

Jeremy Corbyn challenges Theresa May to join him in tonight's BBC debate

Announcing that he will attend the televised debate in Cambridge, **Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party**, said:

"I will be taking part in tonight's debate because I believe we must give people the chance to hear and engage with the leaders of the main parties before they vote.

"I have never been afraid of a debate in my life. Labour's campaign has been about taking our policies to people across the country and listening to the concerns of voters.

"The Tories have been conducting a stage-managed arms-length campaign and have treated the public with contempt. Refusing to join me in Cambridge tonight would be another sign of Theresa May's weakness, not strength."

The futures of the NHS and our schools are at stake in this election – Jeremy Corbyn

At a media launch in London today, Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, Jonathan Ashworth, Shadow Health Secretary and Angela Rayner, Shadow Education Secretary, turned the spotlight on public services, arguing that this election is vital for the future of the NHS and our schools.

Labour has published research highlighting the threat to our schools and hospitals posed by five more years of the Conservatives and have committed the party to reversing years of Tory neglect.

New analysis of the Tory threat has revealed that if the current rate of deterioration under the Tories continues, by 2022 our health and education services could be facing huge problems. It could mean:

In a Tory

NHS and social care system:

- 5.5 million people on waiting lists in England, 1.8 million more than at present.
- Almost 1.5 million older and vulnerable people with unmet social care needs.

In a Tory education system:

- 650,000 pupils crammed into primary classes of over 30.
- Families left almost £450 worse off per child as a result of the Tories' plan to scrap free school meals for 1.7 million children.

The choice

at the election is stark. The Tories have no plan to properly fund our public services, pushing them further into crisis. Labour will take a different approach, we will rebuild our public services for the many by modest tax rises for companies and the richest 5 per cent.

Labour will build an NHS and social care system for the many:

- Labour will invest £37 billion in our NHS and take one million people off the waiting list by the end of the next Parliament.
- Labour will invest £8 billion in social care over the course of the next Parliament and lay the foundations of a National Care Service to integrate health and social care.

Labour will build an education system for the many:

- Labour will cap class sizes at 30 for 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds.
- Labour will provide free school meals to all primary school children by removing VAT exemption on private school fees.

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

“The futures of our NHS and schools are at stake in this election.

“Over the

last seven years the Tories have starved the public services we rely on of resources, running them down and pushing them into disrepair.

“Patients

are suffering ever longer waits and overcrowded wards; those who need care have

been left without it. Children are crammed into overcrowded and crumbling classrooms. It has to change.

“Labour

will invest in our people, schools and hospitals. We will cut class sizes, take

a million people off the NHS waiting list and ensure people get the care they deserve.

“By

contrast another five years of the Tories would be disastrous for our public services. At the rate we’re going we could see 5.5 million people on the English waiting list and 1.5 million older people with unmet care needs. And young people and their families face the prospect of more overcrowding in schools and having to pick up the bill for the Tories’ unfair plan to scrap free school meals for hundreds of thousands of children.

“On June 8th there’s only one party that will improve our public services for the many not the few, that’s the Labour Party.”

Notes to editors:

- Please find link to Labour’s full analysis on threat to our schools and hospitals posed by five more years of the Conservatives: <http://www.labour.org.uk/atrisk>

Labour launches Race and Faith manifesto

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, will say today that ‘Labour is the party of equality.’ The Labour Party is launching its Race and Faith manifesto

at an event in Watford, outlining its commitment to racial equality and detailing how the Party’s manifesto benefits BAME communities.

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

“Labour is the Party of equality. We were built on the values of social justice, internationalism and human rights. Our values are rooted in the

fundamental truth that whatever your background, wherever you are from, you should have the means and opportunity to fulfil your potential.

“People continue to be treated unfairly due to their ethnicity or faith. The recent rise in hate crimes, including Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic attacks, underscores how far we still have to go. Labour will repair the damage done by the Conservative Government, which has sown the seeds of division in our communities.

“Only Labour can be trusted to unlock the talent of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people, who have been held back by the Conservatives. We will guarantee equality is at the heart of our programme for government.

“Labour will implement a comprehensive strategy for racial equality, one that effectively challenges the disadvantage many Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities suffer. We will work every day for a fairer society, where every person is enabled to get on in life, regardless of race, faith or ethnicity, to build a Britain that works for the many, not the few.”

Childcare for the many: Labour’s universal childcare plan will transform the lives of more than a million children

More than a million children and their families will benefit from Labour plans for universal provision of 30 hours of free childcare a week for all two to four-year-olds.

Labour will extend 30-hour childcare to more children by eliminating means testing for two-year-olds and no longer restricting provision for three and four-year-olds to children whose parents are working. This will benefit an additional 1.3 million children.

At the moment, only 40% of two-year-olds qualify for childcare and many working parents with three and four-year-old children are not getting the childcare they were promised by the Conservatives at the last election because of the complexity of the rules. Meanwhile, Tory cuts have also led to the loss of 1,240 Sure Start centres.

Labour’s universal childcare policy will help ensure all children have a good start in life and remove barriers to parents, especially women, participating in the labour market.

Labour’s National Education Service will create a high-quality, universal

childcare system that will bridge the gap between maternity leave and full-time schooling in the long run.

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

“The Labour party believes every child, no matter what their background, deserves a good start in life, and that childcare costs shouldn’t be a barrier for parents who want to go back to work. The current patchy support for childcare is holding back too many families.

“High quality childcare can transform a child’s life chances and make it much easier for parents to work. Labour will roll out 30 hours of free childcare a week to all 2-4 year olds to give all our children the best possible start in life, as part of our plan to build a country for the many, not the few.”

Angela Rayner, Labour’s Shadow Education Secretary, said:

“The Conservatives’ 2015 promise to provide parents 30 free hours of childcare a week has unravelled, as they have failed to give the policy the funding it needs. Too many parents have been let down, unable to go back to work due to the cost of childcare.

“Unlike the Conservatives, Labour will properly fund childcare to help parents get back into work and ensure all children, no matter what their background, have access to the high quality childcare they deserve. The Conservatives are failing to deliver on early years education, there are now over 1,240 fewer designated Sure Start children’s centres than when the Conservatives entered government. It is clear Theresa May and the Conservatives can’t be trusted with our children’s futures.”

Childcare costs represent a significant proportion of family expenditure, with many families made up of two or more children saying it does not make financial sense for both parents to work.

Research by the Family and Childcare Trust revealed that on average British parents are spending almost twice as much on part-time childcare as they do on food per year.

In a survey conducted by the Resolution Foundation and Mumsnet, 67% of mothers in work and 64% of those not working said the high cost of childcare is a barrier to taking on more employment.

[May floundered on her record on police cuts, on funding for our NHS and](#)

[schools](#)

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Jeremy Corbyn spokesperson, responding to Theresa May's appearance on the Sky and Channel 4 #BattleForNumber10 debate, said:

"Theresa May floundered on her record on police cuts, on funding for our NHS and schools and on her manifesto policy on social care that didn't last more than a few days before it was amended with an unspecified cap. It's no surprise she had no answers because the Tories plan to continue the tax giveaways to the wealthy and big business while offering no new funding for public services.

"There is a clear choice in this election about the kind of country we want Britain to be – between Labour's plan to transform Britain for the many not the few, and a Conservative Party that has held people back and put its wealthy backers first."

Ends