

Who's promising what for health?

Portland



Conservatives



Manifestos

Forward Together: Our Plan for a Stronger Britain and a Prosperous Future

For the many, not the few

Change Britain's Future

Your go-to health manifesto guide on the following categories:

NHS

Science and Research and Development

Cancer

Mental health

Public health

Social care

NHS

Who is the party of the NHS? All pledge to invest more, with the promise of better care, but all differ on the structure of delivery. The Conservatives favour a more devolved approach with NHS England at the centre. Labour seeks to reinstate the power of the Secretary of State and the Liberal Democrats desire an integrated health and social care system.

NHS Funding

- Increase NHS spending by a minimum of £8bn in real terms over the next 5 years and an additional £10 billion for infrastructure (confirmed post-manifesto launch)

- Commit to over £30bn in the NHS over the next Parliament by increasing income tax for the highest 5% of earners

- An immediate, one penny in the pound on income tax to raise £6bn for NHS and social care services

NHS Structure

- Legislate for an independent healthcare safety investigations body within the NHS
- Continue to implement Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)

- Introduce an Office for Budget Responsibility for Health to scrutinise NHS England spending
- Halt and review STPs

- Introduce a statutory independent budget monitoring agency for health and care
- Bring the NHS and social care into one service

A&E

- Retain 95% A&E target and the 18-week elective care standard

- Reinstate the 4-hour guarantee to be seen in A&E

- New waiting time standards in A&E

NHS Workforce

- Guarantee the rights of 140,000 staff from EU working in the NHS

- Guarantee the rights of EU staff working in our health and care services

- Guarantee the rights of all EU nationals working in the NHS and social care service to stay in the UK

GP Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New GP contract to develop wider primary care services by encouraging access to GPs through the use of online bookings and technological advancements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding to GP services to ensure patients can access quality care, rather than postcode lottery care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage GPs to work together in federations, to provide out of normal-opening hours appointments and promote easier access to GP services
Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support more integrated working, ensuring community pharmacies can play a stronger role to keep people healthy outside hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt pharmacy cuts and review provision to ensure all patients have access to pharmacy services, particularly in remote or deprived communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure changes to pharmacies' funding do not leave local areas without reasonable access to a community pharmacist
<h3>Science and Research and Development</h3> <p>Innovation, innovation, innovation. For all the parties, investment in research and development holds the key to economic prosperity for Britain. However, the finer details over access to European data, medicines regulation, and workforce are explicitly absent from all three of the manifestos.</p>			
R&D Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest 2.4% of GDP in research and development to meet the current OECD average by 2027, with a longer-term goal of 3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the OECD target of 3% of GDP spent on research and development by 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect science budget and guarantee to underwrite funding for British partners in EU funded projects e.g. Horizon 2020
Industrial Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on a Modern Industrial Strategy by investing in research and development and increase funding of UK-led medical and technical research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour's own Industrial Strategy will commit extra research investment to research and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the Industrial Strategy, creating more 'catapult' innovation and technology centres to act as incubators for technology companies
Medical Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the recommendations of the Accelerated Access Review to make sure that patients get new treatments faster and provide the NHS with the best value for money • Increase funding of UK-led medical and technical research into the biggest threats to global health and prosperity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all NHS patients get fast access to the most effective new drugs and treatments, and insist on value-for-money agreements with pharmaceutical companies • Invest in new public-health driven research and development to find effective and affordable treatments for diseases in the developing world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the recommendations of the O'Neill report on antimicrobial resistance to ensure responsible prescribing and investment in diagnostics and innovation • Invest in elimination of preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and new ways to support research and development into vaccinations

	<h2>Cancer</h2> <p>Perhaps surprisingly, cancer is not given much attention in the parties' manifestos. The Labour party are the only ones to mention the 2015 Cancer Strategy whereas the Conservative party has chosen to focus on GP referrals to cancer diagnosis, and an Ofsted-style cancer ratings for CCGs.</p>		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support research into the diagnosis and treatment of rare cancers and other diseases • Give patients a definitive cancer diagnosis within 28 days by 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Cancer Strategy in full by 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support public awareness campaigns such as 'Be Clear on Cancer'
	<h2>Public health</h2> <p>There are three public health areas outlined by the main political parties in their manifestos: children's health, obesity and joined-up local and national government strategy.</p>		
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that police commissioners sit on local health and wellbeing boards to enable better co-ordination of crime prevention with local drug, alcohol and mental health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus public health predominately on children's health. Introduce a new Index of Child Health to measure progress against international standards for obesity, dental health, under 5s and mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse the funding cut to public health budgets and keep public health within local government, where it is joined up with preventative community services
Obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to take action to tackle childhood obesity and promote efforts to reduce unhealthy ingredients and provide clearer food information for consumers on packaged food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a childhood obesity strategy with proposals on advertising and food labelling. Implement the Soft Drinks Industry Levy or 'sugar tax' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a National Wellbeing Strategy including how to tackle childhood obesity including closing loopholes in the sugar tax and restricting TV advertising before the watershed
	<h2>Mental health</h2> <p>There is a predominant focus on mental health in all three of the main parties' manifestos. All have promised to increase spending on mental health services, with a focus on children and young people, and ending out-of-area placements, with the Liberal Democrats promising this by 2019 and the Conservatives by 2020/21.</p>		
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the first Mental Health Bill and publish a Green Paper on children's mental health with the intent of investing a further £1bn by 2020/21 into the NHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in early intervention through increasing the proportion of mental health budgets spent on support for children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ring-fence funding from the one penny income tax rise for additional investment in mental health

Children

- Mental health first aid training for teachers in every primary and secondary school and recruit up to 10,000 more mental health service professionals in the NHS

- Ensure that access to a counselling service is available to all children in secondary schools

- Extend schools-based counselling to all schools at a cost of £90 million per year whilst ensuring all front line public service professions receive better training in mental health

Social Care

Social care funding has been one of the central battlegrounds in the General Election campaign. All the parties acknowledge that Britain's ageing society and the increasing costs of care are causing many older people to stay in hospital rather than being cared for in the community or at home, but all disagree on who should foot the bill and how this is managed.

Policy

- Publish a green paper on the system-wide issues to improve quality of care and reduce variation in practice, and to reduce unnecessary hospital stays

- Repeal the Health and Social Care Act and reinstate the powers of the Secretary of State for Health to have overall responsibility for the NHS

- Establish a cross-party health and social care convention to review the long-term sustainability of health and social care finances and workforce

Funding

- The payment for care at home will be determined by the value of savings and property a person has with the recent addition of an 'absolute cap' on the amount paid if a person's property is valued over £100,000

- Increase the social care budgets by a further £8 billion over the lifetime of the next Parliament, including an additional £1 billion for the first year

- Building on the one penny tax, a dedicated health and care tax on the basis of wide consultation will be developed to fund the NHS and social care services

Carers

- Give workers a new statutory entitlement to Carer's Leave

- Increase the Carer's Allowance for unpaid full-time carers to align the benefit with rates of the jobseeker's allowance

- Raise the amount people can earn before losing the Carer's Allowance from £110 - £150 a week

For more information about Portland Health, please contact: health@portland-communications.com