

GENERAL ELECTION 2017

What will it mean for our NHS and healthcare system?



Introduction

With the general election only a matter of days away this series of articles provides a summary of each of the leading party's key policies and promises in relation to the NHS and the UK's healthcare system.

Yesterday's article focussed on the NHS.

The focus of today's article is the UK's Wider Healthcare system.

UK'S WIDER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

1. Children and young people

Labour

- ▶ Create new Index of Child Health – annually measure standards internationally regarding obesity, dental health, under-fives and mental health.
- ▶ Set up a Children's Health Fund of £250 million.
- ▶ Increase the number of health visitors and school nurses.
- ▶ Produce a childhood obesity strategy within the first 100 days.

Liberal Democrats

- ▶ Young people will wait for maximum of 2 weeks for treatment after their first experience of psychosis.
- ▶ Ensure schools and universities receive better training in mental health.

Conservatives

- ▶ Focus on reducing childhood obesity - clearer instructions regarding ingredients and advertising.
- ▶ Double support for sports in primary schools.
- ▶ Better access to mental health care.
- ▶ Teachers receive mental health first aid training and mental wellbeing and risks to mental health will be part of the curriculum.
- ▶ Reform the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Act Services and end out-of-area placements.

2. Social Care

Labour

- ▶ Create a National Care Service for England - requires an additional £3 billion per year but will put maximum limit on lifetime personal contributions, raise asset threshold for entitlement to state support and allow provision of free end of life care.
- ▶ Increase social care budgets by £8 billion with additional £1 billion for the first year.
- ▶ Unpaid full-time carers receive Carer's Allowance aligned with rates of Jobseekers Allowance.
- ▶ Implement 'sugar tax'.
- ▶ Public enquiries - contaminated blood and licensing/regulation of medicines, medical devices and other products.

Liberal Democrats

- ▶ Cap cost of social care.
- ▶ Raise upper threshold for Carer's Allowance – must earn £150 per week (currently £110) to qualify and also reduce the number of hours per week the person must provide care to qualify.
- ▶ NHS will have legal duty to identify carers - develop a Carer's Passport.
- ▶ Move towards free end of life care.
- ▶ Implement 'sugar tax' and introduce levy on tobacco companies.
- ▶ Just settlement for haemophiliacs who received contaminated blood and for their families.

Conservatives

- ▶ Already invested £2 billion into social care system and given Councils permission to use Council tax to generate more capital.
- ▶ Means-test domiciliary care - taking into account value of family home and other assets and income.
- ▶ £100,000 floor - patients will only continue paying care costs until their assets reach £100,000 **NOTE:** subsequently been changed by the Conservatives - they will now be holding consultation to determine an "absolute limit" that will be put on care costs - the £100,000 floor will apply once this cap is reached.
- ▶ Defer payments for care at home - preventing people having to sell their home in their lifetime.
- ▶ Statutory entitlement for workers to carer's leave.
- ▶ Entitlement to child bereavement leave for those who lose a baby.
- ▶ Means-testing for the winter fuel payments.
- ▶ Improve provision of end of life care.

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