

ALLIANCE Scottish Parliament election 2026 Manifesto

Planning: Summary for Members

This document captures the proposals so far for inclusion in the ALLIANCE's organisational manifesto for the 2026 Scottish Parliament election. These have emerged from discussion within the ALLIANCE Policy Team and contributions from other teams across the ALLIANCE. We are now seeking to engage with members on what has been proposed so far, any further suggestions, and possibilities for aligning calls between organisations.

Not all suggestions, either those already made or that may arise from engaging with members, will necessarily be able to be included in the final manifesto. Suggestions will be prioritised depending on the outcome of this engagement process, emerging themes, current political circumstances, and guidance from ALLIANCE senior management. The headings used throughout this document relate to internal ALLIANCE workstreams, and do not necessarily reflect how the final manifesto content will be organised or presented.

We welcome feedback and/or additional suggestions from members **no later than 30 June 2025**. Suggestions should aim to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound); aligned with the work and priorities of the ALLIANCE or our members; and within devolved powers ([a reminder of what is devolved is available here](#)). For information, [you can find the ALLIANCE's 2021 Manifesto on our website](#). We will also be running engagement events that members can attend (more information on our website.)

Social Care

- Progress social care reform, including ending the postcode lottery; procurement reform; equal rights and support for all members of IJBs; and abolishing non-residential care charging. Actively involve people with lived experience and the third sector as equal partners through this process. *[Note: this area is subject to change due to ongoing events with Care Reform Bill, formerly the National Care Service Bill]*
- Better pay for social care staff and address institutionalised gender bias with an intersectional evaluation of social care, establishing fair and equitable terms and conditions.
- Significantly improve the delivery of rights based Self-directed Support (SDS).
- Older people's health and social care strategy, with a view to improving choice and control over care, finances and delivery of healthcare to older people.

Human Rights

- Press the UK Government to amend the Scotland Act to remove unintended limitations on the Scottish Parliament's ability to legislate for human rights.
- Pass a Human Rights Bill, incorporating a range of international human rights protections and accountability directly into Scots law.
- Improve Scottish Government human rights reporting, underpinned by a national human rights tracker tool including data generated by rights holders, third sector organisations and other independent sources alongside that from government and other public sector duty bearers.
- Prioritise implementation of SNAP 2 and ensure adequate resources and support for rights holders, public bodies and third sector organisations to work together to deliver the actions.
- Ensure that robust disaggregated equality and human rights data is systematically gathered and analysed.
- Enhance the powers of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, including greater powers of investigation and to raise legal proceedings, as well as to organise itself to best support the rights of specific groups in society, backed by adequate and sustainable resource.
- An "equality and human rights first" approach, alongside a joined-up approach to human rights across all areas of government work, including the Population Health Framework.
- Ensure robust accountability, national scrutiny and joint working to ensure people with learning disabilities and complex needs are not subject to inappropriate institutionalisation or out-of-area placement, and can fully realise their equal rights to health, care, housing, and independent living in the community.

Fair Finance

- Passport access to the higher rate of Pension Age Winter Heating Payment through disability and carers payments.
- Reform the deficits-based approach to disability payments, with regard to the final recommendations of the Independent Review of the Adult Disability Payment (due in July 2025).
- Complete the Safe and Secure Transition of social security payments and progress previously made pledges for further changes to the Carer Support Payment, including a higher earnings limit.
- Deliver fair funding for the third sector, including sufficient, multi-year funding, and ensure this approach is embedded across all public sector funders. Reimburse Scottish third sector organisations for the cost of increased employer NICs, which are currently estimated at £75 million per year.

Formally acknowledge third Sector Organisations as both an economic investment and contributor, include them as an equal partner in financial decision-making.

- Progress long-overdue reform to local taxation, to ensure that local government provision of social care and other local services are adequately and sustainably funded.
- Fully implement a wellbeing economy and human rights based approach to fiscal policy and financial decision-making, including fairer tax, national and local budgeting, procurement and grant funding.
- Carry out robust equality and human rights data-gathering and analysis to measure and assess the impact that fiscal policy and public finance decisions have on disabled people, people with long term conditions, unpaid carers, and third sector organisations.

Mental Health

- Act on the recommendations of the Scottish Mental Health Law Review and ensure sufficient, sustainable funding for mental health services.
- Allocate long term, sustainable funding for activity that promotes and supports the good mental health and wellbeing of people living with long term conditions and addresses the mental health inequalities they experience.
- Continued funding for Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, with possible wider expansion.
- Pass a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill.

Other Healthcare

- Carry out a robust review of women's pregnancy and maternity services during the COVID-19 pandemic and use learning to co-produce human rights based services and emergency guidance rooted in intersectional gender analysis and existing standards.
- Extend the free COVID-19 booster vaccination programme to unpaid carers.
- Create a central Long Covid hub to holistically manage specialists and services. The Hub would ensure people have access to rights based, person centred care and treatment, including training for healthcare professionals and ensuring healthcare facilities are safe.
- Expedite the creation of a new Scottish Institute for Women's Health to drive the systemic change needed to policy, guidance, and medical training.
- Proper resourcing and evaluation of preventative approaches, accounting for the range of work already undertaken by the third sector.
- Implement a 'Health in all policies' approach (<https://www.health.org.uk/reports-and-analysis/reports/implementing-health-in-all-policies>).

- Actively involve the third sector as equal partners in NHS reform.

Sensory

- Creation of a Sensory Policy Unit and implementation of a new See Hear Strategy to facilitate a clearly prioritised, joined-up approach to national sensory policy. Invest in sensory sector and services, support the new definition of Deadblindness, and implement the findings of the Independent Review of Audiology Services in Scotland.
- Pilot a Scottish Sensory Fund to finance approaches that transform support for people with sensory impairments in Scotland.
- Recognition of inclusive communications through the Public Sector Equality Duty, legislation, and co-produced inclusive communication training, data collection, monitoring and evaluation.

Other ALLIANCE Programme-specific priorities

- Protect the current provision of Community Links Workers by ensuring sustainable and adequate funding and roll the programme out to more areas.
- Continue to invest in the Self Management Fund.
- Pass a Digital Inclusion Bill, including a significant financial commitment to realise the vision of Scotland as an '[ethical digital nation](#)'.
- Pass legislation to realise our 'access and control of digital data' human rights principle, aligned with the SNAP2 action on this topic.
- Deliver on the recommendations of the Morgan Review on inclusive education for children with additional support needs and improve transitions to adulthood.
- Use of Statutory Levy on gambling revenues to improve prevention, data collection, and treatment and support for people affected by gambling harms, co-produced with people with lived experience. (Subject to further news on how Statutory Levy will be administered in Scotland)
- Review the appropriateness and effectiveness of referrals based on women with learning disabilities experiencing gender-based violence and increase support and resources for all gender-based violence support services.