

1. Manifesto analysis: Relating to Adults transformation

1.1 Health and social care

Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
<p>Above all we will build public services that are more personal to people's needs: with clear guarantees about standards, the best providers taking over others where they don't make the grade, and with new ways of organising services such as mutuals. In health, this means if we don't meet our guarantees, for example on waiting lists, the NHS will fund you to go private.... No longer passive recipients of care, patients will be active partners with enforceable guarantees, real choice, and direct control over services....We will expand patient choice, empowering patients with information, and giving individuals the right to determine the time and place of treatment. At the heart of this will be new legally binding guarantees enshrined in the NHS constitution: More personal care, with the right in law to choose from any provider who meets NHS standards of quality at NHS costs when booking a hospital appointment, one-to-one dedicated nursing for all cancer patients, and more care at home.</p>	<p>So we will give every patient the power to choose any healthcare provider that meets NHS standards, within NHS prices. This includes independent, voluntary and community sector providers. We will make patients' choices meaningful by: putting patients in charge of making decisions about their care...</p>	<p>We will change this by sharply reducing centralised targets and bureaucracy, replacing them with entitlements guaranteeing that patients get diagnosis and treatment on time. If they do not, the NHS will pay for the treatment to be provided privately.... Empowering local communities to improve health services through elected Local Health Boards, which will take over the role of Primary Care Trust boards in commissioning care for local people, working in co-operation with local councils. Over time, Local Health Boards should be able to take on greater responsibility for revenue and resources to allow local people to fund local services which need extra money.</p>
<p>Preventative healthcare through routine check-ups for the over-40s and a major expansion of diagnostic testing... Prevention and early intervention will be at the heart of our plans for a reformed healthcare system offering more for every pound we spend, significantly improving survival rates for cancer, heart disease and strokes so that we are among the very best in the world.</p>	<p>We will turn the Department of Health into a Department for Public Health so that the promotion of good health and prevention of illness get the attention they need. We will provide separate public health funding to local communities, which will be accountable for – and paid according to – how successful they are in improving their residents' health. In addition, we will introduce a health premium weighting public health funding towards the poorest areas with the worst health outcomes</p>	<p>Give priority to preventing people getting ill by linking payments to health boards and GPs more directly to prevention measures.</p>
<p>We will bring the NHS closer to people through a major expansion in care available at home, including chemotherapy and dialysis. More services will be available from GPs and through local pharmacists.</p>	<p>We will strengthen the power of GPs as patients' expert guides through the health system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - giving them the power to hold patients' budgets and 	



	<p>commission care on their behalf;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - linking their pay to the quality of their results; and, - putting them in charge of commissioning local health services. 	
<p>Over the next four years, we will deliver up to £20 billion of efficiencies in the frontline NHS, ensuring that every pound is reinvested in frontline care.</p>	<p>We will increase spending on health in real terms every year....We will match Labour's spending plans for 2010/11 in health.</p>	<p>So our first priority is to increase spending in some parts of the NHS by cutting waste in others. We have identified specific savings that can be made in management costs, bureaucracy and quangos, and we will reinvest that money back into the health care you need.... We do not plan to make net cuts in spending on front-line health services.</p>
<p>Everyone with a long-term condition, such as those with diabetes, will have the right to a care plan and an individual budget.</p>	<p>For people with a chronic illness or a long-term condition, we will provide access to a single budget that combines their health and social care funding, which they can tailor to their own needs.</p>	
<p>We will create a new settlement in our country on how we care for the elderly through the creation of a National Care Service....A new National Care Service to ensure free care in the home for those with the greatest care needs and a cap on the costs of residential care so that everyone's homes and savings are protected from care charges after two years in a care home.</p> <p>The first stage of reform will be to create a step-change in the provision of services in the home and in our communities. From 2011 we will protect more than 400,000 of those with the greatest needs from all charges for care in the home, and we will create a national physio support service helping people in every area of the country to regain their independence and confidence after a crisis or the first time they need care.</p> <p>During the next Parliament, the second stage of reform will centre on the development of national standards and entitlements to ensure high quality care for all, and an end to the unfair postcode lotteries that affect too many families.</p> <p>We also want to remove the fear that families will lose the family home in order to pay for care bills. So, from 2014, the National Care Service will</p>	<p>So we will allow anyone to protect their home from being sold to fund residential care costs by paying a one-off insurance premium that is entirely voluntary. Independent experts suggest this should cost around £8,000. We will support older people to live independently at home and have access to the personal care they need. We will work to design a system where people can top up their premium – also voluntarily – to cover the costs of receiving care in their own home.</p>	<p>Use the money for Labour's flawed Personal Care At Home Bill to provide guaranteed respite care for the one million carers who work the longest hours. We will establish an independent commission, with cross-party support, to develop proposals for long-term care of the elderly.</p>





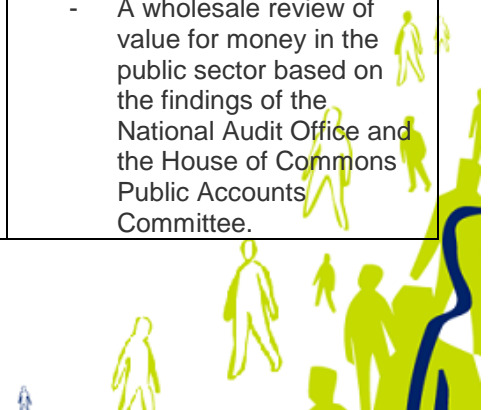
<p>cap the costs of residential care so that everyone's homes and savings are protected from care charges after two years. We will pay for this through our decision to freeze Inheritance Tax Thresholds until 2014-15, by supporting more people over the State Pension Age to stay in work if they so wish, and through efficiencies across the NHS and the care system.</p> <p>The final stage of reform, after 2015, will be a comprehensive National Care Service, free at the point of use not just for older people, but all adults with an eligible care need whoever they are, wherever they live and whatever condition leads to them needing care.</p>		
	<p>We believe that people working in positions of trust with children should go through a proper criminal record check. But Labour's new system goes too far. So we will review the criminal records and 'vetting and barring' regime and scale it back to common sense levels.</p>	
		<p>Liberal Democrats will offer a week's respite for the one million carers who spend 50 hours every week looking after a sick relative.</p>





1.2 Size of public sector and efficiencies

Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
<p>Our principle opponents, the Conservatives, offer a fundamentally pessimistic vision of national decline: about Britain today and in the future. Their only real prescription for the good society is a smaller state and the decisions they seek to make for our country would favour the privileged few over the many.</p>	<p>It is a change from one political philosophy to another. From the idea that the role of the state is to direct society and micro-manage public services, to the idea that the role of the state is to strengthen society and make public services serve the people who use them. In a simple phrase, the change we offer is from big government to Big Society.</p>	
<p>Secure the recovery by supporting the economy now, and more than halve the deficit by 2014. Once the recovery is secure, we will rapidly reduce the budget deficit....We will overhaul how government works: cutting back-office and property running costs; abolishing unnecessary armslength- bodies; sharply reducing spending on consultancy and marketing; and cutting lower-priority spend. We have already shown in Budget 2010 how these steps will help us to achieve savings of £20 billion a year by 2012-13, on top of the £15 billion savings that are being delivered this year.</p>	<p>We will start by cutting a net £6 billion of wasteful departmental spending in the financial year 2010/11....Over the course of a Parliament, we will cut Whitehall policy, funding and regulation costs by a third, saving £2 billion a year, and save a further £1 billion a year from quango bureaucracy....</p> <p>Former government advisers Sir Peter Gershon and Dr Martin Read have advised us that savings of £12 billion across all departmental spending are possible in-year without affecting the quality of frontline services. These are over and above any savings already planned by Labour. We will achieve this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a freeze on major new Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) spending; - immediate negotiations to achieve cost reductions from major suppliers; - tighter control of public sector recruitment; - reductions in discretionary spending, including travel, expenses, advertising, consultancy and office supplies; and, - reductions in public sector property costs 	<p>Following the election of a Liberal Democrat Government, an emergency budget and interim spending review would be held by no later than the end.... Throughout the summer and early autumn a Comprehensive Spending Review of all departments would be conducted with the objective of identifying the remaining cuts needed to, at a minimum, halve the deficit by 2013-14..... The cross-government economies needed to reduce the deficit such as on pay, pensions, and IT procurement will affect all departments, so it would simply be dishonest to say that entire departmental budget can be ringfenced from cuts.</p> <p>In the longer term, as part of a Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) involving wide consultation, we will seek to identify additional savings which can be used to pay down the deficit further. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better government IT procurement, investigating the potential of different approaches such as cloud computing and open-source software. - A wholesale review of value for money in the public sector based on the findings of the National Audit Office and the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.





<p>We will take a tough stance on public-sector pay, saving over £3 billion by capping public-sector pay rises at one per cent in 2011-12 and 2012-13. We have agreed tough reforms to public-sector pensions, which will make significant savings and ensure that pensions for the public sector workforce are secure and sustainable in the long term. Any government-controlled appointment involving a salary over £150,000 will require ministerial sign-off</p>	<p>We will make the following savings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- freeze public sector pay for one year in 2011, excluding the one million lowest paid workers;- cap public sector pensions above £50,000;	<p>Reforming public sector pensions to ensure that they are sustainable and affordable for the long term, with an independent review to agree a settlement that is fair for all taxpayers as well as for public servants.</p>
	<p>We will introduce and publish a standard • set of cost measures that capture the key drivers of departmental spending;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- help departmental Finance Directors to manage resources more efficiently;- implement clear financial performance targets for senior civil servants; and,- create a focus on delivering strong financial management across government.	





1.3 Welfare state

Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
<p>We will build a personalised welfare system that offers protection for all those who need it, increases people's control over their own lives, and is clear about the responsibilities owed to others.</p>	<p>We will scrap Labour's failing employment schemes and create a single Work Programme for everyone who is unemployed, including the 2.6 million people claiming Incapacity Benefit who do not get enough help from existing programmes. ...</p>	
<p>More people with disabilities and health conditions will be helped to move into work from Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance, as we extend the use of our tough-but-fair work capability test. This will help to reduce the benefit bill by £1.5 billion over the next four years. We will reassess the Incapacity Benefit claims of 1.5 million people by 2014, as we move those able to work back into jobs... For those with the most serious conditions or disabilities who want to work there will be a new guarantee of supported employment after two years on benefit.</p>	<p>We will reassess all current claimants of Incapacity Benefit. Those found fit for work will be transferred onto Jobseeker's Allowance. Recipients of Incapacity Benefit who are genuinely disabled will continue to receive the financial support to which they are entitled.... We will...enable welfare-to-work providers and employers to purchase services from Mental Health Trusts</p>	<p>And there are far too many barriers to work for people with disabilities. We will change this by giving disabled job seekers better practical help to get to work, using voluntary and private sector providers, as well as JobCentre Plus services. We will also reform Access to Work, so disabled people can apply for jobs with funding already in place for equipment and adaptation that they need.</p>
<p>200,000 jobs through the Future Jobs Fund, with a job or training place for young people who are out of work for six months, but benefits cut at ten months if they refuse a place; and anyone unemployed for more than two years guaranteed work, but no option of life on benefits.</p>	<p>Our Work Programme will: offer people targeted, personalised help sooner – straight away for those with serious barriers to work and at six months for those aged under 25;</p>	





1.4 Homelessness, employment and equalities

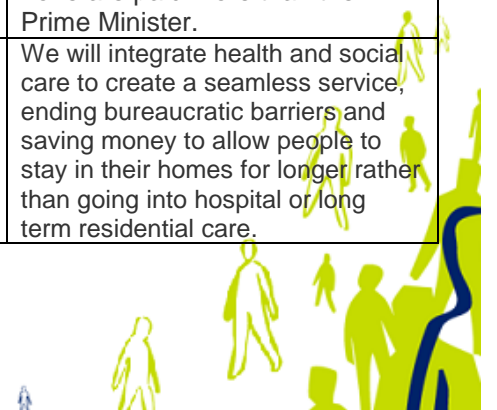
Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
Homelessness		
<p>We are committed to ending rough sleeping by 2012, and we will tackle the problems faced by homeless people with multiple needs. We will provide homeless 16 and 17 year olds with Foyer-based supported accommodation and training including help with parenting skills. Once there is enough provision to provide universal coverage we will legislate to change the law so that for 16 and 17 year olds the right to housing is met solely through supported housing.</p>	<p>We will implement a range of measures to address the problems of the homeless, including introducing more accurate street counts and ensuring a Minister in each relevant department has homelessness in their brief.</p>	
Equality		
<p>We will introduce a universal service obligation on retail banks, so that all consumers with a valid address have a legal right to a basic bank account, and a right to redress if this is refused. Banks will have to publicly report on the extent to which they are under-serving communities.</p>		
Employment		
<p>we will now proceed to end default retirement at 65, with a review to establish the right way in which to support more people to work longer should they choose to do so. To expand the choices available for those wishing to work after retirement, we will enable people aged 60 and over to claim Working Tax Credit if they work at least 16 hours a week, rather than 30 hours as at present.</p>	<p>We will hold a review to bring forward the date at which the state pension age starts to rise to 66, although it will not be sooner than 2016 for men and 2020 for women;</p>	<p>Scrap compulsory retirement ages, allowing those who wish to continue in work to do so.</p>





1.5 Government structures

Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
<p>All hospitals will become Foundation Trusts, with successful FTs given the support and incentives to take over those that are underperforming.....Foundation Trusts will be given the freedom to expand their provision into primary and community care, and to increase their private services – where these are consistent with NHS values, and provided they generate surpluses that are invested directly into the NHS.</p>	<p>We will give democratically accountable local government much greater power to improve their citizens' lives by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - giving local councils a 'general power of competence', so that they have explicit authority to do what is necessary to improve their communities; - make politics more local ending ring-fencing so that funding can be spent on local priorities; - scrapping the hundreds of process targets Labour have imposed on councils; - ending the bureaucratic inspection regime that stops councils focusing on residents' main concerns; - scrapping Labour's uncompleted plans to impose unwieldy and expensive unitary councils and to force the regionalisation of the fire service; - ending the 'predetermination rules' that prevent councillors speaking up about issues that they have campaigned on; and - encouraging the greater use of ward budgets for councillors. 	<p>Reform Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to focus solely on economic development, removing duplication with other parts of government and allowing substantial budget reductions. We will give responsibility for economic development to local authorities. Where existing RDAs have strong local support, they may continue with refocused economic development objectives. Where they do not, they will be scrapped and their functions taken over by local authorities.</p>
		<p>Scrap nearly £1 billion of central government inspection regimes on local councils.</p>
<p>The NHS will benefit from a period of organisational stability: we will make no top down changes to the structure of Primary Care Trusts or Strategic Health Authorities during the next Parliament, and we will ensure stability in the hospital payment system.</p>	<p>We will give the citizens in each of England's twelve largest cities the chance of having an elected mayor.</p>	<p>Cut the size of the Department of Health by half, abolish unnecessary quangos such as Connecting for Health and cut the budgets of the rest, scrap Strategic Health Authorities and seek to limit the pay and bonuses of top NHS managers so that none are paid more than the Prime Minister.</p>
	<p>We will abolish the Government Office for London as part of our plan to devolve more power downwards to the London Boroughs and the Mayor of London.</p>	<p>We will integrate health and social care to create a seamless service, ending bureaucratic barriers and saving money to allow people to stay in their homes for longer rather than going into hospital or long term residential care.</p>





	<p>We will implement fully the Sustainable Communities Act, and reintroduce the Sustainable Communities Act (Amendment) Bill as government legislation, to give people greater information on, and control over, what is being spent by each government agency in their area</p>	<p>Liberal Democrats will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Give local people a real say over their police force through the direct election of police authorities. Authorities would still be able to co-opt extra members to ensure diversity, experience and expertise.- Give far more power to elected police authorities, including the right to sack and appoint the Chief Constable, set local policing priorities, and agree and determine budgets.
		<p>We will cut the size of the Department of Health by half, abolish unnecessary quangos such as Connecting for Health and cut the budgets of the rest, scrap Strategic Health Authorities...</p>





1.6 Third sector and communities

Labour	Conservative	Liberal Democrat
<p>A new levy on the banks to help fund a step-change in the scale of affordable lending by third sector organisations, including a new partnership with the Post Office, offering an alternative to loan sharks and high-cost doorstep lending.</p>		
<p>We will pioneer Social Impact Bonds, encouraging private investors to support social entrepreneurs and the third sector – and harnessing additional investment for crime prevention at minimal cost to the taxpayer.</p>	<p>We will strengthen and support social enterprises to help deliver our public service reforms by creating a Big Society Bank, funded from unclaimed bank assets, to provide new finance for neighbourhood groups, charities, social enterprises and other nongovernmental bodies.... This will provide social enterprises with the start-up funding and support they need to bid for government contracts or work towards delivering services under a payment by results model....We will introduce a fair deal on grants to give voluntary sector organisations more stability and allow them to earn a competitive return for providing public services. We will work with local authorities to promote the delivery of public services by social enterprises, charities and the voluntary sector.</p>	
<p>We will continue to support older people in getting involved in their community by providing matched funding for community projects.</p>	<p>Our ambition is for every adult in the country to be a member of an active neighbourhood group. We will stimulate the creation and development of neighbourhood groups, which can take action to improve their local area. We will use Cabinet Office budgets to fund the training of independent community organisers to help people establish and run neighbourhood groups, and provide neighbourhood grants to the UK's poorest areas to ensure they play a leading role in the rebuilding of civic society.</p>	
<p>We want to see more local organisations run on cooperative principles with an expansion of Community Interest Companies and third sector mutual organisations that reinvest profits for the</p>	<p>Our work programme will involve the development of local Work Clubs – places where people looking for work can gather together to exchange skills, find opportunities, make</p>	





<p>public good. We will promote this through the Co-operative Party, Business Link, enterprise education and the Regional Development Agencies.</p>	<p>useful contacts and provide mutual support.</p>	
<p>There will be greater support for third-sector organisations in competing for public-sector contracts, ensuring there is a level playing field with the public and private sectors. We will consult on putting the Compact Commission – which sets guidelines for effective partnership working between government and the third sector in Britain – on a statutory footing, and ensure greater support for the Compact at local level.</p>		<p>Giving Local Health Boards the freedom to commission services for local people from a range of different types of provider, including for example staff co-operatives, on the basis of a level playing field in any competitive tendering – ending any current bias in favour of private providers.</p>
<p>We want to see a step change in the role of employee-owned companies in the economy, recognising that many entrepreneurs would like to see their companies in the hands of their employees when they retire. We will review any outstanding barriers to the formation of more employee companies like the John Lewis Partnership.</p>	<p>we will support co-operatives and mutualisation as a way of transferring public assets and revenue streams to public sector workers. We will encourage them to come together to form employee-led co-operatives and bid to take over the services they run. This will empower millions of public sector workers to become their own boss and help them to deliver better services</p>	<p>We believe that mutuals, co-operatives and social enterprises have an important role to play in the creation of a more balanced and mixed economy. Mutuals give people a proper stake in the places they work, spreading wealth through society, and bringing innovative and imaginative business ideas to bear on meeting local needs....We will pass a new Mutuals, Co-operatives and Social Enterprises Bill to bring the law up to date and give responsibility for mutuals to a specific minister.</p>
	<p>Our new 'community right to buy' scheme will give local people the power to protect any community assets that are threatened with closure. In addition, we will give people a 'right to bid' to run any community service instead of the state</p>	

