# SNP (Scottish National Party) Manifesto 2021



# What we are doing for disabled people



Our vision is an independent Scotland that is more equal and inclusive.



We will have the powers so that disabled people can take a full part in public life. They will be able to enjoy the same opportunities and choices that other people have.



We will continue to work with disabled people in Scotland as we work towards independence.



Strong Rights

Vote for the SNP to:

We will make human rights part of the law. This will reduce inequality. It will advance the rights of everyone in Scotland. We will make the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities a part of Scots law.



We passed the Hate Crime Act. It is against the law to commit a crime on people because of their disability.

#### Make a diverse and inclusive Scotland



We will start a Scottish Diversity and Inclusion plan for the public sector, transport and workplaces. This aims to remove barriers which cause inequalities. This can be because of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and social mobility.



We will gather information so we can better measure inequality. We will recommend how to make things better.



#### **Invest in our NHS**

We will raise NHS spending to support it as it recovers from Covid-19. This will increase funding of services.



We want as much health care as possible given in the community and closer to people's homes. This is what patients want. To help with this, community healthcare and GP services will get a bigger share of NHS funding.



#### Make transitions better for children

We will make sure there is better support for disabled young people. There will be better guidance for the people who support them. This will make sure that no young person is left behind.

## Make better laws to support mental health



We will bring forward a Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill. This will set out mental health support and services available. This will protect and promote human rights.



We will create a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodiversity Commissioner. This will help make sure the new law is carried out. We will work with people who have experience. They will make sure the Commissioner can protect their rights.



## Create a National Care Service for all

We will set up a National Care Service. This will make sure our social care system gives high quality services. The National Care Service will be in charge of care, standards, pay and conditions for workers. It will support unpaid carers.



We will make sure that service users play a part in developing the National Care Service.



We believe social care services should be free at the point of use. Just like health care services. We will remove charges for non-residential care.



These changes can only happen with more investment. We will raise public investment in social care.

#### **Build a fairer Social Security system**



We have built Scotland's new social security system with and for the people who use it. It has the principles of dignity, fairness and respect. Social security is an investment in our people.



These principles also help shape the disability and carer benefits which will be introduced. Child Disability Payment will start later this year. Then Adult Disability Payment.



We will make sure there are long term benefit awards for people with conditions that do not change. If changes may happen in future, we will review cases. However, this will be as simply and quickly as possible. We want to make sure people are getting the right level of support.



We aim to reduce the impact of the Bedroom Tax. We will remove it as soon as we can. We believe it is unfair to disabled people.

# **Champion fairer employment**



We will make services give us information about their disability, ethnicity and gender pay gaps. These will be part of their Equal Pay Statement. This is a report that all public organisations have to publish to show that their staff get equal pay.



If we have the full powers of independence, we can do much more to protect workers' rights and end discrimination. Until then, we will ask for employment law decisions to be made by the Scottish Parliament.



We will give more support to help disabled parents into work. We will increase investment in the Parental Employability Support Fund. This will help parents find good, secure jobs.



We will increase free, high quality childcare. We will also provide care before and after school, all year round. This will be free for the least well-off families.

#### Make transport more accessible



Our aim is that all disabled people can travel with the same freedom, choice, dignity and opportunity as others.



We will continue to put the Transport Act into action. This includes plans to make bus travel more accessible. The UK Government is in charge of Rail accessibility but we will work to make train stations more accessible.



To make it safer and easier for people to get around, some of the transport budget will be spent on walking and wheeling. Wheeling includes travelling by bicycle or wheelchair.

#### **Build better housing**



Our vision for housing is person-centred. This works with housing support and social care services. This means people will have choice and flexibility to live independently.

We will make more accessible and adapted homes available. We will bring in a new Scottish Accessible Homes Standard which all new homes must meet.

#### Support our carers



We will double the payment of Carers Allowance Supplement this year. This is because of the extra work the pandemic has placed on carers.



CARER'S ASSISTANCE

We will bring in a better Carers Assistance payment to replace Carers Allowance. It will pay extra if you care for more than one disabled person. We will also increase the period of paying the benefit when a carer loses someone they have cared for.

#### **Better representation**



We will set up a new Leadership and Development Programme for disabled people. This will help remove barriers many disabled people face in gaining leadership positions.



We will give more support to disabled people and those from a minority ethnic background into positions on public boards. This will improve representation.

We will continue with our Access to Elected Office Fund. This gives financial support to disabled people who are standing in the Scottish Parliament and Local Authority elections.



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