

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)

Equally Valued - 2021 Scottish Parliament Election Manifesto

Questionnaire for Parties

March 2021



Introduction

Last month, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) [published 'Equally Valued', our manifesto for the Scottish Parliament elections, which can be read in full here](#). It contains a number of asks for all parties, based on engagement with our members.

To help us share with our members what each party's views are of the issues that matter most to them, would you be able to arrange for a representative of your party to complete and return this questionnaire by Friday 23 April?

The questionnaire asks whether your party agrees in full, agrees in part, disagrees, or has no position, on each of the 21 asks in the ALLIANCE manifesto. There is also space for comments, if you would like to set out your position on any of the issues in more detail.

We plan to publish completed questionnaires from each party on our website – www.alliance-scotland.org.uk – and social media as they are received, for the purpose of giving our members and the wider public more information about the parties' position on these issues. Would you also be able to send us a copy of your party's logo for this purpose?

Thank you in advance for your party's response. If you have any queries about the questionnaire or would like further information, please contact Rob Gowans on rob.gowans@alliance-scotland.org.uk.

Questionnaire

Name of party: Scottish Labour

Representative completing response (optional): _____

Are you content for this response to be published on the ALLIANCE website and social media?

Yes No

Recovery and Renewal

Commission an independent, person centred inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on health and social care in Scotland.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour have been calling for a full public inquiry into the pandemic in Scotland. We need to know why our country was so badly prepared despite years of warnings and preparedness operations. We have been clear that any inquiry must be human rights based.

“We also need answers from the separate Scottish care home inquiry to understand why the Scottish Government allowed our care homes, and the human rights of residents and staff, to be put at risk.

“There should be no further delay as there are unique lessons that Scotland must learn from this crisis which should inform our National Recovery Plan, helping us to unite and move forward to create a stronger and fairer Scotland.”

Appoint an independent Scottish Commissioner for Older People.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour recognise the huge contribution that older people make to our communities and we are committed to establish a Commissioner for Older People to reflect their needs in policy and help combat ageism.

We want to embed intergenerational approaches in governance and policymaking to help Scotland to become a nation where young and old support and learn from each Other.

Create a rolling Community Wellbeing Fund in every Integrated Joint Board area for third sector health and care organisations to reduce social isolation and support post pandemic recovery.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour know that having a National Loneliness Strategy is meaningless if the government continues to under-resource local services and social infrastructure.

We are committed to working with local government and community-led organisations as key partners in health improvement and building strong communities that support wellbeing.

Provide additional sustainable funding to the health and social care sector to mitigate the negative impacts of Brexit on disabled people, people living with long term conditions, unpaid carers and the third sector.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Brexit poses specific risks for the health and social care sector, not least the potential to exacerbate workforce shortages. Scottish Labour are determined to end the under-resourcing of our NHS and our plans for a National Care Service will see social care funding finally become a national priority.

Appoint an independent panel of people with lived experience to inform and advise the Scottish Government's work on fuel poverty.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

The elimination of fuel poverty should be achievable in an energy-rich Scotland, but it requires political commitment and credible plans to achieve it. Scottish Labour know that the measures we take will have the greatest chance of achieving our goal of eradicating fuel poverty by 2032 if they are shaped by people with lived experience, and so we are committed to consulting them throughout.

People at the Centre

Adopt a Digital Choice approach to mitigate digital exclusion and guarantee people parity between digital and non-digital health and care services.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

We want to embed the benefits of digital healthcare with increased access to virtual consultations, better data sharing, and online booking of appointments. However, we know that means ensuring that digital ways of working are accessible and reliable. Scottish Labour are committed to mitigating the impacts of digital exclusion and maintaining patient choice over how to access appointments, ending the digital barriers for people who need to access basic public services.

Prioritise appointments of Community Links Practitioners to every GP practice in Scotland's most deprived areas.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour believe that Community Links Practitioners can fulfil an important role in providing holistic care and ensuring that everyone gets the support they need. Yet, this potential will not be realised if they are not based in areas of greatest need.

Create a 'Right to Rehab' to ensure everyone has access to rehab when needed and no one is excluded by a 'no rehab potential'.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour recognise the benefits that a 'Right to Rehab' would bring to those people with long-term conditions. This includes support for self-managing conditions with better access to specialist staff and support services so that everyone can live as full and independent a life as possible.

Increase investment in community based mental health and wellbeing services and guarantee people access to timely, good quality support.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Even before the pandemic mental health services were struggling to keep up with demand. Short-term and limited funding for community wellbeing services undermines their important purpose. By increasing spend on mental health to 11% of the NHS budget and placing a mental health worker in every GP practice we will increase the resources for available for mental health and ensure everyone can get the wellbeing support they need in their communities.

Fully incorporate housing in health and social care integration, for a more joined up approach to prevention and the right to health.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour recognise that improving Scotland's health will require work beyond just improving health and care services. We want to tackle the underlying drivers of poor health and inequality – poor housing being a key one but we want to start this work straight away, not wait for structural or legislative changes. We have bold plans to build at least 120,000 social homes in the next decade, with aim of delivering 200,000, of which at least 10% will be fully accessible. Our new National Housing Agency will be a coordinate with local authorities and housing associations to implement our plans and our commitment to a health impact assessment for every government policy will ensure health is at the centre of our housing vision.

Social Care

Appoint a dedicated Minister for Social Care responsible for implementing the recommendations of the independent Review of Adult Social Care and delivering an equalities and rights based adult social care reform programme.

- Agree in full
Agree in part
Disagree
No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour has long called for a National Care Service and we welcomed the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care. We believe a National Care Service should promote greater consistency and raise standards, while maintaining local expertise, accountability, and community input. For too long the Scottish government have failed to take responsibility for improving care and we are open to their being a Minister for Social Care if this would deliver progress

Increase the social care budget to ensure people have meaningful choice and control over good quality support and the third sector workforce enjoy Fair Work.

- Agree in full
Agree in part
Disagree
No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour believe that the funding of social care needs to be a national priority and we are committed to increasing resources to end non-residential charges and reversing the restrictions placed on eligibility in recent years.

The social care workforce have been on the frontline during the pandemic and yet they have long gone without the recognition or appreciation that they deserve. Scottish Labour are determined to see the implementation of Good Work in the sector, with improved training, terms and conditions and collective bargaining. We are also offering an immediate pay rise to at least £12 per hour with a further raise to £15 per hour over the course of the Parliament.

Remove all non-residential social care charges.

- Agree in full
- Agree in part
- Disagree
- No position

Comments (optional):

See above.

Human Rights

Implement the statutory framework of the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership and legislate for full and direct incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People into Scots law.

- Agree in full
- Agree in part
- Disagree
- No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour will fully incorporate human rights treaties into Scots Law, with clear mechanisms for resolving problems and remedying infringements.

Reform mental health law and policy to align with international human rights standards on equality and non-discrimination, participation, accountability and transparency.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour recognise that the current legal framework on mental health and incapacity is now out-dated and in need of reform. When recommendations are made by the independent review led by John Scott QC we will consider them careful and legislate to ensure the human rights of people with metal ill health are upheld.

Adopt a human rights budget work approach to Scotland's national budget, to embed fairness, transparency and people's participation in resource allocation, financial decision making, monitoring and accountability.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour believe we need to increase transparency and accountability over public finances. Scottish Labour want to re-establish the vision of Holyrood being a people's parliament. Spending by the Scottish government should uphold human rights and we believe that we need much greater transparency and accountability over public finances than the current Scottish government has offered.

Social Security

Initiate an independent review of social security for disabled people and create a world leading system, according to the six principles detailed in the Scottish Campaign on Rights to Social Security's ['Beyond a Safe and Secure Transition' report](#).

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour are determined to build a security system for Scotland that is adequate, simple and has respect, dignity and equality baked in. Our vision for social security is a system which secures the wellbeing and human rights of everyone and we would seek to guarantee a Minimum Income Standard, below which no one would fall below.

Increase the earnings threshold and remove restrictions on full time education for unpaid carers seeking to access social security.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Scottish Labour will work with carers and the people they care for to reform the Carer's Allowance. We will examine ways to improve the earnings threshold, including aligning it to at least 16 hours at the Scottish Living Wage, allowing carers to earn more from part-time work, as well as removing the cliff edge and the full-time study rule.

Climate Change

Create a £25m climate emergency innovation fund for third and independent sector social care organisations.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face as a country. Tackling the climate emergency must be central to all of our policies and investment as we

recover from the pandemic. Ensuring that the Environment Strategy is more than just warm words will require concrete action across all government departments, including in health and social care. Our Good Work principles for public procurement include the requirement to have a clear carbon reduction plan and we will work in partnership with the social care sector to achieve this.

Invest in clinically safe, environmentally friendly PPE and alternatives to single-use plastics used by disabled people and people living with long term conditions.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Addressing our climate and nature emergency will require radical action. Our work to cut down on single use plastics will be backed by a Circular Economy Bill with direct measures to reduce waste.

Guarantee sustainable investment in accessible travel for people who access and deliver health and care services is included in action to reduce the impact of transport on climate change.

Agree in full

Agree in part

Disagree

No position

Comments (optional):

Our transport and climate change recovery plans prioritise accessibility, as well as lower emissions, across our transport system. Scottish Labour plan to bring all railways back into public ownership and will ensure rail services are safe and fully accessible. We will also extend free bus travel to under 25s and promote the manufacture and the widespread introduction of accessible low-emission vehicles as part of our plan to reinvigorate our bus network so it is affordable and fully integrated with the wider transport system.

Additional Comments

Do you have any further comments you would like to add?

Comments (optional):

About the ALLIANCE

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) is the national third sector intermediary for a range of health and social care organisations. We have a growing membership of nearly 3,000 national and local third sector organisations, associates in the statutory and private sectors, disabled people, people living with long term conditions and unpaid carers. Many NHS Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Medical Practices, Third Sector Interfaces, Libraries and Access Panels are also members.

Our vision is for a Scotland where people of all ages who are disabled or living with long term conditions, and unpaid carers, have a strong voice and enjoy their right to live well, as equal and active citizens, free from discrimination, with support and services that put them at the centre.

The ALLIANCE has three core aims; we seek to:

- Ensure people are at the centre, that their voices, expertise and rights drive policy and sit at the heart of design, delivery and improvement of support and services.
- Support transformational change, towards approaches that work with individual and community assets, helping people to stay well, supporting human rights, self management, co-production and independent living.
- Champion and support the third sector as a vital strategic and delivery partner and foster better cross-sector understanding and partnership.

We have worked closely with ALLIANCE members, partners, and those they work for and with to develop this manifesto.

Further briefings providing more detail on the issues contained in this manifesto are available on request from:

Rob Gowans
Policy and Public Affairs Manager
rob.gowans@alliance-scotland.org.uk

Lucy Mulvagh
Director of Policy and Communications
lucy.mulvagh@alliance-scotland.org.uk

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)

0141 404 0231

info@alliance-scotland.org.uk

[@ALLIANCEscot](#)

www.alliance-scotland.org.uk

The ALLIANCE is a company registered by guarantee. Registered in Scotland
No.307731 Charity number SC037475.