Policy asks from the Mental Health Foundation

The Mental Health Foundation calls on the next Prime Minister to:

- A National Thriving Mental Health Programme to spread public understanding about how to look after our mental health and to build community resilience.
- A Royal Commission to investigate effective ways to prevent poor mental health and to develop good mental health, and highlighting opportunities to reduce risks.
- A Mentally Thriving Nation Report each year to track progress, emerging issues and actions required.
- A ‘100% Health’ Check to help people to manage their mental health and reduce their risks as well as identifying where they need professional mental health support.
- Fair Funding for Mental Health Research, commensurate with the scale of mental health problems in our society.

This report provides an overview of each of the party manifestos for England. We analyse how each of the party’s agendas address mental health and wellbeing regarding: Communities, Children and Young People, Housing and Homelessness, Welfare and Work (page references for each party manifesto are included).
The Parties

Prime Minister Theresa May will be looking to retain her position as the country goes to the ballot box on June 8th 2017. Her Conservative and Unionist party will be defending and looking to build on its 330 seats in the House of Commons. The Labour party hold 230 (including 24 as Labour/Co-op), the Liberal Democrats on nine, and the Green Party on one.

Despite Brexit debates taking centre stage of the election campaign, we are encouraged to see mental health continue to move up the political agenda and feature as a significant element in each party’s health policy.

Conservative and Unionist Party
Leader: Theresa May

Labour Party
Leader: Jeremy Corbyn

Liberal Democrats
Leader: Tim Farron

Green Party of England and Wales
Leader: Caroline Lucas and Jonathan Bartley (shared role)

UK Independence Party (UKIP)
Leader: Paul Nuttall
Conservative and Unionist Party

View the full manifesto here

Mental health

The party will reform laws to ensure those with mental illness are treated fairly and employers fulfil their responsibilities effectively and will introduce a new Mental Health Bill putting parity of esteem at the heart of treatment. (p57)

The Conservatives will address the need for better treatments across the whole spectrum of mental health conditions and make the UK the leading research and technology economy for mental health, bringing together public, private and charitable investment. (p57)

The manifesto commits to amending health and safety regulations so that employers provide appropriate first aid training and needs assessment for mental health, and widening the Equalities Act protections against discrimination to mental health condition. (p57)

Up to 10,000 more mental health professionals will be recruited, and all medical staff will be required to have a deeper understanding of mental health. (p69)

Introduce new services for employees to give them the support they need, including quicker access to mental health. (p68)

All trainees will get a chance to experience working in mental health disciplines, and medical exams will better reflect the importance of this area. (p69)

The party will improve the co-ordination of mental health services with other local services, including police forces and drug and alcohol rehabilitation services. (p70)

The Conservatives will work to reduce stigma and discrimination and implement in full the Transformation Care Programme for those with learning disabilities and autism. (p70)

A green paper will be published on young people’s mental health before the end of 2017. (p72)

A future Conservative Government will introduce mental health first aid training for teachers in every primary and secondary school by the end of the parliament. (p72)

Focus on improving the co-ordination of government services to veterans, including housing, employment and mental health services, by introducing a Veterans Board in the Cabinet Office. (p42)

Fund schemes to get graduates from Britain’s leading universities to serve in schools, police forces, prisons, and social care and mental health organisations. (p43)

Ensure that commissioners sit on local health and wellbeing boards, enabling better co-ordination of crime prevention with local drug and alcohol and mental health services. (p45)

Provide help for prisoners learn English, maths and the work skills they need to get a job when they leave prison, whilst providing the help prisoners require to come off drugs and deal with mental health problems. (p45)

Continue to expand the number of NHS approved apps that can help monitor care and provide support for physical and mental health conditions. (p69)
Workplace

Train one million members of the public in basic mental health awareness and first aid to break the stigma of mental illness. (p.57)

Amend health and safety regulations so that employers provide appropriate first aid training and needs assessment for mental health, as they currently do for risks to physical health, and extend Equalities Act protections against discrimination to mental health conditions that are episodic and fluctuating. (p57)

The party will consider the findings of the Stevenson-Farmer Review into workplace mental health support, working with employers to encourage making mental health and wellbeing support available to their employees. (p57)

The Conservatives pledge to give employers advice and support to hire and retain disabled people and those with health conditions, ensure a sustainable welfare system, and commit to legislating to give unemployed disabled claimants or those with a health condition personalised and tailored employment support. (p57)

Introduce new services for employees to give them the support they need, including quicker access to mental health. (p68)

Children and young people

Every child will learn about mental wellbeing and the mental health risks of internet harms in the curriculum. (p72)

Pledge to 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. (p72)

A green paper will be published on young people’s mental health before the end of 2017. (p72)

A future Conservative Government will introduce mental health first aid training for teachers in every primary and secondary school by the end of the parliament. (p72)

Welfare

The party will adopt a “Breathing Space” scheme so that someone in serious problem debt may apply for legal protection from further interest, charges and enforcement action for a period of up to six weeks. This could include being offered a statutory repayment plan (p60)

Communities

The party will offer asylum, wherever possible, to people in conflict areas rather than those who make it to Britain. (p40)

It will work to reduce asylum claims made in Britain. (p40)

It will work with other countries in Europe and the UN to review the international legal definitions of asylum and refugee status. (p40)

The party pledges to make sure councils get the help they need to deal with people as they arrive and establish schemes to help individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to provide
housing and other support for refugees. (p40)

The party will not repeal or replace the Human Rights Act while the process of Brexit is underway but will consider the human rights legal framework following the UK’s departure from the EU. (p37)

The party will reduce loneliness and promote technological solutions to prolong independent living. (p65) The Conservatives will invest in dementia research. (p65)

The Conservatives pledge over £1bn to modernise the prison estate and will reform the entry requirements, training and management and career paths of prison officers. (p45)

Will reduce the disproportionate use of force against Black, Asian and ethnic minority people in prison, young offender institutions and secure mental health units and we will legislate here too if progress is not made. (p56)

**Housing and Homelessness**

Full implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act. (p58)

The party will create a domestic violence and abuse commissioner in law, with various powers and responsibilities including monitoring the response to domestic violence and abuse, reviewing the funding for refuges and support with tenancies. (p58)

The Conservatives will continue to combat homelessness and rough sleeping including through full implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act and will set up a new homelessness reduction taskforce to focus on prevention and affordable housing, as well as pilot a Housing First approach to tackle rough sleeping (p58)

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**Labour Party**

Read the full manifesto [here](#)

**Mental Health**

Mental health budgets will be ring-fenced to protect services. (p73)

A Labour Government will ask the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to evaluate the potential for increasing the range of evidence-based psychological therapies on offer. (p73)

The party states it will make the country the most “autism friendly” in the world, ending the social isolation for autistic people. (p66)

The party will work with communities, civil society and business to reduce loneliness. (p68)

Labour vows to use prison only for the serious offences and review the provision of mental health services in prisons. (p82)
To end the “scandal” of children being treated on adult mental health wards across the country, Labour will bring forward the ending of out-of-area placements to 2019. (p73)

Labour will increase the proportion of mental health budgets spent on support for children and young people. (p73)

The party aims for the country’s children to be the healthiest in the world, fighting health inequalities and breaking the link between ill-health and poverty. They will introduce a new Index of Child Health to measure progress against international standards, and report annually against the following indicators: obesity, dental health, under-fives and mental health. £250 million pounds will be provided to set up a Children’s Health Fund to support these ambitions. (p67)

The party will promote preventative health care by increasing the number of health visitors and school nurses. (p67)

The manifesto commits to the publishing a new childhood obesity strategy within 100 days, which will include proposals on advertising and food labelling. (p68)

The manifesto states the party will implement a strategy for the children of alcoholics based on recommendations drawn up by experts. (p68)

The party will implement a Tobacco Control Plan, which will focus on issues of mental health and young smokers. (p68)

Free school meals for all primary school children will be introduced, paid for by removing the VAT exemption on private school fees. (p38)

School-based counselling will be extended to all schools at a cost of £90m per year. (p38)

The party will deliver a strategy for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and embed SEND into training for teachers and non-teaching staff. (p39)

The manifesto commits to the development of a new Child Poverty Strategy. (p56)

The manifesto commits to enshrine the European Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law. (p87)

A future Labour Government will ensure that all teachers receive initial and ongoing training on the bullying of LGBT young people and how to address them. (p111)

Welfare

Labour will introduce a version of Scotland’s Debt Arrangement Scheme for households struggling with debt. (p50)

Labour will introduce a new Social Security Bill within their first year in office. (p56)

Labour will end the so-called Bedroom Tax. (p56)

The sanctions regime for benefit claimants will be stopped. (p56)

Labour will reform and redesign Universal Credit, ending the delays to payment and the ‘rape clause’. (p56)

Reinstate the Housing Benefit for under 21s. (p56)
The party will remove the barriers to opportunities and choices for people with disabilities. (p56)

Labour will incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into UK law. (p56)

Employment and Support Allowance will be increased by £30 per week, and cuts to Universal Credit limited capacity for work element will be repealed. (p56)

The party will increase the Carer’s Allowance by £11, to the level of jobseekers’ Allowance. (p56)

Labour will implement the decision on Personal Independent Payment, to ensure parity of esteem between mental and physical health. (p56)

Communities

A National Refugee Fund will be established. (p77)

A commitment to reform the Gender Recognition Act and the Equality Act 2010 to ensure they protect Trans people by changing the projected characteristic of “gender assignment” to “gender identity” (p111)

Housing and Homelessness

The manifesto commits to setting out a new national plan to end rough sleeping within the next Parliament, starting by reserving 4,000 additional homes for people with a history of rough sleeping. (p64)

They will act on the “root causes of homelessness”, safeguarding homeless hostels and other supported housing from cuts to housing benefit. (p64)

By the end of the next Parliament, Labour pledge to build at least 100,000 council and housing association homes a year for affordable rent or sale. (p60)

The manifesto pledges to ensure local plans address the need for older people’s housing. (p60)

The party pledges to safeguard homelessness hostels and other supported housing from cuts to housing benefits. (p64)

They will also act on the “root causes of homelessness”, safeguarding homeless hostels and other supported housing from cuts to housing benefit. (p64)

Liberal Democrats

Read the full manifesto here

Mental Health

A 1p raise on income tax, which is estimated to generate around £6 billion, will be ringfenced for the NHS and social care services. This additional investment can then be diverted to priority areas including mental health and social care. (p16)
The party commits to establishing a cross-party health and social care convention, which will include devolved administrations. (p17)

Access to clinically and cost-effective talking therapies will be increased, and waiting times and access standards will be rolled out. (p18)

The party has set waiting time targets for therapy for depression and anxiety (six weeks) and a first episode of psychosis (two weeks). (p18)

Looking to the Australian model of ‘Headspace’ as an example, the case for a dedicated service for children and young people will be evaluated.

Mental health support for pregnant women, new mothers, and those who have experienced a miscarriage or a still birth will be transformed. (p18)

Continue to promote and invest in programmes which encourage graduate to pursue a career in mental health social work, such as Frontline or Think Ahead. (p18)

Improve crisis care and response to avoid police cells being used. (p18-19)

End out-of-area treatment so that those who need to be admitted to hospital can be treated close to home. (p19)

Better mental health training for front-line public service professionals, such as teachers. (p19)

National roll-out of the Liaison and Diversion programme, ensuring that vulnerable people who come into contact with the criminal justice system are identified. (p19)

Continue anti-stigma campaigns, as well as changing the standard of proof in cases of suicide. (p19)

Support medical trials and research into mental ill-health (p19)

Develop a new public health campaign, similar to the ‘Five a Day’ campaign, which promotes mental resilience. (p22)

Encourage employers to promote mental health and wellbeing at work which will result in a ‘wellbeing premium’ as a reward. (p22)

Support good practice among employers in ensuring people with mental health problems get the support they need. (p22)

Support the Armed Forces Covenant and ongoing work to support veterans’ mental health. (p84)

Children and Young People

PSHE should include: financial literacy, first aid and emergency lifesaving skills, mental health education, citizenship and age-appropriate Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). (p28-9)

The school environment should also challenge gender stereotyping and promote positive body image. (p29)

Ensure all teaching staff have mental health training and that counselling is available in all schools. (p29)

Make the promotion of wellbeing a statutory duty of a school to be included in Ofsted inspections.
Welfare

Making Carer’s Allowance more accessible by increasing the threshold of weekly earnings to £150 from £110. (p20)

Develop a Carer’s Passport scheme to inform carers of their rights. (p20)

Review the rules for exemption from prescription charges to include those with long-term conditions or disabilities. (p20)

A National Wellbeing Strategy will put health and wellbeing for all at the heart of government policy. (p21)

Raise awareness of and seek to expand the Access to Work scheme to support people with disabilities. (p59)

Accelerate the roll-out of Individual Placement and Support to encourage people with mental ill-health to get back into work. (p59)

Scrap the ‘bedroom tax’. (p59)

Scrap the Work Capability Assessment. (p59)

Communities

Design towns and cities as safe and attractive walking spaces, and implement the recommendations from the Get Britain Cycling report. (p63)

Significantly increase the amount of accessible green spaces. (p50)

Housing and Homelessness

Increase support for homelessness prevention. (p62)

Adequately fund age appropriate emergency accommodation and supported housing. (p62)

Ensure all local authorities have at least one provider of the Housing First model of provision for long-term, entrenched homeless people. (p62)

Green Party of England and Wales

Read the full manifesto here

Mental Health

Bring mental health care in line with physical health care and ensure people experiencing mental health crises are supported close to their home and support networks. (p13)

Introduce mental health awareness training within the public sector and encourage a more open dialogue on the issue in wider society. (p13)
Housing and Homelessness

Protect young people’s housing needs by reinstating housing benefit for under-21s, stop Local Authorities declaring young people "intentionally homeless", and invest in community house-building projects to provide affordable, secure housing options for young people. (p15)

Abolish the bedroom tax. (p17)

Stop declaring people as ‘intentionally homeless’ and give Local Authorities the same duties towards single people and childless couples as to families. (p17)

Community

A humane immigration and asylum system that recognises and takes responsibility for Britain’s ongoing role in causing the flow of migrants worldwide. (p19)

UK Independence Party

Read the full manifesto [here](#)

Mental Health

Invest an extra £11 billion every year into the NHS and social care by the end of the next parliament, raising caps on medical school and nurse training places, and increasing funding for mental health and dementia. (p5)

UKIP will increase planned spending on mental health services by at least £500 million every year. This sum could fund 6,000 clinical psychologists to see 500,000 more adults and young people every year. (p21)

Cut waiting times to access mental health services with 28 days being the minimum wait time. (p22)

Introduce a central point of communication to ensure a smooth transition between child and adult, and physical and mental care services. (p22)

Ensure national funding earmarked for mental health services is not diverted to other NHS services. (p22)

UKIP will integrate mental health training into the teacher-training syllabus and develop a national school-based counselling strategy for England, on a par with Wales and Northern Ireland. Specialist counselling services will be available in all secondary schools. (p22)

UKIP will introduce emotional health and wellbeing into the Ofsted inspection framework. (p22)

UKIP will review advertising, broadcast and editorial codes, seeking commitments that editorial coverage and advertising campaigns will treat men and women with dignity and promote healthy body images. (p22)

UKIP introduce an awareness campaign around the use of cannabis aimed at social workers, teachers, doctors, and magistrates. (p23)
Integrate mental wellbeing monitoring into existing medical examinations for serving armed forces personnel in potentially traumatic or ‘at risk’ roles. (p23)

Extend the period during which discharged service personnel are able to access the specialist DMHS scheme from six months to two years. (p23)

UKIP promises to allocate £400 million to dementia research. (p30)

The Veteran’s Administration will issue a veterans’ service card to ensure fast-track access to NHS and mental health care. (p46)

**Children and young people**

UKIP will create a fund worth £80 million a year to increase access to childcare providers for children with special needs, with grants of up to £3,000 to become available for specialist training, equipment, and adapting premises. (p28)

UKIP will reverse the policy of closing special schools, and ensure all schools are accessible for disabled learners. (p26)

**Welfare**

Reform Work Capability Assessments in consultation with disabled people and disability charities. (p31)

Scrap the bedroom tax (p31)

UKIP recommit to giving carers an extra five days’ paid holiday each year. (p31)

UKIP will increase Carer’s Allowance from £62.70 per week to £73.10 a week, to be equal to Job Seeker’s Allowance. (p31)

**Communities**

UKIP will introduce a new UK Bill of Rights. (p41)

**Housing and Homelessness**

UKIP will build eight halfway house veterans’ hostels, each with 200 rooms and modelled on similar hostels already in operation. We will also assign 500 affordable rent homes every year to ex-forces personnel. (p46)

UKIP will launch a review into the operation of Housing Associations. (p17)
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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