GENERAL ELECTION 2017

At a glance: comparison of the main parties'
pledges on benefits, work and housing policy

Policy in Practice

May 2017

GE2017 pledges on benefits, work and housing policy

Measure	Labour	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats
State pension "triple lock"	Maintain as now	Replace with double lock (prices and earnings) from 2020	Maintain as now
Winter Fuel payments	Keep universal	Means-test	Keep universal but withdraw from those who pay tax at 40%
Pension age	Keep at 66 by 2020	Reflect life expectancy	
State pension for women	Compensate for recent changes		
State pension accrued rights	Legislate to ensure rights cannot be changed, only benefits		
Bedroom tax	Scrap		Scrap
Benefit rates uprating			Uprate working age benefits in line with inflation
Sanctions	Scrap – (detail unspecified)		
Housing Benefit for u21s	Re-instate		Re-instate
Local Housing Allowance			Increase in line with average rents in local area
Universal Credit	Reform - end long delays and 'rape clause'. (Work allowance cuts and two-child policy criticised but no specific commitment to re-instate)	Continue roll-out as now	Allow both parents to earn before UC is cut. Reverse cuts to work allowances and family element. End two-child policy.

GE2017 pledges on benefits, work and housing policy

Measure	Labour	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats
Young people			Increase JSA and UC rates for 18-24 year olds in line with increases in minimum wage
National Minimum Wage	To match the Living wage (expected to be £10/hour by 2020)	£8.80/hour by 2020	Independent review on a new Living Wage applicable across all wages, but not to be enforced by law
Bereavement Support	Scrap recent cuts		
Child poverty	New strategy		
ESA	Increase by £30 for those in WRAG (and repeal UC cuts)		Reverse cuts to those in WRAG
Carer's Allowance	Increase by £11		
Work capability and Personal Independence Payments (PiP) assessments	Replace with new tailored system – end privatisation. End re-assessments for long-term severe conditions		Replace with new system administered by local authorities
Personal Independence Payments (PiP)	Ensure parity between physical and mental conditions		
Jobcentre Plus	Reform administration		Separate employment support from benefits administration
Supported housing	Safeguard		Increase funding
Affordable housing	Build 100,000 council & HA homes per year		Build 500,000 "affordable & energy efficient" homes

About Policy in Practice

Policy in Practice believes the welfare system can work better

Policy in Practice was founded to help people towards independence by making the welfare system simple for people and organisations to understand.

The benefit system is complicated, with different government departments administering a range of different benefits, each of which have their own rules.

We're a policy-led software and consulting business and we've developed three core services to make the welfare system simpler to understand.

Software	Analytics	Modelling
Our **Benefit and Budgeting Calculator** software is so comprehensive, fast and easy to use that advisors and customers don't have to be experts to explain the welfare system. We model over 4,000 pieces of legislation across four government departments to show how policy affects people on low incomes. Our clean user interface, visual charts and use of plain English empowers your advisors to help your residents to achieve outcomes.	We help organisations see how individual households are impacted by each change in policy, and all changes combined, both now and in the future. Our **Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)** combines local authority data with our powerful modelling engine to help you to proactively get the right support to the right people a the right time. Choose a one off impact assessment, or access self service analytics that allow you to see trends, track the impact of interventions and reach people in danger of crisis.	Local priorities differ and local council support schemes must too. We help councils model different **council tax support options**, taking into account uprating and future changes in policy. Our experience working with over forty local authorities, and modelling the impact on each household helps to inform your ideas, to develop policy that best meet local needs. This service is stand-alone but is more detailed when done together alongside our Policy Impact Analysis.
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