Questions

1. How can the next Labour government best deliver a modern and affordable childcare system that supports families from the end of parental leave to the end

of primary school? How should Labour ensure that a new childcare system helps to

tackle child poverty?

2. How can the next Labour government ensure all young children enjoy a childhood

that enables them to thrive?

3. How can the next Labour government defeat the scandal of rising poverty and end

the soaring demand for food banks?

4. How can Labour's reforms to social security and employment support ensure people

of working-age and pensioners have security throughout their working lives and in

retirement?

5. How can Labour make home ownership a reality for more families, give private

renters the security they need and tackle the scourge of homelessness? How can the

next Labour government build more social and council housing and ensure greater

investment in genuinely affordable homes?

- 6. What are the specific implications of policy proposals in this area for (a) women,
- (b) Black, Asian and minority ethnic people (c) LGBT+ people, (d) disabled people
- and (e) all those with other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?
- 7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when

collaborating with devolved administrations and local governments in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?



The A Future Where Families Come First policy commission and its predecessor

commissions have consulted on a range of policy topics over the previous three years:

- In 2020, on The education system after coronavirus;
- In 2021, on Making Britain the best place to grow up: How to ensure children are at

the heart of our recovery from Covid-19; and

• In 2022, on Delivering financial, social and housing security

2023

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A future where families come first

The context

Labour celebrates and cherishes the wonderful diversity of all families and households across Britain.

The Labour Party wants to build a Britain that supports family life and brings genuine security to everyone.

A country that gives our children the best possible start in life, enabling them to thrive in childhood and

beyond; an economy that supports families to have a decent home, a good job and to lead a healthy,

well-balanced life; and an inclusive society that treats people with fairness and respect and that

guarantees security and dignity in retirement.

Thirteen years of managed decline by the Conservatives has made this much harder to achieve. Families

have been left exposed to worsening living standards, deteriorating public services and cuts to social

security. People's concerns over their household budgets are even more acute after the Conservatives

crashed the economy and sent the cost of mortgages soaring. Inflation having been at a forty-year high,

combined with anaemic economic growth, means that wages are now lower in real-terms than when the

Conservatives came to office in 2010.

Before 2010, few people had even heard of a foodbank; now, they're being set-up in hospitals where

some NHS staff can't keep pace with the spiralling cost of living. More than two million emergency food

parcels were distributed by the Trussell Trust last year. Over 800,000 of those parcels were for children,

a clear indication that child poverty has risen and deepened over the last thirteen years and remains

worryingly high under the Conservatives. Levels of poverty among disabled people have also soared under

the Conservative government and poverty is forecast to rise even further over the coming years.

With families feeling a squeeze on their living standards, it's even more essential that childcare is affordable

and accessible. Yet, under the Conservatives, the cost of childcare has soared, forcing many parents to

cut back on their working hours or leave the labour market entirely. The rising cost of before- and after-

school clubs means they too are out of reach for many families, contributing to a widening attainment gap

between those families who can afford for their children to attend and those who can't. Moreover, parents

with atypical working hours, single parents and parents of disabled children face additional barriers finding

accessible childcare.

The country is also in the grip of a housing crisis under the Conservatives. Average house prices are nine

times higher than average earnings and home ownership is a distant dream for millions of families. People

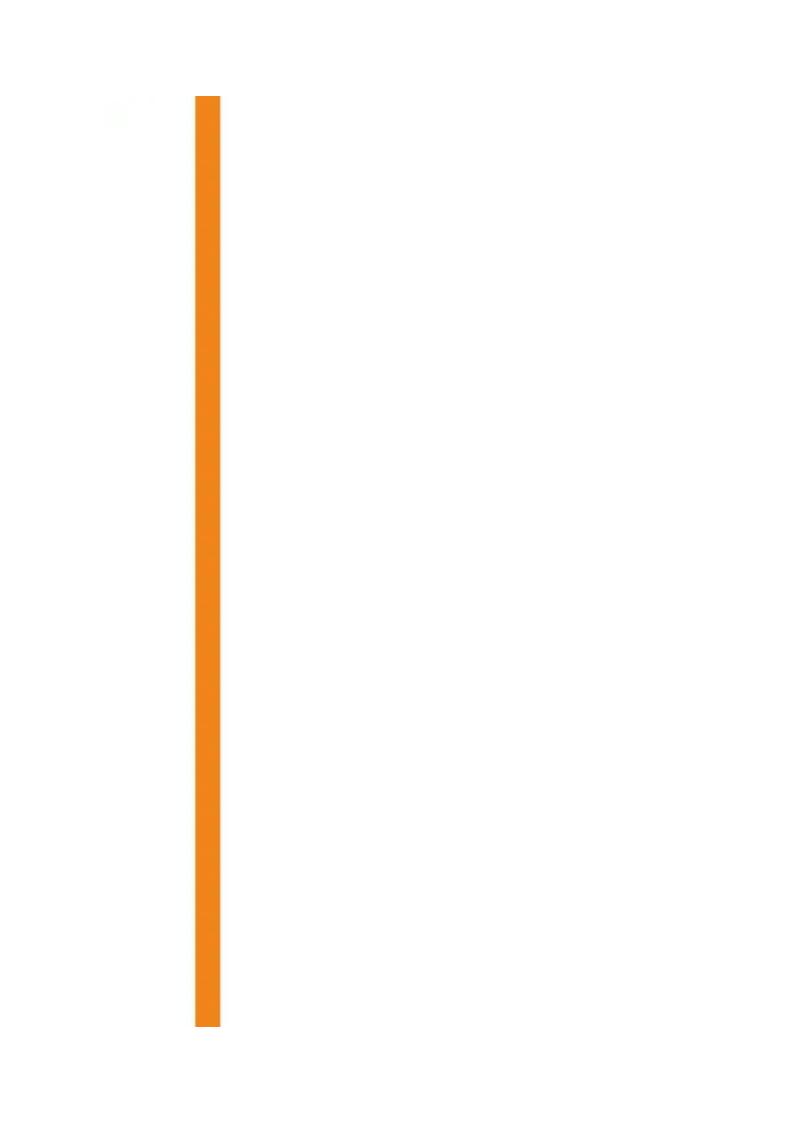
living in the private rented sector face insecurity and have seen their rents sky-rocket. The Conservatives

have failed to build the number of homes needed and failed to sufficiently invest in social and council

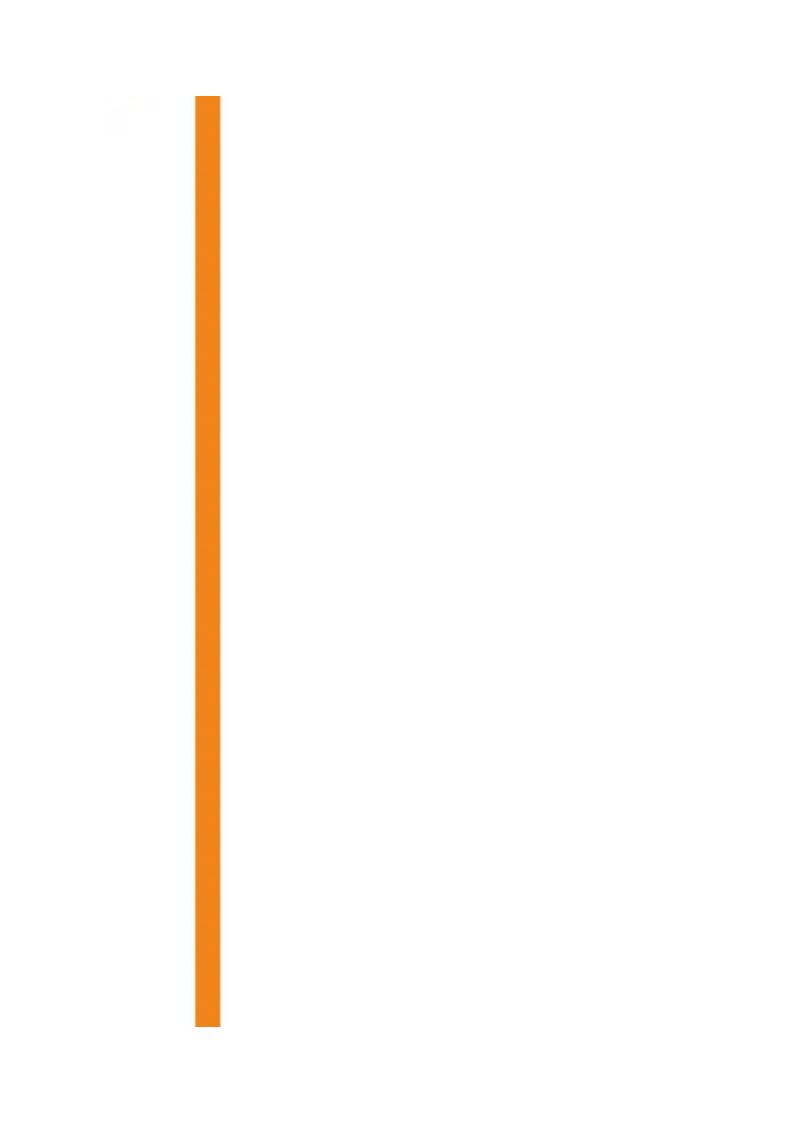
housing. Meanwhile, more than 120,000 children are living in temporary accommodation, a rise of two-thirds

since the Conservatives came to office.

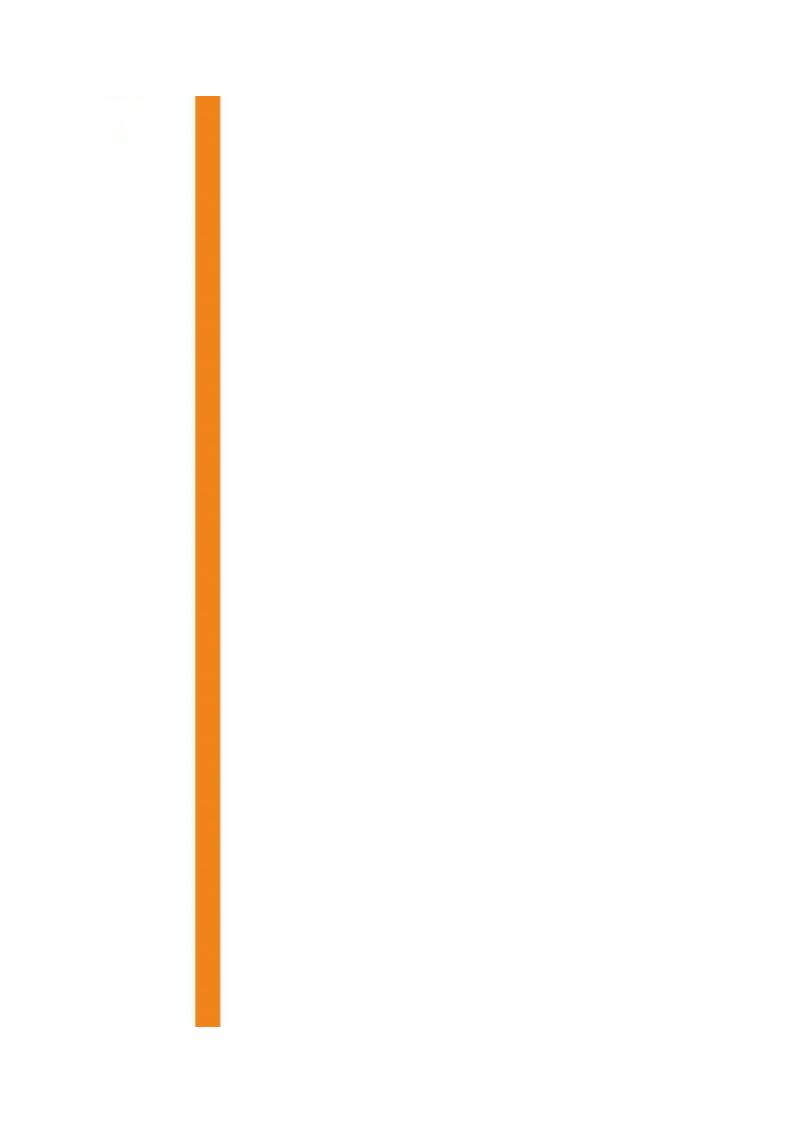




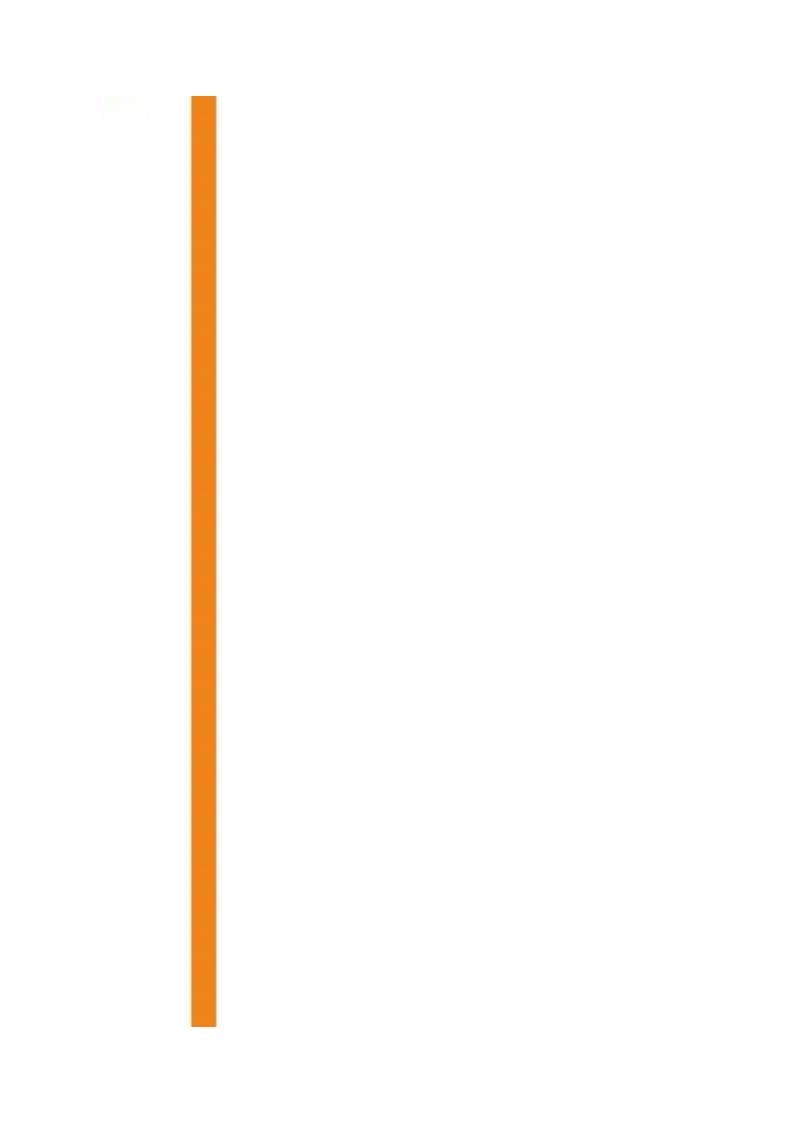




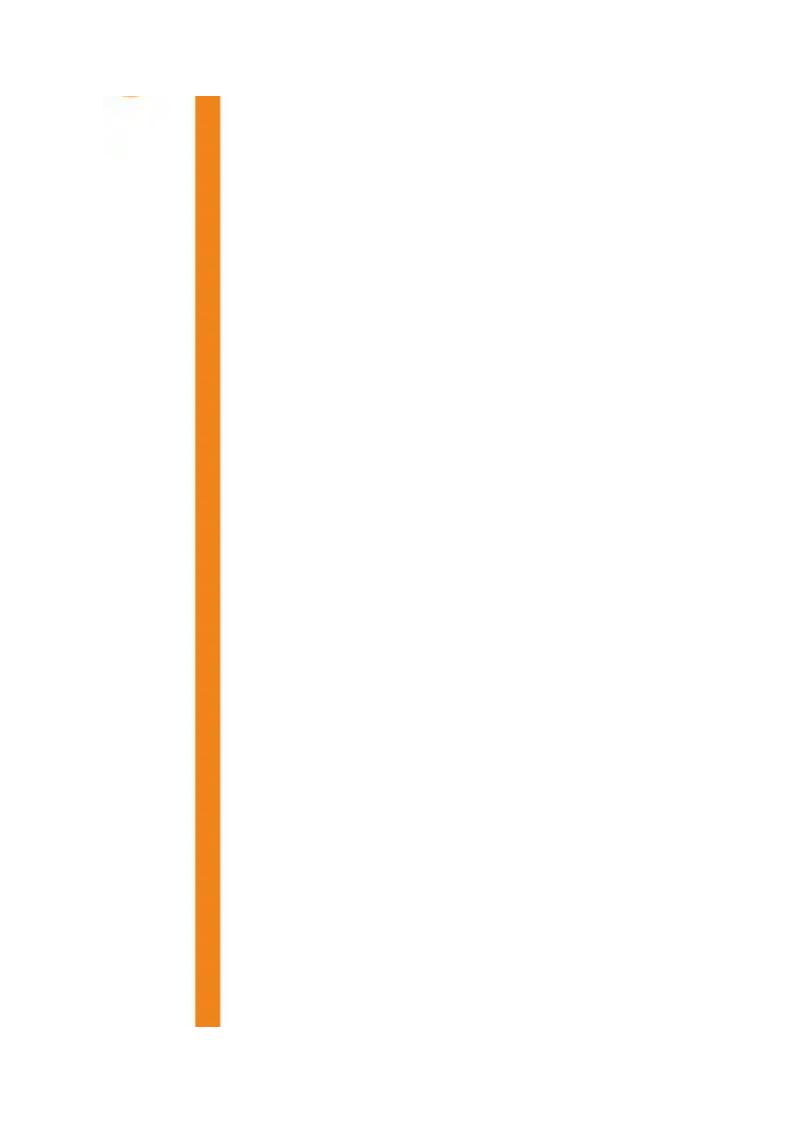


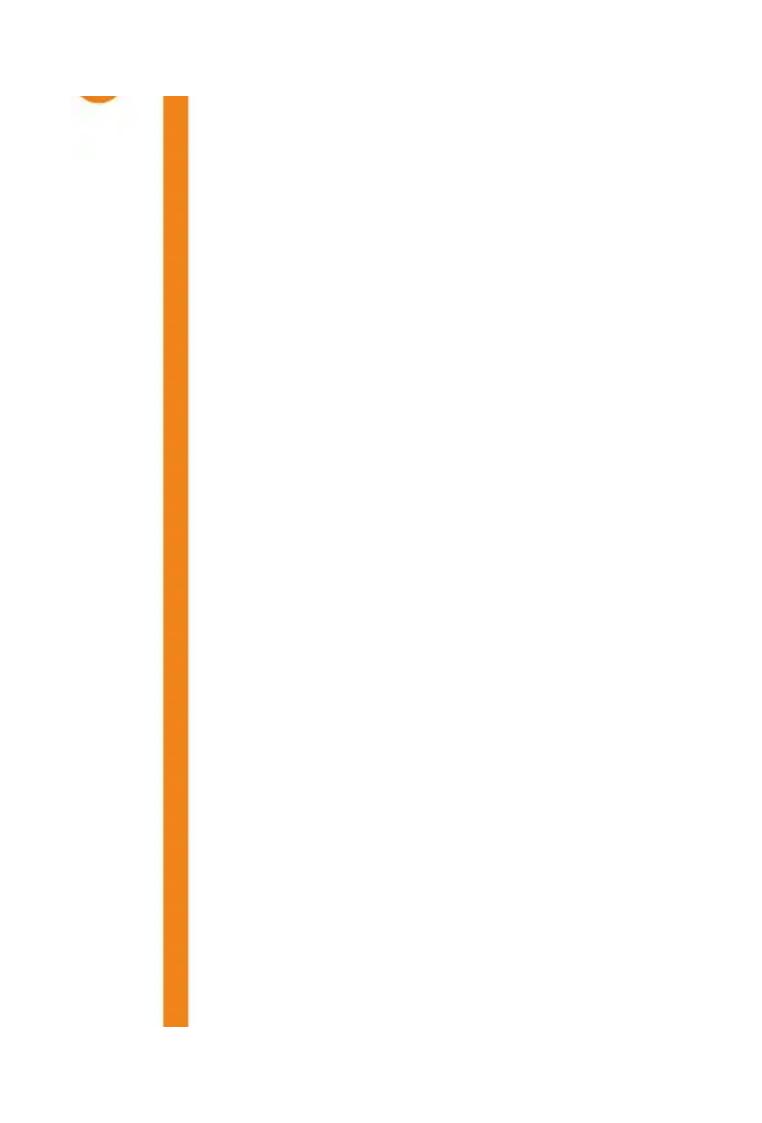




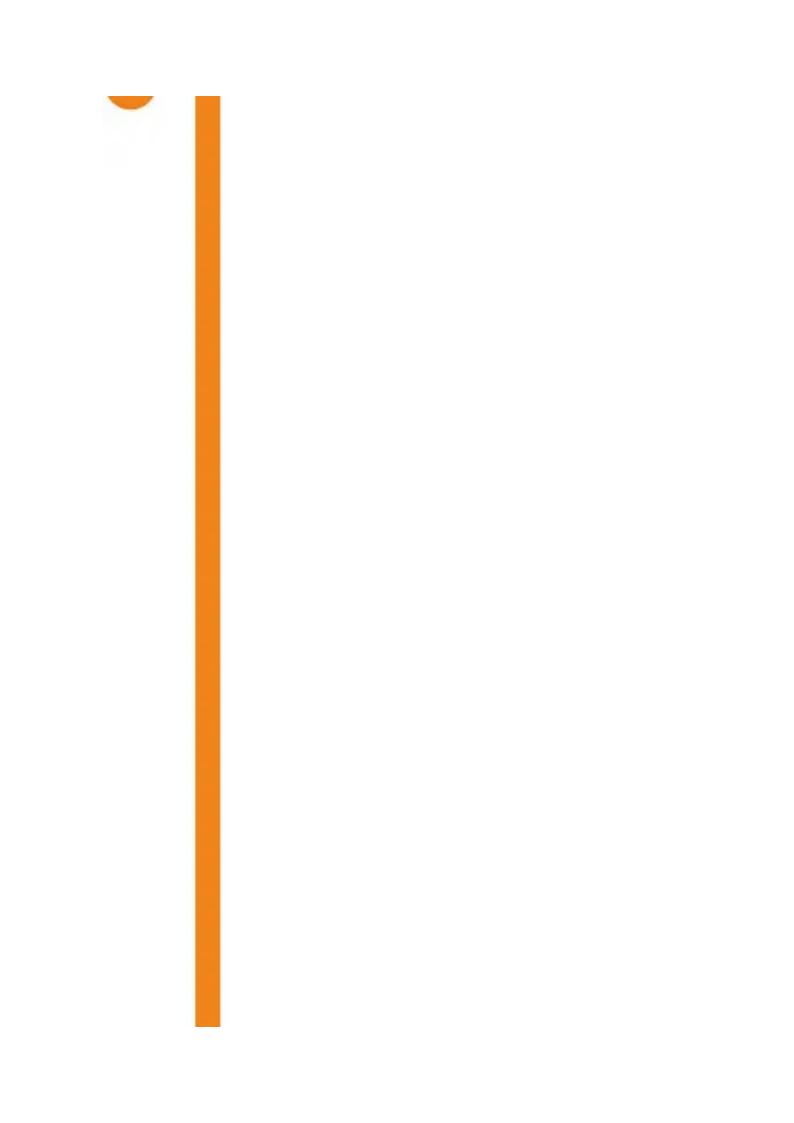




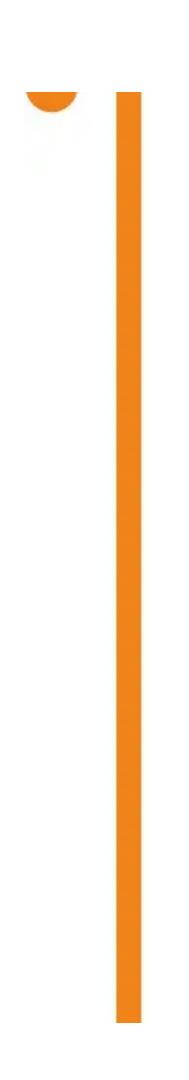












A future where families come first The future under Labour

The next Labour government will build a better future for families by addressing these challenges.

On childcare, early years, social security, housing and equalities, Labour has set out ambitious and

credible policies to secure the fairer future that families deserve. Labour's challenge now is to ensure this

policy offer is fully developed and refined and that the party responds as circumstances and the economic

climate changes.

Labour will support families by making childcare available and affordable as a Labour government moves

Britain towards a modern childcare system that supports families from the end of parental leave through

to the end of primary school. As a first step on that road, a Labour government will deliver breakfast clubs,

which are crucial for children's learning and development, in every primary school in England. Labour will

fund these breakfast clubs and their workforce from the money raised by removing the non-domiciled tax

status, a clear indication that, with Labour, children and families will come first, not the privileged few.

As part of Labour's plans to ease the pressure on parents struggling to find childcare places, Labour will also

remove legal barriers to councils delivering new childcare facilities, and ensure local authorities can use

their revenue raising powers to support them. Labour will build on this with ambitious plans to expand early

years support for families.

Labour will reform social security so that it works for families and works to defeat child poverty, rather than

entrenching it. Labour will develop a culture of respect and dignity across the social security system, rather

than one of threats and punitive sanctions. In government, Labour will overhaul Universal Credit so that it

provides genuine financial security, prevents and reduces poverty, reduces inequalities and promotes and

protects women's financial independence.

Labour's social security system will ensure that older people have the security and dignity in retirement that

they deserve. Pensioners have been at the sharp end of the cost of living crisis due to soaring energy bills

and the real-terms value of the state pension falling significantly over the 2022/23 financial year. While the

Government repeatedly wavered, Labour remained steadfast in our commitment that the state pension

should be uprated by inflation for the 2023/24 financial year.

The next Labour government will support families into decent work, helping people find high-quality and

fulfilling employment. Our ambition is for Britain to have the highest employment rate in the G7. Labour will

achieve this by reforming Jobcentres and employment support to make work pay and to offer specialist

and localised help. The Labour Party will give local areas the tools they need to deliver universal jobs

support and to tackle the rising tide of economic inactivity.

This was an important recommendation by the Commission on the UK's Future, led by Gordon Brown, whose

final report was published in December 2022. The commission emphasised that a new, local approach

to employment support could help people find the right opportunities and help businesses find the skilled

workers they need. The commission also recommended making Jobcentres more open, including to those

looking to upskill or to run their own business.

The commission also proposed a package of basic rights regarding health, education, poverty and housing.

On tackling poverty, it proposed a basic right that no child, family or elderly citizen need live in poverty, that

every person legitimately present in the UK should be entitled to social assistance and that no person should

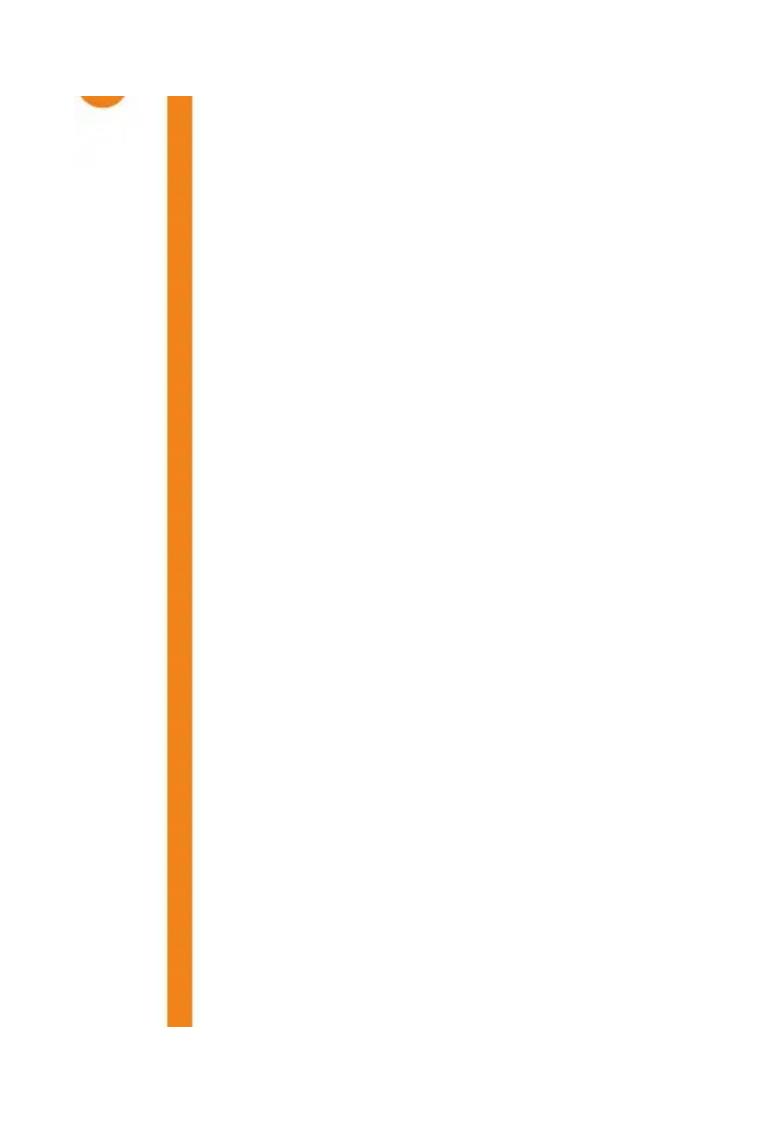
be left destitute. On housing, the commission proposed that it should be a basic right that every person be

entitled to decent accommodation.

Labour agrees that housing is a fundamental human right and that homes should be safe, secure and

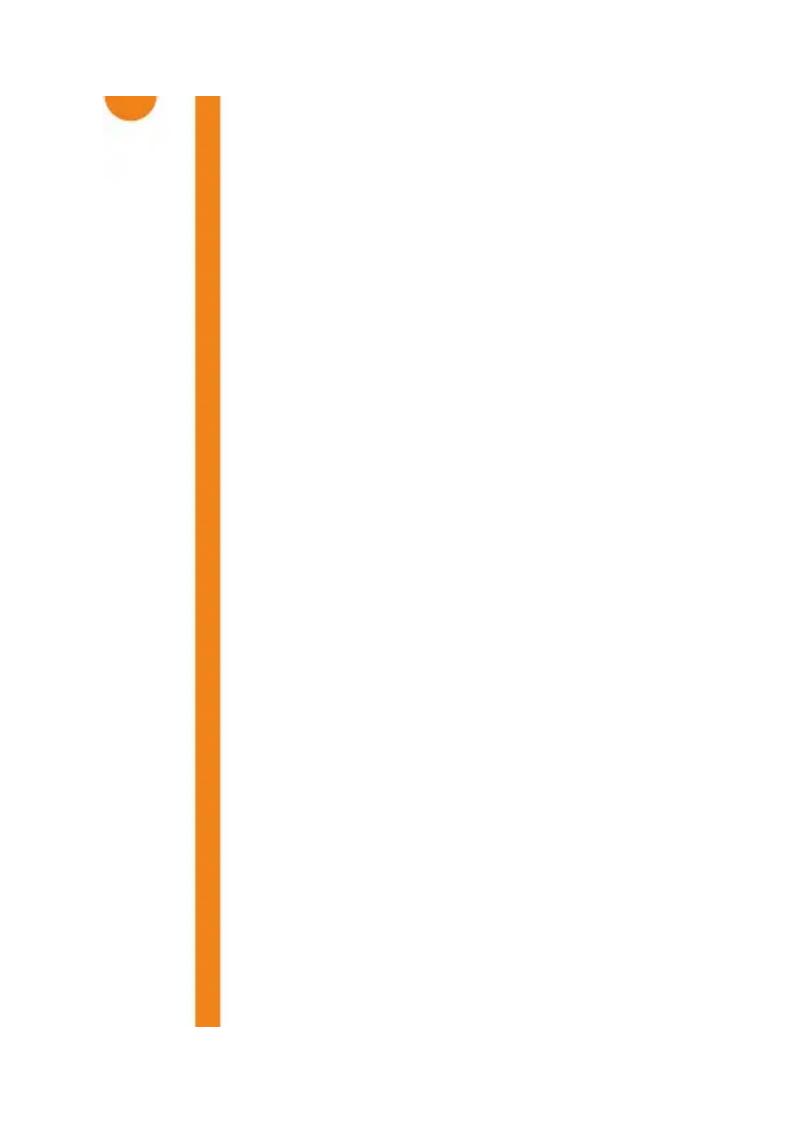
genuinely affordable. That's why the next Labour government will be the first in a generation to restore

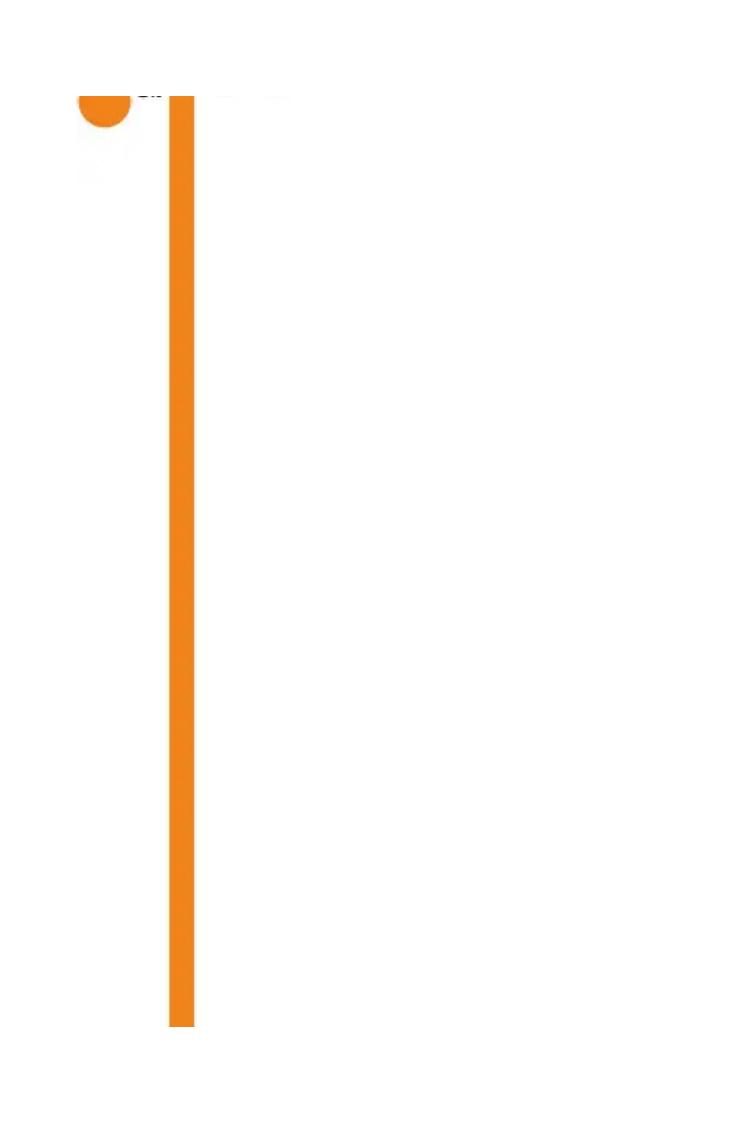


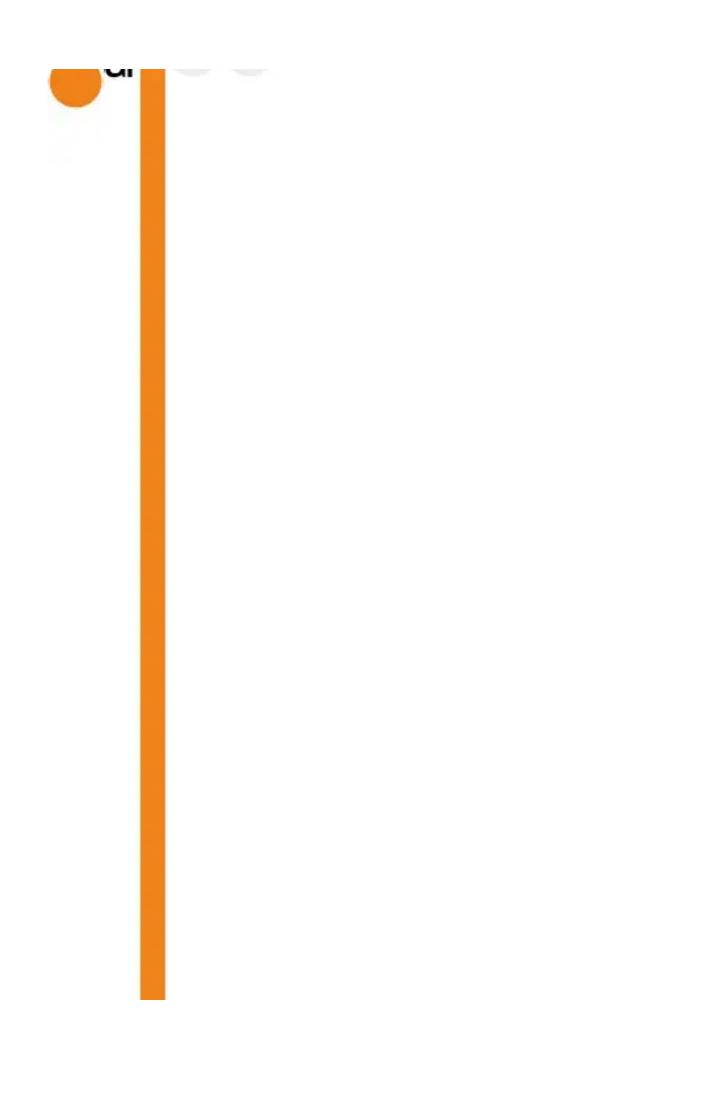






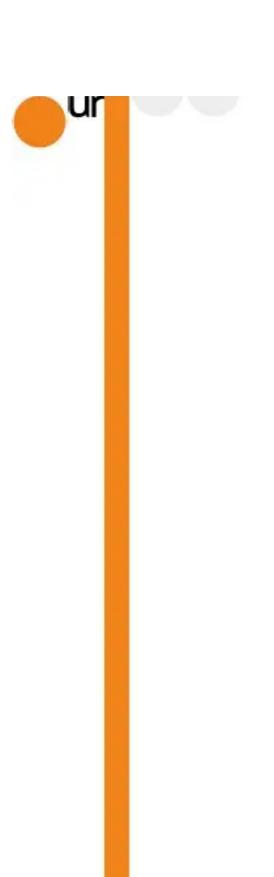






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A future where families come first

social housing to the second largest form of tenure, bringing homes back into the ownership of local

councils and communities. Labour will also close loopholes that developers use to wriggle out of affordable

housing commitments, ensuring that local councils have stronger powers to deliver the affordable housing

that's needed, not the housing that will make the most profit for developers.

To support more families into owning their own home, Labour will set a new home ownership target of 70

per cent. Labour will aim to reach this target by building more homes and stopping foreign buyers from

buying homes off-plan before local people get a look in. Under Labour, first time buyers will have first dibs on

new build homes and will be supported through a mortgage insurance scheme, enabling more families to

secure a mortgage without having to save eye-watering deposits or rely on gifts from family members.

The next Labour government will also bring security to families who are renting. Labour will introduce a

powerful new Private Renters Charter that will make renting fairer, more secure and more affordable. Labour

will achieve this through a higher-quality and properly regulated private rented sector. Labour will also

set out an ambition to re-establish the link between genuinely affordable housing and average earnings,

bringing affordable rents and the dream of home ownership closer for those locked out today.

Equality will be at the heart of all of Labour's policies for families, as the party look to build a more inclusive.

more tolerant and more accessible society. A Labour government will make it illegal to make a new mother

redundant from notification of pregnancy until six months after their return to work, except in specific

circumstances, and Labour will urgently review the failing system of shared parental leave.

Labour believes in a social model of disability and the next Labour government will remove societal barriers

that restrict opportunities for disabled people. Labour supports the principle that policies for disabled people

should be produced in partnership with disabled people. A Labour government will replace the current

system of disability assessments with a more humane framework that treats people with dignity and respect

and we will tackle disability discrimination in employment, including taking action to close disability pay gaps.

Building on Doreen Lawrence's report,

An Avoidable Crisis,

the next Labour government will introduce a

Race Equality Act and a race equality strategy in order to tackle structural racial inequality at source. As

part of our New Deal for Working People, A Labour government will also introduce mandatory ethnicity pay

gap reporting that will mirror gender pay gap reporting.

Labour will ban conversion therapy in all its forms, modernise the law on gender recognition to remove

indignities, and uphold the Equality Act, including its provision for single sex spaces and protections for

LGBT+ people and everyone with a protected characteristic. Labour will also enact the socio-economic

duty of the Equality Act and strengthen and equalise the law so that every category of hate crime is

treated as an aggravated offence, meaning perpetrators of anti-LGBT+ and disability hate crime can no

longer dodge longer sentences