

General Election 2017

# Manifesto Mashup!

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## Introduction

As the General Election approaches the final stretch, we've sifted through the manifestos of the main UK-wide parties with significant representation in Westminster – Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat – to see what they say about charities, social enterprises and community groups.

Each manifesto is around 70-80 pages long. Once you get past the campaign slogans, soundbites and splashy images, they offer a mix of vague and aspirational statements of intent and a sprinkling of more specific or developed policy. Sometimes promised legislation or plans (like a green paper) are worth noting because it will likely to lead to future activity which charities might need to influence.

We make no interpretation here about what each statement means or the likelihood of it happening. Sometimes we've paraphrased slightly for brevity, but have included relevant points for each party without analysis so you can make up your own mind. The listings are not exhaustive and we've omitted some big categories (NHS, education, defence) purely because these are so complex and primarily about core state responsibilities (even though many charities are involved in these areas).

We hope this helps you find information that's most relevant to you. Happy manifesto mashing!

Simply click on the category you'd like to take a more in depth look at:

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## References

### Conservative Manifesto

[\*Forward Together\*](#)

### Labour Manifesto

[\*For the Many, not the Few\*](#)

### Liberal Democrat Manifesto

[\*Change Britain's Future\*](#)

## 1. Policy that affects the VCSE sector

Below we've noted manifesto references which could directly or indirectly affect charities, social enterprises and community groups, or where there was a specific mention.

### Conservative

- Establish schemes to help individuals, **charities**, faith groups, churches and businesses to provide housing and other support for refugees.
- Conduct a full review of the business rates system.
- Create a number of Future Britain funds created out of revenues from shale gas extraction, dormant assets, and the receipts of sale of some public assets.
- Ensure that 33 per cent of central government purchasing will come from SMEs by the end of the parliament.
- Extend the Coastal Communities Fund to 2022 in England.
- Develop a digital charter, working with industry and **charities** to establish a new framework that balances freedom with protection for users.
- Make sure that our public services, businesses, **charities** and individual users are protected from cyber risks.

### Labour

- Repeal the Lobbying Act and introduce a tougher statutory register of lobbyists.
- Work with **communities, civil society** and business to reduce loneliness.
- Consult on bringing forward legislation to make companies more accountable not only to shareholders, but also to employees, customers, the environment and the wider public.
- Introduce a package of reforms to business rates, while reviewing the entire system in the long term.
- Extend the Freedom of Information Act to companies that run public services.

### Liberal Democrat

- Support social investment, ensuring **charities and social enterprises** can access the support and finance they need.
- Enable central and local government to prioritise employee-owned and **community-benefit companies** in awarding procurement contracts by strengthening the Social Value Act.
- Set up a £2 billion Rural Services Fund of capital investment to enable **communities** to establish a local base from which to co-locate services such as council offices, post offices, children's centres, libraries and visiting healthcare professionals.

## 2. Brexit

Issues related to Brexit and the UK's changing future relationship with the EU are likely to affect many policy areas and charities, social enterprises, and community groups.

### Conservative

- Enact a Great Repeal Bill to convert EU law into UK law. Once EU law has been converted into domestic law, parliament will be able to pass legislation to amend, repeal or improve any piece of EU law it chooses.
- Control immigration and secure the entitlements of EU nationals in Britain and British nationals in the EU.
- Use the structural fund money that comes back to the UK following Brexit to create a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund, specifically designed to reduce inequalities between communities across our four nations.

### Labour

- Labour accepts the referendum result and will build a close new relationship with the EU, protect workers' rights and environmental standards, and give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.
- Scrap the Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities that have a strong emphasis on retaining the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union.
- Would reject 'no deal' as a viable option and if needs be negotiate transitional arrangements to avoid a 'cliff-edge' for the UK economy.
- Guarantee rights of EU nationals and UK citizens in EU countries.
- Remain part of Horizon 2020 and the European Medicines Agency.
- Ensure there is no drop in EU Structural Funding until 2019/20 and ensure no part of the UK is affected by withdrawal of EU funding for the remainder of this Parliament.

### Liberal Democrat

- Would offer a second referendum on the 'Brexit deal' agreed between the EU and the UK.
- Push to unilaterally guarantee the rights of EU nationals in the UK, ending their ongoing uncertainty.
- Want any Brexit deal should to protect the right to work, travel, study and retire across the EU.
- Argue that any Brexit deal must ensure that trade can continue without customs controls at the border, and must maintain membership of the single market.
- Will push to protect Erasmus+ and other EU-funded schemes which increase opportunities for young people.

### 3. Mental health

The health service is always a major feature of political debate and hence election manifestos. Particularly for charities, it's notable that mental health is a prominent issue in this election.

#### Conservative

- Will introduce the first new Mental Health Bill for thirty-five years, putting parity of esteem at the heart of treatment.
- Publish a green paper on young people's mental health before the end of 2017.
- 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.

#### Labour

- Establish a £250 million Child Health Fund, publish a strategy on childhood obesity and implement a strategy for the children of alcoholics, introduce a new Index of Child Health to measure progress against international standards.
- Ring-fence mental health budgets and increase the proportion spend on early intervention for children and young people, with a counselling service available for children in every secondary school.
- End the practice of children being treated on adult wards and end out-of-area placements of patients by 2019.

#### Liberal Democrat

- Ringfence funding from within the one penny Income Tax rise, to provide additional investment in mental health.
- Guarantee people will not wait more than six weeks for therapy for depression or anxiety and no young person will wait more than two weeks for treatment when they experience a first episode of psychosis.
- Increase access to clinically and cost-effective talking therapies for hundreds of thousands more people.
- Transform mental health support for pregnant women, new mothers and those who have experienced miscarriage or stillbirth, and help them get early care when needed.
- Ensure that LGBT+ inclusive mental health services receive funding and support.

## 4. Social care

The looming crisis in social care is a massive political and policy issue, which will affect us all over coming decades (including many charities working in this area and the people they help).

### Conservative

- Align the basis for means-testing for domiciliary care with that for residential care. The value of the family home will be taken into account along with other assets and income, whether care is provided at home, or in a residential or nursing care home.
- Introduce a single capital floor, set at £100,000, to ensure that, no matter how large the cost of care turns out to be, people will always retain at least £100,000 of their savings and assets, including value in the family home.
- Extend the current freedom to defer payments for residential care to those receiving care at home, so no-one will have to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for care.
- Forthcoming green paper will address system-wide issues to improve the quality of care and reduce variation in practice.
- Strengthen the entitlement to flexible working to help those with caring responsibilities for young children or older relatives.

### Labour

- Establish a National Care Service for England, with a shared requirement for single commissioning, partnership arrangements, pooled budgets and joint working arrangements.
- Increase social care budgets by an additional £8 billion over the next Parliament.
- Implement principles of the Ethical Care Charter, already adopted in 28 council areas.
- Increase Carer's Allowance for unpaid full-time carers to align the benefit with rates of the Jobseeker's Allowance."
- Set maximum limit on lifetime personal contributions to care costs; raise the asset threshold below which people are entitled to state support; provide free end of life care.

### Liberal Democrat

- Establish a cross-party health and social care convention, bringing together stakeholders from all political parties, patients groups, the public and professionals
- Move towards single place-based budgets for health and social care by 2020, allowing local areas to decide how best to provide the full spectrum of care for their community.
- Raise the amount people can earn before losing Carer's Allowance from £110 to £150 a week, and reduce the number of hours' care per week required to qualify.
- Provide more choice at the end of life and move towards free end-of-life social care, whether people spend their last days at home or in a **hospice**.
- Evaluate the valuable work of **hospices** with a view to putting them on a more sustainable financial footing and allowing them to expand their services.

## 5. Welfare

Policy decisions about welfare affect millions of charity beneficiaries. The Conservatives largely stand on their recent welfare policies whilst Lib Dem and Labour pledge to reverse many of those.

### Conservative

- No plans for further radical welfare reform in the next parliament. Continue the roll-out of Universal Credit.
- Help groups who have in the past found it difficult to get employment, by incentivising employers with a holiday on employers' National Insurance Contributions for a full year, to take on people who have: been former wards of the care system, disabilities, chronic mental health problems, criminal records, been long-term unemployed.
- Means test Winter Fuel Payments, focusing assistance on the least well-off pensioners, who are most at risk of fuel poverty.
- Maintain the Triple Lock pension policy until 2020, when it will be replaced by a 'Double Lock', meaning that pensions will rise in line with the earnings that pay for them, or in line with inflation – whichever is highest.

### Labour

- Guarantee the state pension 'triple lock' throughout the next Parliament, as well as universal Winter Fuel Allowance and bus passes for pensioners. Bring in transitional protections for women affected by the change in state pension age.
- End benefit sanctions, the 'Bedroom Tax' and cuts to Bereavement Support Payment. Reinstate Housing Benefit for those under 21.
- Reform and redesign Universal Credit, ending delays in payment and the 'rape clause'.
- Increase Employment Support Allowance by £30 a week, repeal cuts in Universal Credit limited capacity for work element.
- Increase Carers Allowance to the level of Jobseekers' Allowance.
- Implement parity of esteem for physical and mental health conditions in PIP.
- End Work Capability and PIP assessments and replace them with a personalised assessment to provide each individual with a tailored plan.
- Commission a report on expanding the Access to Work programme.

### Liberal Democrat

- Reverse cuts to Work Allowances in Universal Credit.
- Accelerate roll-out of Individual Placement and Support for people with mental ill-health.
- Uprate working-age benefits at least in line with inflation.
- Abandon the two-child policy on family benefits and abolish the 'rape clause' where a woman has to declare children that are born as a result of rape in order to access benefits.
- Reverse cuts to housing benefit for 18-21-year-olds and increase the rates of Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit for those aged 18-24 at the same rate as minimum wages.
- Reverse cuts to Employment Support Allowance for the work-related activity group.

- Increase Local Housing Allowance (LHA) in line with average rents in an area.
- Scrap the 'bedroom tax'.
- Scrap Work Capability Assessment and replace it with a new system, run by local authorities according to national rules.
- Withdraw eligibility for Winter Fuel Payment from pensioners who pay tax at the higher rate (40%). Retain the free bus pass for all pensioners.
- Ensure that those using **food banks** are aware of their rights and how they can access hardship payments where relevant.



## 6. Children and young people

Many charities work with children and young people, but these services (and the funding which supports them from local authorities) have been under pressure in recent years.

### Conservative

- Schools in England will offer a free school breakfast to every child in every year of primary school; children from low-income families will continue to receive free school lunches.
- Improve take-up of shared parental leave and help companies provide more flexible work environments that help mothers and fathers to share parenting.
- Help those who have been caring for a child or children for a number of years or supporting an elderly relative.
- Introduce 30 hours of free childcare for three and four-year-olds for working parents who find it difficult to manage the costs of childcare.
- Capital fund to help primary schools develop nurseries.
- 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 councils provide consistency of care and cannot relocate vulnerable children far from their home when it is not in their best interests to do so.

### Labour

- End cuts to youth services.
- Prevent private sector companies running child protection services.
- Enshrine the European Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law.
- Fund child burial fees for bereaved parents.
- Focus social work on preventing at-risk children from going into care; further regulate commercial fostering agencies; commission review into establishing a national fostering service, extend residential and other care for children and young people to age 21.
- Establish a new Child Poverty Strategy.
- Transition to a system of directly-subsidised childcare, maintaining current free hours commitments and extending 30 free hours to all two-year-olds, as well as moving towards making some childcare available for one-year-olds.
- Double paid paternity leave and increase paternity pay, as well as moving towards extending maternity pay to 12 months.
- Halt Sure Start centre closures and increase funding available.
- Make age-appropriate sex and relationship education compulsory in school curriculum.

### Liberal Democrat

- Extend free school meals to all primary school children; promote school breakfast clubs.

- Extend free childcare to all two-year-olds and to the children of working families from the end of paid parental leave, and encouraging new fathers to take time off with an additional month's paid paternity leave.
- Provide 15 hours a week of free childcare to the parents of all two-year-olds in England.
- Prioritise 15 hours' free childcare for all working parents in England with children aged between nine months and two years.
- Commit to an ambitious long-term goal of 30 hours' free childcare a week for all parents in England with children aged from two to four years, and all working parents from the end of paid parental leave to two years.

## 7. Human rights and equalities

The current legal framework for many human rights and equalities issues is likely to change due to Brexit. Many charities use the law and the courts to advocate on behalf of beneficiaries.

### Conservative

- Will not bring the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights into UK law.
- Will not repeal or replace the Human Rights Act during Brexit process; will consider our human rights legal framework when the process of leaving the EU concludes.
- Will remain signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights for the duration of the next parliament.
- Require companies with more than 250 employees to publish more data on the pay gap between men and women.
- Continue to work for parity in the number of public appointments going to women, and we shall push for an increase in the number of women sitting on boards of companies.
- Get 1 million more people with disabilities into employment over the next ten years.
- Legislate to give unemployed disabled claimants or those with a health condition personalised and tailored employment support.

### Labour

- Retain Human Rights Act; enhance the powers of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- Enhance the 2010 Equality Act, strengthening access to justice for people with disabilities.
- Ensure that, under the Istanbul Convention, disability hate crime and violence against women with disabilities is reported on annually, with national action plans.
- Strengthen workers' rights and trade union representation through a number of measures, including banning zero hours contracts, raising minimum wage to Living Wage, banning unpaid internships and abolishing employment tribunal fees.
- Appoint a Violence Against Women Commissioner and establish a National Refuge Fund to provide stable funding for **women's refuges** and **rape crisis centres**.
- Reform the Gender Recognition Act to protect Trans people.
- Bring LGBT hate crimes into line with race and faith-based hate crimes in law.
- Ensure all frontline health and social care professionals receive ongoing training to understand and meet the needs of LGBT patients and service users.
- Introduce equal pay audit requirements on large employers.
- Make British Sign Language a recognised language.

### Liberal Democrat

- Oppose any attempt to withdraw from the European Court of Human Rights, or abolish or water down the Human Rights Act.
- Decriminalise the sale and purchase of sex, and the management of sex work – reducing harm, defending sex workers' human rights.

- Develop a government-wide plan to tackle BAME inequalities, and review the Equality and Human Rights Commission.
- Increase accessibility to public places and transport by making more stations wheelchair accessible, improving the legislative framework governing blue badges, setting up a benchmarking standard for accessible cities, and bringing into effect the provisions of the 2010 Equality Act on discrimination by private hire vehicles and taxis.

## 8. Environment

Environmental policy is relevant to many charities, and could shift significantly due to Brexit.

### Conservative

- Halt offshore wind development in England; support development of wind projects in the remote islands of Scotland, where they will directly benefit local communities.
- Develop the shale industry whilst upholding rigorous environmental protections, ensuring the proceeds of the wealth generated by shale energy are shared with communities.
- Invest in more low-emission buses, as well as supporting audio-visual displays for bus passengers and community minibuses for rural areas poorly served by public transport.
- Ensure that public forests and woodland are kept in trust for the nation, and provide stronger protections for our ancient woodland.
- Pledge to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it. Produce a comprehensive 25 Year Environment Plan.

### Labour

- Introduce a new Clean Air Act.
- Safeguard 'blue belt' sea and ocean habitats.
- Set targets for plastic bottle deposit schemes; work with the food industry to reduce waste.
- Prohibit the use of neonicotinoids.
- Work with farmers and foresters to plant a million native trees to promote biodiversity and flood management.
- Ensure 60% of the UK's energy comes from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2030.
- Support creation of publicly-owned, locally accountable energy companies and co-operatives, with at least one in every region.
- Insulate four million homes.
- Ban fracking.

### Liberal Democrat

- Enact five green laws: a Green Transport Act, a Zero-Carbon Britain Act, a Nature Act, a Green Buildings Act, and a Zero-Waste Act to incorporate existing EU environmental protections, maintain product standards such as for energy efficiency.
- Expand community energy schemes, encourage councils to develop community energy-saving projects and local electricity generation.
- Significantly increase accessible green space.
- Create a new designation of national nature parks to protect up to one million acres of accessible green space valued by local communities.

- Protect and restore England's lakes, rivers and wetlands, including through reform of water management and higher water-efficiency standards, and establish a 'blue belt' of protected marine areas.
- Reverse the current sharp decline in the rate of woodland creation by aiming to plant a tree for every UK citizen over the next 10 years, and protect remaining ancient woodlands.

## 9. Housing and homelessness

Hundreds if not thousands of housing associations are charities or social enterprises, and many large and small charities help people with housing-related issues.

### Conservative

- Combat homelessness and rough sleeping including through full implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act.
- Aim to halve rough sleeping over the course of the parliament and eliminate it altogether by 2027.
- Pilot a Housing First approach to tackle rough sleeping.

### Labour

- Establish a new Department for Housing.
- Build 100,000 council and housing association homes every year for affordable rent or sale.
- Ban letting agency fees for tenants and put an inflation cap on rent rises.
- Bring in new legal minimum standards for rented homes.
- Guarantee Help to Buy funding until 2027.
- Suspend right-to-buy policy unless councils have a plan for like-for-like replacement of homes sold.
- Set out a national plan to end rough sleeping during the next Parliament, with an additional 4,000 homes reserved for those with a history of rough sleeping.
- Safeguard homeless hostels and supported housing from previous cuts to housing benefit.
- Review arrangements for refugee housing.

### Liberal Democrat

- End the Voluntary Right to Buy pilots that sell off housing association homes and the associated high value asset levy.
- Lift the borrowing cap on local authorities and increase the borrowing capacity of housing associations so that they can build council and social housing.
- End the scandal of rough sleeping by increasing support for homelessness prevention and adequately funding age-appropriate emergency accommodation and supported housing.
- Ensure all local authorities have at least one provider of the Housing First model of provision for long-term, entrenched homeless people.

## 10. Criminal justice and prisons

Many charities are involved in work to rehabilitate offenders, help prisoners, and victims of crime.

### Conservative

- Invest over £1 billion to modernise the prison estate, replacing the most dilapidated prisons and creating 10,000 modern prison places.
- Create a national community sentencing framework that punishes offenders and focuses on the measures that have a better chance of turning people around and preventing crime, such as curfews and orders that tackle drug and alcohol abuse.
- 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.
- 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.
- Review funding for refuges and ensure victims who have lifetime tenancies and flee violence are able to secure a new lifetime tenancy automatically.

### Labour

- Review provision of mental health services in prisons.
- Establish personal rehabilitation plans for all prisoners.
- Incentivise local authorities, police and probation services to innovate in youth justice, as well as embedding restorative justice practices in all youth offending institutions.
- Review the role of Community Rehabilitation Companies.
- Review means-testing of legal aid and consider reinstatement of other legal aid entitlements.
- Ban the use of community resolutions as a response to domestic violence.

### Liberal Democrat

- Introduce Victims' Bill of Rights that will create a single point of contact for victims in the criminal justice system, increase victims' access to information about their cases, and give victims the right to request restorative justice rather than a prison sentence.
- Increase use of tough, non-custodial punishments including weekend and evening custody, curfews, community service and GPS tagging.
- Promote community justice panels and restorative justice that brings victims and wrongdoers together to resolve conflict, reduce harm and encourage rehabilitation.
- Transform prisons into places of rehabilitation, recovery, learning and work, with suitable treatment, education or work available to all prisoners; adopt a holistic approach to prisoners with multiple problems, and ensure that courses started in custody can be completed on release.



## 11. Arts, sports and culture

Charities and community groups are often involved in arts, sports and culture, whether as institutions or as part of their charitable activities.

### Conservative

- Maintain free entry to the permanent collections of our major national museums and galleries.
- Introduce a new cultural development fund to use cultural investment to turn around communities.
- Hold a Great Exhibition of the North in 2018, to celebrate amazing achievements in innovation, the arts and engineering.
- Support a UK city in making a bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

### Labour

- Establish a £1 billion Cultural Capital Fund, administered by the Arts Council, to upgrade cultural and creative infrastructure.
- Maintain free entry to museums and provide funding through the Cultural Capital Fund to focus on viability and income of museums and galleries.
- Introduce an arts pupil premium to every primary school in England to support cultural activities for schools.
- Support provision of libraries, updating them with wi-fi and computers, and reintroduce library standards.
- Review extending pub relief business rates scheme to small music venues.
- Ensure the Premier League delivers on its promise to invest 5% of TV rights income in grassroots football.
- Improve access provision for fans with disabilities at sports events.

### Liberal Democrat

- Maintain free access to national museums and galleries.
- Move towards introducing 'safe standing' at football clubs, requiring the Sports Grounds Safety Authority to prepare guidance for implementing this change.
- Protect sports and arts funding via the National Lottery.
- Create creative enterprise zones to grow and regenerate the cultural output of areas across the UK.
- Examine the available funding and planning rules for live music venues and the grassroots music sector, protecting venues from further closures.