

Labour launches manifesto with and for disabled people

Labour has launched its manifesto with and for disabled people.

The manifesto was produced following Labour's Disability Equality Roadshow, involving extensive consultation with disabled people and their carers across the country.

Over the last seven years, disabled people – including people with physical or mental impairments and long-term health conditions – have borne the brunt of the Conservatives cuts, which has seen the number of disabled people living in poverty rise to 4.2 million.

Labour will reverse the cuts to disability support, transform our social security system from one that demonises disabled people to one that is supportive and enabling, scrap the punitive sanctions regime and replace ineffective, degrading assessments. The manifesto sets out Labour's plan to tackle the barriers facing disabled people and to build a society in which everyone has the same opportunities and choices.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, said:

"Last night at the BBC Question Time Leaders' Special, an audience member gave a harrowing account of her traumatic and degrading experience undergoing the Work Capability Assessment. Like many others, I was incredibly moved by the film *I, Daniel Blake*, which tells the story of those who have been demonised and dehumanised by the Conservative's devastating cuts and a social security system which punishes, rather than supports, disabled people.

"Labour will ensure that disabled people and people with mental health conditions have access to the support they need and will work with disabled people to build an inclusive society, where no one is held back from fulfilling their potential and realising their aspirations."

Launching

the manifesto in Manchester today, Debbie Abrahams, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, said:

"We

are proud of the manifesto that we have developed with, and for, disabled people. For seven long years, disabled people have borne the brunt of the Conservatives' austerity cuts and been pushed further into poverty. Our comprehensive and costed policies set out in this manifesto, will ensure that disabled people are properly supported to live full and independent lives.

"Enough

is enough, only a Labour government, offering a real alternative, will work in partnership with disabled people to ensure no one in our society is held back."

Notes to editors:

Please find a link to our disability manifesto here:

<http://www.labour.org.uk/page/-/manifesto-for-disabled-people.PDF>