

## Model submission for CLPs and Branches to the National Policy Forum *Public Services That Work From The Start* Policy Commission

The *Public Services That Work From The Start* commission is responsible for the NHS, healthcare, social care, education and youth services. The first part of our model submission – in response to Question One – calls on Labour to commit to reversing NHS privatisation and outsourcing in full and establish a National Care Service. The second part of the submission – in response to Question Three – promotes a National Education Service and free education, including the abolition of tuition fees.

## **Model submission**

Question One: How can Labour ensure our public health services prevent worsening population health, ensure pandemic preparedness, address widening health inequalities, and offer early intervention programmes that reduce pressure on our communities and other services (in conjunction with wider social policy)?

- Every penny spent on outsourcing and privatisation is a penny less spent on patient care. A Labour Government should abide by the will of Conference and reverse all privatisation in the National Health Service, and end outsourcing within the NHS. Ending outsourcing will allow our friends in the union movement to secure fair pay and conditions for their members, who we clapped for throughout the pandemic. Reversing NHS privatisation also means that all clinical services will be publicly provided and there will be no private sector input to decision making bodies at all levels.
- The Covid-19 Pandemic exposed the horrifying inadequacy of service provided by the private sector. A Labour Government will repeal the 2022 Health and Social Care Act and will abolish Integrated Care Systems.
- A Labour Government will also establish a National Care Service, which will be publicly owned and controlled. Nationally mandated standards will be met through a universal system of high quality care. This will support and care for those who live independently and need support.
- Labour will rescind all PFI contracts over the time that Labour is in Government.
- Labour will implement a work force strategic plan once in Government.

  Labour is developing a workforce plan and strategy to recruit and retain health staff, particularly those staff where shortages currently exist (such as doctors including GPs, nurses, professions allied to medicine).

- Labour will begin investing in services to improve people's mental health. In government, Labour will undertake a wide-ranging review of mental health services with a view to implementing publicly provided services based on need. Within a month of forming government, Labour will begin to implement a major and strategic investment plan into Mental Health Services.
- As part of a universal health service, a Labour Government will commit to a
  national well-being strategy based on comprehensively improved public
  health. This will include priority for cross sector health promotion and
  policies, and funding and investment aimed at reducing health inequalities
  and addressing the determinants of health and ill-health, with an allocation
  mechanism to provide resources in line with need.
- Recognising that currently there are increasing difficulties in registering with a dentist who provides NHS treatment, a Labour Government will ensure that every adult has access to an annual free dental check up, as part of our pledge to provide a universal healthcare system.
- After forming Government, Labour will ensure the United Kingdom is effectively prepared for another Global Pandemic. This will include investing in research in epidemiology, biomedical sciences and research in other STEM fields. A Labour Government will also make sure that the economy is fit to handle another pandemic, with regulations and proper preparation.
- Labour should end the failed war on drugs and commit to a public health-led approach to drug reform, as pioneered by Paul Sweeney MSP, replacing criminalisation with investment in treatment services.
- A Labour Government will build and maintain an NHS fit for the future, by ensuring the availability of staff, equipment and modern technology, safely maintained buildings that are needed to treat patients where and when required.

Question Three: How can education and children's care services support vulnerable children, and those who are disabled or have special educational needs (SEND), to thrive?

- Labour's education policy must ensure high-quality, accessible, and affordable education from cradle to grave.
- In early years, this means:
  - Within a parliament, ensuring 30 hours a week of free childcare for all
     2, 3 and 4 year olds;
  - o Reversing cuts to Sure Start, ensuring enough centres to provide a genuinely universal service, available in all communities, focused on the under-2s.
- In primary and secondary education this means:
  - 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 listening to our student wing and:
  - o Scrapping tuition fees;
  - o Bringing back maintenance grants;
  - o Ensure all HE institutions receive adequate funding for teaching and research, scrapping the failed free-market experiment in HE and ending the casualisation of staff.