

At a glance: Have the Scottish Political parties met or missed our Cash Now Families Always manifesto asks?

Get money into the pockets of low-income families

What we asked for:

“Use devolved social security powers further to target low-income families by, as a start, doubling the Scottish Child Payment to £20 per child per week.”

What parties said:



“Increase payment [of the Scottish Child Payment] to £20 per week by the end of the next Parliament.”



“Double the Scottish Child Payment to at least £20 per week.”



“Increase the Scottish Child Payment to £20 a week.”



“Double the Scottish Child Payment.”



“Double the Scottish Child Payment.”

Ensure families with No Recourse to Public Funds don't fall into poverty and destitution

What we asked for:

“Introduce a national approach using local government powers to target support, including discretionary financial assistance, to prevent families with No Recourse to Public Funds from falling into poverty and destitution.”

What parties said:



The Conservative manifesto has no commitments to address the No Recourse to Public Funds policy and says nothing on immigration, refugees



The Greens **“Reject the principle of ‘no recourse to public funds’ and ensure that local authorities are enabled to provide assistance to all vulnerable individuals who require it, regardless of immigration status”**



Labour **“Scottish Labour will work with local authorities to mitigate the impact of the No Recourse to Public Funds policy and ensure that those in need have access to support and Scotland-specific social security payments. We will introduce a targeted national approach to get support to those families with no recourse to public funds.”**



Liberal Democrat manifesto says nothing specifically about families with No Recourse to Public Funds but does commit to **“treat people who are refugees or asylum seekers with compassion, uphold their human rights and support them as far as we can to play a full part in the life of their communities, including steps to stop them being evicted from their temporary housing.”**



SNP say that we don't have the powers in Scotland to change the **“Tory policy of No Recourse to Public Funds”**. They commit to **“take forward our strategy to support people to have access to safe accommodation, food and specialist advice”**. They also call on the UK Government **“to lift the harmful restrictions caused by No Recourse to Public Funds.”**

Pilot a guaranteed income for care leavers

What we asked for:

“Develop and implement a pilot guaranteed income scheme for care leavers, which provides a regular, unconditional income at a level that ensures a reasonable standard of living for young people leaving care.”

What the parties said:



The Conservative manifesto has no direct commitments towards care leavers but does say **they will implement the recommendations of the Independent Care Review (The Promise)**.



The Greens commit to #KeepThePromise and to support “**children in care and estranged young people**” by putting in place educational and financial support services. Their manifesto commits to “**introduce a comprehensive Universal Basic Income pilot based on the model proposed by the Scottish Government-funded feasibility study.**” This study proposed that care leavers could be targeted as part of any basic income pilot scheme.



Labour say they “**will extend the Job Start Grant to all young disabled people and double the grant to £500 for the young disabled and care leavers.**” They welcome the recommendations of the Independent Care Review and also support the continuation of the trials of universal basic income.



Liberal Democrats commit to “**implement The Promise...so that care-experienced young people and adults get the support they need.**” They also commit to “**develop a system of Universal Basic Income to provide**



The SNP further commit to #KeepThePromise, as well as **introduce a Care Experienced Grant** which “**will be an annual grant of £200 paid to support around 50,000 young care experienced people between the ages of 16 and 26.**” Although they support a basic income in principle and commit to “**start work in the next Parliament to provide a Minimum Income Guarantee**” for all.”

#KeepThePromise and deliver holistic family support for all families who need extra help

What we asked for:

“#KeepThePromise and prioritise the resourcing, development and delivery of universally accessible holistic family support, including practical, emotional and financial support, for all families in Scotland who need extra help.”

What parties said:



In addition to their commitment to #KeepThePromise, the Conservatives also commit to supporting children and families by proposing to pilot **“the use of Family Hubs to bring health, education and social care services together and provide a ‘one stop shop’ of parenting support for vulnerable and disadvantaged children.”**



The Greens manifesto reaffirms the party's commitment to #KeepThePromise, and also commits **“to a national roll out of the Healthier, Wealthier Children approach to ensuring low income households receive all financial entitlement.”**



Labour too have committed to #KeepThePromise. Their manifesto commits to additional support through schools for families living in poverty and they say they will improve **“treatment services and early intervention programmes for families with children”** affected by alcohol misuse.



Liberal Democrats also commit to #KeepThePromise and make commitments to improve mental health services and **“to expand and take forward the pilot of family workers in GP practices in East Renfrewshire... to cut the need for formal CAMHS services and provide better in-community support.”**



The SNP are committed to #KeepThePromise. Their manifesto outlines **the range of financial support they will deliver for low income families through social security** and other financial assistance. They also make **commitments to continue existing policies** which support families, including the Baby Box and expanding further childcare provision.

Prevent children and families from falling into poverty or becoming homeless due to housing costs

What we asked for:

“Prevent children and families from being pushed into poverty or becoming homeless due to the cost of housing by bridging the gap between before and after housing costs for families, reducing the financial burden of unaffordable rents and providing safe and secure social housing.”

What parties said:



They commit to introducing **a Housing First Programme to end homelessness**, get people into safe and stable housing quickly and to deliver additional support and services for those who need it. **Their ‘Help to Rent’ scheme will support people in the private rented sector** to access and sustain tenancies and prevent them becoming homeless.



The Greens propose **to revitalise public housing by making sure anyone who “wants a good quality home at an affordable rent should be given this opportunity.”** They also commit to the Housing First approach to tackle homelessness. They plan to build more 82,000 more social homes by 2032 and to **bring in a new deal for renters to tackle unaffordable rents.**



Labour commit to **“conduct a review of Discretionary Housing Payments, looking at how they can be used to support renters trying to meet their housing costs and prevent families affected by the benefit cap being made homeless.”** They **commit to building 200,000 social homes over the next decade** to address this. They also support a Housing First approach and propose to legislate to prevent homelessness and **commit to making sure that “everyone faced with homelessness will be confident of being offered suitable housing.”**



Their manifesto outlines measures they will introduce to tackle poverty and homelessness, including a programme to **increase the availability of homes for social rent by 40,000 and a commitment to a Housing First approach to end homelessness.**



The SNP **commit to ending homelessness through the delivery of a £50m Ending Homelessness Fund** and also by legislating to prevent people becoming homeless by **“strengthening people’s housing rights.”** They also commit to the Housing First model of wrap around services and support. Their manifesto outlines **they will deliver 100,000 new affordable homes** in the next 10 years.

Introduce a digital inclusion scheme for all low-income families

What we asked for:

“Introduce a national digital inclusion scheme for all low-income families across Scotland, to provide devices, data and broadband for families and their children to ensure connectivity and promote access to education, services and support and to help maintain social and community connections.”

What parties said:



The Conservative manifesto makes no commitment about digital inclusion or supporting children and families with digital access.



The Greens say they will prioritise **“the protection of libraries and cultural hubs to promote digital inclusion and skills development.”**



Labour say **“we must close the digital divide for students and staff by providing enhanced digital training for staff and a digital device for every pupil. Alongside this, we should consider targeted support for households which may not have broadband access.”**



Liberal Democrats commit to **“tackle the digital divide by making sure every child has access to connected technology.”**



The SNP manifesto highlights that **“Covid-19 changed the way education is delivered. With the increased reliance on digital connectivity, the pandemic shone a light on the barriers of digital exclusion.”** They commit to **“provide every child in Scotland with a device to get online, including a free internet connection and the support to use it.”**