Overview
The Conservative Party has published their manifesto following an official launch by Theresa May in Halifax. The manifesto includes a commitment to increase NHS spending by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms over the next five years; reform social care funding; ensure the 140,000 staff from EU countries can carry on making their contribution to the health and social care system; introduce a new GP contract to help develop wider primary care services; reform the consultant contract; and increase the immigration health surcharge.

Key manifesto pledges
- Increase NHS spending by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms over the next five years.
- Seek assurances for EU staff working in the NHS as part of Brexit negotiations.
- Reform social care funding and align the future basis for means-testing domiciliary care with that for residential care, taking into account the value of the family home along with other assets and income.
- Support GPs to deliver innovative services that better meet patients’ needs, including phone and online consultations and the use of technology to triage people better and support integrated working.
- Increase the immigration health surcharge.

The full picture
The official manifesto can be found here. The summary below provides a full overview of the pledges impacting upon the health and social care sectors, NHS staff and patients. Most, but not all, of this information is taken verbatim from the manifesto (please check before using).

NHS funding
- Increase NHS spending by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms over the next five years.
- Build and upgrade primary care facilities, mental health clinics and hospitals in every part of England.
- Recover the cost of medical treatment from people not resident in the UK and ensure that new NHS numbers are not issued to patients until their eligibility has been verified.
- Increase the Immigration Health Surcharge to £600 for migrant workers and £450 for international students.
- Introduce a new GP contract to help develop wider primary care services.
- Reform the contract for hospital consultants to reflect the changed nature of hospital care.
NHS policy

- Support the NHS Five Year Forward View by backing the implementation of Sustainability and Transformation Plans, providing they are clinically led and locally supported.
- Hold NHS leaders to account for delivering their plan to improve patient care. Reform legislative landscape if it seen as slowing implementation or preventing clear national or local accountability.
- Review the operation of the internal market, and, in time for the start of the 2018 financial year, make non-legislative changes to remove barriers to the integration of care.
- Support GPs to deliver innovative services that better meet patients’ needs, including phone and online consultations and the use of technology to triage people better.
- Ensure appropriate funding for GPs to meet rising costs of indemnity in the short term while working with the profession to introduce a sustainable long-term solution.
- Support more integrated working, including with community pharmacies to help keep people healthy outside hospital.
- Legislate to reform and rationalise professional regulation of healthcare professions.
- Reform medical education, helping universities and local health systems work closer together. Continue with plans to increase medical student places.
- Introduce a number of requirements on the NHS as an employer including: strengthen the entitlement to flexible working to help those with caring responsibilities for young children or older relatives and act to reduce bullying rates in the NHS.

Standards of care

- Give patients, via digital means or over the phone, the ability to book appointments, contact NHS 111, access and update aspects of their care records, as well as control how their personal data is used.
- Put the National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care on a statutory footing to ensure data security standards are properly enforced.
- Expand the number of NHS approved apps that help monitor and provide support for physical and mental health conditions.
- Pilot the live publication of waiting times data for A&E and urgent care services.
- Commit to a truly seven-day healthcare service. Enable the whole population to get routine weekend or evening appointments at their own GP surgery or one nearby by 2019.
- Ensure patients in hospitals receive consultant supervision every day of the week with weekend access to the diagnostic tests needed to support urgent care.
- Ensure hospitals can discharge emergency admissions at a similar rate at weekends as on weekdays.
- Retain the 95 per cent A&E target and 18 week elective care standard.
- Extend the scope of the CQC to cover health related services commissioned by local authorities and legislate for an independent healthcare safety investigations body in the NHS.
- Ensure cancer patients receive a definitive diagnosis within 28 days by 2020.

Brexit and Immigration

- Prioritise in Brexit negotiations the 140,000 staff from EU countries so that they can carry on making their contribution to the health and care system.
- Enact a Great Repeal Bill which will convert EU law into UK laws. Parliament will then be able to pass legislation to amend, repeal or improve any piece of EU law.
- No repeal or replacement of the Human Rights Act while the process of Brexit is underway but consider the human rights legal framework when the process of leaving the EU concludes.
- Reduce immigration to sustainable levels, reducing net migration to the tens of thousands.
- Toughen the visa requirements for students.
- Maintain the Common Travel Area and maintain as frictionless a border as possible for people, goods and services between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- Significantly increase funding of UK-led medical and technical research into the biggest threats to global health and prosperity.
- Double the Immigration skills charge to £2,000.
Social care
- Align the future basis for means-testing for domiciliary care with that for residential care, taking into account the value of the family home along with other assets and income.
- Introduce a single capital floor, ensuring that people will always retain at least £100,000 of their savings and assets, including value in their family home.
- A forthcoming green paper will address system-wide issues to improve the quality of social care and reduce variation in practice.
- Means test Winter Fuel Payments with money released being directly transferred to health and social care.

Mental health
- Introduce the first Mental Health Bill for thirty five years, putting parity of esteem at the heart of treatment.
- Transform how mental health is regarded in the workplace.
- Extend the Equalities Act protections against discrimination to mental health conditions
- Recruit 10,000 more mental health professionals and ensure medical exams better reflect the importance of mental health.
- Publish a green paper on young people’s mental health before the end of 2017.
- Introduce mental health first aid training for teachers in every primary and secondary school and ensure each school has a single point of contact with mental health services.
- Reform Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services so that children are seen within an appropriate timeframe and distance.

Public health
- Reduce childhood obesity by promoting efforts to reduce unhealthy ingredients and provide clear food information for consumers.
- Continue support for school sport, delivering on the commitment to double support for sports in primary schools.
- Continue to support National Diabetes Prevention Programme.

Global policy
- Review the application of exploitation in the Modern Slavery Act.
- Co-ordinate efforts against microbial resistance and emerging tropical diseases.
- Maintain the commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies.
- Make the UK the leading research and technology economy in the world.