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).

Policy asks from the Mental Health Foundation

The Mental Health Foundation calls on the Scottish Government to:

- A comprehensive, prevention-focused strategy for mental health policy in Scotland, bringing together a drive for improved mental health services with a vision to improve mental health across our communities

- Commitment to put into practice the 2011 Christie Commission recommendations with regard to addressing inequality, failure demand and co-production in mental health, in the context of wider public service reform

- Commitment to recognising the unique role of mental health in achieving our national outcomes, coupled with improved mental health literacy to enable mental health impact to be recognised

- Commitment to supporting the development of comparable data and research evidence in mental health, coupled with a commitment to support and evaluate innovation in mental health

- Establishment of a high-level commission on mental health in Scotland, to develop a human rights-based vision for mental health at the heart of Scotland’s future
Elections to select 129 members of the Scottish Parliament will be held on 5 May. MSPs elected on May 5 will sit for the parliament’s sixth session since devolution established the Scottish Parliament in 1999. This election also marks the first parliamentary election in Scotland in which 16 and 17 year olds have the vote.

Below are the list of parties and their respective leaders.

**Scottish Conservatives**: Ruth Davidson

**Scottish Green Party**: Patrick Harvie and Maggie Chapman

**Scottish Labour Party**: Kezia Dugdale

**Scottish Liberal Democrats**: Willie Rennie

**Scottish National Party (SNP)**: The Rt. Hon Nicola Sturgeon

**United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)**: David Coburn
A key aim of all manifestos for government is to enable Scots to be healthier, happier, safer, more productive and engaged in their communities. How we feel, how we act, and the connections we make are key to success for education, economic development, community, health, justice, equality, transport and sustainability policies which build the national outcomes the next government will set. Mental health is a skeleton key that can unlock the challenges Scotland faces around health inequalities, attainment, equality, and poverty.

At the start of this campaign we called for robust political discussion of mental health during the election campaign, followed by a commitment by the next Scottish Government to adoption of a cross-departmental approach to mental health policy. We are heartened to see a range of manifesto pledges from across the political spectrum both explicit to mental health, and in other policy areas with a key impact on mental health.

We believe that the next Scottish Government should deliver a comprehensive policy approach to mental health to: ensure we all have the opportunity to flourish; ensure we concentrate on those with the least power and most risk; and ensure that people with mental health problems can recover and thrive.

We must prioritise prevention in mental health, even in the face of austerity and challenge, because the downstream risk of failure demand created by abandoning existing programmes such as early years support or suicide prevention, or rowing back from developing new approaches, will only lead to a future unmanageable demand for services. Increasing our focus on prevention in mental health policy does not replace the urgent need to continue to focus on addressing mental health problems when they arise. Prevention of distress, of relapse, of crisis, of suicide, and of lost opportunity should address the issues that see people with mental health problems die younger and be disproportionately subject to inequalities. In turn, this enables people to be more active in communities, use fewer services, and lead lives they value.

The Foundation is proud to support the Scottish Mental Health Partnership call for a high-level commission on mental health in Scotland. It is time for a considered, in depth analysis of how we integrate mental health across all areas of public policy to maximise mental health as a resource for Scotland’s future.

Mental Health Foundation will be publishing ‘Mental Health in Scotland: the first 100 Days and Beyond’ during Mental Health Awareness Week (16 – 20 May) in which we will outline our take on how the Scottish Parliament can achieve real change over the next five years. We look forward to working with all parties, the Scottish Government and our colleagues across Scotland to achieve this.
Scottish Conservatives

Mental Health

Support a 10 year mental health delivery plan and call for an additional £300 million to be invested in mental health services over the next parliament. The new funding should be used to improve capacity and staffing across the health service, with an ambition to provide dedicated mental health support in every GP surgery and every A&E department 24/7 (p.28)

The Scottish Conservatives support the provision of greater counselling in secondary schools. (p.25)

The party pledge to move towards parity of esteem between mental and physical health, with targeted funding and policies to facilitate the necessary changes. (p.28)

The Scottish Conservatives pledge that additional support should be directed to social prescribing - both in the development of innovative social prescribing networks and in the information available to GPs on services. (p.28)

Scottish Conservatives have also supported the Frank’s Law campaign and will continue to put pressure on the Scottish Government to increase support for dementia sufferers under 65. (p.28)

Children and Young People

The party will tackle LGBT discrimination through SEEMiS reporting of LGBT incidents, a toolkit for teachers on tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying and more specific school inspections. (p.25)

The Scottish Conservatives support the creation of a Crisis Family Fund. (p.21)

Housing and Homelessness

Scottish Conservatives argue that there should be a clear target to achieve a transformative change in energy efficiency across Scotland to tackle fuel poverty and address the resultant mental and physical health challenges (p.33)

Scottish Green Party

Mental Health

The Scottish Green party will put mental health on the same platform as physical health and will stress the impact inequality, poverty and poor local environment can have on mental health. (p.25)

Green MSPs will fight for equal consideration for mental and physical health across all health and social care sectors. (p.25)
The party supports the Declaration of Rights for Mental Health. (p.25)

Green MSPs will prioritise campaigning for more resources and professional training to meet the needs of people facing financial deprivation; LGBTI+ people, disabled people, young people and other groups that often suffer poor mental health; and to counter the inter-generational effects that abuse can play in poor mental and social health. (p.25)

Scottish Greens support measures to make our society’s good health, equality and wellbeing the foundation of all Scottish Government policy. (p.23)

**Communities**

The Scottish Green Party will call for a total review of Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payments. (p9)

The party would introduce a weekly top up to Child Benefit. (p9)

The party would give claimants the option of receiving Universal Credit payments more frequently and would call for the split of the benefit between partners. (p9)

Green MSPs will strongly oppose any repeal of the Human Rights Act, advocate for a Bill of Rights to safeguard our civil liberties, and support the incorporation of international treaties into Scots law. (p15)

The party also want all schools to achieve UNICEF’s Rights Respecting School Award, where children’s human rights are embedded in a school’s ethos and culture. (p15)

The Scottish Green Party argue that local government should be allowed to raise funds fairly, such as through progressive tax and not increased charges, to pay for social care. (p.24)

**Children and Young People**

The party will support a curriculum that gives students experience in global citizenship, environmental awareness, and their rights and responsibilities as Scottish citizens. (p.17)

All schools should provide robust ‘relationship, sexual health and parenthood’ education, covering the principles of equality, consent, signs of abuse and the full spectrum of gender and sexuality. The curriculum should also reflect modern industries, such as computer programming, bioscience, the creative industries and technological innovation. (p.17)

Green MSPs will support a national entitlement to locally-delivered bursaries for all students in further education. (p.18)

The party states its support for the National Union of Students Scotland’s Shaping Scotland’s Future campaign. (p.18)

Green MSPs will support programmes aimed at providing young people with confidence and self-worth and campaigns to reduce stigma and social pressures on children as well as take action to identify child mental health issues early and addressing child trauma, bereavement and loss.
The party has stated that local authorities and Community Planning Tackling should prioritise investigating the impact of Westminster benefit cuts and child poverty. (p.24)

**Housing and Homelessness**

The Scottish Green Party will introduce a fuel poverty scheme funded by the largest energy companies. (p12)

**Comorbidities**

Support action to help people live healthy lives and make changes to reduce or quit smoking and enjoy drink socially and healthily. (p.25)

**Work**

The party supports the creation of a Gender Equality in Business Scheme as well as a non-permanent commission to tackle gender and racial occupational segregation in the labour market (p6)

**Scottish Labour Party**

**Mental Health**

Mental health will be given the same priority as physical health. The party will create cabinet level responsibility for mental health to ensure that it receives the level of attention and political leadership needed. (p.33)

Ensure that all secondary schools in Scotland have access to a qualified and appropriately experienced school counsellor, providing accessible counselling to young people who need it. (p.23)

New sports clubs will be funded by the ‘sugar tax’ offer the opportunity to support both physical and mental health. (p32)

The party want mental health professionals dispersed throughout the health service, from primary care settings to A&E departments. (p.33)

The Scottish Government set a standard for the NHS in Scotland to deliver a maximum wait of 18 weeks from December 2014 for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The standard should be delivered for at least 90% of patients. (p.33)

Invest in educational psychologists and community mental health professionals trained in talking therapies to widen access and reduce missed waiting times. (p.34)
Communities

Develop a National Loneliness Strategy which will include training for doctors and health service staff on helping pensioners with depression. (p.31)

Recognise the need to address the link between inequality and cancer, which is why the party are committed to building on the new cancer strategy to prevent people in our communities from developing cancer. (p.32)

Appoint a Cabinet Secretary for Equalities responsible for mainstreaming gender equality. (p.34)

A Labour Scottish Government would implement all 15 of Naomi Eisenstadt's recommendations through an Anti-Poverty Bill (p.34)

Labour will create a new Scottish Social Security Agency. This agency would ensure that it undertakes its work following a rights-based, person-centred, flexible and responsive approach. Future social security policy will be developed on clear entitlements and geared towards people achieving their full rights without barriers to access. (p.36)

Establish a statutory Scottish Social Security Advisory Committee which will review changes to benefits. (p.36)

Give people the option of either cash or in kind payments through the Scottish Welfare Fund. (p.36)

Disability benefits will be rights-based not means tested, the application and appeals process will be made more straightforward and transparent. The financial value of such benefits will be protected. Those with long term or terminal conditions will not be asked to requalify. The party will explore removing assessment from the hands of the private sector. (p.36)

The Scottish Welfare Fund will be protected and ensure that crisis grants and loans are administered fairly. (p.36)

More than double the Sure Start Maternity Grant for new mums in need to £1,030. (p.36)

Help those families with children who receive the highest care component of Disability Living Allowance to meet their energy costs by enabling them to receive the Winter Fuel Payment. (p.37)

Abolish the 84-day rule impacting DLA and Carer’s Allowance. (p.37)

A Labour Scottish Government will establish a review into prescribing PrEP as a priority. (p.37)
A Scottish Labour Government will change the law to provide legal recognition for people who do not identify as men or women and remove the psychiatric diagnosis requirement from legal gender recognition process. (p.37)

The party will invest in credit unions to offer communities affordable alternatives to loan sharks and high-street pay-day lenders. (p.44)

The party will work with local authorities and third sector organisations to welcome and support refugees and we will continue to argue that the UK should take a more humane approach to welcoming those fleeing conflict and persecution. (p.44)

Introduce a Refugee Integration (Scotland) Bill setting out refugees’ rights to access services, enshrine national standards for integration in law, especially around language and interpretation, and simplify the many provisions in Scots law relevant to refugees (p.44)

Labour will work to end care charges, so that all aspects of social care are free at the point of delivery. (p.31)

**Children and Young People**

Fund a breakfast club in every primary school in Scotland. (p.22)

Create a new statutory obligation on government to report on the attainment gap between children from lower and higher-income backgrounds. The party will bring in measures of success in closing the gap as part of the school inspection system. (p.23)

Reverse the SNP’s decision to charge schools for exam appeals, as this disadvantages pupils from poorer backgrounds. (p.23)

**Housing and Homelessness**

Ensure that, where a tenant requests it, the housing element of Universal Credit can be paid direct to social landlords, and that, for those that require it, the option is available to have Universal Credit paid fortnightly instead of monthly. (p.36)

Immediately abolish the bedroom tax. (p.36)

The party will protect housing benefit for young people aged 18-21. (p.36) Scottish Labour will therefore consult on and adopt a new cross-departmental strategy for tackling homelessness. (p.43)

**Multi-Morbidities**

Support the development of a centre of excellence for forensic analysis and a database of information and intelligence that will help to fill the current knowledge
gap around psychoactive substances. (p.57)

Support the development of new treatment protocols and pathways to divert young people from substance abuse. (p.57)

**Work**

Establish a Living Wage Commission tasked with making Scotland a Living Wage nation and to end the use of zero-hours contracts. (p.15)

Implement the Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce, to ensure that young, disadvantaged and disabled people who want to work get more tailored help. (p.18)

**Scottish Liberal Democrats**

**Mental Health**

The party will provide access to mental health professionals to those in police custody (p11)

They will establish the use of joint cars staffed by both police officers and mental health nurses to attend emergencies (p11)

The Liberal Democrats will put mental health on the same statutory footing as physical health (p11)

The party will double the funding for child and young person mental health (p11)

The Liberal Democrats will create new mental health units for children and adolescents in Aberdeen and Inverness (p11)

The Liberal Democrats will fully update the Scottish Mental Health Strategy (p11)

The party will introduce a fully qualified mental health professional into every GP practice and Accident and Emergency Department (p11)

The party will provide access to mental health professionals to those in police custody (p11)

They will establish Crisis Centres as safe staffed places for individuals to go for emergency support (p11)

The party promises to increase funding for child and adolescent mental health services. (p21)

**Communities**

The Liberal Democrats will extend free personal care for the elderly to make sure care services are available free of charge for people with dementia at all ages – Frank’s Law. (p.13)
Children and Young People

The Liberal Democrats would implement a new initiative to tackle homophobic bullying. (p6)

The party will review school counselling services (p11)

It pledges to tackle homophobic bullying and improve LGBTI education in schools. (p21)

Housing and Homelessness

The Liberal Democrats would remove the spare room subsidy from the Scottish welfare system (p14)

The party will allow housing benefit to be directly paid to a landlord and retain the entitlement to the benefit for 18-25 year olds (p15)

They will require local authorities to monitor and account for the outcomes of young homeless people (p16)

The party will protect children’s rights by enshrining the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Scottish legislation. (p21)

Scottish National Party (SNP)

Mental Health

Implement a new ten year plan to transform mental health and invest an additional £150 million to improve mental health services. (p.8)

The SNP would implement a ten year plan on mental health care and invest at least £150m more over the next five years. (p5)

Increase the share of the NHS budget dedicated to mental health and to primary, community, and social care. (p.2)

They would recruit mental health link workers in GP practices. (p5)

Ensure mental health conditions and physical health conditions are treated with parity, re-enforcing existing legislation. (p.5)

The SNP would publish a three year dementia strategy. (p4)

Ensure that the principle of “ask once, get help fast” is in force across the country by the end of the Parliament. (p.5)

Examine innovative ways to deliver better mental health services for children and young people, bringing together healthcare and education, to ensure faster treatment without stigma. (p.5)

Make sure devolved social security services are suitable for people with mental health conditions. (p.5)
The party’s employment and welfare programmes will be designed to take account of mental health conditions and bring an end to the difficulties people face with the DWP. (p.5)

The party has provided almost £1 million for the Scottish Association for Mental Health to better promote these benefits and we will examine how this could inform a system of ‘social prescribing’ in the future. (p.6)

Ensure the Forestry Commission and NHS continue to work together to protect and extend for the Forestry Commission Scotland’s Branching Out programme, which uses outdoor education to improve the quality of life for adults experiencing long term mental health problems and common mental health issues. (p.28)

Support and the development of a new model for the female custodial estate. New units will provide accommodation as women serve out their sentence, with access to intensive support to help overcome issues such as alcohol, drugs, mental health and domestic abuse trauma which evidence shows can often be a driver of offending behaviour. (p.38)

**Communities**

They would embed Scotland’s action plan on human rights and the sustainable development goals into the national performance framework. The party will seek to use new powers for the Scottish Parliament to establish social and economic rights for Scotland over all devolved matters and to further embed the European Convention on Human rights in Scotland. (p22)

It will embed Scotland’s National Action Plan on Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals into the National Performance Framework and will continue to oppose the potential repeal of the Human Rights Act. (p22)

The SNP will work with stakeholders to develop Scotland’s first Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy. (p39)

£14.5m will be invested in supporting survivors of abuse. (p39)

The SNP will continue to focus on making charges for social care services fairer. (p.4)

The party will exempt War Pension for veterans and Guaranteed Income Payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for those injured after April 2005, from consideration in assessments for care charges. The party will also revise existing charging guidelines so that war disablement pensions are fully disregarded from social care means tests. (p.4)

They will consult on the introduction of national guidance for care charges and, as part of this, consider the option of a cap that takes account. (p.4)

**Children and Young People**

They would provide young people aged 16-24 who have been unemployed for six months or more with a jobs grant payment of £100 for those without children and £250 for those with children and free bus travel for three months (p15).

They would implement a national strategy for young people with disabilities. (p22)
The SNP has pledged that by 2018 every nursery in a deprived community will have an additional teacher or childcare graduate to support learning. (p7)

The party would implement its framework for families with disabled children. (p4)

They would roll out Getting It Right for Every Child and support the implementation of the named person service. (p7)

They would implement their action plan on eliminating child sexual exploitation. (p7)

Would implement the strategy on looked after children. (p8)

They would establish a fund for children who have been in care to support them into work, training or education. (p15)

Housing and Homelessness

The SNP would restore housing benefit for 18 – 21 year olds (p23).

UKIP

Mental Health

Appropriate treatment will be offered for those with addiction and mental health issues. (p10)

Direct access to specialist treatment will be made available to pregnant women and women with children under 12 months suffering mental health problems. (p10)

The party will aim to ensure patients displaying mental health issues on admission to hospital are assessed for both physical and mental well-being. (p10)

Mental health resources in the justice system will be increased. (p10)

The party will help fight the stigma around mental health and provide support to those seeking to stabilise and normalise their lives. (p10)

Housing and Homelessness

UKIP oppose the ‘bedroom tax’. (p19)
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.