

A manifesto for ending child poverty

Immediately

Invest in children's benefits

Poverty restricts children's opportunities, and can mean that they are left behind. We need investment in children to ensure they are released from the grip of poverty. This means taking action now to:

- restore the child element in universal credit, including the higher element for first children, and increase child benefit by at least £5 a week because it has lost 23% of its value since 2010;
- lift the two-child limit, which will otherwise push 300,000 children into poverty and one million more into deeper poverty by 2023/24;
- remove the benefit cap, which largely affects lone parents with young children who are least able to escape the cap through work.

Taking this action urgently would lift 700,000 children out of poverty and cost £8.3billion.

Families with children would gain £1,000 a year on average.

Top priority

Bring in a child poverty strategy

As a compassionate nation, especially when it comes to children, we need to address the root causes of child poverty and ensure all children can enjoy happy, healthy lives.

When the government prioritises child poverty and shows leadership, significant progress can be made. We have successfully reduced child poverty before.

A child poverty strategy would make sure everyone in the government who is responsible for the wellbeing and future of our children is focused on child poverty. This means taking action to reduce child poverty, and having targets to work towards. Action should include:

- bringing in a comprehensive, universal, childcare strategy, including extended schools;
- introducing universal free school meals;
- tackling in-work poverty through decent jobs and wages and reform of universal credit.

For all time

Build a more effective social security system for us all

All of us rely on publicly funded services and support at different times in our life. Social security should be strengthened to ensure it is there for all of us when we need it, and that it meets these principles:

- It should prevent and reduce poverty, by providing an adequate income and support with additional costs (such as for people with disabilities and for parents), supporting paid and unpaid work, and protecting people against economic uncertainty.
- It should provide income security, by responding to life events (such as having a child, or becoming unwell) as well as providing a minimum level of income security at *all* times.
- It should promote social solidarity and social integration, support individual autonomy, reduce inequalities and enjoy public trust and support.