Manifesto Analysis 2016
London Mayoral Election

Policy asks from the Mental Health Foundation

The Mental Health Foundation calls on the next Mayor of London to:

• Develop a public mental health strategy to embed Mental Health in All Policies, systems and services.

• Adopt the Whole Community Approach to Prevention in Mental Health beginning with the most deprived borough.

• Initiate a mental health literacy programme in partnership with NHSE and other public employers of the London public workforce so that they can make every contact count (MECC) to improve mental health across the capital. The aim is to encourage open and informed conversations to support mentally healthy lives and communities across the capital.

• Address the pressures that poor, insecure and unaffordable housing or homelessness place on the mental health of Londoners and their families.

• Lead a comprehensive initiative that addresses mental health inequalities.

We have used a Mental Health in All Policies approach to explore how each of the manifestos might support our policy asks. We analyse how each of the party’s agendas address mental health and wellbeing regarding: Communities, Children and Young People, Housing and Homelessness, Multi Morbidities and Work (page references for each party manifesto are included).
The Candidates

Twelve candidates will be on the ballot paper on 5 May looking to succeed Boris Johnson as the next Mayor of London. The candidates listed below are in the order they will appear on the ballot paper. Eight of the twelve have published a manifesto.

Sian Berry - Green Party
David Furness - British National Party (BNP)
George Galloway - Respect
Paul Golding - Britain First
Zac Goldsmith - Conservative
Lee Harris - Cannabis Is Safer Than Alcohol
Sadiq Khan - Labour
Ankit Love - One Love Party
Caroline Pidgeon - Liberal Democrats
Sophie Walker - Women's Equality Party
Peter Whittle – United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)
John Zylinski – Independent

Overview
Of the eight manifestos published for the Mayoral Election 2016, half made pledges to champion mental health in the capital; an area not typically associated with the powers of the Mayor. Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Green Party’s manifestos directly stipulate that the parties would focus on preventative mental health strategies, as well as early intervention should their parties take control of City Hall on 5 May and demonstrate a degree of recognition that non-health policy areas can impact mental wellbeing.

The two frontrunners in the polls, Labour’s Sadiq Kahn and Conservative’s Zac Goldsmith, have differing priorities with regards to mental health in the capital. Mr. Kahn campaign is centred on tackling the stigma of mental illness and his aim to improve the availability and support for those with mental health challenges and has expressed his support for the Mental Health Foundation’s Mental Health Awareness Week taking place next month. Mr. Goldsmith’s focus with regards to mental health is centred on service provision and access to beds across the capital.

Mr. Kahn has placed commitments to public health at the centre of his campaign going further than other candidates by looking to bring greater health powers to City Hall. He has focused his manifesto on tackling health inequalities and will look to bring in a comprehensive public health strategy should he be elected.

On homelessness, Mr. Goldsmith and Liberal Democrat candidate Caroline Pidgeon have called for an expansion of the “No First Night Out” scheme whilst Khan has pledged to introduce a “No Nights Sleeping Rough” initiative. The Green Party candidate Sian Berry outlined how the party would make sure London has a “Housing First” approach to end rough sleeping and would establish a Homelessness Board in City Hall.

The theme of communities, social cohesion and supporting vulnerable groups across the capital featured across each of the manifestos. Such a focus was central to Women’s Equality Party’s candidate Sophie Walker’s pledges for the capital. The party’s primary objective is to develop and enforce London-wide strategies supporting women, particularly focusing on developing policies for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and all sexualities and gender identities (LGBT+), BME and disabled women. Such pledges were by no means limited to the Women’s Equality Party; dominant across both Mr. Kahn’s and Mr. Goldsmith’s commitments was the recognition of the need for increased policies to identify and support women and girls at risk of domestic or sexual violence, with Mr. Kahn also outlining a number of proposals to introduce additional support for LGBT+ communities.
The Green Party Manifesto: Sian Berry

Mental Health

The party would promote more inter-agency cooperation between the police, social services, physical and mental health organisations and youth services. (p21)

The party would make sure housing policies form part of an integrated London strategy for improved mental health. (p5)

Communities

The party opposes cuts to local government's public health budget. (p15)

The Greens would create a fund within the Met budget for voluntary and community groups that help reduce the causes of criminal behaviour, for example youth groups that address knife crime. (p.21)

The party would ensure all police officers receive adequate disability equality training. (p22)

The party would guarantee a liaison officer in every borough to work with LGBT+ communities. (p22)

Each borough will also draw up an Anti-Homophobia Action Plan to remedy local hate crime hotspots. (p22)

The Greens would lead a London-wide review of training, resources and delivery of local health, police, child, adult and community services to ensure harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, honour killings and forced marriage are prevented or prosecuted. (p22)

The party would expand the provision of women’s refuges with specialist skills to help ethnic minority women at risk of honour killings and other criminal acts. (p23)

The party would continue training all police officers in how to handle domestic and sexual violence sensitively. (p23)

The Greens would ensure that the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods and a dementia-friendly city are included in new planning rules for streets and homes. They would support a dementia-friendly city through training and information for front-line staff in all GLA group agencies and promote this training to borough councils and private companies that deal with the public. (p27)

They would appoint a disability equality policy adviser and a new forum for London Deaf and Disabled People’s Organisations to feed into policy development, particularly housing, crime and transport. (p28).
The Greens would develop an advice and advocacy strategy for London and ensure the London Health Inequalities Strategy and London Health Improvement Board addresses health inequalities experienced by deaf and disabled people. (p29)

They would develop a co-ordinated and strategic response to food poverty in London, working with boroughs to help protect and extend meals on wheels and free school meals. (p14)

The party would work with boroughs to map food poverty and identify opportunities to improve access to affordable healthy food by introducing new street markets and allotments in areas where it is hard to buy or grow food. (p14)

**Children and Young People**

They would create at least 150,000 high-quality apprenticeships aimed at young people under 25, all paying at least the London Living Wage and with half a day’s off-the-job learning per week. (p18)

**Housing and Homelessness**

The Green Party will set up a not-for-profit housing company to help Londoners take the lead on building affordable homes and regenerating our estates. (p4)

On homelessness, the party would make sure London has a ‘Housing First’ approach to end rough sleeping and include places for at least 2,000 former rough sleepers. (p5)

The Greens would set up a Homelessness Board in City Hall, bringing in public services such as the NHS, London Councils, the Metropolitan Police and specialist services to ensure a more joined-up approach. The party would back a new law to prevent people on the streets being turned away by councils and extending the City Hall ‘No First Night Out’ scheme. (p5)

Increase support for asylum seekers and EU migrants at risk of destitution and homelessness. (p5)

**BNP Manifesto: David Furness**

**Communities**

The party have stated that all Londoners, regardless of ethnic background, should benefit from public projects and have called for equal funding of all communities. (p.3)

**Housing and Homelessness**

The BNP pledge to end the ‘bedroom tax’. (p.2)
Conservative Manifesto: Zac Goldsmith MP

Mental Health

The party will ensure the Metropolitan Police reports and tracks all victims and offenders they encounter with diagnosable mental health issues and work with the police and NHS London to bring that number down. (p80)

As part of the Action Plan for Greater London, the party will also ensure the Met extends its current Nurses on Patrol programme, a successful initiative providing officers with 24-hour support from mental health professionals. (p80)

The Conservatives will fight to ensure London has the mental health beds it needs. (p80)

The party will work with NHS London and the Department of Health to get this number down to zero by ensuring the adequate provision of 24/7 mental health beds across London. (p80)

Communities

The London Plan will be amended to make it clear that local councils should support genuinely mixed communities. Councils will be asked to set out how they plan to maintain said communities in their local plans. (p42)

The Conservatives will work with the Met, the NHS and the Crown Prosecution Service to co-locate specialist police and legal teams in London’s emergency Havens. (p81)

Under the Conservatives, all violent offenders will be forced to attend specialist prevention programmes as a condition of bail. Also, men who receive court orders banning them from family homes will have a GPS tag fitted as standard and be sent to prison if they breach it. (p82)

The party would provide grants of up to £500 for street parties which bring diverse communities more closely together. (p85)

Children and Young People

The party will invest in prevention work so more young people have a bright future ahead of them instead of a future behind bars. (p79)

The Conservative Party will lobby the Government for more control over the £229m youth justice budget, so London can spend that money on preventing children turning to crime. (p79)

The party will insist that police, prosecutors and teachers all have the training they need to spot women and girls at risk, that they handle these cases of domestic violence and harassment with the utmost care and sensitivity. (p81)
The Conservative Party will carry out a London-wide ‘Know your Rights’ campaign, in multiple languages. Funding for specialist support services for communities where women and girls are more likely to face FGM or forced marriage will be brought it. (p81)

He will back the expansion of breakfast and holiday clubs to ensure children on Free School Meals do not go hungry when they are out of school. (p23)

The party will work with community organisations to create a new chain of free schools and free boarding schools, dedicated to helping vulnerable young people learn and progress. Local football clubs will also be looked to sponsor such schools as an academy. (p80)

Where possible the party will look to create a boarding element for such community free schools so that children suffering abuse or neglect at home have a safe, specialist environment in which to learn. (p80)

Housing and Homelessness

On homelessness, the party will work to prevent people from ending up homeless and will ensure that the Mayor’s office takes responsibility for this. The Conservatives will look to expand the ‘No First Night Out’ scheme so vulnerable people are identified as early as possible. (p49)

He will reject indiscriminate affordability targets that would make it harder to build and ultimately drive up the cost of housing, whilst maximising the number of affordable homes by ending backroom deal with developers. (p38 and p39)

Cannabis Is Safer Than Alcohol (CISTA) Manifesto: Lee Harris

Multi Morbidities

The party is campaigning to convene a Royal Commission to undertake a fundamental review of all UK drugs policy.

Labour Party Manifesto: Sadiq Kahn

Mental Health

The Mayor will campaign against the stigma of mental illness and improve the availability of information and support, including by via support of the Mental Health Foundation’s Mental Health Awareness Week. (p74)

The Mayor’s Office will be used to champion the NHS, additional funding for social care, prevention and early intervention. (p72)

Efforts to reduce the number of suicides and expand best practice in crisis care will be made. (p74)
Communities

The party will commit to tackling violence against women and girls. They will prioritise a greater police presence on public transport, hold zero tolerance of domestic and sexual violence and develop better support for victims of sexual and domestic violence. (p.40)

Measures will be taken to reduce air pollution. (p74)

The party will intend to consult on all future transport and planning matters, especially with people with disabilities. (p57)

Children and Young People

Khan will work with the capital's sports clubs to support and expand their capacity for making a positive impact in their communities, especially among young people. (p79)

Labour intends to ensure from childhood that girls are provided with opportunities to learn the skills they need to succeed. (p55)

Labour wishes to establish a strategy for monitoring child poverty and targeted interventions. (p55)

On transphobia, Labour want to work with the LGBT+ community, schools, police and others to highlight the issue. (p56)

Housing and Homelessness

Work with housing associations to keep rents down, and council to support tenants that cannot afford the new pay-to-stay rules. (p24)

Khan will introduce a ‘No Nights Sleeping Rough’ initiative. (p25)

Support young people facing homelessness get the support they need whilst coordinating councils’ efforts to find private rented sector properties when no social housing is available. (p25)

Multi Morbidities

A focus will be placed on reducing health inequality, addressing the spread of infectious diseases and promoting healthier lifestyles. (p73)

A comprehensive public health strategy will be developed. (p73)

Work

Labour want to tackle disability hate crime and support the development of, and protect schemes which expand opportunities for people with disabilities to work and gain skills. (p57)
Mental Health

The Lib Dems will press the Greater London Authority to have additional powers to promote health in London and involve Londoners in the decision-making process (p85).

The party want to recognise the health needs of London’s LBGT+ population and promote specialist support services tailored to their needs, including mental health services. (p75)

Communities

The Lib Dems will promote access to cultural events and activities for all Londoners, so young people are not deterred by price or from false elitism. (p86)

Under City Hall, the Liberal Democrats wish to monitor the fairness impact of all policies and produce an annual report on progress towards reducing inequality. (p69)

The Mayor’s Fund will be reviewed and refocused to help the most disadvantaged. (p76)

Children and Young People

The party wish to audit current school provision of breakfast and after school clubs. (p66)

The party want to set up an independent taskforce to take action to reduce child poverty as well as work with boroughs to halve the number of children living in overcrowded housing by 2020. An annual report will also be published by the party reporting the progress on improving life chances of young Londoners. (p68)

The Liberal Democratic wishes to encourage and work with boroughs to keep their own youth facilities. (p68)

The party wants to make London a healthier place in which to grow up, focusing on improved air quality, health inequalities and better mental health services for young people. (p68)

Housing and Homelessness

The party will combat homelessness by expanding the pilot ‘No First Night Out’ project, use TfL advertising space including on buses to publicise housing advice, and campaign for European Aid funds to help destitute EU migrants. (p16)

The party wishes to recognise that London’s homeless young people who identify as being LGBT+ have higher rates of suicide and will ensure their needs are met through a homebuilding programme and will support various organisations who are working to end street homelessness. (p75)

The party will create a new ‘living rent’ standard, with the goal that Londoners should pay no more than one-third of their take-home pay on rent costs. (p9)
The party will ensure that women suffering domestic abuse do not lose their right to a secure tenancy if they enter a shelter, encouraging social landlords to guarantee a route through to rehousing. (p16)

The Liberal Democrats will work with landlords and the voluntary sector to ensure rough sleepers don’t just have a bed for the night but a pathway into secure housing. (p16)

The party will work with borough councils on prevention strategies, so actions they take (such as evictions) do not create additional costs and harm for individuals especially children. (p17)

The Liberal Democrats will be ambitious to make large developments achieve at least Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 and require good liveable space standards. (p21)

The party will seek to maintain mixed communities, increase the number of family-sized homes and foster a better live/work/play combination through planning policy. (p21)

Work

The party intend for the London Enterprise Panel to focus on maternal unemployment and to prioritise projects that provide childcare or improve maternal employment when allocating London funding from the European Union. (p66)

The Mayor’s Office will be used to publicise awareness of available benefits. (p74)

It will involve the voluntary sector to improve the employability and skills of the most excluded and economically inactive Londoners. (p52)

Women's Equality Party Manifesto: Sophie Walker

Communities

Build on the pan-London strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls, in partnership with women’s organisations. (p.14)

Ring-fence sufficient and sustainable funding for specialist support services that are for and led by women, including BME women and disabled women. (p.15)

Establish a London-wide register of accessible refuge spaces and find ways to increase the numbers of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors who work with disabled women. (p.15)

Work with London-based organisations, the Metropolitan Police, health services and local authorities to implement best practices for dealing with rape and other forms of sexual violence and be responsive to the needs of LGBT+, BME and disabled victims. (p.15)

Prioritise better enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders (DVPOs) by the Metropolitan Police. (p.15)

Work in partnership with specialist BME women’s services to ensure that FGM, forced marriage and so-called honour based violence never happen in London. (p.15)
Ensure women, men and children who have been victimised by the sex trade receive the support they need, and examine police and local authority responses to prostitution across London. (p.15)

Housing and Homelessness

Work with local authority services to establish a solid pan-London system to help women fleeing domestic and sexual abuse find refuge and secure accommodation. (p.17)

Work

The party will task the London Enterprise Panel to prioritise parental employment and expand the ‘Routes to Work for Parents’ programme by focusing on quality jobs for women who are re-entering the labour market, with extra support for young mothers and for survivors of violence and abuse who are struggling to get back to work.(p.11)

Help business and the public sector draw from a wider talent pool, including single mothers, disabled women and anyone who cannot work full-time due to health issues or caring responsibilities. (p.11)

Establish a task force to work with employers to tackle employment discrimination. (p.11)

They will convene a commission on care and create a pan-London approach to meet the demand for care for older and disabled people, and to tackle the carer recruitment problem in the city. (p.13)

UKIP Manifesto – Peter Whittle

Housing and Homelessness

Establish a London-wide homelessness register. Knowing exactly how many people are homeless is essential if we are to tackle the problem (p.5)
The Mental Health Foundation, a UK wide charity, has been in existence for 65 years. We focus on researching and evaluating fresh approaches to mental health with a view to advocating helpful policy change and the roll out of best practice more widely. Our work is centred on prevention – we believe that there is far more scope for interventions that prevent people developing mental health problems and which sustain recovery. Access to mental health services is critical, but as a society we also need to focus on bringing down the need for these services and developing good mental health for all.

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