

There will be a guaranteed, paid job for all young people who have been out of work for one year, and for all those over 25 years old and out of work for two years. It will be a job that they have to take, or lose their benefits. And we will commission a replacement for the Work Programme at a more local level, working with local authorities to join up support for the long-term unemployed. We will introduce a higher rate of Job Seekers Allowance for those who have contributed over years. It will be funded by extending the length of time people need to have worked to qualify.

Supporting disabled people to live independently

Alongside strong and responsive public services, the social security system plays an important role in supporting many disabled people to live independently, and must always treat sick and disabled people with dignity.

Half a million families have been hit by the Bedroom Tax, and two thirds of those affected are disabled, or have a disabled family member. It is cruel, and we will abolish it.

We will reform the Work Capability Assessment and focus it on the support disabled people need to get into work. We will give an independent scrutiny group of disabled people a central role in monitoring it. And we will introduce a specialist support programme to ensure that disabled people who can work get more tailored help.

Older people

Older people deserve to live a fulfilling life, to continue working if they wish, and to enjoy a secure retirement. Older people have contributed all their lives and built the Britain that the next generation will inherit. So it is right that they are supported with a fair and sustainable pensions system, responsive health services and a system of care over which they have control. We will keep the triple-lock so that the state pension increases by inflation, earnings, or 2.5 per