



Scottish Labour's plan to help families

The people of Scotland are full of aspiration for themselves and their families, but after 20 years of SNP government too many people feel our country is being held back.

It's time for change.

Scottish Labour has a plan to fix the mess, get the basics right and build a better future for families right across Scotland.

Making life more affordable

Across the country, parents are striving to give their children the best start in life. They need a government that backs them to succeed which is why Scottish Labour will help people who are struggling with the cost of living by:

- ✔ **Introducing breakfast clubs in all primary schools**, helping parents get to work on time and ensuring no child starts the day hungry.
- ✔ **Reducing the costs of childcare** for working parents, providing two weeks of funded holiday clubs during the summer and increasing the value of tax free childcare so it is worth £3,000 per child.
- ✔ **Improving the flexibility of the childcare system**, with funding following the child, support for childminders and action to ensure care is accessible for single parent families, parents who work shifts, and children with additional support needs.
- ✔ **Maintaining the Scottish Child Payment** and increasing it to £40 a week for children under one to help low income families at the start of a child's life.
- ✔ **Creating Family Network hubs in primary schools**, based on Sure Start principles. These hubs will have family coordinators to help families connect with the support they need, be it advice on money and benefits, housing, childcare, parenting or employment support.

- ✔ **Tackling school meal debt**, maintaining write off funds and reviewing the thresholds for free school meals in secondary schools so all those in need can access a nutritious and warm school meal.
- ✔ **Properly funding financial inclusion**, redirecting at least £2m of dormant asset funding into money advice services.
- ✔ **Working with schools to deliver financial literacy classes** and ensure every young person leaves school with a bank account.
- ✔ **Helping with transitions into work**, ensuring that Scotland's social security system removes barriers for people who want to take up paid work or increase their hours.
- ✔ **Preventing above inflation hikes to water bills** while Scottish Water generates multi-million pound surpluses and restricting excessive executive bonuses.
- ✔ **Not increasing the rates of income tax** for the whole five years of the next Parliament, with the ambition to lower the tax burden the SNP has placed on Scots as we get the economy growing once again.

An NHS there when Scots need it

Scottish Labour will always defend the NHS. That is why we will act to drive down waiting lists and modernise Scotland's health service by:

- ✔ **Driving down NHS waiting lists**, with funding following the patient so that anyone who is willing to travel can be offered treatment wherever capacity is available.
- ✔ **Ending the 8am rush for a GP appointment** and bringing back the family doctor so everyone can get a GP appointment within 48 hours when they need one.

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- ✓ **Creating new neighbourhood health hubs** so people can access all their local health services in one place.
- ✓ **Launching an emergency mental health response service**, so that people in mental health crisis get specialist NHS care, not merely a police response.
- ✓ **Better support for children and young people on CAMHS waiting lists**, with dedicated Community Link Workers in all CAMHS teams so kids do not have to wait for the help they need.
- ✓ **Creating a new national neurodevelopmental pathway** so that neurodivergent people get the right support instead of being stuck on inappropriate mental health waiting lists.
- ✓ **Delivering safe maternity services**, driving improvements where services have fallen short and ensuring that women can access quality maternity care in every part of the country.
- ✓ **Guaranteeing support for new families**, training and recruiting the health visitors needed to provide home visits between pre-birth and a child turning five.
- ✓ **Reversing the decision to downgrade Wishaw neonatal unit**, pausing the plans to centralise specialist neonatal units across Scotland and commissioning a new review.
- ✓ **Legislating for Milly's Law** to end the culture of cover-up and get the truth for families.
- ✓ **Doubling the coverage of Childsmile**, building on its success by expanding the toothbrushing programme to Primary 3 and Primary 4 in targeted schools.

Developing skills and creating good jobs

Scotland needs a world-class skills and training system if we are to deliver growth, tackle poverty with new opportunities and improve our quality of living. Scottish Labour will ensure there are routes into well paid, skilled work for young people and opportunities for people of all ages to upskill or retrain by:

- ✓ **Guaranteeing an apprenticeship place for every qualified applicant**, with the creation of 9,000 additional apprenticeships in key growth sectors.
- ✓ **Establishing a Parent Works Scheme**, funding colleges to deliver dedicated training and employment support for parents who are unemployed or in low paid work, so they can fill local skills gaps, boost their household incomes and help lift children out of poverty.
- ✓ **Developing short reskilling courses**, tailored to skills gaps in the local economy and delivered by local colleges.
- ✓ **Maintaining free tuition for Scotland's undergraduates**, ensuring that attending university can still be an aspiration for all.

Setting our young people up to succeed

Scottish Labour will back our children from cradle to career, restoring excellence and equity in our education system and ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to succeed. We will:

- ✓ **Ban mobile phones in classrooms** so that schools are safe and calm places for learning once again.
- ✓ **Recruit 1,500 more classroom assistants** to help teachers manage behaviour and give pupils more 1:1 support.
- ✓ **Implement an education recovery programme**, with up to 2,000 specialist teachers to help children who have fallen the furthest behind.
- ✓ **Deliver industry work placements for every secondary school pupil**, and certified work experience which young people can record on their Digital Skills Passport.
- ✓ **Increase staff capacity in ASN classrooms**, with 300 of our new pupil support assistants based in specialist ASN units or schools.
- ✓ **Support transitions to adulthood**, ensuring that young people with additional needs have the support they require.
- ✓ **Guarantee the chance to swim**, with every P5 pupil given the opportunity to learn basic swimming and water safety skills.

Stronger communities

Scotland's towns, cities and neighbourhoods should be places where Scots can grow up, raise families, live well and grow old together in community. Scottish Labour will empower local people to create good places to live by:

- ✓ **Delivering fair funding for local services**, agreeing a new funding formula for local government so local areas can never again be shortchanged by central government.
- ✓ **Giving local people a say over service closures**, requiring councils to consult whenever they plan to shut local libraries, sports and leisure facilities, or community venues.
- ✓ **Establishing a £350m pothole fund** to fix the roads and fill up to five million potholes.
- ✓ **Funding an additional £10m for Changing Places toilets**, renewing the fund for the next Parliamentary term to address the lack of provision across Scotland.
- ✓ **Promoting digital inclusion** and helping more people to get online.

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A safer Scotland

Scottish Labour will restore security and make our neighbourhoods safe again by:

- ✓ **Returning police officers back to the front line** and giving every neighbourhood a named community and crime prevention officer.
- ✓ **Criminalising the exploitation of children**, holding to account those who seek to take advantage of young people.
- ✓ **Creating a specialist victims' support team** who can coordinate between justice agencies and act as a single point of contact for victims.
- ✓ **Increasing the value of Antisocial Behaviour Fines**, meaning those who make communities feel less safe can face fines of up to £500.
- ✓ **Restoring the Cashback for Communities Youth Work Fund**, with £1m dedicated to funding local approaches to youth work and crime prevention in neighbourhoods with high crime rates.
- ✓ **Establishing a Misogyny Reduction Unit**, based within Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit and treating violence against women and girls as an issue of public health with research and evidence-based interventions.
- ✓ **Removing parental rights of child sex offenders**, meaning parents convicted of serious sexual offences against children can no longer make decisions in their child's life.

Homes for all

Scottish Labour believes that everybody should have a home that is safe, warm, secure and affordable. That is why we will end the housing emergency by:

- ✓ **Building more homes**, delivering 125,000 new homes by the end of the Parliament in 2031, across all tenures.
- ✓ **Fixing the broken housing market**, with over 50,000 new affordable homes to drive down housing waiting lists and reduce rents by an average of £2,700.
- ✓ **Helping renters to save for a deposit**, setting aside more than 5,000 new mid-market rent homes for working people who want to save for their own home.
- ✓ **Eradicating rough sleeping** with an Ending Homelessness Unit to drive action across government.
- ✓ **Consolidating rural housing funds** and reviewing the definition of rural housebuilding so homes are built in genuinely rural areas.
- ✓ **Granting homeowners more control over factoring**, with higher penalties when factors breach their obligations and measures to make it easier to end factoring contracts.
- ✓ **Creating a national warm homes programme**, with one-stop centres in communities to advise on new technologies, access to domestic solar, energy efficiency measures, financing, and trusted local installers to help support local jobs.

This election is a straight choice between more of the same with the SNP or a government ready to build a better future with Scottish Labour.

The SNP has had 20 years in charge; they don't deserve another five.

On May 7, vote Scottish Labour on both votes for the change Scotland needs.