



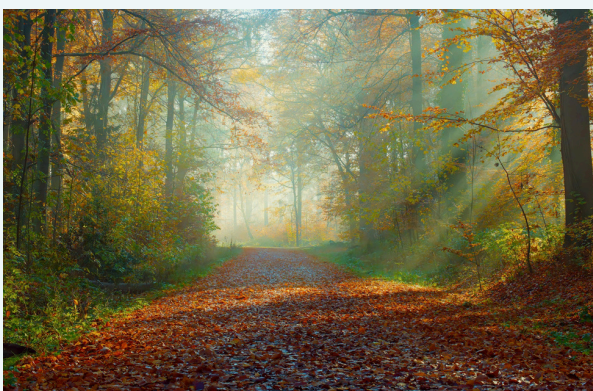
Sign up to our Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to our October newsletter!

My name is Sophie Smith, and I am the new Deepness Newsletter Editor. I officially graduated this year with a BA in Journalism, and have worked for Deepness since May 2025 as a Personal Assistant, first to Ron Coleman and now to Howard Gordon and Audrey Ross!

In this month's shorter newsletter, you will find an article from Howard Gordon about Burnham's plan for free personal care in England and a poster as well as more news about our upcoming Gathering!

Please share this newsletter with your friends, family and colleagues.



If you want to contribute to the newsletter, please get in touch with -
sophie@deepnessdementiaradio.com



**Check out below a list of what is coming up in this newsletter.
You can click on the links and skip straight to that article.**

Howard Gordon...[Burnham's Plan for Free Personal Care](#)

Sophie Smith....[The Gathering](#)

What is Deepness Dementia Media...[Buy The Demented Poet EP](#)



Could You Help Shape the Future of Deepness?

As Deepness continues to grow and develop, we are looking to welcome new members onto our Board of Directors.

Whether you are living with dementia or simply share our values and believes in what Deepness stands for, we'd love to hear from you.



You don't need previous board experience - just an interest in helping create a world where people living with dementia have a voice, opportunities to thrive, and are at the heart of everything we do.

We are looking for people who share the Deepness ethos, creativity, inclusion, hope and possibility, and who would enjoy helping guide the organisation into it's next exciting chapter.

It you think you could bring your experience, enthusiasm or a fresh perspective to Deepness, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

In the first instance contact Deepness Co-ordinator, Karen Taylor:

karen@deepnessdementiaradio.com

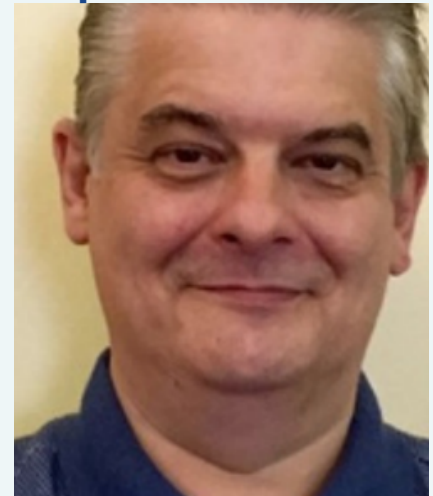
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Burnham unveils plan for free personal care in England, with pension changes in prospect

Andy Burnham has set out plans for a National Care Service in England, promising free personal care for older people according to need rather than ability to pay.

Speaking at the Labour Party conference on 29 September, the Prime Minister said the service would be developed in the next Parliament. The proposal is intended to make social care more consistent and person-centred, and to ease pressure on the NHS by helping people get support before they reach crisis point.



Howard Gordon

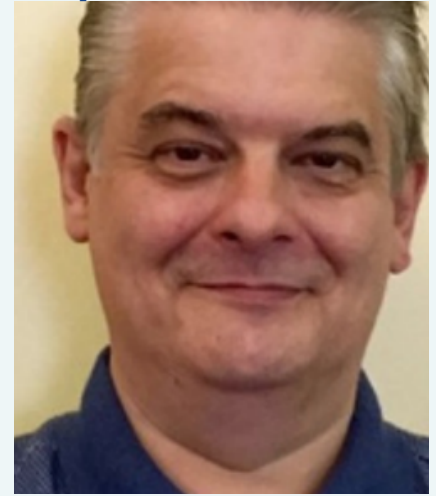
Burnham has suggested that changing the state pension “triple lock” after the next general election could help fund the reforms. The triple lock currently raises the UK state pension each year by the highest of inflation, wage growth or 2.5%.

The precise funding arrangements and the details of any change have yet to be settled, leaving pensioners’ future income growth a central point of debate.

The proposal would apply to England; social care is devolved, so it would not automatically create a new service or change entitlements in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Each nation has its own system and makes its own policy decisions. That distinction matters for pensioners living across the UK.

Burnham unveils plan for free personal care in England, with pension changes in prospect

In Scotland, personal and nursing care are already provided free to eligible people, subject to assessment. Wales offers free, short-term reablement and has its own rules on charging for longer-term care. Northern Ireland's arrangements are also separate, with health and social care delivered through an integrated system. Burnham's announcement, by itself, would not alter those existing services.



Howard Gordon

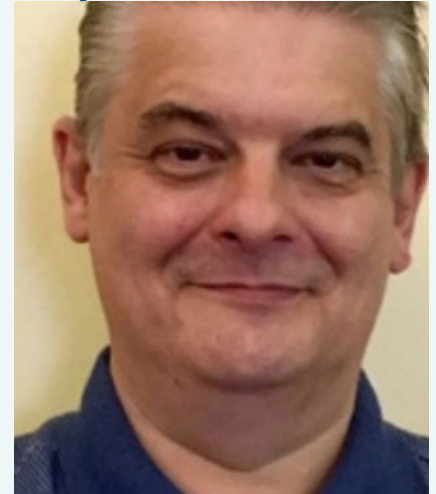
However, any change to the triple lock could affect state pension increases across the UK, since the state pension is reserved to the UK Government. Pensioners in the devolved nations could therefore feel the effects of a UK-wide pension policy decision even though the proposed care service is for England. The impact would depend on what changes are ultimately made and how they interact with each nation's existing support.

The plans also raise practical questions about workforce capacity, service standards and funding. The Royal College of Nursing has said meaningful reform must include investment in nursing. Burnham has argued that better social care could reduce hospital delays and, over time, save the NHS money; the scale and timing of any savings remain to be demonstrated.

For now, the announcement sets out a direction rather than a fully detailed scheme. The eligibility rules, rollout timetable, funding model and relationship with devolved services will all need clarification before its effects on older people can be assessed.

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Whilst Pensioners may be the largest group of users who require Social Care and sacrificing part of their State Pension could be seen as a fair choice, will the money saved from removing the triple lock be used solely for a National care service in England, with Pensioners in the devolved nations subsidising an English Care Service, or will some of that money be paid to the devolved Nations to help enhance their care provisions?



Howard Gordon

Surprise, Surprise: decisions will be delayed until after the next General Election, and there already appears to be no political will, yet again, to resolve this issue, with a full National Care Service not expected until the next decade, maybe even 2040 and beyond.

As always, the devil is in the detail.

The Gathering 2026

Sophie Smith



The Gathering now has a set day and time!

Join us on 3 November at the Malmaison Hotel in Dundee from 9:30AM to 4:15PM. Returning to the venue where the first-ever Gathering was held, this will be a thoroughly informative, candid, and exciting experience.

With a morning and an afternoon session, there will be a look at Deepness' new pre- and post-diagnosis toolkit booklets, as well as a discussion on co-production, your experiences with it, and how involved people living with dementia are in it.

Below you will find the official poster for The Gathering, with all other information you will need.

As it says, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Karen or me for more information, or even if you're just interested in coming!



The Gathering 2026,

Malmaison Hotel, Dundee DD1 4AY



Join us on the **3rd of November 2026,**
9:30AM to 4:15PM,

for a look at booklets
on Pre and Post
Dementia Diagnosis,
as well as a
discussion on co-
production.



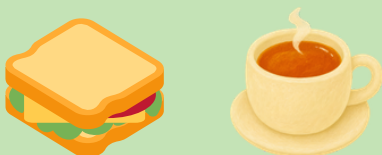
Starting at 9:30 AM, we will review
drafted booklets on diagnosis
from our Board Members' lived
experience, and we welcome you
to share yours!

All input ensures the booklets are
by people living with dementia,
for people with lived experience.

After lunch, we will
explore the involvement
of people living with
dementia in co-
production.

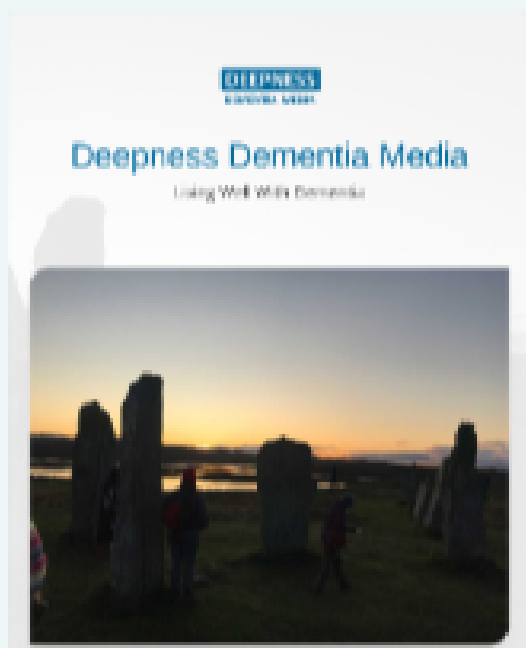
In groups, people are invited
to share their own
experiences with co-
production and how it effects
them.

Lunch will be
provided



For more information, or to let us know
you're coming, contact:

karen@deepnessdementiaradio.com
or sophie@deepnessdementia.com



Dementia Media is a platform that gives people tools for living well with dementia designed collaboratively with those with dementia leading the process. By coming together in a supportive, energetic common space makes up a huge difference to the well-being of those going through dementia. As opposed to providing a cure, our goal is to help people become autonomous and get the most out of life. We bring a series of innovative projects - such as our radio station, online education courses, and much more - that use technology and music in a way that keeps people connected and stimulated.

“I didn’t want to die without leaving something for my family to enjoy and remember my strengths,” he says of the thinking behind the EP. “The whole concept was to create something that was a legacy for the person, and as soon as I thought about wanting to do that for myself I knew it was something other people would want to do, to leave our mark on society. It’s almost like leaving our families a gift.”

The Demented Poets EP is on sale now via Bandcamp iTunes and other outlets:

Bandcamp - <https://thedementedpoets.bandcamp.com>

Spotify - <https://open.spotify.com/album/6pngYVybZ3qUf6XMhOOFuK>

Deezer - <https://www.deezer.com/en/album/258048592>

iTunes / Apple Music - <https://music.apple.com/us/album/the-demented-poets-ep/1585080810>

Amazon - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09FRVYQ1F>

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