

Fulfilling the Promise of Britain: Discussion Guide

This guide is a brief summary of key points within the Policy Review document "Fulfilling the Promise of Britain", covering the key things we've learned from conversations with Labour Party stakeholders and the public during the course of the New Politics Fresh Ideas consultation and the Policy Review. You can find the full document at fresh-ideas.org.uk/annual-conference-2011-documents.

Introduction

For as long as anyone can remember, people in Britain have been confident that if they worked hard and did the right thing, their children and grandchildren would have the chance to get on in life. Those ambitions for the next generation – a shared optimism about a country where hard work, decency and talent gets rewarded – define the Promise of Britain. But instead of being able to look forward with hope, people are increasingly worried about what the future holds. From the environment and education, to housing and employment, a long shadow has been cast over the prospects for the next generation.

Fulfilling the Promise of Britain means people who work hard and play by the rules enjoy rising living standards, with secure and fulfilling jobs so that young people have something to which they can aspire. It means supporting families so parents can give children the best possible start in life and older relatives can enjoy an independent and dignified old age - providing an education system that equips all young people with the skills they need, while ensuring our NHS is always improving. We must also take action so that young people can afford to get on to the housing ladder.

What people have told us to date

Five key themes have emerged from thousands of conversations with the people of Britain:

- Deep fears about youth unemployment.
- Concerns about education prospects with the huge increase in tuition fees at university.
- Desire for a new balance in the education system with higher academic standards, but also more emphasis on equipping young people for the jobs of the future, and better vocational opportunities.
- A desire to better support friends and relatives responsible for providing care, improve services for those who require care and to enable people living with long-term conditions to do so independently.
- Recognition of the need to help more young people get on the housing ladder.

We want to know what you think... Suggested questions for discussion:

- How do you think we should tackle youth unemployment and create opportunities for all young people to help them fulfil their potential?
- With the increase in tuition fees deterring young people from higher education, how might Labour promote increased participation alongside a sustainable funding solution?
- What do you think is the right balance between academic and vocational education, and how can we ensure that the next generation is equipped to deal with the demands of 21st century employment?
- How can Labour best support, and continually improve, the NHS, in the context of limited resources?
- How can Labour better support people living with long-term conditions to live independently? What do you think we should do to ensure the basic principles of fairness, security, opportunity and dignity for all underpin how we care for older people?
- How best can we help people to achieve their housing aspirations and ensure that a decent and affordable home is within reach of everyone?