Scottish Labour's plan for older people

Scotland is a country of talent, compassion, innovation and ambition, 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 people right across Scotland.

Making life more affordable

Scottish Labour will help people keep more of their own money in their pocket and keep everyday costs down by:

- **Committing to no income tax rate rises** for five years, with the ambition to lower taxes as we get the economy growing.
- **Widening eligibility for energy-efficiency support,** dropping the age threshold for the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme to 70 so 3,000 more households can access funding for home upgrades.
- **Keeping down the cost of public transport,** preventing a return to peak rail fares and maintaining free bus travel for older people.
- **Boosting uptake of the Warm Homes Discount,** increasing automatic roll out so all 500,000 households who are eligible get £150 off their energy bills.
- **Preventing above inflation hikes to water bills** while Scottish Water generates multi-million pound surpluses.
- **Protecting people with public debt,** working with public sector stakeholders to implement new standards and protections so no one is pushed into poverty by public sector debt collection.
- **Improving access to banking hubs,** working with the banking sector to help anyone who needs reliable access to cash and banking services.
- **Working to deliver reliable postal services,** so everyone in Scotland can access the affordable delivery services they need.

An NHS there when Scots need it

Scottish Labour will always defend the NHS. That is why we will act to tackle the waiting list backlog 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.
- **Tackling delayed discharge, starting** with 300 step-down beds in care homes and 1,000 more care at home packages.
- **Speeding up ambulance response times,** introducing a 45 minute target for ambulance turnarounds to prevent vehicles being stuck in queues outside hospitals.
- **Improving access to outpatient services,** making use of new technology for monitoring, expanding virtual clinics, and incentivising GPs to run chronic condition clinics.
- **Delivering a right to rehab** so that those recovering from surgery and living with long-term conditions can maintain their health and mobility for as long as possible.
- **Prioritising the delivery of a 24/7 thrombectomy service** so that every patient in Scotland can access the best possible stroke treatment.
- **Modernising screening programmes,** rolling out lung cancer screening, cervical self-sampling, and a prostate screening pilot.
- **Creating a personalised care plan for every cancer patient,** so that every patient has clarity about their treatment and a single point of non-clinical contact to turn to for support throughout their patient journey.

Scottish Labour's plan for older people

- **Recognising the role of unpaid carers,** improving access to respite and support for them to manage their own health and wellbeing.
- **Removing non-residential care charges,** so people are not penalised financially for needing help to live at home independently.
- **Cracking down on poorly run care homes,** prioritising more regular inspections and improving transparency for residents and their families so quality services are easier to identify.
- **Ending the patchwork provision of palliative care,** working with the profession to improve clinical pathways and minimum standards of care for those at the end of life.

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 that 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 to ensure no one is locked out of digital services.
- **Pushing power out of Holyrood** and giving people more of a say over regional services with a Local Democracy Act.

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.
- **Making the police accountable to local people,** restoring the statutory obligation for local police divisions to consult on local policing plans.
- **Increasing the value of Antisocial Behaviour Fines,** meaning those who make communities feel less safe can face fines of up to £500.
- **Prosecuting shoplifting,** expanding the remit of the Retail Crime taskforce beyond the central belt.
- **Removing free bus passes from those who carry out antisocial behaviour,** punishing those who abuse transport staff and threaten community safety.
- **Creating a specialist victims' support team,** who can coordinate between justice agencies and act as a single point of contact for victims**.**

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:

- **Fixing the broken housing market,** with over 52,000 new affordable homes to drive down housing waiting lists and reduce rents.
- **Eradicating rough sleeping** with an Ending Homelessness Unit to drive action across government.
- **Granting homeowners more control over factoring,** with higher penalties when factors breach their obligations and measures to make it easier for residents to end contracts.
- **Improving tenement maintenance arrangements,** expediting progress on reform recommendations.
- **Reviewing accessible housing plans,** to ensure disabled households are properly prioritised for accessible homes and that national housing supply is future proofed to meet the needs of an ageing population.

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.

Scottish Labour

5946_26 Reproduced from electronic media. Promoted by Kate Watson, Scottish General Secretary, on behalf of the Scottish Labour Party, Donald Dewar House, 139 Norfolk St, Glasgow, G5 9EA.