

EMPOWERING DEAF AND DISABLED PEOPLE

GREEN PARTY DISABILITY MANIFESTO 2017



EMPOWERING d/DEAF AND DISABLED PEOPLE

“Grave and systematic violations of disabled people’s rights” is the conclusion of the UN’s investigation (November 2016) into the impact on disabled people of the UK’s welfare reforms, and is one of many condemnations of the Government’s actions towards disabled people. Along with the Oscar-nominated film, ‘I Daniel Blake’, this highlights some of the despair and humiliation many d/Deaf, disabled and older people have been experiencing over the past 7 years.

From the continuing battle people are facing to hold on to essential Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) or the recent loss of £30 per week for people in the Employment Support Allowance Work Group, to the disappearance of help for Independent Living and the more than 40% reduction in the number of d/Deaf, disabled and older people receiving social care; life for a large proportion of our nation’s 12 million sick, disabled, and d/Deaf people, hasn’t been harder in modern times. In a nation with the 5th largest economy on earth this is surely the most appalling indictment.



We in the Green Party are determined to act to address these fundamental injustices and to enable and empower d/Deaf and disabled people across the UK to enjoy inspiring lives; full of dignity, compassion, contribution and creativity. At the heart of our plans is a community-led Care & Support Service where we train, support and resource communities to better help each other and the most vulnerable in our society, at the same time saving money by supporting wellbeing and helping communities to lead in identifying and meeting our own needs, alongside councils, the NHS and Government.

The Green Party will be the natural refuge and launch platform for great lives for all UK citizens and we will use our community approach and the nation’s wealth of money and resourcefulness to make changes.

We will work towards:

- » **Better social care and health services**, to improve care and support services for d/Deaf, disabled and older people covering all adults with assessed need
- » **Reviewing essential disability benefits** to enable many more disabled people to enjoy good and fulfilling lives, and scrap the ineffective work capability assessments replacing them by increasing support available via GPs and other health professionals

We will campaign to:

- » **Empower communities to create 'community-led' networks** of support to sustain a range of preventative services helping to improve quality of life, reducing the need for costly care or hospital services. For every £1 invested in this way, we believe we can save health and social care £3 in direct costs.
- » **Significantly improve the housing choice for d/Deaf, disabled and older people** by requiring all councils to plan for their housing needs, creating Disability Housing Plans, and work to significantly increase the numbers of homes built to mobility standards over the next 5 years.
- » **Create a Housing Adaptions Fund** to help people return home quickly from hospital and to ensure older and disabled people's homes are appropriate for their needs. Freeing up public bodies to use capital in this way will result in significant savings for NHS and social care, the benefits of which the NHS will be required to share with local councils
- » **Improve education opportunities for disabled young people** by ensuring all schools fully support disabled children to have a high-quality education
- » **Support disabled people to have increased work opportunities** through community-based Supported Employment & Enterprise services, and require all UK businesses/services to ensure at least 5% of their work goes to disabled people
- » **Recognise that some sick or disabled people can't work** and ensure benefits and support systems enable all to have a good quality of life
- » **Fully recognise the rights of d/Deaf, disabled and older people** and ensure all UN commitments and equality legislation requirements are fully implemented
- » **Adjust national infrastructure investment plans** to ensure all communities, businesses, work places, leisure facilities and transport systems are accessible to all UK citizens
- » **End the placement of people with complex learning disability or mental health in remote care/ NHS treatment units** similar to the notorious 'Winterborne View', and transfer this funding to provide better locally-based housing and care alongside family and community support, and significantly increase advocacy support for all d/Deaf, disabled adults to access these services



COMMUNITY-LED NETWORKS OF SUPPORT

ACCESSIBLE HOMES

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

FULLY RECOGNISED RIGHTS

BETTER SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

SCRAPPING THE WORK CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALL



Our long-term goals will be to:

- » **Better support the many millions of carers in the UK** by (a) offering greater practical support through Community Support Networks, (b) by increasing carers allowance and (c) scrapping Government plans to remove Attendance Allowance
- » **Fully recognise the needs of people with specialist communication needs** and ensure British Sign Language, Easy Read, and Braille are fully supported
- » **Campaign for the re-introduction of the 'Access to Elected Office fund'**, which enabled many d/Deaf, and disabled people to stand for elected office at all levels





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