, Innovation and Investment)*

Joint appointment with the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade. DHSC brief includes the Office for Life Sciences.

## LEFT THE DHSC BRIEF IN 2026



● LABOUR · ABERAFAN MAESTEG

### STEPHEN KINNOCK MP

*Secretary of State for Wales*

Minister of State at DHSC from 8 Jul 2024 to 20 Jul 2026. Led the Government's Commons answers on social care until then.



● LABOUR · ILFORD NORTH

### WES STREETING MP

*Secretary of State for Defence*

Health and Social Care Secretary from 5 Jul 2024 to 14 May 2026.



● LABOUR · EALING NORTH

### JAMES MURRAY MP

*Financial Secretary to the Treasury*

Health and Social Care Secretary from 14 May to 20 Jul 2026. Now a Treasury minister.

## ACROSS WHITEHALL



● LABOUR · MAKERFIELD

### ANDY BURNHAM MP

*Prime Minister*

Announced a National Care Service on 29 September 2026.



### JOHN HEALEY MP AND ANGELA RAYNER MP

*Chancellor of the Exchequer; Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government*

Reported members of the ministerial group on social care reform. The Treasury sets the funding envelope and councils commission and part-fund adult social care.



● LABOUR · WOLVERHAMPTON SOUTH EAST

### PAT MCFADDEN MP

*Secretary of State for Work and Pensions*

Runs Carer's Allowance. Triple lock savings are earmarked for the National Care Service.

## OFFICIALS: ADULT SOCIAL CARE GROUP

**SAMANTHA JONES** since Jun 2025  
Permanent Secretary

**SALLY WARREN** since Oct 2025  
Director General, Adult Social Care

**BEN DYSON** sponsors the Casey Commission  
Director, ASC Strategy and Reform

**KARA TOWERS**  
Director, ASC Data, Assurance and Resilience

**VACANT** at 31 Mar 2026  
Director, ASC Workforce and Policy

**SARAH MCCLINTON**  
Chief Social Worker for Adults

**INTERIM COVER** after Deborah Sturdy retired in Jul 2026  
Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care

**CARE QUALITY COMMISSION**  
Regulator of adult social care.

**NHS ENGLAND**  
Chief Executive Sir Jim Mackey.

Posts as published in the DHSC organogram at 31 March 2026.

STAKEHOLDER MAP / HOUSE OF COMMONS (1 OF 2)

# HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRONT BENCHES

Party health teams, the cross-party talks and the Health and Social Care Committee.

## CONSERVATIVES: SHADOW HEALTH TEAM



● CONSERVATIVE · EAST HAMPSHIRE

### DAMIAN HINDS MP

Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Succeeded Stuart Andrew in the August 2026 shadow cabinet reshuffle. Education Secretary from 2018 to 2019.



● CONSERVATIVE · SLEAFORD AND NORTH HYKEHAM

### DR CAROLINE JOHNSON MP

Shadow Minister (Health and Social Care)

Consultant paediatrician. The Conservatives' most frequent speaker on social care in the Commons over the past year.



● CONSERVATIVE · FARNHAM AND BORDON

### GREGORY STAFFORD MP

Shadow Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Health and Social Care)

Also an Opposition Assistant Whip, a member of the Health and Social Care Committee and an officer of the APPG on Adult Social Care.



● CONSERVATIVE · SOLIHULL WEST AND SHIRLEY

### DR NEIL SHASTRI-HURST MP

Shadow Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Health and Social Care)

Sits on the Justice Committee.



● CONSERVATIVE · DAVENTRY

### STUART ANDREW MP

Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary, 22 Jul 2025 to 31 Aug 2026

Attended the first cross-party social care talks for the Conservatives.

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, GREENS AND REFORM UK



● LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · NORTH SHROPSHIRE

### HELEN MORGAN MP

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Health and Social Care)

Set three Liberal Democrat tests for the cross-party talks: reform Carer's Allowance, a universal safety net including free personal care, and protection from catastrophic costs.



● LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · WOKINGHAM

### CLIVE JONES MP

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Care and Carers)

Took the care and carers brief on 5 October 2026, the day Alison Bennett's post ended.



● LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · WINCHESTER

### DR DANNY CHAMBERS MP

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Mental Health)

Mental health sits within Alison McGovern's ministerial brief.



● GREEN · WAVENEY VALLEY

### ADRIAN RAMSAY MP

Green Spokesperson (Health)

Also covers dentistry. Sits on the Environmental Audit Committee.



● REFORM UK

### NO SPOKESPERSON IDENTIFIED

Parliament lists no front-bench health or social care post for the party. It was not included in the cross-party talks (PoliticsHome, 7 Sep 2026). Suella Braverman and Lee Anderson are its most frequent questioners on social care.

NOT FOUND

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE



● LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · OXFORD WEST AND ABINGDON

### LAYLA MORAN MP

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Also sits on the Liaison Committee, which questions the Prime Minister.



● Danny Beales

Labour · Uxbridge and South Ruislip



● Ben Coleman

Labour · Chelsea and Fulham



● Dr Beccy Cooper

Labour · Worthing West



● Jen Craft

Labour · Thurrock



● Josh Fenton-Glynn

Labour · Calder Valley



● Alex McIntyre

Labour · Gloucester



● Paulette Hamilton

Labour · Birmingham Erdington



● Joe Robertson

Conservative · Isle of Wight East



● Andrew George

Liberal Democrat · St Ives

### MAKE-UP

Seven Labour, two Conservative and two Liberal Democrat members. Gregory Stafford sits on both the committee and the APPG on Adult Social Care. Ben Coleman and Josh Fenton-Glynn are also APPG members.

### CROSS-PARTY TALKS

Quarterly rounds. Party health teams meet after the conference recess in October, with Baroness Casey attending. Party leaders meet the following month, joined by the Prime Minister. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats take part (PoliticsHome, 7 Sep 2026).

STAKEHOLDER MAP / HOUSE OF COMMONS (2 OF 2)

# HOUSE OF COMMONS: APPG AND BACKBENCH

The all-party group, other committees and the MPs who ask most about social care.

## APPG ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE



LABOUR · ASHFORD

**SOJAN JOSEPH MP**

Chair, APPG on Adult Social Care

Also sits on the Environmental Audit Committee.



LABOUR · BEDFORD

**MOHAMMAD YASIN MP**

Officer, APPG on Adult Social Care



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · HARROGATE AND KNARESBOROUGH

**TOM GORDON MP**

Officer, APPG on Adult Social Care

Sits on the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

## OTHER COMMONS MEMBERS

|                                                                  |                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dame Caroline Dinenage</b><br>Conservative · Gosport          | <b>Rachael Maskell</b><br>Labour · York Central                  |
| <b>Jess Asato</b><br>Labour · Lowestoft                          | <b>Dr Ellie Chowns</b><br>Green · North Herefordshire            |
| <b>Sarah Owen</b><br>Labour · Luton North                        | <b>Dr Marie Tidball</b><br>Labour · Penistone and Stocksbridge   |
| <b>Anna Dixon</b><br>Labour · Shipley                            | <b>Pippa Heylings</b><br>Liberal Democrat · South Cambridgeshire |
| <b>Freddie van Mierlo</b><br>Liberal Democrat · Henley and Thame | <b>Michelle Welsh</b><br>Labour · Sherwood Forest                |
| <b>Tim Farron</b><br>Liberal Democrat · Westmorland and Lonsdale | <b>Neil Duncan-Jordan</b><br>Labour · Poole                      |

## MOST ACTIVE QUESTIONERS

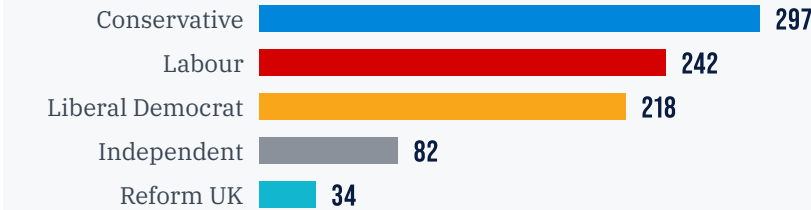
25 or more contributions 15 to 24 8 to 14

|                                                                                                                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| <b>James McMurdock MP</b><br>Independent · South Basildon and East Thurrock                                                     | 3 |
| <b>Sir John Hayes MP</b><br>Conservative · South Holland and The Deepings                                                       | 3 |
| <b>Mike Wood MP</b><br>Conservative · Kingswinford and South Staffordshire<br>Shadow Minister (Cabinet Office)                  | 3 |
| <b>Charlie Dewhirst MP</b><br>Conservative · Bridlington and The Wolds<br>Shadow Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Cabinet Office) | 3 |
| <b>Jim Shannon MP</b><br>DUP · Strangford                                                                                       | 3 |
| <b>Andrew Snowden MP</b><br>Conservative · Fylde<br>Shadow Minister (Work and Pensions)                                         | 3 |
| <b>Dr Al Pinkerton MP</b><br>Liberal Democrat · Surrey Heath<br>Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Europe)                          | 2 |
| <b>Edward Argar MP</b><br>Conservative · Melton and Syston<br>Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary to Jul 2025               | 2 |
| <b>Alison Bennett MP</b><br>Liberal Democrat · Mid Sussex                                                                       | 2 |
| <b>Edward Morello MP</b><br>Liberal Democrat · West Dorset                                                                      | 2 |
| <b>Steve Darling MP</b><br>Liberal Democrat · Torbay<br>Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Work and Pensions)                       | 2 |
| <b>Suella Braverman MP</b><br>Reform UK · Fareham and Waterlooville                                                             | 2 |
| <b>Dr Luke Evans MP</b><br>Conservative · Hinckley and Bosworth<br>Shadow Minister (Energy Security and Net Zero)               | 2 |
| <b>Helen Maguire MP</b><br>Liberal Democrat · Epsom and Ewell<br>Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Primary Care and Cancer)        | 2 |

## OTHER COMMITTEES TO WATCH

|                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ms Abena Oppong-Asare MP</b><br>Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee<br>Councils commission and part-fund adult social care. |
| <b>Debbie Abrahams MP</b><br>Chair, Work and Pensions Committee<br>Carer's Allowance and the State Pension sit in the department it scrutinises.      |
| <b>Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP</b><br>Chair, Public Accounts Committee<br>Scrutinises value for money in DHSC spending.                             |
| <b>Dame Meg Hillier MP</b><br>Chair, Treasury Committee<br>Scrutinises the Treasury, which sets the funding envelope.                                 |

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON SOCIAL CARE, BY PARTY



Commons written questions to DHSC matching social care terms, 13 Oct 2025 to 13 Oct 2026, by our text match. 228 MPs asked at least one. Labour includes Labour Co-operative. Other parties asked 38.

## BEHIND THE APPG

Its advisory group of provider organisations includes the National Care Forum, Anchor, Dimensions, MHA, Community Integrated Care, Affinity Trust, Learning Disability England and Achieve Together. The group contributes financially to the APPG. The secretariat contact is a plmr.co.uk address.

STAKEHOLDER MAP / HOUSE OF LORDS (1 OF 2)

# HOUSE OF LORDS: SPOKESPEOPLE

Front benches, the Casey Commission chair and the Lords groups that work on social care.

## FRONT BENCHES AND THE CASEY COMMISSION



● LABOUR · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS MERRON**

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Women's Health and Maternity)* (in this role since 22 Jul 2026)

DHSC's minister in the House of Lords. Answered nearly all Lords written questions on social care in the past year.



● CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**LORD KAMALL**

*Shadow Minister (Health and Social Care)* (since 1 Sep 2024)

The Conservatives' health and social care spokesperson in the Lords and its most frequent questioner on social care. Parliamentary Under-Secretary at DHSC from 2021 to 2022.



● LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS PIDGEON**

*Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson (Health)* (since 13 May 2026)

Succeeded Lord Scriven. Member of the Lords Public Services Committee.



● CROSSBENCH · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS CASEY OF BLACKSTOCK**

*Chair, Independent Commission on Adult Social Care*

Recommends how and when the National Care Service is built. The commission reports in summer 2027 and runs a public panel of about 125 people from November 2026 to April 2027.

## PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE (LORDS)



● LABOUR · LIFE PEER

**LORD BRADLEY**

*Chair, Public Services Committee (Lords)*

We found no current adult social care inquiry.



● LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · LIFE PEER

**Baroness Pidgeon**

Liberal Democrat · Life peer



● CROSSBENCH · LIFE PEER

**Baroness Hollins**

Crossbench · Life peer



● CROSSBENCH · LIFE PEER

**Baroness Watkins of Tavistock**

Crossbench · Life peer



● CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**Baroness Shawcross-Wolfson**

Conservative · Life peer

Also on the committee: Lord Mott, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Lord Mohammed of Tinsley, Baroness Nichols of Selby, Lord Barber of Chittlehampton, Lord Johnson of Marylebone and Baroness Redfern.

## LORDS MEMBERS OF THE APPG



● LABOUR

**Lord Blunkett**

Labour



● LABOUR

**Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe**

Labour



● CROSSBENCH

**Baroness Grey-Thompson**

Crossbench



● CROSSBENCH

**Lord Best**

Crossbench



● LORDS SPIRITUAL

**Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham**

Lords Spiritual



● NON-AFFILIATED

**Lord Taylor of Warwick**

Non-affiliated

Six peers are members of the APPG on Adult Social Care: Lord Blunkett and Baroness Warwick (Labour), Baroness Grey-Thompson and Lord Best (Crossbench), the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, and Lord Taylor of Warwick (non-affiliated).

## HOW THE LORDS WORKS ON SOCIAL CARE

**WHO ANSWERS**

Baroness Merron is the only DHSC minister in the Lords listed on GOV.UK. She answered nearly all of the social care written questions put to the department there in the past year. Her title covers women's health and maternity.

**WHO ASKS**

Conservative peers tabled just over half of the roughly 115 social care written questions in the Lords in the past year. Lord Kamall led, followed by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath and Lord Scriven.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



STAKEHOLDER MAP / HOUSE OF LORDS (2 OF 2)

# HOUSE OF LORDS: PEERS WHO SHAPE THE DEBATE

Frequent questioners and long-standing champions in carers, health and disability.

## PEERS WHO ASK, SPEAK AND CAMPAIGN



LABOUR · LIFE PEER

**LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH**

*Backbencher*

The second most frequent Lords questioner on social care after Lord Kamall.



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT · LIFE PEER

**LORD SCRIVEN**

*Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson (Health), Oct 2024 to May 2026*

Third most frequent Lords questioner on social care.



CROSSBENCH · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANDAFF**

*Crossbench; Deputy Speaker*

Professor of palliative medicine. A frequent speaker on care and end of life.



CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS MACLEAN OF REDDITCH**

*Conservative backbencher*

Seven contributions on social care in the past year.



CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**EARL HOWE**

*Shadow Deputy Leader of the Lords*

Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Health from 2010 to 2015.



CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH**

*Conservative backbencher*

Eight contributions on social care in the past year.



LABOUR · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK**

*Labour backbencher*

Six contributions on social care in the past year.



CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS SHAWCROSS-WOLFSON**

*Member, Public Services Committee*



CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS SANDERSON OF WELTON**

*Conservative backbencher*

Four written questions on social care in the past year.



LABOUR · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS PITKEATHLEY**

*Labour; Deputy Speaker*

Founding chief executive of Carers UK.



LABOUR · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS KEELEY**

*Labour backbencher*

Commons shadow minister for mental health and social care from 2016 to 2020.



CONSERVATIVE · LIFE PEER

**LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM**

*Conservative; Deputy Speaker*

Former Cabinet minister.



CROSSBENCH · LIFE PEER

**LORD STEVENS OF BIRMINGHAM**

*Crossbench*

Chief executive of NHS England from 2014 to 2021.



CROSSBENCH · LIFE PEER

**BARONESS CAMPBELL OF SURBITON**

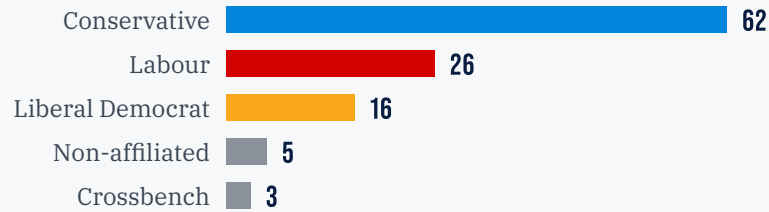
*Crossbench*

Disability rights campaigner.

### READING THIS PAGE

Peers are ordered by the evidence that they act on social care: questions put to Baroness Merron first, then long-standing champions with a record in carers, health service leadership or disability.

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON SOCIAL CARE, BY PARTY



Lords written questions to DHSC matching social care terms, 13 Oct 2025 to 13 Oct 2026, by our text match. 36 peers asked at least one. The DUP asked three.

### WHERE THE ACTIVITY IS

Lords written questions and short debates are the main routes to the department, and Baroness Merron answers for DHSC in both. Lord Kamall and Baroness Pidgeon sit on the front benches for the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats and are the formal opposition voices. Lord Scriven held the Liberal Democrat brief until 12 May 2026 and has kept up his questioning since.

# SOURCES AND METHOD

Where each fact came from, how activity was measured, and what we could not confirm.

## SOURCES

### UK PARLIAMENT MEMBERS API

Current government, opposition and other posts, party and seat for every named MP and peer, checked on 13 October 2026.

### UK PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES API

Membership and chairs of the Health and Social Care Committee, the Lords Public Services Committee and four other committees.

### GOV.UK

DHSC ministerial roles and responsibilities; the Prime Minister's National Care Service announcement of 29 September 2026; the public panel announcement of 21 September 2026; the Prime Minister's announcement of 29 July 2026, which set up the ministerial group and brought the Casey Commission's report forward to summer 2027.

### DHSC ORGANOGRAM, 31 MARCH 2026

Directors and professional leads in the Adult Social Care Group, from data.gov.uk.

### APPG ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Officers and members, from the group's website (August 2026).

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND HANSARD

The activity measure described under Method.

### PRESS

PoliticsHome, 7 September 2026, on the cross-party talks; Community Care, 11 August 2026, on the ministerial group.

## METHOD

### WHO IS INCLUDED

Ministers and shadow ministers with a health or social care brief, members of the Health and Social Care Committee and the APPG on Adult Social Care, the chair of the Independent Commission, and the MPs and peers who asked or spoke most on social care in the past year.

### ACTIVITY

Written questions to DHSC and spoken contributions in Hansard that match social care terms, 13 October 2025 to 13 October 2026. The bars show three bands: 25 or more contributions, 15 to 24, and 8 to 14. The counts come from our own text match and will not equal a Hansard search. Government ministers are left out of the questioner lists because their spoken contributions are answers.

### PARTY COLOURS

- Labour
- Conservative
- Liberal Democrat
- Green
- Reform UK
- DUP
- Independent, Crossbench, non-affiliated, bishops

## CHECK BEFORE YOU USE IT

### REFORM UK

Parliament lists no front-bench health or social care post for the party. PoliticsHome reports that its health role has taken a back seat.

### LIB DEM CARE BRIEF

Parliament's record shows Clive Jones as Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Care and Carers) from 5 October 2026. Alison Bennett held the post before him. Check for further changes.

### CASEY COMMISSION TIMETABLE

GOV.UK's terms of reference page still shows the original phases: a first report in 2026 and a final one by 2028. The summer 2027 date comes from the Prime Minister's announcements of 29 July and 29 September 2026.

### PORTRAITS

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### OFFICIALS

Directors are as published at 31 March 2026 and may have changed since.

### SCOPE

Social care is devolved. The map covers England, and MPs from devolved parties appear only where they are active.

PREPARED BY BRIDGEHEAD COMMUNICATIONS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Roles change quickly after a reshuffle. Check any title against Parliament or GOV.UK before relying on it.