Overview
The Liberal Democrat Party's manifesto, ‘Change Britain's Future’, makes a number of pledges regarding health and social care.

In trailing policies within the manifesto ahead of its publication, the Lib Dems spoke of their commitment to the NHS. Their first major policy announcement for the election was to "rescue the NHS and social care" through a Five Point Rescue Plan — including the party’s spending commitment to generate more money for the NHS and social care by adding a penny on income tax.

Key manifesto pledges
- NHS and social care to receive an extra £6bn a year, paid for through an immediate 1p rise on all rates of income tax
- Second referendum on the final Brexit deal — with an option to reject the deal and remain in the EU
- Parity of esteem for mental and physical health
- Remove the 1% public sector pay cap

The full picture...
The official document is available here, with policies by theme here. The summary below provides a full overview of their manifesto pledges impacting upon 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
- An immediate 1p rise of income tax to raise £6 billion additional revenue, ring-fenced to be spent only on NHS and social care services with priority areas identified to benefit social care, primary care (and other out-of-hospital care), mental health and public health. This levy would be collected and spent in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- In the longer term, and as a replacement for the 1p income tax rise, commission the development of a dedicated health and care tax
- Establish a cross-party health and social care convention to carry out a comprehensive review of the longer-term sustainability of the health and social care finances
- Introduce an Office for Budget Responsibility-like body reporting every three years on how much money the system needs to deliver treatment and care, and how much is needed to meet the costs of projected increases in demand and any new initiatives
- £100bn package of infrastructure investment that includes capital investment in schools and hospitals to support capacity increases and modernisation
- Introduce tariffs that encourage joined-up services and promote improved outcomes for patients and better preventive care
- Protect the science budget, including the recent £2 billion increase, by continuing to raise it at least in line with inflation
- Move towards single place-based budgets for health and social care by 2020, allowing local areas to decide how best to provide the full spectrum of care for their community

**Brexit**
- Oppose hard Brexit and offer the British people the final say at the end of negotiations through a second referendum, including the option of staying in the EU on the ballot paper
- Guarantee the rights of all NHS and social care service staff who are EU nationals to stay in the UK
- Fight to retain access to Horizon 2020 and Marie Sklodowska-Curie actions funding
- Campaign against any reduction in investment in UK universities, and for their right to apply for EU funds on equal terms
- Protect Erasmus+ and other EU-funded schemes

**Employment**
- Remove 1% cap on pay rises in public sector and increase wages in line with inflation
- Reinstate student nurse bursaries
- Strengthen enforcement of employment rights, including by bringing together relevant enforcement agencies and scrapping employment tribunal fees

**NHS staff**
- Removal of the 1% public sector pay cap
- Support innovation in how organisations can empower staff and patients, including learning from innovative social enterprises delivering community and mental health services
- Protect NHS whistle-blowers
- Produce a national workforce strategy, ensuring no future shortages in the numbers of GPs, hospital doctors, nurses and other professionals that the NHS needs

**General practice & community services**
- Expand evening and weekend opening to meet the needs of local patients, encouraging online, phone and Skype appointments, and encouraging GPs to work together in federations
- Provide national support to struggling GP practices
- Support GPs to come together to collectively provide services, such as out-of-normal-opening-hours appointments
- Use innovation funding to promote GP-led multidisciplinary health and care hubs
- Encourage GPs and other community clinicians to work in disadvantaged areas through a Patient Premium
- Ensure any changes to the way pharmacies are funded do not leave local areas without reasonable access to a community pharmacist
- Review the rules for exemption from prescription charges

**Public health**
- Publish a National Wellbeing Strategy — put better health and wellbeing at the heart of government policy
- Implement the recommendations of the O’Neill report on antimicrobial resistance
- Make Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention available on the NHS
- Keep public health within local government and reinstate the funding cut from public health budgets
- Take action to tackle childhood obesity, including restricting the marketing of junk food to children, restricting TV advertising before 9pm watershed, and closing loopholes in the sugary drinks tax
- Encourage the traffic-light labelling system for food products and publication of information on calorie, fat, sugar and salt content in restaurants and takeaways
- Introduce mandatory targets on sugar reduction for food and drink producers
- Reduce smoking rates, introducing a levy on tobacco companies
- Implement the recommendations of the Keogh review to regulate cosmetic surgery
- Introduce minimum unit pricing for alcohol, subject to the final outcome of the legal challenge in Scotland

**Mental health**
- Ring-fence funding from within the one penny income tax rise, to provide additional investment in mental health
- Parity of esteem for mental and physical health
– Develop a campaign promoting the steps people can take to improve their own mental resilience
– Continue to rollout waiting time standards for children, young people and adults
– New waiting time standards and better crisis care in accident and emergency departments, in the community, and via phone lines
– Examine the case for introducing a dedicated service for children and young people, and build on existing youth information, advice and counselling services
– Transform mental health support for pregnant women, new mothers and those who have experienced miscarriage or stillbirth
– End out of area placements for mental health patients
– Ensure that all front-line public service professionals receive better training in mental health
– Identify people who have mental health problems, learning disabilities, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system
– Ensure that LGBT+ inclusive mental health services receive funding and support
– Ensure a fair proportion of all public funding for medical research is focused on research into mental ill-health

Social care & integration
– Home not hospital – better integration of health and social care, and limiting the amount elderly people have to pay for social care
– Longer-term objective to bring together NHS and social care into one service – pooling budgets in every area and single place-based budgets by 2020 and developing integrated care organisations
– Implement a cap on the cost of social care
– Ensure those who work in the social care sector are properly trained
– Give the NHS a legal duty to identify carers and develop a Carer’s Passport scheme
– Move towards free end-of-life social care; evaluate the valuable work of hospices
– Improve links between Jobcentres and Work Programme providers and the local NHS to ensure all those in receipt of health-related benefits are getting the care and support to which they are entitled

Education
– Introduce a slimmed down core national curriculum – including Personal, Social and Health Education
– Reinstate university maintenance grants for the poorest students
– Ensure that all universities work to widen participation

Rights, justice and equalities
– Oppose any attempt to withdraw from the ECHR or abolish or water down the Human Rights Act
– Oppose all discrimination and take an active role both in punishing discrimination and in ensuring it does not happen in the first place
– Scrap the Prevent strategy
– End imprisonment for possession of illegal drugs for personal use
– Introduce a legal, regulated market for cannabis
– Repeal the Psychoactive Substances Act, and move the departmental lead on drugs policy to the Department of Health

Environment
– Support the Paris agreement by ensuring the UK meets its own climate commitments and plays a leadership role in international efforts to combat climate change
– Prevent 40,000 deaths a year through an Air Quality Plan to reduce air pollution

International development & global health
– Maintain 0.7% of GDP on overseas development assistance
– Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support research and development into vaccinations and treatment to combat these and other deadly diseases and infections
– Aim to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation