



SHA Scotland Scottish Parliament Election Manifesto 2026

Discussion Points

- **Overarching focus on health inequalities** – cross cutting response and preventative spending. Life expectancy has begun to decline in Scotland for the first time since the creation of the NHS.
 - Prioritise health in all policies – housing, transport, active travel
 - Tackle poverty and socioeconomic priorities
 - Tackle the climate emergency
 - Protect equality and diversity
 - Reduce health risks at work and in the home.
 - Put local communities more in charge of the decisions that shape their lives

(A People's Health Manifesto for Scotland: <https://peopleshealthmovementscotland.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/phms-manifesto-2021.pdf>)

- **Reform of NHS Scotland**

- Funding the NHS. Investment in new technologies
- Build NHS capacity rather than use private sector
- Integration of GP services into the NHS
- Build social care capacity to reduce pressures on hospitals
- Proper workforce planning ending reliance on agencies.
- A strategy for rural health care services.
- Improve democratic accountability

(NHS Scotland reform:

http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/sha_nhs_reform_discussion_paper.pdf)

- **Social Care and the National Care Service**

- Support the principle but scrap current plan and start again.
- Funding, scope to broad, centralisation, workforce and marketisation.
- Care charges

(National Care Service Consultation Response:

http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/sha_ncs_consultation_response.pdf)

- **Role of local government and health services**

- Community health strategy

(Local action on health inequalities:

http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/local_action_on_health.pdf)

- **Improving oral health**

- Developing a comprehensive workforce plan for dentistry.
- Expanding the salaried Public Dental Service to guarantee access to NHS dental care, focusing on the most deprived areas.
- Expanding the Childsmile programme and developing a preventive care pathway for all.
- Introducing public water fluoridation to the Childsmile programme (SHA Scotland – Water Fluoridation:

http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/sha_scotland_water_fluoridation.pdf)

- **Mental health services** – focus on prevention
 - Workforce planning
 - Funding of mental health services and CAMHS.
 - whole-system, cross-sector approach to address the needs of individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders (Autism and ADHD)
 - Law reform, embed human rights approach
- **Drugs and alcohol**
 - Expand funding for treatment and preventative services
 - Develop overdose prevention centres and licensing framework
 - Independent Scottish Drugs Death Council
 - Devolve Misuse of Drugs Act

(Drug Death Prevention Bill response:

http://www.shascotland.org/uploads/3/9/5/5/39556225/sha_ddp_bill_consultation_response.pdf)

- **Health improvement**
 - Develop National Food Plan and support [Right to Food](#)
 - Calorie labelling
 - Sugar and other health improvement taxes. WHO call to control food industry rather than be subservient to it. Rapid increase in Type 2 diabetes for young adults.
 - Free school meals and breakfast clubs

Dave Watson
Secretary
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