Siân Berry MP
Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

09 November 2026

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
By Email

Dear Prime Minister,

This Living Wage Week marks the 25th anniversary of the Living Wage movement. As the Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion, I am writing to urge you to guarantee that every adult social care worker in England is paid at least the real Living Wage before the first Fair Pay Agreement takes effect in 2028.

It has been refreshing to hear you publicly acknowledge the: "humanity and skill" of care workers, and how wrong it is that they are: "caring for other people's parents on poverty pay." Your personal commitment to fixing the care system is clear. I also warmly welcome the Health Secretary's announcement at Labour Annual Conference that the Government will help to introduce a collective pension scheme for care workers.

Yet, I am all too conscious that while bold plans are being made for the future, over 400,000 care workers are stuck on low wages right now, with no actual pay rise in sight. Negotiations for a new Fair Pay Agreement are not due to begin until next year, and the first legally binding agreement is not expected to take effect until 2028.

That is why I am calling on you and your Government to work with me to secure a real Living Wage for care workers today rather than tomorrow. I am proud that it was the Green Party that signed Brighton and Hove City Council up to the Living Wage campaign a few years ago. I have challenged all care organisations in the area to live up to this commitment in my work, and the council has for several years been working closely with the excellent Brighton & Hove Citizens group – which I am proud to support – to make this happen across our city.

Together, we have successfully campaigned, and won, a real Living Wage for local care and nursing home staff and ensured that Brighton and Hove City Council includes real Living Wage criteria in its commissioning processes.[1]

I have seen what can be achieved when councils and communities act together. You know better than most that this is achievable. During your time as Mayor of Greater Manchester, you championed efforts to make your city region the first in England to pay care workers the real Living Wage. Scotland and Wales have already gone further, introducing nationwide policies to make sure care workers are paid the real Living Wage wherever they work. Why not the same for England?

[1] Brighton & Hove Citizens campaign achievements https://www.citizensuk.org/chapters/brighton-hove/

I would be grateful for your response to this letter. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet you or your ministers to show you what the impact has been across our own city.

Yours sincerely,



Siân Berry MP
Green Party, Brighton Pavilion