

General Election 2017

Nutrition and Public Health Manifesto Pledges

The Association for Nutrition have published an overview of the nutrition and public health pledges within the official manifesto documents of the main political parties, including those in devolved nations.

This table was created using a key-term search and is intended to provide an insight into the documents and pledges. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all pledges, a comparison or indication of any preferences.

ENGLAND/UK-WIDE

Conservatives

- Take action to reduce obesity and support National Diabetes Prevention Programme
- Promote efforts to reduce unhealthy ingredients
- Clearer food information for consumers – noting in particular greater flexibility post EU over the presentation of information on packaged goods.
- Free breakfast for all Primary school children
- Return to free school lunch for those from low-income families during primary and secondary school
- Amend health and safety regulations so employers provide the provision of mental health first aid and needs assessments
- Train 1 million members of public in mental health first aid
- Incorporate into the curriculum the learning of mental wellbeing and risks of internet harms
- Encourage employers to provide new products and incentives to improve the mental health and wellbeing support available to their employees
- Support research into diagnosis of rare cancers and other diseases, including work of Genomics England
- Maintain position as European hub for life sciences
- Collaborate with Europe in science and innovation
- Continue with work to replace 13,000 technical qualifications with T-Levels (including some within health and science) and increase teaching hours 50% up to an average of 900hrs/year with each student undertaking a 3mth work placement as part of studies.

Labour

- Concerted effort to address poor oral health including the implementation of the soft drinks industry levy (sugar tax).
- Develop a new Childhood Obesity Strategy within the first 100 days of Government which will address food labelling and advertising of junk food
- Extend free school meals to all primary school children in England, paid for by removing VAT exemption for private schools.
- Vow not to extend VAT to food
- Acknowledgement that to keep health and social care services sustainable need renewed commitment on keeping people fit and well – will focus efforts on child health, protecting wellbeing for decades to come.

Liberal Democrats

- Direct additional NHS investment to priority areas including public health
- Keep public health within local government and reinstate public health budgets
- Tackle childhood obesity – restrict junk food marketing to children, content of adverts shown before 9pm and close sugary drinks tax loopholes
- Extend free school meals to all primary school children
- Promote breakfast clubs
- Increase access to exercise and healthy food
- Encourage traffic light labelling of packaged foods
- Publish calories, fat, sugar and salt values in restaurants and takeaways
- Mandatory sugar reduction targets for producers
- Refocus British farming support towards producing healthy, sustainable and affordable food.
- Extend separate food waste collections to 90% of homes by 2022
- Improve factors affecting healthy – including access to exercise and healthy food
- Publish a National Wellbeing Strategy – putting better health and wellbeing at the heart of Government Policy
- Develop a new Childhood Obesity Strategy
- Support good practice among employers promoting wellbeing – reward those taking clear action to measurably improve the health of their employees through a ‘wellbeing premium’.
- Promoting wellbeing will be a statutory duty of schools and part of Ofsted inspection framework
- Guarantee to underwrite the funding for British partners in EU-funded projects who would suffer from cancellation of income on Brexit
- Recognise research is vital to long-term prosperity, security and wellbeing, and will campaign against any reductions in investment in UK universities and the right to apply for EU funds on equal terms.
- Protect the science budget and in long-term double innovation and research spend across economy
- Reinstate post-study work visas for STEM graduates able to find suitable employment within 6 months

UKIP

- Protect meals-on-wheels, luncheon clubs, day care services and home care
- Remove VAT from hot takeaway food such as fish and chips
- Put mental wellbeing on same footing as physical healthcare, in terms of access to treatment and funding
- Education focus on personal wellbeing with emotional health and wellbeing to be added to the Ofsted Inspection Framework
- Integrate mental wellbeing monitoring into the medical examinations for serving armed forces personnel in potentially traumatic or 'at risk' roles
- Prioritise early intervention schemes and community-based care to promote independence and wellbeing, such as supported living arrangements.
- Scrap undergraduate fees for STEM students, providing the work within their discipline and pay UK tax for 5 years post qualification
- Scrap tuition fees for medical students, providing they commit to working in the NHS for 10 out of 15 years post qualifying

Green Party

- Introduce an NHS Reinstatement Act to reverse privatisation so as to ensure all health and dental services are publicly owned and provided free at the point of access.
- Close NHS spending gap to ensure that everyone can access a GP, hospitals can reduce waiting times, and spending on mental health care is brought in line with spending on physical well-being.

SCOTLAND

Scottish Conservatives

- Take action to reduce obesity and support National Diabetes Prevention Programme
- Promote efforts to reduce unhealthy ingredients
- Clearer food information for consumers – noting in particular greater flexibility post EU over the presentation of information on packaged goods.
- Amend health and safety regulations so employers provide the provision of mental health first aid and needs assessments
- Encourage employers to provide new products and incentives to improve the mental health and wellbeing support available to their employees
- Make the UK the leading research and technology economy in the world for mental health, bringing together public, private and charitable investment
- Support research into diagnosis of rare cancers and other diseases, including work of Genomics England
- Maintain position as European hub for life sciences
- Collaborate with Europe in science and innovation

Scottish Labour

- Develop a new Childhood Obesity Strategy within the first 100 days of Government which will address food labelling and advertising of junk food
- Restrictions on supermarket promotions – restricting multi-buy discounts and promotion of HFSS products
- Fund Breakfast Club at every Primary school in Scotland
- Use the benefit of the Barnett consequential of the Labour policy to fund the extension of free school meals in England by removing VAT exemption for private schools to replicate free school meal extension in Scotland.
- Vow not to extend VAT to food

Scottish National Party

- Increase the number of health visitors, introducing Baby Box for newborns and delivery of Childsmile programme
- Press Westminster to close the sugar tax loopholes, tighten regulation on broadcast and digital junk food ads seen by children and introduce clearer food labelling
- Maintain the extension of free school meals to Primary years 1-3
- Develop and implement a Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Strategy

WALES

Welsh Labour

- Continued effort to address poor oral health through the Designed to Smile programme.
- A National Obesity Strategy for Wales and work with Labour on Childhood Obesity Strategy
- Retain free school breakfast programme
- Address holiday hunger via lunch and fun clubs over next 3 years across Wales during summer holidays
- Vow not to extend VAT to food

Plaid Cymru

- Target to save 10,000 lives over 10 years through activities including public health actions and promoting individual lifestyle changes

NORTHERN IRELAND

Democratic Unionist Party

- Support National Health Service for Northern Ireland reforms including implementation of the Bengoa Panel recommendations

Sinn Fein

- Northern Ireland to be designated special status within the EU to safeguard health and services
- Retaining crucial health care workers
- Continued free access to health care across the EU
- Resisting cuts to health care and mental health
- Resource health care and the implementation of the Bengoa Report
- Greater all-Ireland co-operation in health care
- Development of 'truly national health care services'