

# Manifesto Mash-up: Election 2015

We've taken a close look at the manifestos of the biggest political parties running candidates across the UK\* for things that could impact charities, and then grouped these into four key areas:

**Commissioning** – what the parties are saying about public services reform and the role of charities and social enterprise.

**Charity management and finance** – proposals that could affect how you run your organisation (even if they aren't aimed at charities)

**Aid and Volunteering** – specific and general stuff about volunteering, social action, and international aid programmes.

**Campaigning and Participation** – what (if anything) the parties say about our 'role' in representing beneficiaries and pushing for change.

You can read our more detailed analysis [here](#). This is of course not exhaustive – each manifesto is typically over 80 pages long. Lots of stuff will affect charity's beneficiaries, or will affect charities working in certain charitable subsectors like health, education, arts and so on.

## What is and what isn't a manifesto?

An election ploy? A list of dreams? A work of fiction? We all know that much of what goes into a party's manifesto often never sees the light of day until the next election. Manifestos are best conceived as a statement of where the party stands on certain issues. Sometimes they contain really specific plans, but mostly they are full of vague statements of intent. And they leave lots of really important stuff!

This year the manifestos seem especially vague, but purposefully so. They might be seen as more of a starting point from which parties can negotiate an inevitable coalition agreement. So what policies are actually brought forward after the election is difficult to tell. Nonetheless, they are a good indication of the direction a party is likely to take on the other side --- if they come out with any MPs!

## I'm having trouble sleeping, can you recommend anything?

Click on the party name to read their manifesto in full! Be advised that staring at a computer screen before bed is ill-advised:

[Labour](#)[Conservative](#)[Liberal Democrat](#)[UKIP](#)[Green](#)

## I agree with you completely, I think you're great. How can I tell you?

We welcome your feedback, email us at [policy@dsc.org.uk](mailto:policy@dsc.org.uk)

\*While the SNP looks set to play an influential role in the election, they are not included here as they compete only for seats in Scotland. Some analysis of their position and the impact they may potentially have can be found in the associated blog [here](#).

# DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

## Commissioning

### Labour

- Repeal Health & Social Care Act – stop privatising NHS
- Support for charities to deliver school extra-curricular activities
- Support 'social economy' through more accessible contracts & finance

### Conservative

- Scale up payment-by-results & social impact bonds; focus on youth unemployment, mental health, homelessness
- Get charities 'more involved' in public services

### Liberal Democrat

- Improve access to social investment
- 'community trigger' to review poor services

### UKIP

- Abolish 'big society' programme
- Make easier for SMEs to bid for contracts

### Green

- Public ownership to be 'default option' before services are contracted out

## Charity Management & finance

### Labour

- Cut & freeze small business rates
- £8 minimum wage
- Ban zero hours contracts

### Conservative

- Review of business rates by end 2017
- £8 minimum wage
- No increase in VAT

### Liberal Democrat

- Plan to not increase VAT
- Raise minimum wage
- Right to request fixed employment contracts
- Review business rates, new Land Value Tax

### UKIP

- Exempt charities from local waste charges
- Train & fund 800 advisers in food banks for community advice

### Green

- Remove charitable status from private schools

## Campaigning & Participation

### Labour

- Repeal the Lobbying Act – replace with Register of Lobbyists
- 'Repair damage' done to judicial review
- Keep Human Rights Act' and ECHR

### Conservative

- Scrap Human Rights Act, curtail role of European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)
- Retain and review Lobbying Act

### Liberal Democrat

- Retain and review Lobbying Act

### UKIP

- Clamp down on 'fake charities' and 'government funded activism'

### Green

- Repeal the Lobbying Act
- Keep Human Rights Act

## Aid and Volunteering

### Labour

- Support for Step up to Serve and the National Citizens Service
- International aid at 0.7% GDP

### Conservative

- Support Step up to Serve
- Introduce three days paid leave to volunteer
- Expand National and International Citizens Service
- Double aid match scheme

### Liberal Democrat

- 'Promote social action and volunteering at school, college and university'

### UKIP

- Abolish National Citizens Service & International Citizens Service (DFID)
- Cut international aid commitment to 0.2% of GDP

### Green

- Increase international aid budget from 0.7% to 1.0% of GDP