This report provides an overview of each of the party manifestos for Scotland. 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

There are currently, 59 Members of Parliament (MPs) representing Scottish constituencies at Westminster; one Scottish Labour seat, one Scottish Conservative seat, one Scottish Liberal Democrat seat, two independent and 54 Scottish National Party (SNP) seats.

Westminster SNP leader Angus Robertson reacted to the news of the shock election almost instantaneously on twitter, stating that “Whatever happened to ‘now is not the time’? UK General Election: 8th June. Straight choice in Scotland between the SNP and Tories.” While this SNP rhetoric has been dominating headlines for the past few weeks, there are two other Scottish parties defend their positions in Westminster. The Scottish Labour party, who were in the middle of launching its local election campaign when May called the election, has framed much of its campaign around its anti-referendum and anti-hard Brexit policies. The Scottish Conservative party also quickly used the election to set out its opposition to a second referendum. The Scottish Liberal Democrats leader Willie Rennie has stressed his parties optimistic outlook on the upcoming election; “The Lib Dems are relishing the prospect of this election, which is a chance to change the direction of the whole of the UK. “Our optimistic agenda is pro-UK, pro-EU, and progressive.”

**Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**
Leader: Ruth Davidson

**Scottish Labour Party**
Leader: Kezia Dugdale

**Scottish Liberal Democrats**
Leader: Willie Rennie

**Scottish National Party (SNP)**
Leader: Nicola Sturgeon

**United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)**
Leader: David Coburn
Scottish Conservatives have identified mental health as one of its priorities in the new Scottish parliamentary session.

Mental health

The party would introduce a the first new Mental Health Bill for thirty years to put parity of esteem at the heart of treatment and end the stigma of mental illness once and for all. (p4)

Make the UK the leading research and technology economy in the world for mental health, bringing together public, private and charitable investment. (p54)

Transform how mental health is regarded in the workplace by amending 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. (p55)

The party will extend Equalities Act protections against discrimination to mental health conditions that are episodic and fluctuating. (p55)

Consider the findings of the Stevenson-Farmer Review into workplace mental health support, working with employers to encourage new products and incentives to improve the mental health and wellbeing support available to their employees. (p55)

Shift resources to primary and community care to create a greater focus on early intervention. We all agree that sports participation and a healthy, active lifestyle should be encouraged. (p65)

Expand mental health education in Scottish schools so that young people know what support is available. School inspection reports should also include what mental health services are being provided at each school and a similar inspection regime should apply for colleges and universities. We will also encourage schools, colleges and universities to appoint mental health champions for staff and pupils, and we also want to see all school pupils and students have access to counsellors. (p67)

Incentivise employers to take on those groups who have in the past found it hard to get employment, including those with chronic mental health problems. (p52)

Children and young people

The party will promote efforts to reduce unhealthy ingredients and provide clearer food information for consumers. (p67)

Ensure better access to mental health care for children and young people. (p67)
Scottish Labour Manifesto

Read the full manifesto [here](#).

**Mental Health**

Support the Scottish Association for Mental Health’s (SAMH) call for a 10-year plan for improving mental health services, and the principle of ‘Ask once, get help fast’. (p73)

Labour’s plans would 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. (p73)

Labour’s commitment to end austerity will target many of the causes of poor mental health and, in particular, will focus on the links between poverty, deprivation and mental ill health. (p73)

Offer a pay rise to hundreds of thousands of Scots with a £10 an hour real Living Wage - a policy that experts say will make a significant impact on poverty, mental and physical ill-health. (p73)

The party would ensure the provision of mental health services for prisoners in Scotland. (p82)

**Children and Young People**

Labour’s top priority is to fight health inequalities to break the link between child ill-health and poverty. (p74)

Scottish Labour would use fairer, progressive tax plans to increase Child Benefit by an extra £5 per week - this would lift 30,000 children out of poverty by the end of 2021. (p74)

The next Labour government will publish a new childhood obesity strategy within the first 100 days, with proposals on advertising and food labelling. (p74)

**Welfare**

The party will scrap the “bedroom tax” across the UK. (p58)

Pledge to reinstate housing benefit for under-21s. (p58)

Labour will reform and redesign Universal Credit, ending six-week delays in payment and abolishing the “rape clause”. (p58)

Implement the court decision on Personal Independence Payments (PIP) so that there is real parity of esteem between those with physical and mental health conditions. (p59)

End the stress of reassessments for people with severe long-term conditions. (p59)

**Workplace**

The next Labour government will bring in a 20-point plan for security and equality at work. (p50)
Homes and Homelessness

Labour will set out a new national plan to end rough sleeping within the next Parliament, and we will also take action to tackle the root causes of homelessness, including safeguarding homelessness hostels and other supported housing from crude Tory cuts to housing benefit. (p66)

Communities

Labour wants Scotland to have a meaningful National Loneliness Strategy which would include training for doctors and health service staff on helping pensioners with depression. (p.74)

Labour will retain the Human Rights Act. (p81)

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Read the full manifesto here

Mental Health

Introduce new preventative health measures across the UK, helping people keep healthy. (p10)

Train and deploy new mental health practitioners, capable of providing therapies, in every GP surgery, every A&E department, police custody suites and prisons. (p13)

Create new units for children and adolescents in the Highlands and North East, addressing the fact that there are no specialist beds for them north of Dundee. (p13)

Deliver a new five-point offer on mental health to new mothers. Provisions include the post-natal six-week check including support from a GP and health visitor with specific training on maternal mental health. Expanding the range of bed spaces would allow more women to receive care close to home and to maintain maximum contact with their baby. Improve the training of frontline public service professionals and promote the roll-out of mental health champions in settings such as schools. (p13)

End the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health issues. (p13)

Children and Young People

Develop a strategy to tackle childhood obesity including restricting the marketing of junk food to children, restricting TV advertising before the 9pm watershed, and closing loopholes in the sugary drinks tax. (p14)

Encourage the traffic light labelling system for food products and publication of information on calorie, fat, sugar and salt content in restaurants and takeaways. (p14)

Introduce mandatory targets on sugar reduction for food and drink producers. (p14)

Enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in UK law. (p48)

Help young people in need by reversing cuts to housing benefit for 18-21-year-olds and increase the rates of Job Seeker’s Allowance and Universal Credit for those aged 18-24 at the same rate as minimum wages. (p45)
Welfare

Uprate working-age benefits at least in line with inflation (p45)

Reverse cuts to Employment Support Allowance to those in the Work-related Activity Group. (p45)

Scrap the discredited Work Capability Assessment and replace it with a new system, run by local authorities according to national rules, including a ‘real world’ test that is based on the local labour market. (p45)

Ensure that those using food banks are aware of their rights and how they can access hardship payments where relevant. (p45)

Communities

The party will vote against any attempts to scrap the Human Rights Act or withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. (p46)

Offer safe and legal routes to the UK for refugees, expanding the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to offer sanctuary to 50,000 over the lifetime of the next parliament and reopening the Dubs scheme to take 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children from Europe. (p46)

End indefinite immigration detention by introducing a 28-day limit. (p52)

Workplace

Support good practice among employers in promoting wellbeing and ensure people with mental health problems get the help they need to stay in or find work. This will include monitoring the benefits of the ‘Wellbeing Premium’ elsewhere in the UK – a reward to employers who take clear action to measurably improve the health of their employees. (p15)

Housing and Homelessness

Scrap the ‘bedroom tax’ across the UK, while seeking to achieve the aim of making best use of the housing supply through incentivising local authorities to help tenants ‘downsize’. (p45)

SNP Manifesto

Read the full manifesto here

Mental Health

The manifesto highlighted the SNP’s appointment of the UK’s first dedicated Minister for Mental Health as well as its mental health spending reaching record levels. It also notes that the number of people working in child and adolescent mental health has increased on the parties watch.

Children and Young People

The SNP will call on the UK government to reintroduce UK-wide targets to end child poverty. (p32)
Welfare

The SNP will continue to call for Scottish Parliament control over all social security benefits. (p32)
The party will vote to ensure that benefits increase at least in line with CPI inflation. (p7)
The SNP will continue to call for the current benefit sanctions regime to be scrapped. (p33)
SNP MPs will urge the UK government to review Personal Independence Payments. (p32)

Housing and Homelessness

SNP MPs will continue to demand that the Bedroom Tax be scrapped across the UK. (p32)
SNP MPs will support restoration of housing support for 18 to 21 year olds across the UK. (p33)

Community

The party will urge the UK government to work with devolved administrations to establish a Poverty and Inequality Commission. (p32)

United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)

Not available at time of publication
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.