


We've produced this short Manifesto for the Local Council elections being held on 5 May 2022. It features 13 calls from our original 2021-26 Manifesto document, adapted slightly for a local government audience. We'll be sharing and promoting these calls alongside partners in the run-up to polling day.



Rights and democracy

We call on council candidates to commit to:

1. Providing adequate funding to meaningfully implement the UNCRC across public services alongside a suite of policies and actions that will realise children's rights
2. Ensuring children and young people have a say in key Local Government decision-making processes



Poverty and Inequality

3. As members of the End Child Poverty Coalition, we call on council candidates to:
 - Plan to tackle child poverty.
 - Ensure access to an adequate supply of affordable, secure, good quality family housing.
 - Support fair employment opportunities for all parents, especially mothers and parents in families affected by disability.
 - Use local powers to deliver more cash support to families.
 - Improve access to high quality, free childcare.
 - Remove financial barriers to education.
 - Improve data sharing to help make sure families get the support they are entitled to.





Early Years

We call on council candidates to commit to:

- Investing in a joined-up system of universal and targeted support services for families in the crucial first few years of life when children are aged zero to two. Relationship-based interventions must be a central point of this so that families receive the help they need early on to enable them to provide the best possible start for their children.



Learning

We call on council candidates to commit to:

- Ensuring that we have a diverse workforce supporting the learning of children and young people. Funding must be adequate to operate at a capacity to meet the needs of all children and young people. This should include:
 - Returning specialist provision for children with additional support needs to 2010 levels. This includes within mainstream and special schools, as well as support for children not in schools. It should include Support for Learning teachers, Speech and Language therapists and Educational Psychologists
 - Raising the esteem and value of Pupil Support Assistants within the education system through providing clarity over their remit, and provision of appropriate training, support and supervision
 - Committing adequate funding to fully integrate Youth Work, Community Learning and Development, home link workers and other forms of learning with formal education.



Health and wellbeing

We call on council candidates to commit to:

- Investing in mental health prevention and early intervention for children and young people to stop problems deteriorating to the extent that they require specialist CAMHS services. This must include:
 - Targeted support for groups at risk of poorer mental health
 - Wider, year-round access to mental health-improving universal opportunities such as sport, youth work, play and the arts
 - Perinatal mental health/family support
 - Counselling, peer support and other talking therapies.





Place, Space and Community

We call on council candidates to commit to:

7. Building rights-based communities around the things children and families need, using UNICEF Child Friendly Cities & Communities as a framework across small communities, towns and cities.



Protecting Children and Young People from Harm

We call on council candidates to commit to:

8. Keeping The Promise, by fully implementing the Independent Care Review findings and recommendations by 2030, in line with the timescales set out in the reports.



Equalities

We call on council candidates to commit to:

9. Undertaking Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessments on all policy relating to children and families, contributing to the development of Local Government policy that improves the lives of everyone with protected characteristics.



Environment

We call on council candidates to commit to:

10. Publishing revised and ambitious Climate Change Action Plans and taking the necessary steps to ensure legally binding targets on greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland are met. This includes a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030 and a clear pathway to net zero by 2045.
11. Improving air quality in locations where children live, learn and play. A school air quality monitoring and education scheme should be introduced to measure air quality, educate children and families about this issue, and reduce children's exposure to harmful pollutants.

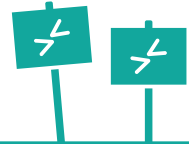




Planning, Resources and Approaches

We call on council candidates to commit to:

12. Transitioning towards Wellbeing Budgets by 2024. This will ensure that the annual local authority budgets are designed and implemented with the goal of improving the wellbeing of all citizens, including children, young people and families.
13. Sustainable funding for children's services across the statutory, third and private sectors, throughout the next term of office.



Giving all children in Scotland an equal chance to flourish is at the heart of everything we do.

Click [here](#) to read the full 2021-26 Manifesto and to find out more.

