



# WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

## Motion

**Title:** Universal free child care

**Proposed by:** WE Policy Committee

**Proposer:** Margaret Kerbey

**Co-Proposer:** Shazia Mustafa

**Type of motion:** Policy Motion

### **Motion text:**

- 1 That conference ratifies the universal childcare policy set out in the 2017 manifesto.
- 2 WE will offer free childcare all across the UK from the end of paid parental leave at nine months.
- 3 Childcare will be centrally funded but where decision-making is in the hands of devolved
- 4 governments or local authorities, funds will depend on the provision meeting the criteria of being
- 5 universal and not for profit.
- 6 Parents who work non-traditional hours and need more flexible childcare will have the option of a
- 7 voucher alternative.

### **Motion rationale:**

- 8 At our first conference, in recognition that many stay at home parents including, according to the
- 9 Department of Education, 870,000 mothers, would like to work if they could and that a 10%
- 10 increase in working parents would raise 1.5 billion pounds in tax revenue which could be reinvested
- 11 in good quality childcare, WE offered in its policy 15 hours free childcare a week to parents, with
- 12 the rest of the care being charged at £1 per hour.
- 13 However, because of the snap general election, the financing of universal child care was thoroughly
- 14 calculated and, in line with our policy of investing equally in social and in physical infrastructure, WE
- 15 now plan to offer free universal child care from the moment shared parental
- 16 leave finishes, giving all parents the freedom to choose to go to work or stay at home.
- 17 This policy of free universal child care is currently in our manifesto. Because of the snap general
- 18 election the updated policy did not go to Conference. As it is in line with
- 19 the constitution, the elected members of the Policy committee signed off on this update, according



20 to our remit in article 7.6.2(v) of WE's Constitution to prepare manifestos for elections the Party  
21 contests, subject to approval by the Executive Committee, and article 7.6.5, which says 'The  
22 Leader, Hubs and the Steering Committee may submit policy proposals to the Policy Committee for  
23 its review, in which case the Policy Committee shall respond to the request in reasonable time'.  
24 Therefore, this motion is brought to Conference in order to bring WE policy in line with the 2017  
25 Manifesto.