

Greens pledge to end 'dental deserts' with £3bn for new NHS contract

The Green Party has vowed to end Britain's 'dental deserts' by restoring full access to NHS dentistry after years of cuts that left millions unable to get affordable dental treatment.

Elected Greens will push for a new contract for NHS dentists that ensures everybody who needs an NHS dentist has access to one, backed by an additional £3bn for the dentistry budget by 2030.

This will begin to reverse more than a decade of real terms spending cuts and begin to restore the incomes of dentists providing NHS services.

Co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

"In many parts of the country it is now impossible to register with an NHS dentist, and many dentists are de-registering NHS patients to avoid treating them at a loss.

"Too many of us are feeling the consequences: dropping from regular preventative dental visits to only going when we have a problem that needs treatment. Prevention is so much better than treatment, and it's a national outrage that tooth decay is now the top reason for child hospital admissions.

"Our Green plan for dentists will put the billions into the NHS needed to turn around fourteen years of Conservative failure, and ensure every person in every community will have access to an affordable NHS dentist.

"Green MPs will commit to meeting with the British Dental Association as soon as possible after the election, so that we can pile the pressure on the next government to fix dentistry as a matter of urgency."

The announcement comes after the British Dental Association (BDA) reviewed the dental policies in each party's manifesto. (1)

The BDA stated that "meaningful reform needs to go hand in hand with fair funding" and noted the "multi-billion-pound promises" made in the Green Party manifesto.

By contrast, the BDA noted a "modest pot of new money from Labour for 700,000 urgent appointments", but that Labour's wider promises on dentistry "have yet to be priced in and will likely hinge on future negotiations."

Elected Greens are also committed to pushing for all children to have a daily free school meal, made from nutritious ingredients and based on local and organic or sustainable produce. The BDA supports universal free school meals, "to fight the severe impact child hunger and poor nutrition are having on children's dental health." (2)

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. BDA review of the parties' manifestos: *"Meaningful reform needs to go hand in hand with fair funding. We've seen multi-billion-pound promises from both the Greens and Lib Dems for the NHS. There is a modest pot of new money from Labour for 700,000 urgent appointments, but pledges on reform – "a shift to focusing on prevention and the retention of NHS dentists" have yet to be priced in and will likely hinge on future negotiations."*

<https://www.bda.org/news-and-opinion/blog/nhs-dentistry-where-we-go-beyond-election-day>

2. BDA manifesto supports free school meals: *"Extend free school meals to every primary school child in England to fight the severe impact child hunger and poor nutrition are having on children's dental health."*

<https://www.bda.org/what-we-do/campaigns-and-advocacy/general-election-2024/manifesto>

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["You can judge a society by how it looks after those in need" says Greens as they promise £20bn social care package](#)

- Greens will introduce free personal care along the lines successfully brought in by the Scottish Government, to ensure dignity in old age and for the disabled.
- Increase pay rates and introduce a career structure for carers to rebuild the care workforce.
- An additional £3bn to enable local authorities to provide high-quality children's social care

The Green Party is today highlighting their 'take greater care' commitment, pledging better care for millions of people in the care system and those working in it. The Green Party manifesto includes a commitment of £20bn extra a year to ensure free personal care available for all and increased pay rates and a career structure for carers.

Currently there are 150,000 staff vacancies in the care sector. In England

there are estimated to be 4.7 million unpaid carers.

The Green Party Communities Spokesperson, Ellie Chowns, said:

“You can judge a society by how it looks after those in need.

“With this test the UK is clearly severely failing and must do better.

“That’s why Greens have committed to invest £20bn a year into social care and will put it on a par with health.

“We believe that health and care services must go hand in hand.

“Investment and an increased priority given to care, will help free up hospital beds and reduce waiting lists.

“The Green Party believes free social care is fundamental to ensuring everyone is shown compassion and dignity at any stage in their lives when they need extra support.”

The Green Party has also pledged greater care of social care workers. Chowns continued:

“There are 150,000 staff vacancies in the care sector and in England an estimated 4.7 million unpaid carers.

“Green MPs will seek to bring together local authorities, trade unions and private providers to ensure increased pay and improved terms and conditions for all care workers.

“The current system is failing some of the most vulnerable in society.

“It is only The Green Party who are being honest about the levels of investment needed to give people the dignity and wellbeing they deserve.”

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[Labour’s eco policies a “bitter disappointment” say Greens](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

Responding to the [ranking of different party manifestos released today](#) by Britain’s leading environmental groups, Green Party Co-Leader, Carla Denyer said,

“These rankings show what most of us already know.

“Greens are the party that has the strongest fully costed policies for the environment.

“If you want green, then you need to vote Green.

“Labour’s green policies are bitterly disappointing, even in the context of the dire Conservative offering.

“Every single Green vote on 4th July will push the Labour government to be bolder and better on important issues – no more so than on the environment.”

She continued,

“We’ve seen the Labour party U-turn on their once-flagship green policy of £28bn climate investment.

“And that’s before they even get into government.

“The environmental NGOs are clear that Labour’s lack of green funding hamstrings their offering.

“Without being honest about how they’ll fund their climate policies, the Labour manifesto is all talk and no trousers.

“A group of Green MPs will work tirelessly in Westminster to defend against any further Labour U-turns, keep Labour honest, and make the case to invest in our future.”

An overview of the analysis is available on the websites of [Friends of the Earth](#) and [Greenpeace UK](#).

24 June 2024 / 21 June 2024 by [Green Party](#)

[Press Releases](#)

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[Only Greens have plan to give nature a voice](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

Responding to today’s [Restore Nature Now march](#) in London, co-leader of the Green Party Carla Denyer said:

“The march in London today, calling on politicians to prioritise nature and climate, gets our full backing. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Action is essential and needed urgently.

“People from all over the country want to give a voice to nature in this election and Greens are the only party with a plan to fully do that. Green MPs will make it a priority to push for a new Rights of Nature Act.

“Greens are also the only party calling for water companies to be taken back into public ownership so we can end both the scandal of sewage pouring into our rivers and seas and stop billions in profits leaking out to shareholders and fat cat salaries.

“We also want to triple support to farmers over the next parliament so they can make the transition to nature-friendly farming and produce healthy affordable food.

“There would be no new oil and gas licenses under the Greens, and we want to introduce a carbon tax to make polluters pay and provide money to invest in the green transition. Greens have a plan for the UK achieve net zero by 2040 at the very latest.”

Notes

See our manifesto commitments on Bringing Nature Back to Life: <https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/bringing-nature-back-to-life/>

Full manifesto: <https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/2024-manifesto-downloads/>

22 June 2024 / 22 June 2024 by [Andrew Bell](#)

[Press Releases](#)

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[Green policies are a breath of fresh air: Party commits to a Clean Air Act on Clean Air Day](#)

To mark Clean Air Day the Green Party has committed to introducing a Clean Air Act as part of their manifesto commitments, which would set new air quality standards for the UK and enshrine the right to breathe clean air in law.

Greens point to a host of transport policies that would help rid cities of toxic air, including:

- Investing £2.5 billion a year on new cycleways and footpaths
- Adopting Travel England's aim for 50% of trips in towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled
- Empowering local authorities to provide the bus services communities need and ensuring they have the funding to do so
- Ending the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2027 and their use entirely by 2035, together with an extensive vehicle scrappage scheme to help people make the switch to cleaner vehicles.

Co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"Toxic air affects many communities in towns and cities across the country. It's high time we cleaned up our act. That's why Green MPs will take our manifesto commitment to a Clean Air Act and push the next Labour government to give everyone the legal right to breathe clean air.

"Green policies are a breath of fresh air. We propose a series of sensible and achievable policies.

"Creating safe routes for walking, wheeling and cycling will encourage many more people to use active travel, especially children, so that these become healthy lifetime habits.

"Frequent, reliable, affordable and electrified buses also have a huge role to play in offering a viable alternative to the car. Not only will this clean up our air, it will be good for the economy. Every £1 invested in bus services is estimated to bring an economic return of £4.50. Greens also want to see free bus travel for under-18s.

"We also need to tackle the main cause of the air pollution in our towns and cities. Which is why Greens want to see an end to the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2027 and the introduction of an extensive vehicle scrappage scheme to help people make the switch to cleaner vehicles."

In the previous parliament Green MP Caroline Lucas and Green peer Jenny Jones worked tirelessly to push a Clean Air Bill, also known as Ella's Law, which received strong cross-party support [3].

Denyer concluded:

"Air pollution is linked to 43,000 deaths per year in the UK. The World Health Organization recognises it's the largest environmental threat to our health. On Clean Air Day we owe it to the many communities blighted by toxic air to fix this problem.

"Greens offer these communities real hope and real change and Green MPs will work hard for a Clean Air Act in the next parliament."

Notes

1. <https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jun/14/children-near-amsterdam-airport-inhalers-study>
3. <https://ellaslaw.uk/2022/12/13/leading-mps-sign-early-day-motion-in-support-of-ellas-law/>

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