

As a country we value compassion, tolerance and a sense of decency. But pressures on family life, growing inequality, anxieties about crime and anti-social behaviour, and a widespread loss of trust in our governing institutions, are creating insecurity in many communities.

Labour believes a decent society grows out of family life and relationships, out of the work we do, and the local places to which we belong. We will help to create a more secure and inclusive society by building and strengthening the institutions that help individuals, families and communities to thrive.

Supporting families and relationships

People's relationships bind society together, and the family, in all its various shapes and sizes, is its bedrock. But low pay, the pressures of work and caring for children and elderly relatives, have put families under increasing pressure.

We will help families by expanding free childcare from 15 to 25 hours per week for working parents of three and four-year-olds, paid for with an increase in the bank levy. We will also introduce a legal guarantee for parents of primary school children to access wraparound childcare from 8am to 6pm through their local primary school. As well as helping parents, this will provide children with before and after-school clubs and activities, helping to raise their aspirations and attainment. This will be underpinned by a new National Primary Childcare Service, a not for profit organisation to promote the voluntary and charitable delivery of quality extracurricular activities.

Labour recognises the vital importance of the power of people's relationships to build the capacity for love, care and resilience. We will prioritise early years intervention to give children and parents the best start in family life, and restore the role of Sure Start centres as family hubs. Sure Start will have an obligation to provide families with access to childcare, opening their facilities to charities and local childcare providers. More widely, we will encourage local services to co-locate, so that they work together to shift from sticking plaster solutions to integrated early help.