

Government spends far too much money dealing with the symptoms of problems, instead of investing smaller amounts in dealing with their causes. Every taxpayer pays the cost of low educational achievement, poor aspirations, drink and drug misuse, and criminality. So we will promote early-years intervention, supporting young children and their parents and dealing with problems before they get out of hand.

We can save money and create more responsive services by building co-operation between public services and organisations. Pooling funds across local areas reduces inefficiency and avoids duplication. Services must be joined up in ways that make sense to the people who use them.

Labour will use digital technology in reforming our public services. People will be able to feed back on services quickly and simply, making sure their voices are heard, stimulating improvement and saving on the costs of service failure.

The NHS

Labour will rescue our NHS, invest in its future and join up services from home to hospital.

We will start with the promise of investment so that the NHS has time to care. The NHS is struggling with staffing shortages. Accident and emergency is in crisis, and more people are facing long waits for tests, treatment, or to see a GP. Labour will invest in 20,000 more nurses, 8,000 more GPs, and 3,000 more midwives, paid for by a Mansion Tax on properties worth over £2 million, a levy on tobacco firms, and by tackling tax avoidance. The threshold for the Mansion Tax will rise in line with house prices for these high-value properties, and those on lower incomes will be protected with a right to defer the charge until the property changes hands.

We will guarantee people a GP appointment within 48 hours, and on the same day for those who need it. We will create a Cancer Treatments Fund so patients have access to the latest drugs, surgery and radiotherapy. By 2020, patients will wait no longer than one week for vital cancer tests. Catching the disease early