- Embrace *transparency* in the interests of sharing best practice, accountability and cooperation.
- Use *quantitative data* to better understand how the system is working, not to set targets, and to see them as a route to continuously improving patient care, not an end in themselves.
- Ensure that there are clear lines of *responsibility*, especially for safety and interdepartmental cooperation.
- Respect the NHS Pay Review Body and bring *NHS pay* back in line with inflation and negotiate improved conditions.
- Expand the workforce to drive the wholesale improvement of *mental health services*.

The extra funding proposed for the NHS and social care will create a total of *400,000 jobs*.

WE WILL TACKLE THE CRISIS OF OUR TIME: MENTAL HEALTH

There has been an alarming rise in mental health problems in recent years, especially among young people. According to NHS England, mental illness accounts for 28% of illness but only 13% of NHS spending. In the course of a year, one in four adults experiences some form of mental ill health. If you have diabetes there's a 92% chance you'll get treatment. If you have a mental illness, that chance goes down to 28%. Around 70% of prisoners have two or more mental health conditions. The government's own Chief Medical Officer says mental health should be given greater priority.

It will take time to train more staff and expand services but the Green Party will put an end to mental health's Cinderella status and achieve parity of esteem by 2020.

We will:

- Ensure that *spending on mental health* care rises within our overall commitment to increase real spending on health.
- Ensure that no one waits more than 28 days for access to talking therapies.
- Ensure that everyone experiencing *a mental health crisis*, including children and young people, should have safe and speedy access to quality care, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The use of police cells as 'places of safety' for children should be eliminated by 2016, and by the end of the next Parliament should only occur for adults in exceptional circumstances.
- Ensure that everyone who requires a *mental health bed* should be able to access one in their local NHS Trust area, unless they need specialist care and treatment. If specialist care is required, then this should be provided within a reasonable distance of where the patient lives.
- Implement a campaign to end the *discrimination and stigma* associated with mental health through supporting the Time for Change programme and offering employment support to those with mental health problems.
- Invest in *dementia* services, ensuring that support is available for all affected by this debilitating disease, including families and carers.
- Pay special attention to any mental health issues of *mothers* during and after pregnancy, *children* and *adolescents*, *Black and Minority Ethnic* people, *refugees*, the *LGBTIQ communities* and *ex-service* people and their families.
- Improve access to *addiction* services, including both drugs and alcohol addiction.
- Give higher priority to the *physical* healthcare of those with mental health problems.

Joining up the policies

So what do mental health, drugs, crime and welfare have to do with each other? Our current welfare system breeds desperation and stress, not security, causing mental health problems. Ending workfare and making work pay better will bring security and encourage better mental health. Mental health problems foster drug dependency and crime. If we can improve mental health, drug use and crime rates will fall. With lower drug use and crime, and a supportive welfare system, more people will find useful things to do, improving their mental health.

It's another virtuous circle.