

I will be personally effected by BaNES choosing to implement part of the Care Act 2014, that will bring further costs to the most vulnerable, those of us with protected characteristics.

The new charging Assessment framework is a second raid, plunder – and burden upon –the meagre, fragile incomes of those who through life challenges and discrimination are living at the bottom . This plunder is from one of the richest councils in England, rich in heritage resources, unlike many other cities.

Why do I say this ?

Firstly large cuts, in 2018, have already been made to adult care packages. Over 10 years ago, Attendance allowance was not taken into account when assessed for financial assistance. What did that mean ? It meant in real terms, a better standard of living, enabling frail disabled seniors to heat their home, to eat, and it meant anxiety levels were not through the roof. It allowed disabled seniors to pay for life's basics, essentials. Any further lowering income for those at the very bottom is totally unacceptable. It is also incompatible with the Convention on the rights of people with disabilities.

Extreme Poverty is the term used by the United Nations special rapporteur, in Nov 2018, who reported on the UK government wilfully making the poorest disabled citizens, ever poorer, despite being the 5<sup>th</sup> richest nation on earth. Why would they be doing this ? From ideological, far right thinking.

Socially engineered inequality exists here and now. A UK female working from the 1950's would be on a peppercorn pay, for decades. If you add divorce and/or ill health to the mix, it will be easy to see why there are women seniors who are especially victimns of societies inequality, to use just one example from those included in an Equality impact Assessment. The 2,100 who will further lose out by the introduction of **this** new CARE charging system.

Many currently sitting/working in BaNES council have no lived experience and therefore no experiential understanding of Disability inequality, and equality issues. This was clear from the Scrutiny panel meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, where a food poverty task team did not even mention disabled people as a group in food poverty, because they simply do not understand Disability issues, or what impact having an impairment has on a person's life, and the discrimination inbuilt into current UK policies.

To borrow a quote from the late, great American writer and poet, Dr.Maya Angleou; " I come as one but I stand as 10,000 ". Or in my case, this case: " I come as one, but I stand as 2,100.

(The figure of BaNES most vulnerable disabled adults and seniors.)

The people of Bath, have higher hopes for a Libdem council, that you would not be as heartless and aligned with far right policies, as many of the Conservative

Boris MP's are. In the historic past Disabled people in Bath received better care and support than anywhere else, due to insitutions created by the healing waters, such as St.John's hospital.