

Labour Party NHS Mission & Child Health Action Plan

January 2024:

In readiness for the next General Election, the Labour Party have released two key proposals which indicate their priorities and direction of travel around health - their NHS Mission and Labour's Child Health Action Plan. This short briefing outlines the key elements of each proposal, and describes potential opportunities within these for the VCSE Sector.

Opportunities for VCSE Sector... could we:

- Deliver **CYP mental health hubs** in the community.
- Deliver **breakfast clubs** for each school.
- Recruit and manage some of the extra **8,500 mental health staff**.
- Ensure **community reach of public health measures & campaigns**.
- **Be a part of the Neighbourhood Health Centres** - both delivery & supporting communities to access them.

The NHS Mission

Key messages and priorities

- **End waitlists** - clear waitlist backlog and drive down waiting times.
- Dentistry rescue plan - 700,000 extra appointments and dentists in communities that need them.
- Neighbourhood health service - trial **Neighbourhood Health Centres** bringing together family doctors, district nurses, care workers, physiotherapists, and mental health specialists under one roof.
- **Technology and early diagnosis** - 'Fit For The Future Fund' will double the number of state-of-the-art CT and MRI scanners to ensure early diagnosis.
- **Better public health** - public health measures to keep our children healthy, like banning the promotion of vaping and junk food to young people and supporting an incremental ban on smoking.
- Mental health - recruit **8,500 additional mental health staff** to drive down waiting lists, every young person will have access to a specialist mental health professional at school, every community will have an **open access mental health hub** for young people (11-24), providing early intervention through drop-in services.

Follow this [Weblink](#) for more information.

Child Health Action Plan

Key messages and priorities

- Cut waiting lists for paediatric services - **two million more planned care appointments** per year at evenings and weekends.
- End the crisis in child mental health - **cut waiting lists** for mental health services by recruiting thousands more staff, introduce **specialist mental health support** for children and young people **in every school**, deliver an open access children and young people's **mental health hub for every community**.
- Transform NHS dentistry - **700,000 extra urgent dental appointments** per year, recruit dentists to areas that need them with a targeted enhanced recruitment scheme, targeted national supervised **toothbrushing programme** for 3-5-year-olds in our fully funded breakfast clubs.
- Crackdown on smoking and vaping - ensure incremental ban on smoking comes into force, hospital trusts integrate 'opt-out' smoking cessation interventions into routine care, with a named lead on smoking cessation, ban vapes from being branded and advertised to appeal to children.
- **Ban junk food advertising to children** - 9pm watershed for junk food advertising on television and ban paid-for advertising of less healthy foods on online media aimed at children, implement a mandatory national curriculum that is balanced and broad, and makes a wide range of **physical activities** compulsory for all schools.
- Breakfast clubs for all primary school children - **free breakfast club in every primary school** so every child can start the day with a healthy breakfast and parents are able to get to work.
- **Protect from infectious diseases** - reform service to allow health visitors to administer routine immunisations to vulnerable and at-risk children.
- Follow this [weblink](#) for more information

Limitations & Gaps

- The **VCSE sector** & role within the integrated care system is **not referenced**.
- **No references** to specific improvement needs for **disabled people or disability**.
- **Social care is not referenced** at all.