

General Election 2017

This document aims to bring together key proposals in the Conservative and Labour party manifestos 2017 that may be relevant to you in your role as director of children's services, it does not aim to be a comprehensive guide to the manifestos in full.

The full Conservative party manifesto 2017, 'Forward Together: Our plan for a stronger Britain and a prosperous future', can be found [here](#) and is 88 pages long.

The full Labour party manifesto 2017, 'For the Many Not the Few', can be found [here](#) and is 128 pages long.

The Conservative Party Manifesto 2017

Children's social care:

- Publish a Green Paper on young people's mental health before the end of 2017
- Introduce mental health first aid training for teachers in every primary and secondary school by the end of the parliament, and ensure that every school has a single point of contact with mental health services
- Demand all local authorities be commissioners of the highest quality family support and child protection services, removing these responsibilities from the weakest councils and placing them in trust
- Ensure that councils provide consistency of care and cannot relocate vulnerable children far from their home when it is not in their interests to do so
- Review support for children in need to understand why their outcomes are so poor and what support they might require, in and out of school
- Reform child and adolescent mental health services so that children with serious conditions are seen within an appropriate timeframe and no child has to leave their local area and their family to receive normal treatment
- Explore ways to improve the family justice system.

Early years:

- Strengthen the teaching of literacy and numeracy in the early years so that all pupils from all backgrounds get the best possible start in life
- Introduce a capital fund to help primary schools develop nurseries where they currently do not have the facilities to provide one to support the roll out of 30 hours of free childcare for three and four year olds
- Introduce a presumption that all new primary schools should include a nursery
- Continue to support maintained nurseries and allow them to take on academy freedoms, supporting them to grow independently or as part of a MAT.

Schools:

- Continue with the free school programme, building at least 100 new free schools a year

- Prohibit councils from creating any new places in schools that have been rated 'inadequate' or 'requires improvements' by Ofsted
- Introduce new funding arrangements in order to open a specialist maths school in every major city in England
- Replace the inclusivity rules that prevent the establishment of new Roman Catholic schools
- Work with the Independent Schools Council to ensure that at least 100 leading independent schools become involved in academy sponsorship or the founding of free schools in the state system, with the option of changing the tax status of independent schools if progress is not made
- Make it a condition for universities hoping to charge maximum tuition fees to become involved in academy sponsorship or the founding of free schools
- Lift the ban on the establishment of selective schools, subject to conditions, such as allowing pupils to join at other ages as well as 11
- Conduct a review of school admissions policy, with the clear rejections of any introduction of a mandatory lottery based admissions policy
- Expect every 11 year old to know their time tables off by heart
- Expect 75% of pupils to have been entered for the EBacc combination of GCSEs by the end of the next parliament
- Introduce a curriculum fund to encourage Britain's leading cultural and scientific institutions to help develop knowledge-rich materials for schools
- Ensure that the assessments at the end of primary school draw from a rich knowledge base, and reduce teaching to the test.

Teachers:

- Continue to provide bursaries to attract top graduates into teaching
- Retain by offering forgiveness on student loan repayments while people are teaching, and bring in dedicated support to help them through their careers
- Provide greater support for teachers in the preparation of lessons and marking, including through the use of technology, and reduce teacher workloads by bearing down on unnecessary paper work and the burden of Ofsted inspections
- Create a single jobs portal for schools to advertise vacancies in order to reduce costs and recruit the best teachers.

School funding:

- Make sure that no school has its budget cut as the result of the new funding formula for schools
- Increase the overall schools budget by £4bn by 2022
- Continue to protect the Pupil Premium
- Offer a free school breakfast to every child in every year of primary school, while children from low-income families will continue to receive free school lunches throughout their years in

primary and secondary education. The savings made from this change to universal free school meals (£650m annually) will be added to the core schools budget.

Technical education, FE, higher education and skills:

- Replace 13,000 existing technical qualifications with new T-levels, across fifteen routes in a range of technical subjects
- Increase the number of teaching hours for these new qualifications to an average of 900 hours per year and ensure that students complete a three month work placement as part of their course
- Investment in FE colleges to ensure they have world-class equipment and facilities, and create a new national programme to attract experienced industry professionals to work in FE colleges
- Establish new institutes of technology, backed by leading employers and linked to leading universities in every major city in England. They will provide courses at degree level and above, specialising in technical disciplines and high-level apprenticeships
- Launch a major review of funding across tertiary education looking at how to ensure that students get access to financial support that offers value for money
- Deliver the existing commitment to create 3 million apprenticeships for young people by 2020
- Introduce a UCAS-style portal for technical education and significantly discounted transport costs for apprentices.

Digital security for children and young people:

- Introduce new protections for minors, from images of pornography, violence and other age-inappropriate content
- Educate young people in the harms of the internet and how best to combat them by introducing relationship and sex education in all primary and secondary schools
- Give people new rights so that they are in control of their data, including giving young people the ability to require major social media platforms to delete information held about them at the age of 18.

Other:

- Bring forward a Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill in the next parliament to consolidate all civil and criminal prevention and protection orders and provide for a new aggravated offence if behaviour is directed at a child
- Legislate to enshrine a definition of domestic violence and abuse in law
- Create a domestic violence and abuse commissioner in law, to stand up for victims and survivors, monitor the response to domestic violence and abuse and to hold the police and the criminal justice system to account
- Take action to support victims of domestic violence to leave abusive partners, reviewing the funding for refuges and ensuring that victims who have lifetime tenancies and flee violence are able to secure a new lifetime tenancy automatically.

- Continue to give local government greater control over the money they raise and address concerns about the fairness of current funding distributions.

The Labour Party Manifesto 2017

Children's social care:

- End the cuts to youth services
- Continued support for all training routes for social workers
- Prevent the private sector and subsidiaries of private companies from running child protection services
- Strengthen mandatory reporting
- Refocus social care to work with families in local communities to prevent children becoming at risk of going into care
- Promote the care and educational achievement of the most vulnerable children and increase support for children in kinship and foster care, and their families.
- Support further regulation of commercial fostering agencies, as well commissioning a review on establishing a national fostering service
- Extend Staying Put arrangements to support all children and young people in residential and other forms of care until they are 21
- Enshrine the European Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law
- Fund child burial fees nationally across all council areas for bereaved parents.

Early years:

- Overhaul the existing childcare system in which subsidies are given directly to parents who can struggle to use them, and transition to a system of high quality childcare places in mixed environments with direct government subsidy
- Maintain current commitments on free hours and make significant capital investment during the first two years of government to ensure that enough places exist to meet demand
- Phase in subsidised provision on top of free hour entitlements, to ensure that everyone has access to affordable childcare, irrespective of their working pattern
- Transition to a qualified graduate-led workforce by increasing staff wages and enhancing training opportunities, this will benefit early years staff who are among the worst paid workers and improve child development
- Extend the 30 free hour entitlements to all two year-olds, and progress towards making some childcare available for one year-olds, and extend maternity pay to 12 months
- Halt the closures of Sure Start centres and increase the amount of money available to Sure Start.

Schools:

Labour's schools policy will be built on the following four foundations:

1. Investment: ensure schools are properly resourced by reversing the Conservative's cuts, and that all schools have the resources they need. Introduce a fairer funding formula that leaves no school worse off, while redressing the historical underfunding of certain schools and invest in new school buildings
2. Quality: drive up standards across the board, encourage co-operation and strong leadership across schools. Support staff professionalism to refocus their workload on what happens in the classroom
3. Accountability: ensure that all schools are democratically accountable, including appropriate controls to see that they serve the public interest and their local communities. Require joined-up admissions policies across local schools to enable councils to fulfil their responsibilities on child places, and simplify the admissions process for parents
4. Inclusion: enable each child to find to their learning path through a wide choice of courses and qualifications. Invest in measures to close the attainment gap between children from different backgrounds.

Specifically, Labour pledges to:

- Reduce class sizes to less than 30 for all five, six and seven year-olds, extend this as resources allow
- Introduce free school meals for all primary school children, paid for by removing the VAT exemption on private school fees
- Abandon plans to reintroduce baseline assessments and launch a commission to review curriculum and assessment, starting with a review of Key stage 1 and 2 SATs
- Tackle the teacher recruitment and retention crisis by ending the public-sector pay cap, involving teachers in the curriculum, and tackling rising workloads by reducing monitoring and bureaucracy. Reintroduce national pay settlements for teachers
- Consult on the introduction of teacher sabbaticals and placements with industry in order to introduce broad experiences into the classroom
- Extend schools-based counselling to all schools to improve children's mental health
- Deliver an inclusive education strategy for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and embed SEND into training for teachers and non-teaching staff
- Abandon plans for schools to pay the apprenticeship levy.

Public health:

- Reduce infant deaths and ensure all families who lose a baby receive appropriate bereavement support
- Introduce a new Index of Child Health to measure progress against international standards and report annually against four key indicators: obesity, dental health, under-fives and mental health. Set up a new £250m Children's Health Foundation to support these ambitions
- Increase the number of health visitors and school nurses
- Publish a new childhood obesity strategy within the first 100 days and implement the Soft Drinks Industry Levy

- Implement a strategy for the children of alcoholics based on recommendations drawn up by independent experts
- Implement a Tobacco Control Plan, focusing on issues of mental health and young smokers.

Mental health:

- Stop children being treated on adult mental health wards and people being sent across the country to secure the treatment they need by bringing forward the ending of out-of-area placements to 2019
- Ringfence mental health budgets and ensure funding reaches the frontline
- Invest in early intervention by increasing the proportion of mental health budgets spent on children and young people.

Local government:

- Give local government extra funding next year
- Initiate a review into reforming council tax and business rates and consider new options such as land value tax to ensure that local government has sustainable funding for the long term.

Other:

- Reintroduce maintenance grants for university students and abolish university tuition fees
- Reduce the voting age to 16
- Reinstate Housing Benefit for under-21s
- Appoint a commissioner to set new standards for tackling domestic and sexual violence
- Incentivise effective engagement with young people at risk of drifting into offending behaviours whilst embracing restorative justice practices across youth offending institutions.