

More Caring Society Working Group Remit

The remit of this group is to review the party's policies on social care and develop updated proposals which communicate our values of liberty, equality, democracy, community, internationalism and environmentalism in a way which helps secure the election of as many Liberal Democrats as possible, at local, regional and national level, in order to promote our vision of society and remove from power a Conservative government that is failing the country.

The group will be expected to build on existing policy proposals as set out in the 2019 Election Manifesto and Policy Paper 137 Save the NHS and Social Care by Stopping Brexit (2019). They will also bring forward to Conference as appropriate to the work of the Leader's Carers Commission. The group is expected to consider and address Liberal Democrat principles on diversity and equalities in developing their proposals.

This group will as a top priority:

- Develop up to three headline policies for building a caring society which the party can communicate widely to win votes.

The working group will develop policies on

- How we fund and deliver social care, responding to the Government announcements of September 2021
- In particular, focusing on aspects neglected in the Government's proposals, such as the care needs of working age adults and children, and specialist care needs.
- The care workforce, including pay, training and career progression
- Responding to the Government's Health and Care Levy
- Helping people with disabilities and long term conditions live the lives they want to lead
- The relationship between local government, regional government, NHS providers, central government, and the independent sector in delivering care across society

The group is invited to incorporate policies on supporting unpaid carers developed by the Leader's Carers Commission, but is not intended to duplicate their work. The group will not look at childcare, which will be covered by the Early Years Working Group.

The group should examine the different approaches to care in the nations of the UK, considering whether anything can be learnt for policy in England and whether any joint policy approaches from Liberal Democrats across Britain would be beneficial.

The group will also need to consider the development of more detailed proposals to implement relevant headline policies included in the 2019 Election Manifesto.

The group will also consider the need for institutional change at central and local government levels to embed these approaches firmly in policy.

The group will take evidence and consult widely both within and outside the party. This evidence should inform the group's proposals, which will be presented alongside an analysis of costs and an Equalities Impact Assessment.

A policy paper of no longer than 10,000 words should be produced for debate at Autumn Conference 2022. Prior to that a consultative session should be held at Spring Conference 2022, and a draft policy paper presented to the Federal Policy Committee by June 2022.