

The parties' pledges on health and social care



	Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats
What is their main message?	A strong NHS built on a strong economy, prioritising frontline care	Labour will rescue the NHS, invest in its future and join up services from home to hospital	Quality health for all, with a guarantee of equal care for mental health
How much money have they pledged for the NHS?	A minimum real-terms increase of £8 billion a year by 2020	An annual £2.5 billion 'time to care' fund, paid for by a mansion tax, a levy on tobacco firms and by tackling tax avoidance	Funding to be £8 billion a year higher by 2020
What about social care?	No commitment to increase social care funding A guarantee that no one will have to sell their home to fund residential social care	No commitment to increase social care funding Year-of-care budgets to incentivise better care at home, an end to 15-minute home care visits and a ban on zero-hours contracts for care workers	No commitment to increase social care funding Reduce pressure on hospitals by investing £500 million a year in services close to people's homes
Have they committed to delivering integrated care?	Yes - building on the Better Care Fund and proposals to pool £6 billion of health and social care funding in Greater Manchester	Yes - physical health, mental health and social care services to be integrated to provide 'whole-person care', with a stronger role for health and wellbeing boards	Yes - all health and social care budgets to be pooled by 2018, a stronger role for health and wellbeing boards and responsibility for social care to be transferred to the Department of Health
And do they support the NHS five year forward view?	Yes - senior Conservatives have publicly backed it, and their funding commitments are closely tied to it	In principle - Andy Burnham has stated his support but made clear Labour would make 'fundamental changes' that would alter the assumptions it is based on	Yes - senior Liberal Democrats have made their support clear, and they were the first party to commit to the £8 billion funding increase it calls for
What are their plans for access to services?	All patients to have access to GPs and hospital care seven days a week by 2020 Guaranteed same-day appointment with a GP for everyone over 75	Guaranteed GP appointments within 48 hours, or on the same day for those who need it A maximum one-week wait for cancer tests and results by 2020	Easier access to GPs, expanding evening and weekend opening, and encouraging phone and Skype appointments
Have they committed to more staff?	Yes - 5,000 more GPs to be trained by 2020	Yes - the 'time to care' fund would pay for 20,000 nurses, 8,000 GPs, 5,000 care workers and 3,000 midwives	No specific pledge
What pledges have they made about mental health?	Ensure that psychological therapists are available in every part of the country Ensure that women have access to mental health support during and after pregnancy	Increase the proportion of the mental health budget spent on children A new right to psychological therapy in the NHS Constitution	An extra £500 million a year for mental health services to improve access and reduce waiting times A raft of proposals to improve mental health services, in particular for children, pregnant women and new mothers
What are they saying about public health?	Review how best to support people with conditions such as obesity or drug or alcohol addictions to remain in or return to work	Set maximum limits on levels of fat, salt and sugar in food marketed to children Set a new national ambition to improve the uptake of physical activity and take targeted action on cheap, high-alcohol drinks	Restrict the marketing of junk food to children Introduce a tax levy on tobacco companies to contribute to the costs of smoking cessation services and implement minimum unit pricing for alcohol
Would they repeal the Health and Social Care Act?	No	A bill in their first Queen's Speech to repeal the Act - this would roll back competition, make the NHS the preferred provider of services and restore the Health Secretary's responsibility to provide a comprehensive health service	No, but committed to repealing any parts of the Act that make NHS services 'vulnerable to forced privatisation' and ending the role of the Competition and Markets Authority in health

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	UKIP	Greens
What is their main message?	Fund frontline services and encourage a common-sense approach with less political interference	A publicly funded, publicly provided NHS and an end to the privatisation of services
How much money are they pledging for the NHS?	Increase frontline NHS spending by £3 billion a year by 2020	An immediate increase of £12 billion a year, rising to £20 billion a year by 2020, raising some of the extra revenue from higher taxes on alcohol and tobacco
What about social care?	Increase social care funding by £1.2 billion a year by 2020	Provide free social care for older people, spending an additional £9 billion a year by 2020
Have they committed to delivering integrated care?	Yes - fully integrate health and social care funding and responsibilities, under the control of the NHS	Yes - social care to be provided free at the point of use in line with the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England
And do they support the vision outlined in the NHS five year forward view?	No mention of it	No mention of it
What are their plans for access to services?	Initiate a pilot programme to put GPs on duty in A&E departments seven days a week Fund 8,000 new GP posts, with 1,000 of these designated to work on duty in A&E departments if the pilot programme is successful	Provide local community health centres offering a range of services including out-of-hours care, to sit alongside GP surgeries
Have they committed to more staff?	Yes - an extra 20,000 nurses, 8,000 GPs and 3,000 midwives	Yes - 400,000 jobs to be created across health and social care
What pledges have they made about mental health?	Increase mental health funding by £170 million a year End the postcode lottery for psychiatric liaison services in acute hospitals and A&E departments	Ensure that spending on mental health rises and that everyone who needs a mental health bed can access one in their local NHS, or within a reasonable distance of their home if specialist care is required Eliminate the use of police cells as 'places of safety' for children by 2016, and for adults, other than in exceptional circumstances, by the end of the next parliament
What are they saying about public health?	Oppose minimum pricing of alcohol and reverse plain packaging legislation for tobacco products	Introduce a minimum price of 50p per unit for alcoholic drinks Extend VAT to less healthy foods, including sugar, spending the money raised on subsidising around one-third of the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables
Would they repeal the Health and Social Care Act 2012?	No	Yes - repeal the Act by introducing an NHS Reinstatement Bill to abolish competition and the commissioner-provider split and restore the Health Secretary's responsibility to provide a comprehensive health service
Talking points	UKIP criticise Labour and the Conservatives for reorganising their NHS but its plans to replace the Care Quality Commission and Monitor with new county health boards would cause significant upheaval Does the evidence support the claim that treating those who are 'ineligible' for NHS care costs £2 billion a year?	How will the pledges to increase NHS spending by £20 billion and boost social care funding by £9 billion be paid for? Implementing plans to repeal the Health and Social Care Act and abolish the purchaser-provider split would result in significant upheaval

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Further analysis and commentary on the key issues in health and social care in the run-up to the general election is available on our website at www.kingsfund.org.uk/election.