

‘Drive to improve carers’ lives should not be tick box’

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Unpaid carers who spoke movingly of the struggles they face asked for a plan to improve their lives not to be “a tick-box exercise”.

They outlined the sacrifices they have made at the launch of Camden Council’s Carers Action Plan at on Monday (July 22).

The aim set out is “to enable all services to work together to meet the needs of carers”, but Cllr Nanouche Umeadi - who needed care herself after suffering an arm injury - said she wanted genuine results.

The single mother of two could not put on her shoes or clean, and her mental health deteriorated due to her medication.

She said the idea of her four-year-old daughter being her carer for life would be “heartbreaking”.

“I had to fight in order to get better,” she added. “I hope it’s not tick boxing because people are really suffering.”

Jessica Hurst has been a full-time carer since the age of 16, when “bombshell” news of her father’s cancer and immune disorder turned her family’s world around.

“Everything went out the window, my career, my education,” she said.

Disabled carer Angela Tebe said support services are currently “extremely well hidden” and “must remain inclusive for everyone”.

Arun Kumar, who has a disabled son, said: “At some point in our lives we will play a role of care and we will need care at some point as well, so it’s not



Cllr Anna Wright, centre, with Camden carers and their new action plan. Image: Camden Council

something that exists for somebody else.

“We are all involved in this so this action plan is incredibly important because it sets direct impact on everyone in this room.”

Camden Carers chief executive Allegra Lynch said there were 14,603

unpaid carers in Camden.

She said if just 5,200 were paid the London Living Wage to work a 35-hour week, with no paid holiday or sick leave, it would cost £24 million a year.

Cllr Anna Wright, cabinet member for health, wellbeing and social care, stressed that the plan, which is fully

funded with an additional £30,000 over two years, was “not a tick box exercise”.

She said: “The ambition is to take the fight out of caring. Carers should not have to fight.

“We can’t have carers coming back here saying nothing’s changed.”

Tulip Siddiq broke rules over flat rent



Tulip Siddiq MP failed to register the flat for more than a year

Tulip Siddiq failed to declare income from a London rental flat for more than a year.

The Hampstead and Highgate MP registered the flat on March 4 this year, despite rental income starting on December 1, 2022.

All MPs are required to register interests within 28 days.

Siddiq, who was re-elected to Parliament representing the new constituency, owns the flat with her husband, who collects the rent. It has a value of more than £100,000 and is rented out for more than £10,000 a year.

The Daily Mail has reported that Siddiq apologised for the error, which has been blamed on an “administrative oversight”.

The MP, appointed Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has also reportedly been referred to the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner over the breach.

Siddiq also earns income from another rental flat, which was registered in June 2015, and has registered gifts worth more than £1,700 since May 2023 including two box tickets worth £500 to see a Harry Styles concert at Wembley Stadium last June.

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