

General Election 2017

Briefing: Liberal Democrat manifesto

Summary of health and care policies

Funding

- 1p rise on basic, higher, and additional rates of Income Tax to raise £6bn additional revenue, ring-fenced to be spent on NHS and social care services.
- This will be focused on priority areas: social care, primary and other out-of-hospital care, mental health (to be ring-fenced) and public health.
- Longer-term this would be funded by a dedicated health and care tax.
- Cross-party health and social care convention, including patients and the public, to carry out comprehensive review of longer-term sustainability of health and social care finances and workforce.
- Cap the cost of social care for individuals.
- Move towards single place-based budgets for health and social care by 2020.
- Create a statutory independent budget monitoring agency for health and care, similar to Office for Budget Responsibility.

The model of health and care

- Phrases such as “we need services that fit around people’s lives,” and “we must move away from a fragmented system to an integrated service with more joined-up care.”
- More use of personal budgets so that people can design services for their own needs.
- Move away from payments for activity and introduce tariffs that encourage joined-up services, improved patient outcomes, and more prevention.
- Innovation funding to promote GP-led multidisciplinary health and care hubs, including mobile services.

Brexit

- Guarantee the rights of all NHS and social care service staff who are EU nationals to stay in the UK.
- Will campaign against any reduction in investment in UK universities and for their right to apply for EU funds on equal terms.

Other specific commitments

- Guaranteed waiting times for therapy for anxiety or depression, and for young people with psychosis; end out-of-area placements.
- Introduce a Patient Premium – incentive payments to GPs and other community clinicians to work in disadvantaged areas.
- Review rules for prescription charge exemptions to ensure fairness to those with long-term conditions and disabilities.
- Publish a National Wellbeing Strategy.
- Strengthen the Social Value Act, which requires commissioners to consider broader social value when making commissioning decisions.

Analysis

While a commitment to increase funding for health and social care is welcome, £6bn a year – raised through hypothecated taxes - shared across health and social care will [still leave funding gaps](#). The limitations of this approach are recognised by renewed commitment to a 'cross-party convention' of the health and care system.

There remain some important gaps in detail on funding, beyond what the 'cross-party convention' would agree. There is no information on the scale of their proposed cap on social care costs, or on how additional resources will be shared across the different parts of health and care.

There is considerable recognition of the need to make health and care more person-centred, with commitments to more integrated health and social care, a greater emphasis on prevention and wellbeing, and increased use of personal budgets. While there is little detail on the model of care for people with long term conditions (i.e. the use of care planning or community support) the party sets out how it would use funding mechanisms to drive more person-centred change within services.

Finally, the manifesto highlights the importance of devolving power and decision-making, and the role of the community in developing solutions to local problems. This includes a commitment to better support for voluntary and social enterprise organisations.

National Voices' priorities for the new government

Developed with member organisations, National Voices has set out three priority areas for the new government:

1. Deliver a new approach to health and care funding
2. Create a health and care system that gives people voice and control
3. Make health and care a priority in Brexit negotiations

[Download 'Priorities for the new government: Putting people first' for full detail and National Voices' specific asks of the new government.](#)

About National Voices

National Voices is the coalition of charities that stands for people being in control of their health and care. We work for a strong patient and citizen voice and services built around people. We stand up for voluntary organisations and their vital work for people's health and care. National Voices is an independent registered charity, number 1057711.

www.nationalvoices.org.uk

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