Questions

1. How can Labour ensure our public health services prevent worsening population

health, ensure pandemic preparedness, address widening health inequalities, and

offer early intervention programmes that reduce pressure on our communities and

other services (in conjunction with wider social policy)?

2. What should Labour do to strengthen primary care (including all primary healthcare

professions) and to shift healthcare where possible into the community, while ensuring

high quality hospital services?

3. How can education and children's care services support vulnerable children, and

those who are disabled or have special educational needs (SEND), to thrive?

- 4. What should Labour include in a Women's Health and Wellbeing Strategy?
- 5. How can Labour ensure public service buildings are designed to meet the needs of

all their users?

- 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?



%Labour

The Public Services that work from the Start 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 and the health and social care system after coronavirus:
- In 2021, on Tackling health inequalities to make the country the best place to grow up and grow old in; and
- In 2022, on Education and skills, health and mental health services, and social care

2023

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Public services that work from the start

The context

As 2023 begins, public services are under immense pressure. The combined impact of 13 years of

Conservative underfunding, neglect, and mismanagement, a global pandemic, soaring energy costs, and

spiralling inflation is limiting services' ability to give security and support to communities around the country.

The NHS in England went into the pandemic with an acute staffing crisis and a waiting list that had soared

from 2.4 million in 2010 to 4.4 million in 2020. Now, services are faced with a backlog of care and are not yet

back to pre-pandemic activity levels. Preventative services are lagging behind; almost one million fewer

women a year are being screened for breast and cervical cancer compared to a decade ago. Despite

huge shortfalls and inequalities in women's healthcare, the Government has failed to deliver on its own

women's health strategy. Urgent and emergency care is in crisis. Ambulance crews routinely queue for

hours outside hospitals because A&E departments are full, and the average response time to someone who

has had a suspected stroke or heart attack is 48 minutes.

Meanwhile, mental health services are facing extraordinary demand as people reel from the impact of

isolation and hardship, with children and young people particularly affected. 44 per cent of children and

young people who are referred for urgent treatment for an eating disorder wait three months or more.

Community care services haven't got enough staff to prevent people from going into hospital, and neither

do they have capacity to support all those who need continuing care after leaving. England has lost more

than 4,000 GPs and a fifth of all GP practices over the last decade. Now, millions of people wait over a

month to see their GP and public satisfaction with GP services has fallen to 38 per cent - the lowest level

since records began and 39 percentage points below Labour's last year in government.

Long-promised social care reforms have been postponed again, leaving thousands unable to access care.

Almost 35,000 people a year are estimated to die whilst waiting for social care, whilst almost 6,000 a year

run out of savings paying for their own care. This leaves unpaid carers to fill gaps, with families forced to take

time out of work and lose income in order to care for their loved ones, often with little support or respite.

In education, schools are being squeezed by soaring energy costs and will see no net growth in spending

per pupil from 2010 – 2024. Schools cannot fill vacancies, school buildings are crumbling and attainment has

suffered as a result of pandemic disruption. Children who are disabled and those with special educational

needs (SEND) are particularly disadvantaged by the Conservatives' lack of ambition, with 1,500 children

with SEND who should be in education still waiting for a place at school.

Further education is suffering after

a sustained period of Conservative neglect, while anticipating a predicted 160,000 extra students by 2024,

and our world-class universities are becoming financially unviable, with standards driven down for staff and

students as a result of the Government's broken funding system and failed higher education policies.

Children's social care is in a desperate state. Local authorities are often life lines for vulnerable children

and families, but do not have the resources they need to reach those who could benefit from support and

intervention. This leaves too many vulnerable children at risk and facing disadvantage simply because of

the circumstances in which they were born.

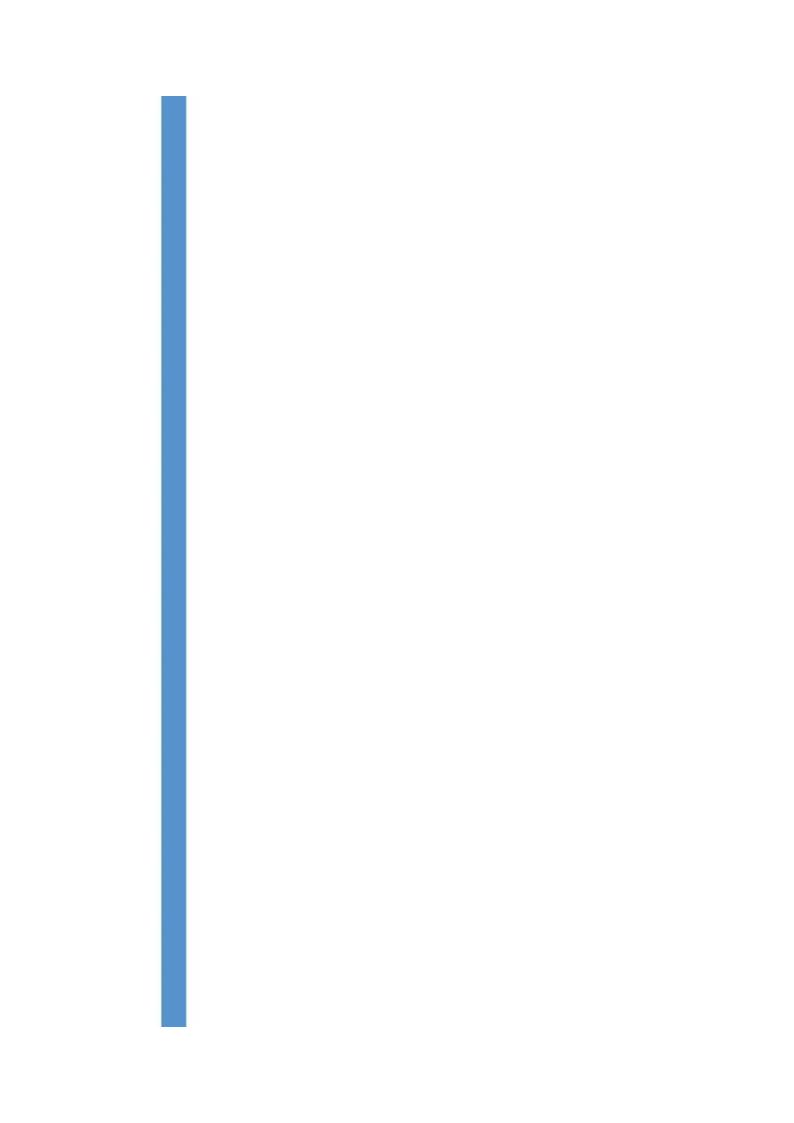
Meanwhile, the dedicated staff in our public services are working overtime to fill workforce gaps and meet

record demand, without the fair pay and recognition they deserve. Many public service employees are

considering or taking industrial action as a result – for example, in winter 2022/23 the Royal College of

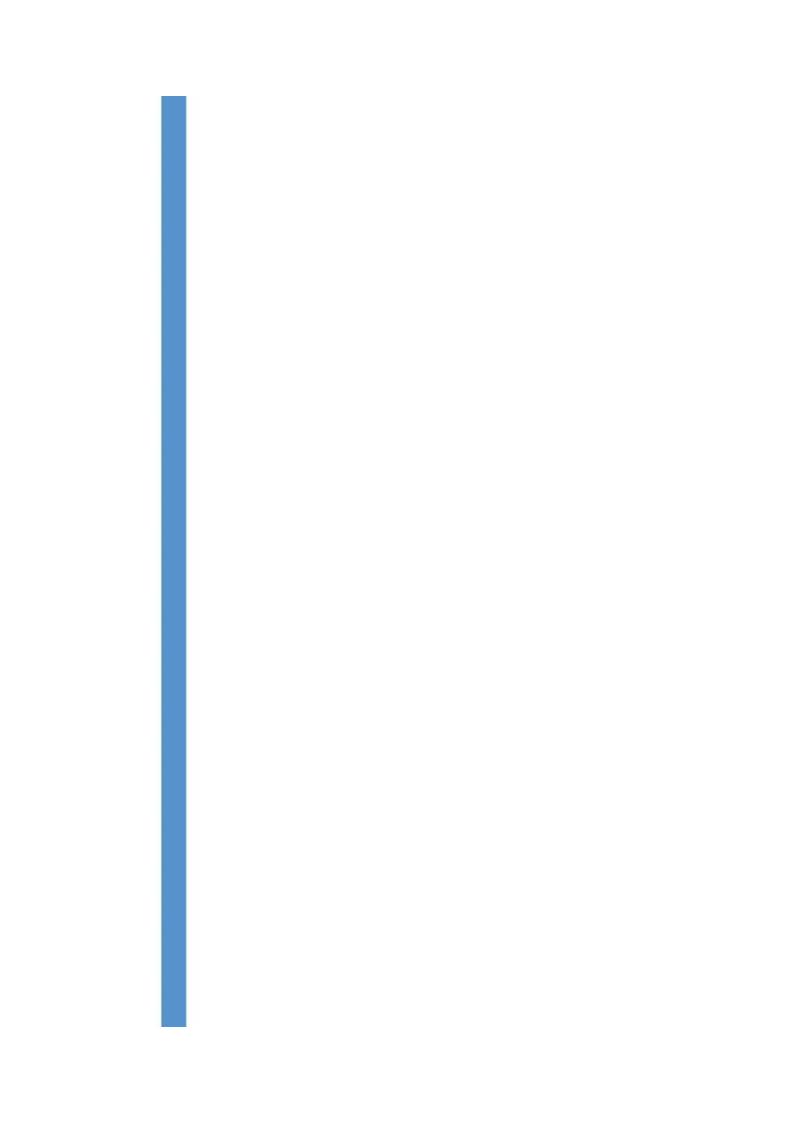
Nursing in England took country-wide strike action for the first time in its history.



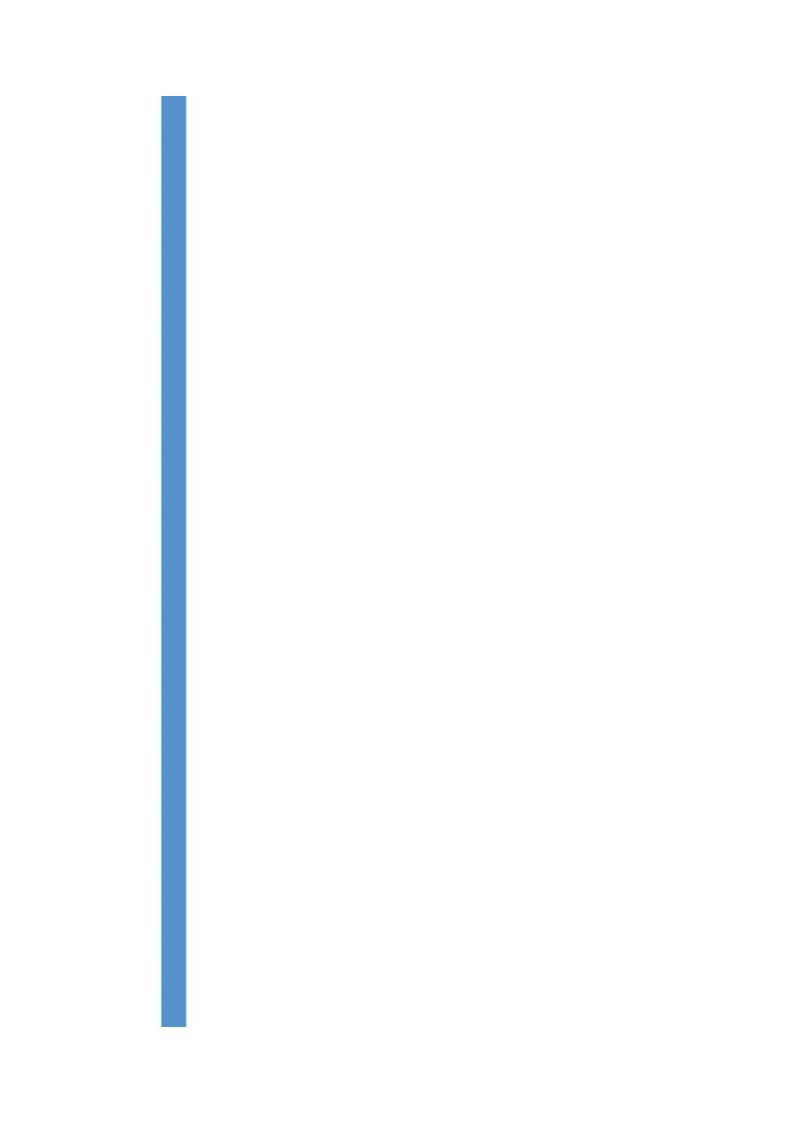


Public services

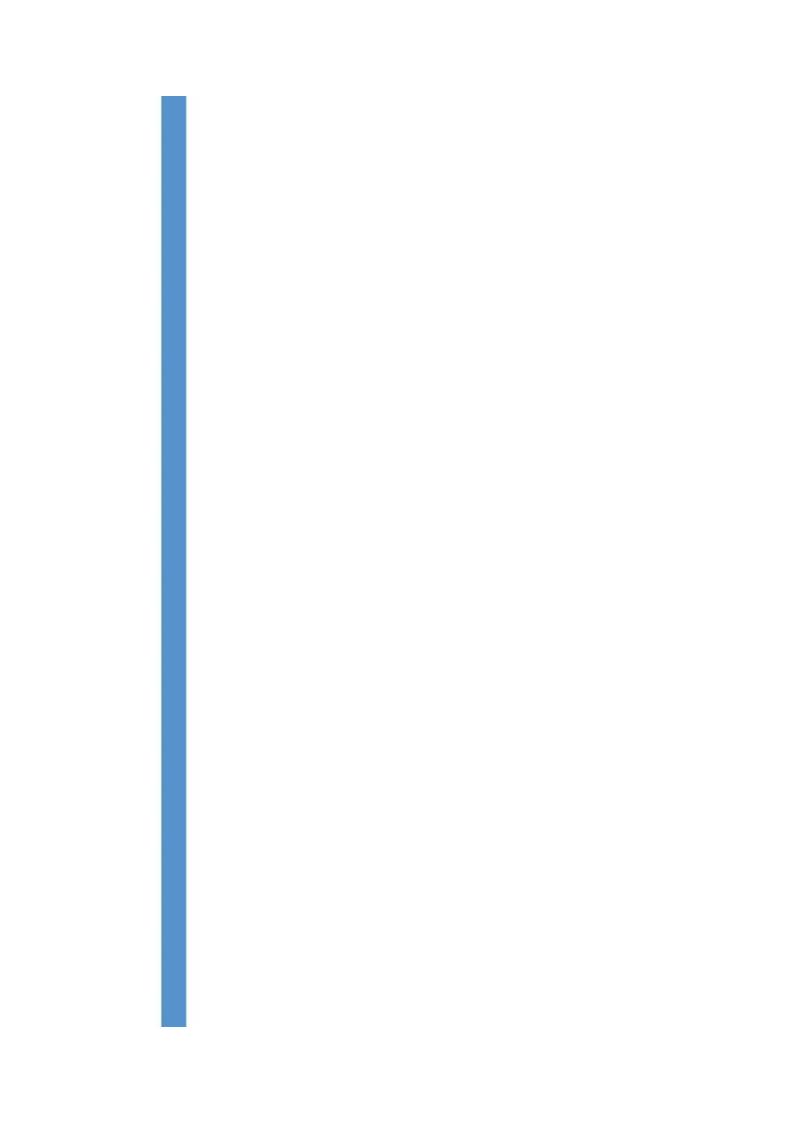




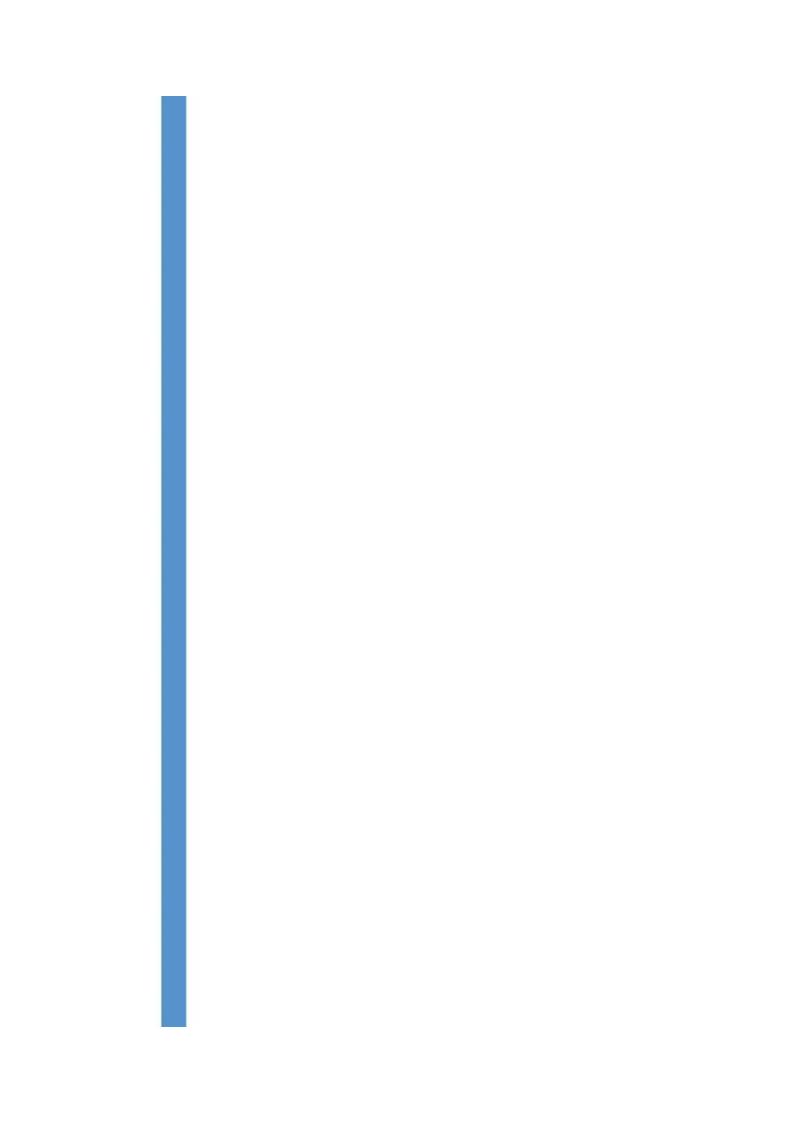






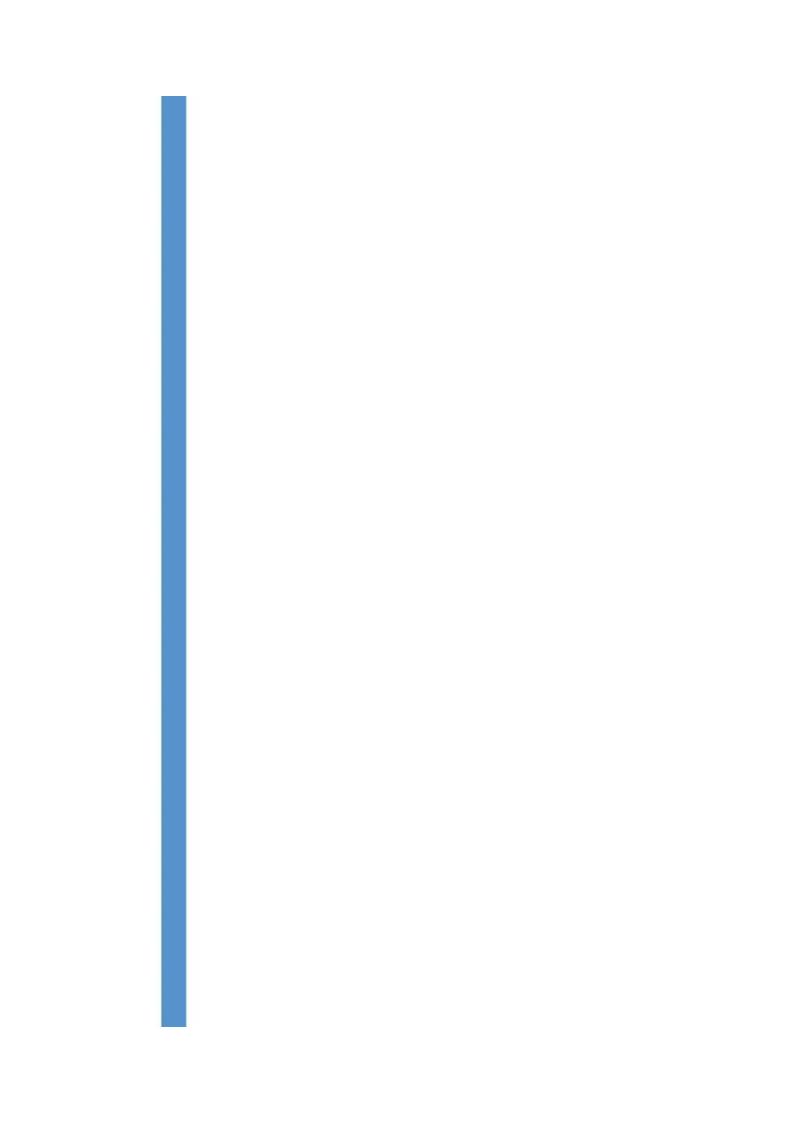




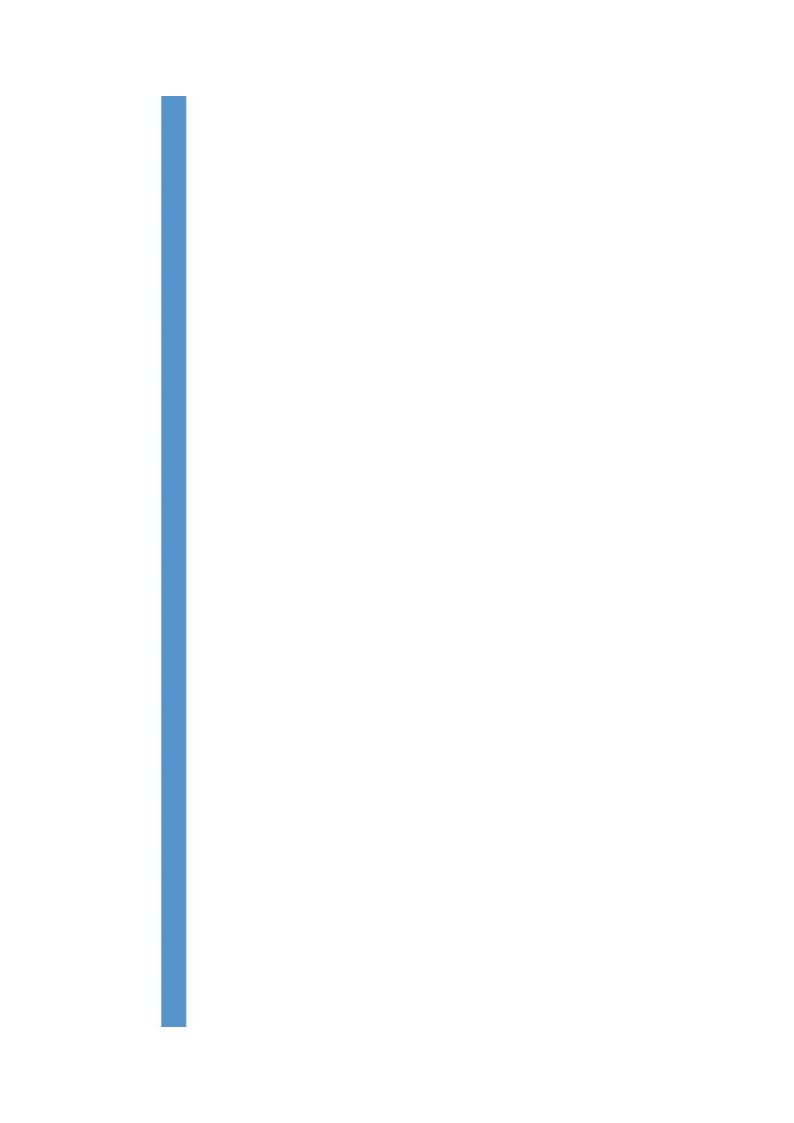


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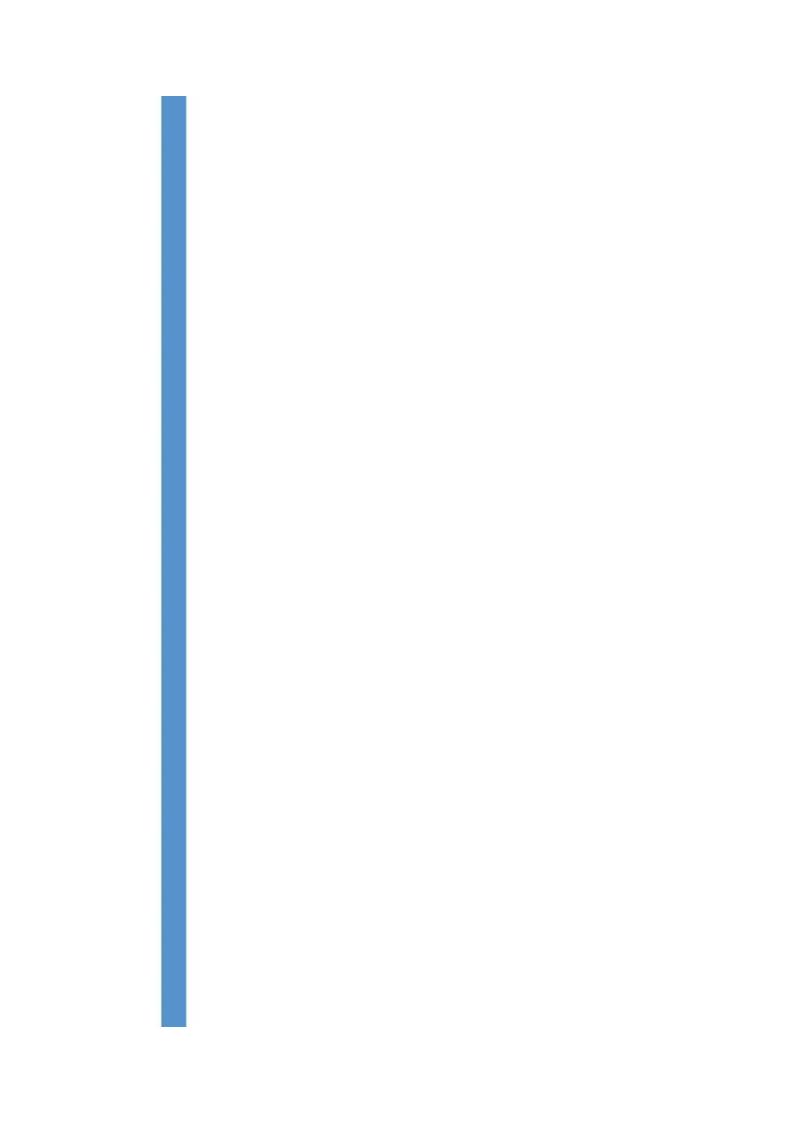












2023 |

Public services that work from the start The future under Labour

The next Labour government will address these challenges and secure first class public services for all.

Health and mental health services

Labour has set out a guiding principle that it will protect an NHS free at the point of use and secure health care for all.

Using revenue raised through Labour's commitments to end tax exemptions for private schools and scrap

a tax loophole enjoyed by a small number of private equity fund managers, the next Labour government

will introduce an ambitious plan to improve mental health care. This includes guaranteed mental health

treatment within a month of referral, the first ever long-term, wholegovernment plan to improve mental

health outcomes, 8,500 new staff, fair funding for mental health services, specialist mental health support in

every school, and an open access mental health hub for children and young people in every community.

Labour will tackle the root cause of capacity challenges in the NHS with the most ambitious expansion of

the health workforce in history. The next Labour government will close tax loopholes for non doms and use

the money to double the number of medical school places, train 10,000 new nurses and midwives each

year, double the number of district nurses qualifying every year, and train 5,000 new health visitors a year.

Labour is also committed to long term workforce planning for health and care, focusing on retention as

well as recruitment, producing independent projections of the numbers of staff the UK needs to ensure our

workforce is fit for a future of new health challenges and opportunities, creating new types of professionals

that draw on a diverse skills mix, creating new career paths, and reviewing existing training pathways. A

Labour government will also reform the pension rules that currently discourage senior clinicians from staying

in the health service.

Labour will shift the focus of health care to prevention and early intervention, with a ten year plan for

change and modernisation of the NHS to shift the focus out of hospital and into the community where

possible. Labour is developing detailed policy in this area and is working on our approach to primary care,

dental care, and public health in particular, with a focus on tackling health inequalities linked to gender,

race and ethnicity, disability, sexuality, and income. Labour is keen to hear respondents' thoughts on these

areas to feed into policy development.

Social Care

Once in government, Labour will embark on a plan for reform that will act as a roadmap to a world-class

National Care Service with just as much ambition as the 1945 government that brought in the NHS.

Labour has set out its priorities for reform:

• Transform access to care, making sure every older and disabled person who needs care and support

can get it when and where they need it;

- Act on the principles of prevention and early intervention a "Home First" approach;
- Give disabled adults choice and control over their support;
- Establish a New Deal for Care Workers to ensure they get the job security they deserve, and the

rewards they have earned; and

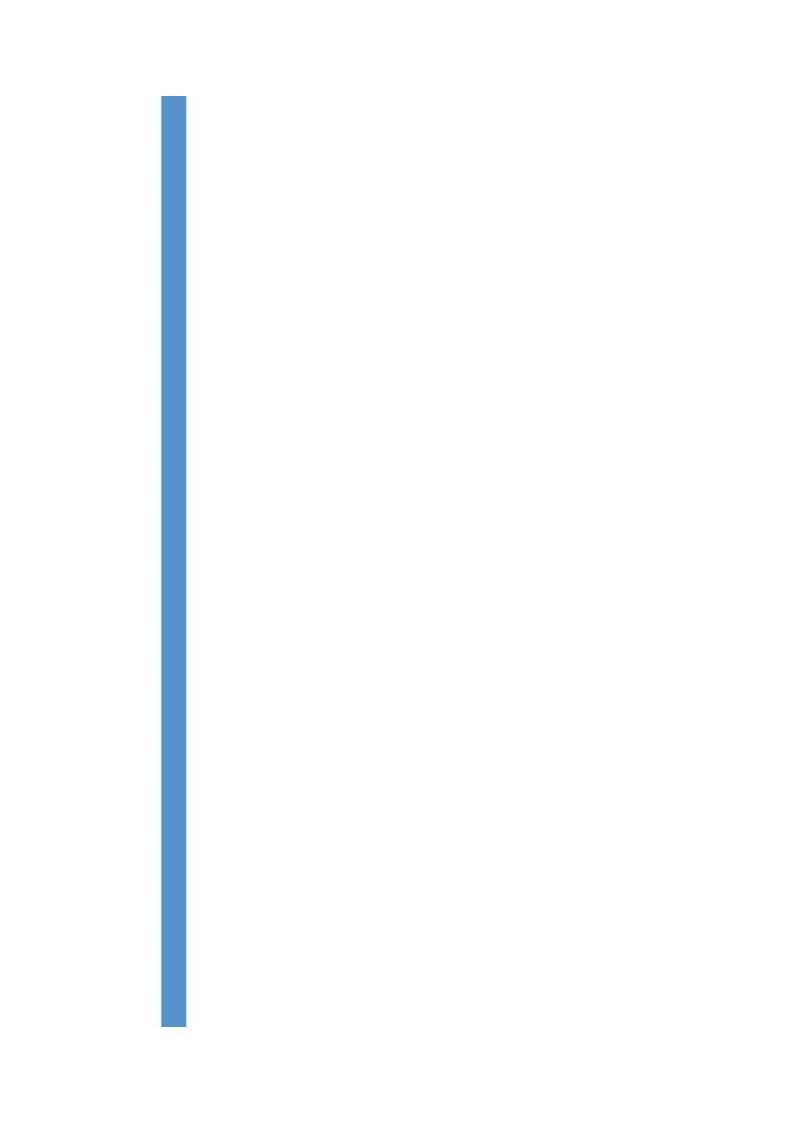
• Establish a new partnership with families to ensure they don't put themselves at risk for looking after people they love.

Labour will recruit and retain more carers by ensuring full rights at work, decent standards, fair pay, and

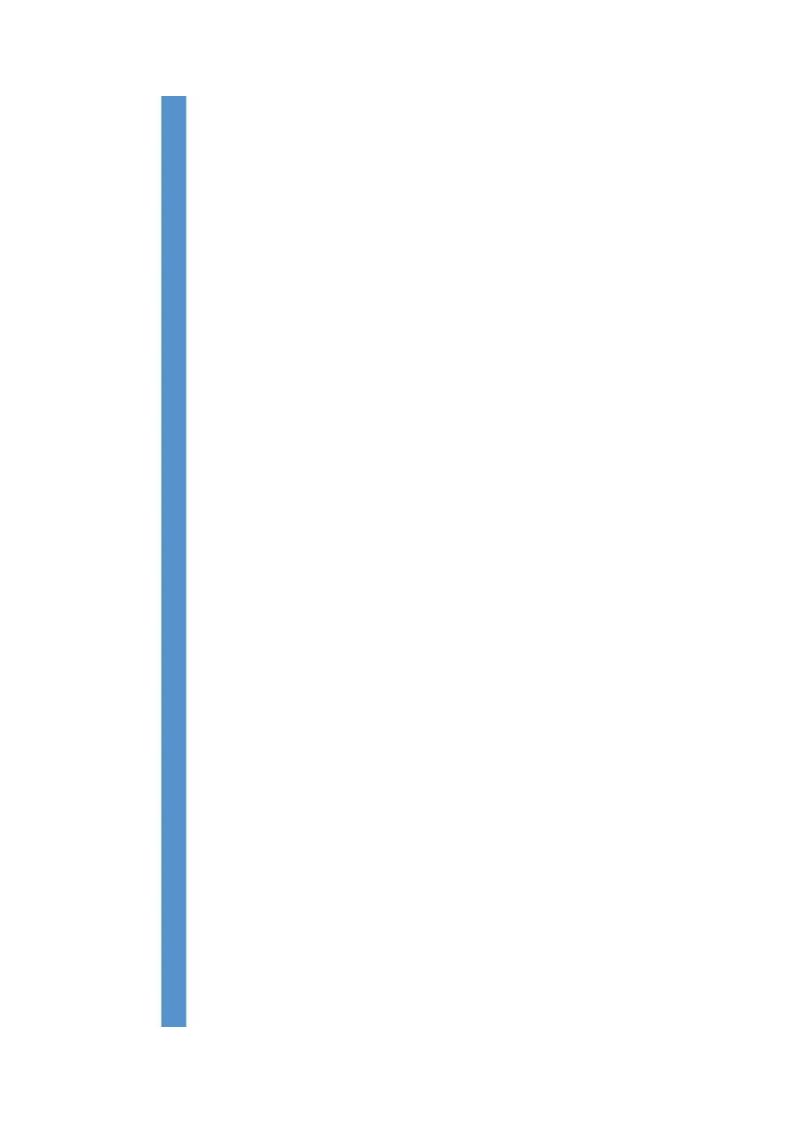
proper training. Adult social care will benefit from a Fair Pay Agreement as the first priority of a Labour

government, negotiated through collective bargaining between unions and employer representatives.

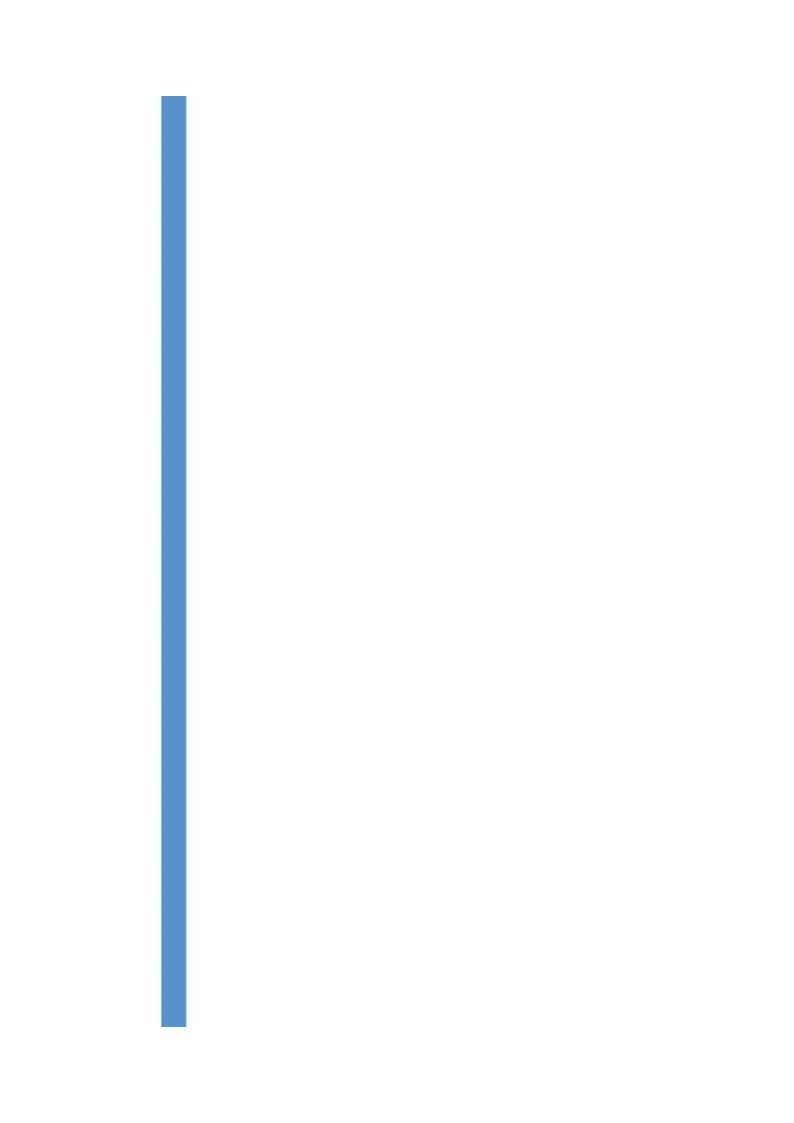




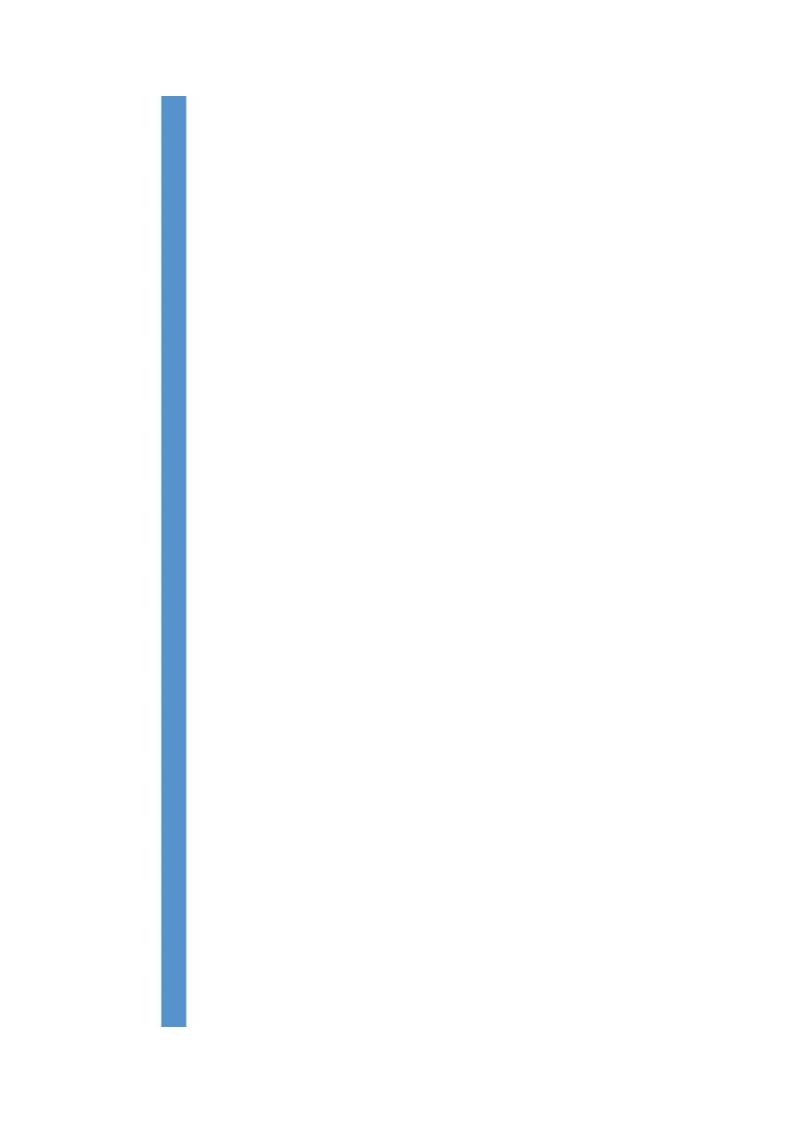






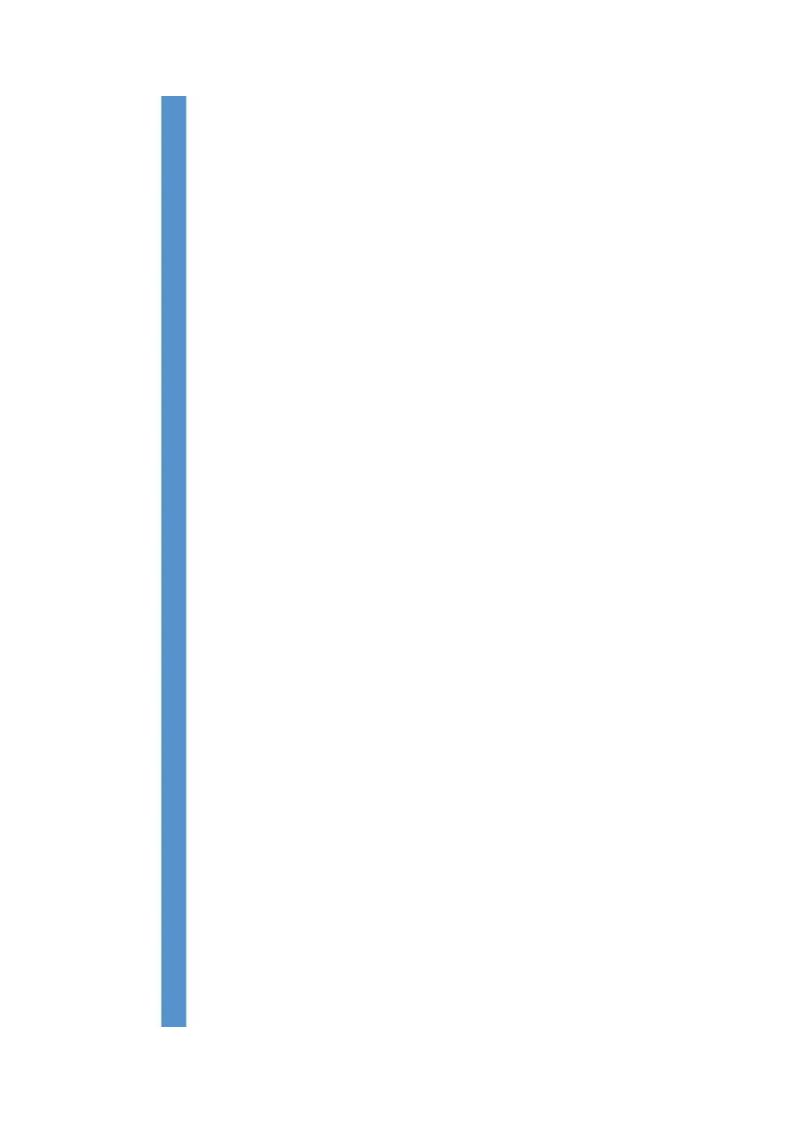






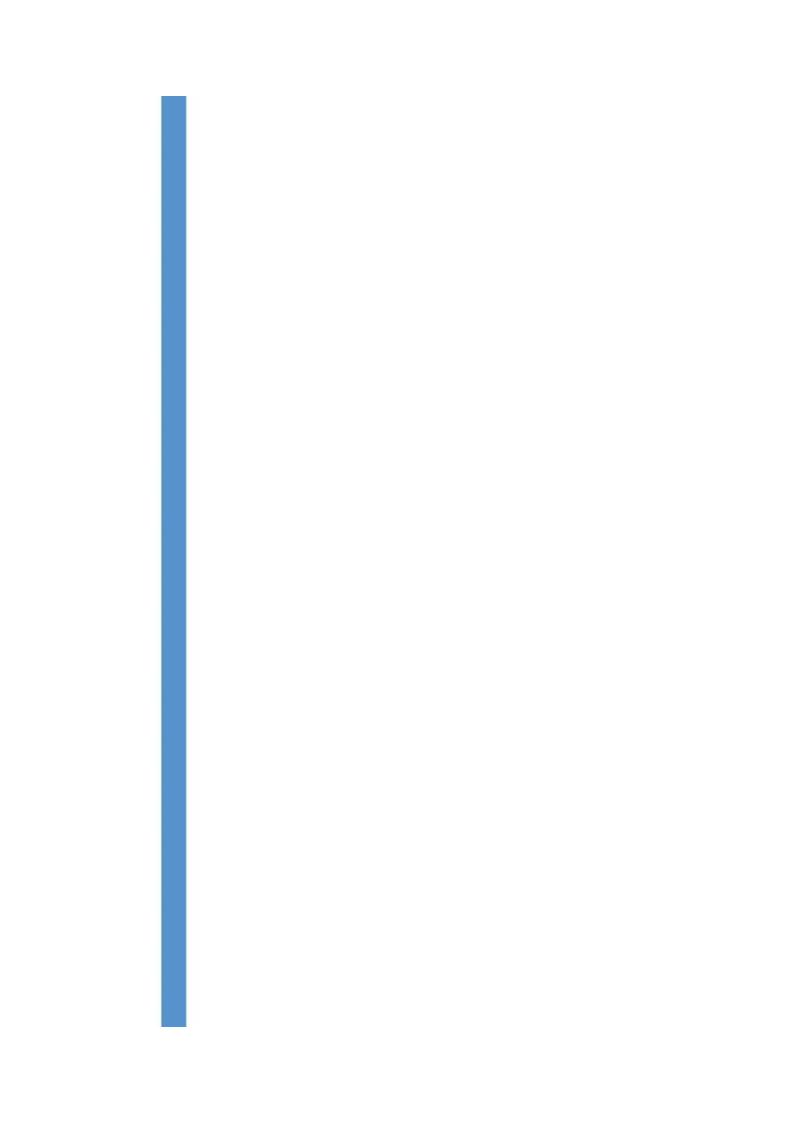








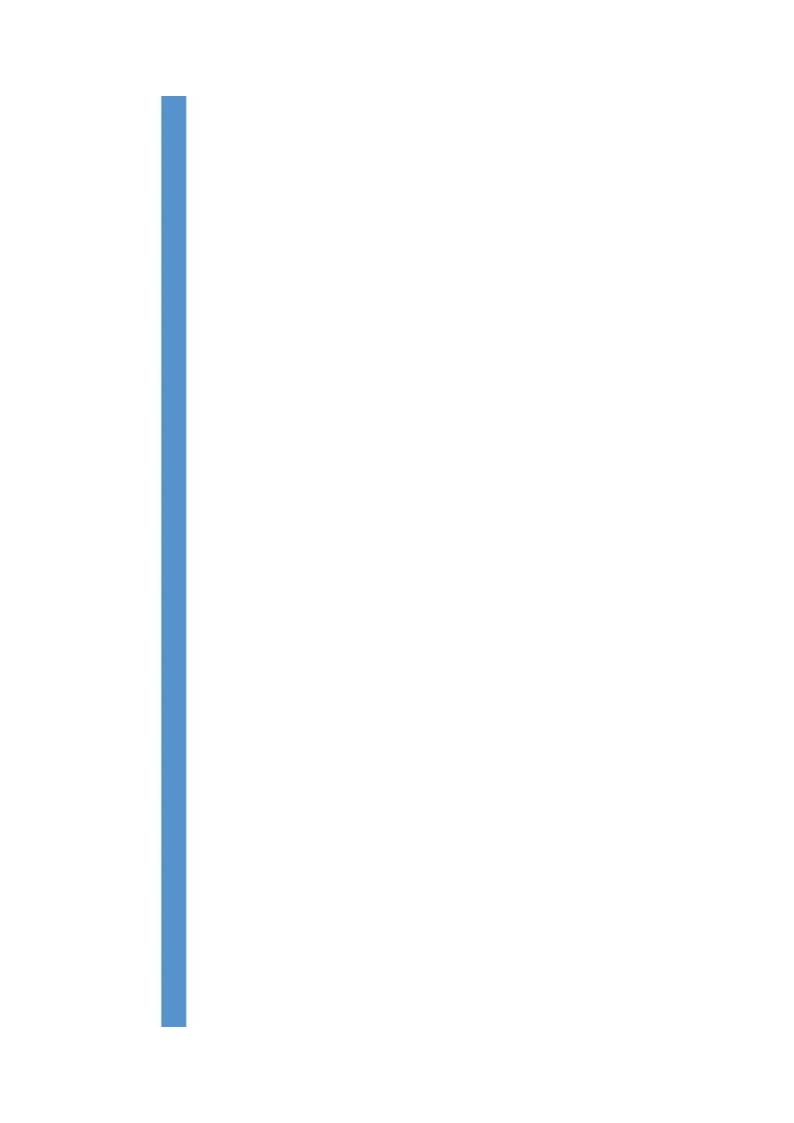




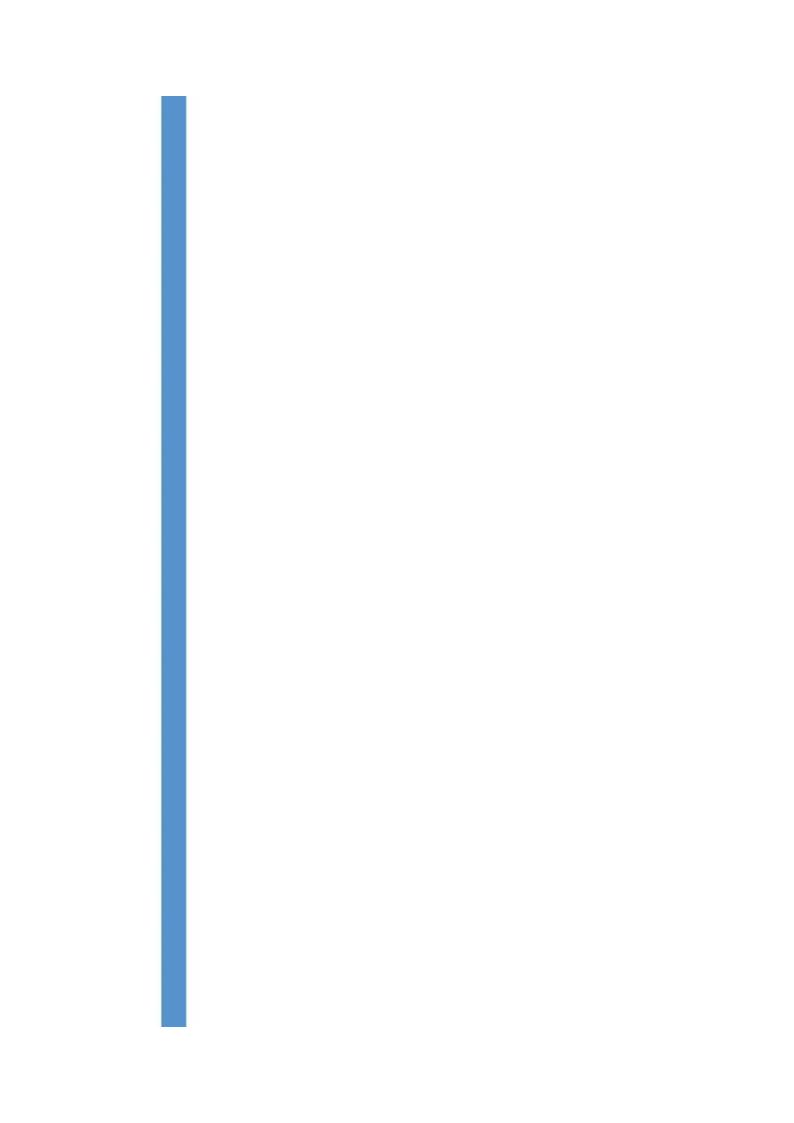


that work from the start









Public services that work from the start

A Labour government will ensure money invested in social care is spent on social care and will not tolerate

poor quality, extractive providers. Under Labour, no private equity firm will be able to profit from running

care homes while paying their care workers less than they need to live on. All providers will be required to

demonstrate financial sustainability, responsible tax practices, and good employment conditions with high

quality care for service users. Labour is keen to hear respondents' thoughts on next steps as we develop our

policy in this area, including looking towards stronger national standards to reduce inequalities in access to care.

Education and skills

Labour's vision for education is a system that can transform opportunities, grow our economy and provide

a platform for a rewarding life. Every parent, no matter where they live, should be able to send their child to

a high-quality school that prepares them for the future, and ensures they leave education ready for work,

onwards education, and life.

The next Labour government will roll out an ambitious school improvement plan, investing in the people that

keep schools running. Labour's National Excellence Programme will be paid for by ending tax exemptions

for private schools and will recruit new teachers, refocus regulation to improve support to struggling

schools, provide further continuing professional development for staff, and equip all school leaders with the

knowledge and skills to lead outstanding organisations. Labour is working to develop policy that supports

inclusion and high standards for vulnerable and SEND children and those who are disabled or have special

educational needs, so that every child can go to a high-quality school that supports and prepares them for

the future. Labour is keen to hear respondents' thoughts on priorities in this areas.

In order to ensure high standards across the sector, Labour will make the national curriculum compulsory,

ensure all teachers have qualified status, and establish national standards for support staff. The next Labour

government will require academies to cooperate with local authorities to ensure fair admissions and

will introduce inspections for multi-academy trusts to ensure effective oversight. Labour will implement a

national strategy with clear targets to close the attainment gap and will also work with local and regional

government in England to review the school curriculum.

Labour has a plan to ensure every young person leaves school ready for work, onwards education,

and life, funded by revenue raised from ending tax exemptions for private schools. Labour will reform

citizenship education to include practical life skills, introduce two weeks' worth of compulsory work

experience for every young person, and give every child access to quality careers advice at school. Labour

will make sure all children have the level of functional computer skills they need, and will also invest in re-

engaging 16-17 year olds who are not known to be in education, employment or training.

Adult skills policy is covered by the Better Jobs and Better Work Commission and will take into account

the detailed recommendations made by the Council of Skills Advisors in its report to Labour published in November 2022.