

Conference Model Motions 2021

Social care

Conference notes that 11 years of Tory Government have failed to put forward plans for social care reform.

Since the Prime Minister said he had a plan to fix the crisis in social care, 2 million people have applied for support, but had their request refused.

This pandemic has shown - more than ever - that frontline carers are essential to a properly functioning society and economy, yet two thirds don't earn the real living wage and a quarter are on zero hours contracts.

Conference believes it's time for a new deal for care workers. As a starting point, all care workers should be paid a least a real living wage of £10 an hour.

Our ambition for social care should be as far reaching as Bevan's formation of the NHS and cost should not be a barrier to high quality care.

We call on the Labour Party to set out a vision, codesigned by the frontbench, our relevant affiliated unions, Labour councillors and other stakeholders, that:

- empowers users of social care and families to live the life they choose
- improves pay, terms and conditions for our social care staff
- Prioritises 'home first' so that those who need care can receive it in the place they call home
- Improved support for unpaid carers, including increased rights, flexibility and financial security
- Sets out an overall vision for social care that is needs based and publicly funded, and promotes dignity and security for those who receive care

NHS

Conference notes that 11 years of Conservative Government have left NHS waiting lists at the highest on record.

Those needing mental health support have been particularly let down, as waiting lists have soared and investment has failed to match demand.

Conference further notes that our NHS staff have gone above and beyond to keep people safe over the past year. Despite this, the Conservatives have broken their promise to the NHS and are cutting nurses' pay.

Under the Government's current pay proposals, nurses and other NHS staff who were promised at least a 2.1% pay rise will instead see a real terms pay cut of hundreds of pounds.

Instead of putting forward an NHS rescue plan to bring down waiting lists, the Conservatives are carrying out a structural reorganisation of the NHS in the middle of a pandemic. The Tory NHS Bill does nothing to improve patient care.

Conference rejects any plan to increase privatisation in the NHS. Far from unwinding the worst aspects of the Lansley reorganisation, these reforms suggest the NHS will still be at risk of lawsuits from private corporations.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to reject the Conservatives NHS Bill and any plan from Ministers to increase privatisation in the NHS.

Instead, conference calls for an NHS rescue plan that will bring down waiting lists, modernise hospitals and crucially give the NHS staff, who have gone above and beyond to keep patients safe during the pandemic, a pay rise.

Clean Air Act

Conference notes

- Even before the pandemic, air pollution represented a national health emergency resulting in an estimated 40,000 early deaths each year, costing the UK £20 billion annually.
- Dirty air adversely impacts the health of people at all ages, is linked with increased risk of severe Covid-19 impacts, causes heart and lung diseases, is linked to low birth weight, affects children's lung development and may contribute to mental health issues.
- People living in the most deprived areas with the most toxic air suffer disproportionately greater ill health. In England, three in five – including more than half our children and millions of over-65s – live in areas where the air quality is illegally poor.
- The Tories voted against incorporating the WHO air quality limits into law and have still not produced a plan that addresses the scale of the challenge.

Conference believes

- Everyone should have the right to breathe clean air.
- Conservative inaction has allowed catastrophic levels of air pollution to build up.

Conference resolves

- To call on Labour to campaign for a Clean Air Act which:
 - establishes a legal right to breathe clean air by ensuring the law on air quality is at least as strict as WHO guidelines, with tough new targets, deadlines and duties on Ministers to enforce them and new powers for local authorities
 - requires Ministers to establish a binding clean air plan across government, to take into account air pollution impacts in policy and funding decisions and provide public information on air pollution health impacts.

Immigration

Conference notes

The immigration system under the Conservatives is devoid of compassion and competence.

The Dubs scheme for unaccompanied children was closed after accepting just a fraction of the children promised shelter. Criminal gangs continue to profit from human trafficking, there have been delays in the time taken to process asylum cases and people have been housed in dangerous and unsuitable conditions.

The Conservatives have abolished the Department for International Development, removing the UK's key vehicle for tackling the forces that drive people from their homes in the first place. The Sovereign Borders Bill will make this situation even worse, reduce support for victims of modern slavery and has been branded "inhumane".

The government have also showed disregard to the EU workers serving in our NHS, whilst unfair visa charges and the NHS surcharge penalises pandemic heroes.

The introduction of the £25,600 cap of those eligible to apply to the Points Based Immigration System shows the government deems many workers who have got the country through the pandemic as "unskilled".

Conference resolves:

Labour should campaign for the re-establishment of safe and legal routes, including the reopening of the Dubs Scheme, re-establishment of DFID and for the government to work with international partners to do more to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Government's current points-based Immigration System does not treat people with fairness. Labour would oversee a fairer, more compassionate system that recognises the extraordinary contribution that people from overseas have made to our country.

Safer communities: preventing crime and securing communities

Conference notes

The Conservative's decade of cuts to police and preventative services have had a devastating impact on community safety. Services vital to tackling crime, such as youth clubs, mental health services and probation have suffered cuts. Police officer numbers under the Conservatives fell by 21,000.

This has resulted in rates of anti-social behaviour growing, the increasing prevalence of county lines drug gangs and the continued epidemic of gender-based violence. Yet there have been falling conviction rates – including record low convictions rates for rape. At the same time, services for victims of crime are harder to access, whilst too little has been done to increase diversity in policing and show meaningful action to tackle disproportionality across the criminal justice system.

Conference resolves

Labour believes that a renewal of neighbourhood policing is needed, to provide communities with the officers and police staff they need to be safe. This must come with a more diverse and representative police service and this must be accompanied with proper funding for youth, and preventative, services across the country.

Labour has already outlined a clear plan in a Green Paper to address Violence Against Women and Girls, including legally binding commitments on services for victims of domestic abuse, regardless of their background or immigration status.

A national strategy is also urgently needed to address the rise of far-right extremism, as well as national coordination to address the criminal exploitation of children and supporting young people to escape criminal gangs and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Children's recovery

Conference notes

- that children had missed an average of 95 days of in-person school by February 2021
- the government's failure to manage the pandemic means the UK has had longer school closures than anywhere else in Europe, leading to:
 - 200,000 more children having a probable mental health condition
 - Increases in the attainment gap
 - A loss of literacy and vocabulary among our youngest children
- that the Government's investment in children's recovery is 10 times less than their expert advisor said was needed
- that the Government has ignored warnings from parents, teachers and young people with no plans to boost wellbeing, mental health or social development.

Conference believes

- that the government is letting down children with their inadequate recovery proposals
- that children's wellbeing is essential to and supports their learning
- that a comprehensive package of policies, as set out in Labour's Children's Recovery Plan, is needed to help every child recover and achieve their potential.

Conference resolves to

- Campaign for the policies set out in Labour's Children's Recovery Plan, including:
 - giving every school the resources to provide before and after school clubs/ activities available to all children;
 - specialist mental health staff in all schools
 - an education recovery premium to provide targeted support for the children who struggled most to learn from home

Racial equality

Conference notes

- The Black Lives Matter movement and the coronavirus pandemic has exposed the longstanding inequalities in society. Tragically there have been disproportionate numbers of deaths from coronavirus among Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities.
- The Doreen Lawrence review into the disproportionate impact on Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities highlighted structural inequalities in several key areas including the machinery of government, health, employment and in the education system
- Instead of action to tackle these inequalities, the government established a Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities which downplayed the role of structural and institutional racism, blamed ethnic minorities for their own disadvantaged and, suggested that there was a 'new story' to tell about slavery

Conference believes

- The government are unwilling to accept the structural causes of racism and see debates about race and equality as a way to divide the country rather than unite it
- The pandemic has made the need for transformative change more urgent than ever.
- Labour is committed to eradicating structural racism and building a better society for everyone.

Conferences calls for

- The implementation of a Race Equality Act to tackle the structural racial inequalities that led to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic.

Nature positive

Conference notes

- The Tories are failing our environment, with wildlife in freefall, sewage pumped into our rivers, plastic clogging our marine environment and more communities at risk of catastrophic flooding.
- Our natural heritage has been neglected, with 1 in 7 native British species now at risk of extinction and tree-planting targets missed by 71%.
- The UK is now the second biggest producer of marine plastic waste.

Conference believes

- Our natural heritage should be restored and enhanced as part of Labour's Green Economic Recovery to enable rural communities to thrive and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.
- British farmers should be backed through the agricultural transition to net zero and nature positive farming, with specific support for more vulnerable smaller family farms.

Conference resolves to call for Labour to campaign for

- A comprehensive Nature Positive target to recover and restore our natural heritage and set nature on an improving path, including
 - A massive increase in tree planting
 - Increasing populations of currently endangered bird, insect and wild animal species
 - End the badger cull, close hunting loopholes and clamp down on illegal hunting and wild bird persecution
 - Restoration of all peatlands and wetlands identified as at risk and ending the damage caused by burning heather and horticultural use of peat
 - End sewage discharges and clean up our river waters so they are safe to swim in
 - End the UK's contribution to marine plastic pollution

Social security

Conference recognises the damage the Tories have created in our social security system through the introduction of Universal Credit, cruel sanctions and inhumane policies such as the two-child limit.

Conference notes the need for a compassionate, fair social security system that supports people both in and out of work.

Conference resolves that Labour should replace Universal Credit with a proper safety net which gives everyone a decent standard of living; which has respect and dignity at its heart; and which is not punitive.

Tax

Conference notes Keir Starmer's leadership pledge to ensure a progressive income tax system and to clamp down on tax avoidance, particularly by large multinational corporations.

And Conference is concerned about:

- The minimal levels of taxation paid by some major digital companies, undercutting local high street businesses
- The shocking level of tax avoidance that occurs depriving the country of resources, with the government currently failing to collect £30bn in taxes every year
- The unequal treatment for tax purposes of different forms of income and wealth
- The levels of cronyism and waste of Conservative spending
- And that the Government worked hard to water down international agreements to tackle the low levels of tax paid by global multinationals

And calls on the Labour Party to:

- Build upon Joe Biden's proposals for an international tax agreement that stops companies being able to hide profits in tax havens and minimise their responsibilities;
- Create a level playing field for high street and online businesses;
- Address the inequality in taxation between wealth and income
- Aggressively tackle all forms of tax avoidance; and
- Creates a genuinely progressive tax system that supports growth and investment

Workers rights; working hours; minimum wage

Conference is concerned that:

- we have some of the worst public and statutory holiday entitlements in Europe;
- full-time workers have among the longest hours of any country;
- in-work stress is at record levels
- job insecurity is rising, and false self-employment is increasingly used by employers to dodge their obligations, as was exposed by the recent Supreme Court Uber judgment
- abhorrent fire and rehire tactics are becoming more prevalent
- new technology is being used for surveillance;
- average pay is lower than before the financial crash;
- productivity lags significantly behind other countries;

Conference notes that despite a manifesto promise to bring in an Employment Bill, the Conservatives have failed to bring a bill forward, and have consistently undermined workplace safety through the pandemic.

Conference therefore calls upon the Labour Party to work closely with the TUC, STUC, and individual unions to campaign for:

- an Employment Bill providing Day 1 rights for all workers and repealing vicious anti-trade union laws;
- prohibition of fire and rehire tactics;
- better work-life balance, including a legal right to flexible working by default, a 'right to switch off' so that homes don't become 24/7 offices, and reductions in working hours without loss of pay through enhancements in productivity
- proper sick pay
- an ambitious minimum wage which provides a real living wage for all

Two-State Solution

Conference reiterates Labour's position that the only way to create peace in the Middle East and end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is the negotiated creation of two states for two peoples: a Jewish state in Israel alongside a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, living alongside each other in peace and security. The rights of minority communities in both states must be fully respected.

West Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel, East Jerusalem the capital of the new Palestinian state. The Holy sites in the Old City must be accessible to all. The issue of the main Israeli settlement blocks in the West Bank should be resolved through mutually agreed land swaps.

Conference recognises the right to national self-determination and liberation of both the Jewish and Palestinian peoples and recognises the legitimacy of both Zionism and the Palestinian national movement.

Conference condemns all acts of terrorism unequivocally. Conference calls for free and democratic elections in the Palestinian Authority and the restoration of Palestinian Authority control over Gaza. Conference calls for the terrorist groups Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad to be removed from power in Gaza and disarmed in return for massive investment to improve life for citizens in Gaza.

Conference rejects negative and one-sided tactics such as boycotts, divestment and sanctions and commits to supporting practical schemes that build peace and coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians, including the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Conference expresses solidarity with sister parties Israeli Labour, Meretz and Fatah.

Mineworkers' Pension Scheme

That conference notes:

- The Mineworkers' Pension Scheme has around 152,000 members with 135,000 eligible to receive their pension. The current average pension for former miners in the Scheme is just £84 a week, and over half of Scheme members receive less than the average pension.
- The Government has received over £4.4 billion from the scheme due to the arrangement set up in 1994, which gives 50% of any surplus to the Government, and is due to receive almost £2 billion more.
- The Government failed to conduct due diligence during the 1994 negotiations, and was negligent by not taking actuarial advice. There was no analysis or evaluation to inform or support the 50:50 split.
- Returning the £1.2bn to all members of the scheme would mean £770 a year extra for every pensioner.

Conference believes:

- The Labour Party is standing up for retired miners who have seen £4.4 billion taken out of their pockets because of the privatisation of their pension scheme that has seen billions go to government rather than the pensioners.
- It is scandalous, immoral and wrong on every level that Ministers have raided the pension pot of retired miners, with government receiving billions whilst over half the scheme members receive less than the average pension.

Conference resolves:

- Labour should campaign to ensure miners get the pensions to which they are entitled, immediately returning £1.2bn surplus money – putting hundreds right back into their pockets every year, and change the surplus sharing agreement to give more to pensioners.

NATO

Conference notes the importance of NATO as a global alliance and Britain's role in ensuring peace and the rule of law across the international sphere. Conference further notes that NATO is essential to guaranteeing the security of the new democracies in Eastern Europe, many of them small countries that feel threatened by Russia. It also notes that Clement Attlee's 1945 Labour government played a key role in founding NATO.

Conference reaffirms the Labour Party's belief that:

- That the UK has a unique influence in the world.
- The UK's Membership of NATO plays a vital role in confronting the biggest security challenges in our generation.
- That the UK's membership to NATO is committed to collective defence founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, human rights and the rule of law.
- That international cooperation with our allies in NATO ensures that the world is a better and safer place to live.
- That NATO has helped to keep the peace in Europe since World War Two.
- That we should stand with our world allies by continuing our support and membership in NATO.

Multilateral nuclear disarmament

Conference reconfirms Labour's commitment to multilateral nuclear disarmament and believes only multilateral talks will lead to a nuclear free world.

Conference believes that while other major powers retain nuclear deterrents, the UK should maintain a strategic nuclear deterrent and participate in multilateral disarmament talks with a view to the negotiated disarmament of all the nuclear armed states.

Conference believes that this requires the renewal of the UK's Trident nuclear deterrent and the submarines that carry it, as without a modern and credible system we will have no ability to deter nuclear-armed states, and no role in any multilateral disarmament negotiations.

Conference notes that according to YouGov (April 2021), just 22% of Britons think we should scrap our Trident Submarines and missiles altogether.

Conference notes that non-renewal of Trident would incur millions of pounds of costs in cancelled contracts and will result in thousands of redundancies at world-class engineering centres in Barrow, Derby, Faslane, as well as throughout the multi-billion pound supply chain.

Conference notes that Trident renewal does not breach any article of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty; the UK can continue its treaty obligations to pursue disarmament negotiations in 'good faith'.

Solidarity with the Uyghurs

Conference notes:

1. The Chinese state is inflicting industrial-scale racist oppression on the Uyghur people along with other ethnic and national minority groups in north-west China. The Uyghurs are majority-Muslim and are the largest national group in the province officially called “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region” but known to Uyghurs as East Turkestan.
2. The repression includes arbitrary mass internment and indoctrination of at least a million people in concentration camps; an extreme, intrusive, suffocating regime of mass surveillance; draconian restrictions on cultural, linguistic and religious freedom, including the virtual banning of Muslim religious practice; and the systematic separation of Uyghur children from their families.
3. This has been documented by many human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
4. The Chinese government is tightening its control on Xinjiang because it perceives dissent, lack of “loyalty” to China, and calls for more autonomy or independence, as threats to its economic interests: Xinjiang is a major fossil fuel producer and a key artery into central Asian and Middle Eastern markets.

Conference resolves:

1. To express solidarity with the Uyghur people and other minority groups in Xinjiang.
2. To call upon the Chinese government to close the concentration camps and release all those detained; stop the state harassment and intrusive surveillance of the day-to-day lives of the Uyghurs and other minority peoples in Xinjiang; release Uyghur children to their families; stop the torture and abuse.