

Model submission for CLPs and Branches to the National Policy Forum *A Future Where Families Come First* Policy Commission

The *Future Where Families Come First* commission is responsible for social security, pensions, childcare, early years, housing and homelessness, and women and equalities. The first part of our model submission – in response to Question One – calls on Labour to commit to a genuinely universal childcare system, including extending free childcare for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds as per the 2019 manifesto. The second part of the submission – in response to Question Two – calls on Labour to commit to a National Education Service. The third part of the submission – in response to Question Three – promotes a policy to reduce inequality by legislating for a Right To Food and taxing the rich via wealth taxes. The fourth part of the submission – in response to Question Four – calls on Labour to commit to replacing Universal Credit along the lines of the TUC’s proposal “[A Replacement for Universal Credit](#)”. The fifth part of the submission – in response to Question Five – proposes measures to remedy the housing crisis, including rent controls and a massive programme of council housebuilding.

Model submission

Question One: How can the next Labour government best deliver a modern and affordable childcare system that supports families from the end of parental leave to the end of primary school? How should Labour ensure that a new childcare system helps to tackle child poverty?

- *Labour should commit to a childcare system that takes a serious approach to ending child poverty. This means:*
 - *Within a parliament, ensuring 30 hours a week of free childcare for all 2-, 3- and 4-year olds;*
 - *Reversing cuts to Sure Start, ensuring enough centres to provide a genuinely universal service, available in all communities, focused on the under-2s.*

Question Two: How can the next Labour government ensure all young children enjoy a childhood that enables them to thrive?

- *Labour’s education policy must ensure high-quality, accessible, and affordable education from cradle to grave, as part of a National Education Service.*
- *In primary and secondary education this means:*

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- o *Universal free-school meals for all primary school children, in addition to the fantastic announcement that Labour will commit to universally free primary school breakfast clubs;*
- o *Maximum class sizes of 30 across all schools;*
- o *Bringing free schools and academies back under the control of parents, teachers and communities;*
- o *Replacing Ofsted with a new body to end often punitive inspections and bring in a schools accountability system which is supportive, effective and fair.*
- *In Higher Education this means:*
 - o *Scrapping tuition fees;*
 - o *Bringing back maintenance grants;*
 - o *Ensure all HE institutions receive adequate funding for teaching and research, and ending the casualisation of staff.*

Question Three: How can the next Labour government defeat the scandal of rising poverty and end the soaring demand for food banks?

- *The soaring demand for food banks is a direct consequence of 13 years of Tory austerity. Any government should be responsible for ensuring its citizens do not go hungry. To this end, Labour should embed a legal "Right to Food", including universal free school meals, fully funded community kitchens, and ensured food security across all areas of policy making.*
- *The scandal of rising poverty and the soaring demand for food banks is made worse by the fact of soaring profits and the rich getting ever richer. Britain is a rich country, and while this also makes the scandal worse, it also points towards the solution. Only through a massive redistribution of wealth through wealth taxes can we ensure the transformative structural changes Britain needs, and reduce inequality at the same time. This means:*
 - o *Implementing wealth taxes with the potential to raise billions if not more. It is not just unfair that income from wealth continues to be taxed at a higher rate than income from wealth, it is economically illiterate. Labour should commit to measures such as:*
 - *Equalising capital gains tax with income tax.*
 - *Applying national insurance to investment income.*
 - *Closing loopholes on inheritance tax.*
 - *A tax of at least 1% on the super-rich's assets worth over £10m.*

Question Four: How can Labour's reforms to social security and employment support ensure people of working-age and pensioners have security throughout their working lives and in retirement?

- *Universal Credit has been a catastrophe for thousands of people, often pushing them into poverty and hardship. Labour should commit to its abolition and replacement with a system that treats people with dignity and respect. The TUC's policy paper ["A Replacement for Universal Credit"](#) offers a*

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clear way forward to create a social security system which focuses on the prevention of poverty, promotes equality, and enables financial independence. Labour should support the TUC's proposal.

- *No one in Britain deserves to suffer penury due to their migration status. Labour should therefore abolish no recourse to public funds and ensure people seeking asylum have the right to work.*
- *Labour should announce an end to inhumane benefits sanctions, to work capability assessments, and to the benefits cap.*

Question Five: How can Labour make home ownership a reality for more families, give private renters the security they need and tackle the scourge of homelessness? How can the next Labour government build more social and council housing and ensure greater investment in genuinely affordable homes?

- *Britain's housing system is broken. At the heart of the problem is the simple fact that we do not build enough council housing. To rectify this, Labour should commit to the biggest council housebuilding programme in a generation, with at least 100,000 low-carbon council houses being built a year by the end of a first term. To ensure this has a real lasting impact, Labour should additionally legislate to end right to buy so that public housing stays in public hands. There must also be an extension of powers and funding for councils to buy back homes from private landlords, especially those left empty.*
- *Immediate relief however can only be met with rent controls. As a baseline, rents must be capped at inflation, but Labour should legislate to give cities the power to impose stricter caps, as per Sadiq Khan's demand to be granted the ability to freeze London's rents. New minimum standards in the private rented sector must be enforced stringently, with nationwide licensing and sanctions for those landlords who ignore the rules. As Lisa Nandy has committed, no-fault evictions should be scrapped.*
- *In one of the richest countries in the world, that even a single person should be forced for any reason to sleep without a roof over their head is a scandal. Labour should therefore commit to ending rough sleeping within a single term by expanding and upgrading hostels and making an additional 8,000 homes available for those with a history of rough sleeping. To pay for this, a new national levy on second homes should be introduced so that those who have more than one home pay a little more to help those without one.*
- *Additionally, Labour should:*
 - o *repeal the 2012 anti-squatting legislation, the Vagrancy Act and all legislation that criminalises people for being homeless.*
 - o *End the use of anti-social behaviour legislation against begging and rough sleeping.*
 - o *Reverse austerity cuts and outsourcing in homelessness services.*
 - o *Implement a national 'Housing First' system with floating support, to house all those experiencing homelessness regardless of immigration status.*

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