

# YOU WILL NEED CARE BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS CARE

Right now there are two million people in Scotland who are giving or receiving care. Care is hard and it can go wrong – we all lose our temper or get exhausted or feel like we can't cope. A baby that won't stop crying, a toddler with constant temper tantrums, a loved one with an addiction who keeps making the same mistakes, an elderly relative who is very demanding.

## NONE OF US SHOULD FEEL BAD IF WE MAKE MISTAKES OR CAN'T COPE ...BUT THAT IS WHY WE NEED HELP

Just like the National Health Service is there to help us if our health goes wrong, so a National Care Service should be there to help us when caring goes wrong. That is what the Scottish Government has promised, but what they are currently planning falls well short of a care service that deserves that name.

## BUT THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET IT RIGHT.

What Scotland needs is a care service which is there to support you from the day you are conceived to the day you die – a 'womb to tomb' service. When you have care needs you would be able to go to a Local Care Hub just like you can go to a GP's surgery when you have health needs.

There you would find a team of professionals who would help you get the care support you need, from parenting advice to addiction support to psychological services to financial or housing problems to help with a frail elderly relative. If you couldn't get support on the spot you'd be referred to somewhere you could, just like the NHS.

And if you had an urgent care need outside of opening hours there would be a 24-hour phone line where you could get emergency advice (just like NHS24) or, in the most urgent cases, an emergency visit (like an ambulance service for care).

## YOU WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE ALONE, AT THE END OF YOUR TETHER, WITH NOWHERE TO TURN

That would be a comprehensive, all-ages, not-for-profit National Care Service free at the point of need. It would change lives, change communities, change our society. This is the vision which has been built by the Common Weal think tank in a major report which sets out a blueprint for exactly that kind of care service.

## BUT IF YOU WANT IT, YOU NEED TO HELP

Go to [www.commonweal.scot/care-campaign](http://www.commonweal.scot/care-campaign) and find out what you can do to make sure that the politicians don't wriggle out of the promises they've made. It will give you a list of easy things you can do to put pressure on them.

**The people of Scotland sacrificed so much during the pandemic because they cared enough for their neighbours to make sure they were safe. If this does not result in a National Care Service worth the name, that sacrifice will have been betrayed. Make sure it isn't.**