

# **Breaking Down Barriers**

**– Labour’s manifesto  
for disabled people**

**Easy read summary**

**Vote  Labour**



# What the Labour Party will do for disabled people



Breaking Down Barriers - an EasyRead guide  
to Labours manifesto for disabled people



# Labour's manifesto for disabled people



We are the **Labour Party**.

Our leader is **Jeremy Corbyn**.



This is a summary of our disability  
manifesto

It tells you the main things we  
believe in and what we will do if  
we become the next government.



Our website is [www.labour.org.uk](http://www.labour.org.uk)  
if you want to find out more.

# What is in this manifesto



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# 1. The Election

On 12th December 2019 there is an election.



This is your chance to change who is in power in government.



For the past 9 years the Conservatives have been in power.



With their cuts, they have done huge damage to services and support for people with disabilities. Many people have died.



Labour has made this plan with disabled people to make things better.





Labour is proud to still believe in **Nothing About Us Without Us!**



Labour will make sure disabled people:

- are treated equally and fairly



- are living the lives they want



- have proper support to learn



- are able to get proper jobs





- are independent



- can get around and take part in their communities



- have the money and support to do all of this.



We will only make these changes by making sure everyone has a chance to speak.



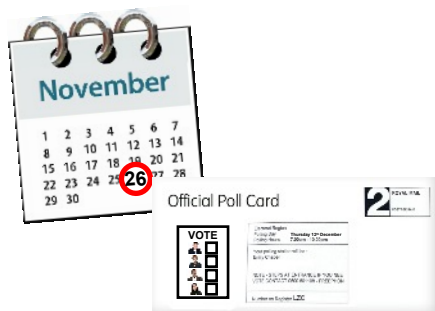
Labour is working with disabled people, not doing things to them.



Our new plans will be made by and with disabled people, not for them.



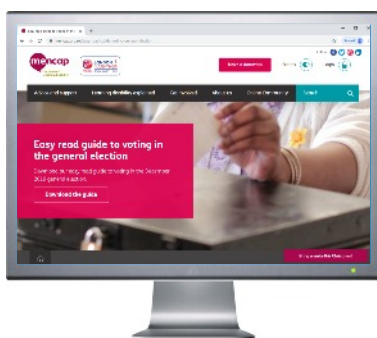
This is your chance and Labour is on your side.



To have your say and a chance to make a real change for the better you need to register to vote. This has to be done by 26th November.



Then, get out and vote on Thursday 12th December 2019!



See the EasyRead guide on voting:  
**<http://generals.guide/vote2019>**



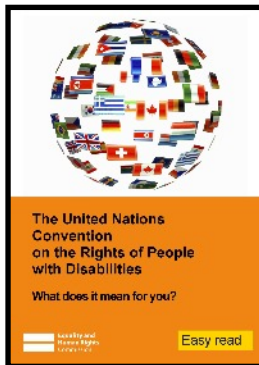
## 2. Peoples rights under the United Nations

Disabled people should have the rights the United Nations says they should have.



### What has gone wrong?

In 2009, when Labour was in power last time we signed up to the UN Rights of Disabled People.



See the EasyRead version here:  
<http://great.social/Unrights>



We thought this was a good way to make sure disabled people were treated equally and fairly.



A year later an election happened and the Conservatives and Lib Dems got in.



They ignored the UN and disabled people's rights. They made huge cuts to the services and support people needed.



The UN has complained to the government and written reports to say how awful things are.



They show how disabled people in the UK are not getting their rights and not being treated equally or fairly.



The Government did not make the changes the UN asked for and let the cuts do more and more damage.



There has been a huge increase in hate crime against disabled people. People cannot get jobs or homes.



Many people with learning disabilities are still locked away in institutions where they are badly treated, and the Government has not done anything to change this.



## What will Labour do?

Labour will change all this and make sure people do get their rights, are treated equally and fairly, and have the support and services they need to live the lives they want.



### 3. Benefits and Universal Credit



Disabled people should get the benefits help and support they need to live an ordinary life in their communities.



#### What has gone wrong?

The Conservatives have made sure disabled people and their families are more likely to be poor and are getting poorer.



The benefit cuts for disabled people have been huge and cruel. Benefits are much, much harder to get and people asking for benefits are treated badly.



Lots of people who should be getting benefits have been wrongly told they cannot get them. (See assessments below)





The only way to get the benefits they should be getting is when they have gone to appeal or court.



And any support has been cut right back.



Universal Credit is a new benefit that is another cut.



It has been especially hard on disabled people.



People are being made to ask for benefits on computers, many people with learning disabilities are not able to use these.



## **What will Labour do?**

Labour will change the system to be helpful not unfriendly. A system we can be proud of because it treats people with respect.



A system that is there to support any of us when we need it.



We will make sure disabled people are not poor and people needing benefits are not seen as scroungers.



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions



To do this we will replace the Department of Work and Pensions with a new Department for Social Security.

UC *Universal  
Credit*



Labour will stop people moving onto Universal Credit (UC) straight away.



Then we will help people who have been moved to UC and suffered cuts.



We will also:

- make sure people do not have to wait 5 weeks for their money



- stop people being punished when they make mistakes or do something wrong



- make sure women are not at risk by giving them their own money and money for their children



- pay people every 2 weeks to help budget



- pay rent straight to landlords



- do away with Bedroom Tax



- give people free broadband to help them find and send information



- have more people who will help those who cannot use the internet



- give more support to carers



- give more money to people who have lost out because of cuts



- make sure lots less people need to use food banks.





And then, we will make a new system, together with disabled people that treats people properly.

## Checking what you need (Assessments)



People should have checks that help find out what they need and then give them that support.



## What has gone wrong?

The Government has paid private companies millions of pounds to do assessments to see if people can get benefits or not.

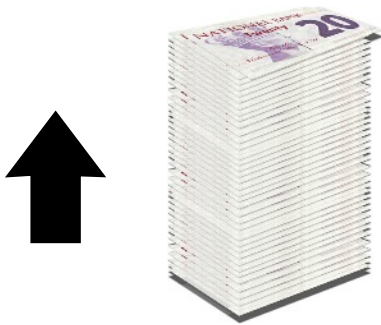


They made mistakes and stopped lots of people getting benefits when they should have them.





They treat people badly as if they should not be claiming money.



This has cost lots more money when people have had to appeal to get the back the benefits they should have.



People have been left without any money while they wait.



Even though these companies have done such a bad job, the Government has said they will still give them lots of money to carry on.



People with disabilities or an illness that won't go away are made to be assessed again and again even when nothing has changed.



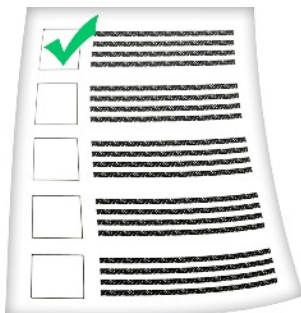
## What will Labour do?

Labour will make a system that works for disabled people.



We will:

- sack the private companies doing assessments and do them ourselves



- have a way of checking what people need that works properly



- have a system that can change quickly if needs change



- think about what problems people face that make it difficult to lead ordinary lives



- have a plan for every individual person that is about what they want and need



- not make people go back and have another assessment when nothing has changed



- make prescriptions free for everyone again



- make basic treatment at dentists free for everyone.

## 4. Work and learning



Disabled people should have a fair and equal chance to work and learn.



### What has gone wrong?

There are still lots of disabled people without a job. Especially people with learning disabilities.



Lots of special help and support that was there to help people get a job has been cut.



Even when disabled people do get a job they earn much less than people who are not disabled.



Lots of companies do not want to give disabled people jobs.



Disabled people who do get a job are often treated badly and unfairly.



**What will Labour do?**

Labour will support disabled people who want to get a job.



We will:

- get rid of the things that get in the way of getting a job





- and if you need it, have the right support to do this



- make sure people are treated fairly and equally at work and have new laws and rights to make this happen



- help companies and organisations keep on disabled workers



- bring back special support



- help people have the things they need in a job so they can do them





- let people keep that help when they move jobs



- get this help quickly when it is needed



- have new laws that help including time off because of your disability



- make bigger companies and organisations have to say how many disabled people work for them



- make sure they know more about disabilities of all sorts



- make sure everyone can work hours that suit them unless it is impossible in that job



## Access to Work

Labour will look at what support disabled people need to find and stay in work.



We will work with disabled people's organisations to do this.



We will:

- check how Access to Work is working and how to make it better



- check how supported employment is working and how to help.



## Learning

Disabled children need the best start possible in life.



## What has gone wrong?

Schools are not supporting disabled children and young people.



This is damaging their futures.



Assessments are stopping children getting the support they need.



Because of cuts to councils they cannot pay for home changes to meet the needs of disabled children in foster care.

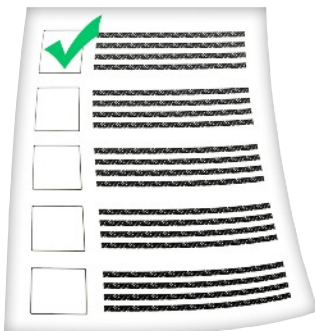


Some schools have been stopping disabled children coming to school because having them lowers their ratings.



## What will Labour do?

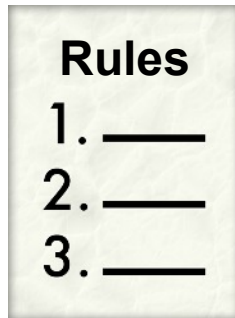
Labour will make sure disabled children and young people get the support and education to do all they can.



We will:

- have a new way of checking needs that helps children get the right support for them
- pay for the home changes foster children need





- have clear national rules



- make sure children and young people are treated equally and fairly in school



- have schools run by councils again



- pay for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)



- pay for the support disabled children need





- pay for early years support



- make a new plan for children and young people with SEND that makes sure children are included and supported



- have better training for teachers and support staff



- make sure children are not banned because they have SEND



- check all schools including ones outside the system





- make the move to adult services better



- make it possible for disabled young people to be apprentices



- give some groups, including disabled young people money to be apprentices



- make a law that college and university courses are accessible



- not have tuition fees



- have grants for people who need them to learn throughout their lives.

## 5. Taking part in your community and living an independent life to the full



Labour will stop the cuts to services and support councils to build them up again bigger and better than before.



We will make a new National Care Service for England that gives person-centred support in the community.

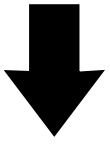


### What has gone wrong?

Conservative and Lib Dem cuts to councils and services have been huge.



They cut the number of Learning Disability nurses by half.



They cut the number of Community Mental Health nurses by over a third.



Social care has not had enough money for a very long time.



The support that is there does not have enough money and has not respected the human rights of disabled people.



## **What will Labour do?**

The NHS needs to be more accessible for disabled patients.

We will:



- make personal care free for older people



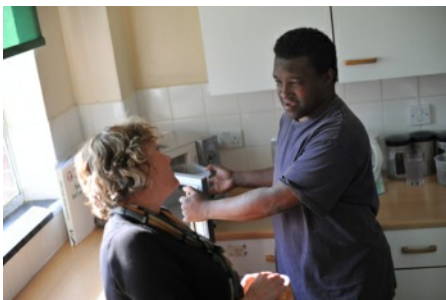
- make it free for younger people as soon as we can



- put a lot of money into mental health services for children and adults



- make sure people have choices, independence and the treatment they need



- have support that keeps people independent in their own homes



- have the proper support that autistic people and people with learning disabilities need to move out of the institutions they are still locked up in and into their own homes.





## 6. Getting justice

The Labour Party has always supported disabled people to get equal rights.



We will always fight people being treated unfairly.



### What has gone wrong?

Because of the cuts, people have had problems going to court and fighting for their rights.



People have had to pay to go to employment tribunals, the courts that look at whether you have been treated unfairly at work.



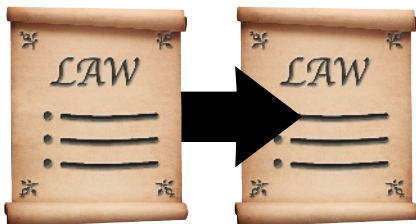
Court services, staff and Legal Aid have been cut meaning people cannot go to court and get justice.



## What will Labour do?

Labour will make sure disabled people can get the same access to justice as anyone else.

We will:



- change the law to get rid of the things that get in the way of disabled people leading ordinary lives



- support disabled people to fight being treated unfairly or badly



- keep employment tribunals free to go to



- make the law stronger on disability hate crime and have plans to do more about it



- make sure people can get early legal aid advice



- have hundreds of new community lawyers



- build new law centres



- stop courts closing and cuts to staff.

## 7. Housing

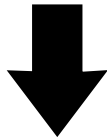


People have a right to housing that meets their needs.

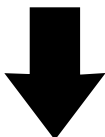
### What has gone wrong?



Because of the cuts and lack of services, there has been a huge rise in homelessness.



There are nowhere near enough houses for disabled people.



There are not enough houses people can afford.



They are not always accessible.



## **What will Labour do?**

Labour will build more accessible homes.



We will:

- build homes for life
- build homes disabled people can afford
- build eco homes that are cheap to run







- make sure homeless people with mental distress are supported



- stop rough sleeping in 5 years.

## 8. Transport



Disabled people need to be able to get out and about, go to work, go shopping or anywhere else. This is a right.



### What has gone wrong?

The railways have tried to cut guards on trains so there is no one there to help disabled people when they need it.



More than 3,000 bus routes have been cut.



### What will Labour do?

Labour will make sure transport is accessible.



We will:

- make sure there is a trained guard on all trains to help when people need it



- pay to bring back bus services that have been cut



- make sure all new buses are talking buses



- give councils more power over fares and routes



- make public transport more accessible for disabled and older passengers



- change taxi services to be more accessible.

## 9. Taking part



Labour will work with disabled people's organisations to look how to have better access to sports, arts and leisure places.

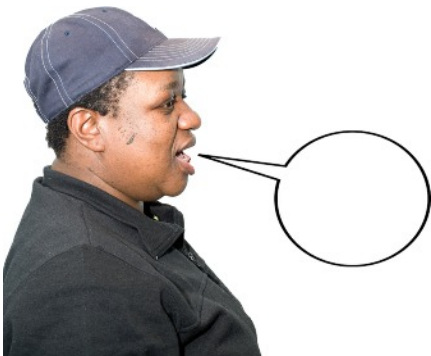


We will:

- make a new law to recognise British Sign Language



- support more disabled people to take part in politics and be MPs



- speak up for disabled people



- make sure there is money to pay for the extra costs of disabled people standing for election



- look at how more people from all different groups can be included in the justice system and as Mayors.



## Remember

This is your chance to make a change for the better, and Labour is on your side.

## Credits



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