

KEIR STARMER STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIALIST HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Only Labour can be trusted with the NHS. That's why I am fully committed to repealing the disastrous Health and Social Care Act. We also need to see an end to privatisation, an end to tendering of services and to bring outsourced clinical services back in-house. Our NHS desperately needs more funding and NHS staff desperately need a pay rise.

The Socialist Health Association has played a crucial role in putting healthcare and an end to health inequality at the heart of Labour policy. If elected as leader I would work closely with you to ensure that the deep expertise and knowledge of the SHA is central to Labour's health policy.

As Jeremy exposed during the election campaign, there is a real danger to the NHS from Boris Johnson and Donald Trump. We know that US pharmaceutical giants and the Trump administration will try to force up drug prices and open the door to US hospital and insurance chains taking control of NHS services. Under my leadership, we will fight the Tories to defend the NHS every single day.

I want to be the next Labour Prime Minister as well as the next Labour leader. It is scandalous that health inequalities are growing again under the Tories and in government I would put tackling health inequalities at the top of my agenda. Not only must we reverse Tory cuts and invest in the NHS, we should make it our mission to close the gap in life expectancy between the rich and poor. It is essential that cuts to health and social care are reversed and that the poorest communities get the resources they need. The NHS cannot thrive when social care is in crisis. I want to be the Labour prime minister that makes social care free at the point of need, just like the NHS.

The NHS isn't just another policy area for me. My mum was an NHS nurse and was diagnosed with Still's disease at a young age. At first the NHS was her livelihood and then it became her lifeline. She suffered for many, many years and was cared for with great compassion and skill by NHS nurses.

I believe that healthcare is not a product to be bought or sold but a moral right for all. That idea is made reality in the NHS—free to use and based on need not the ability to pay. It was on the third anniversary of the election of the Attlee Government that Labour founded the NHS - It is our proudest achievement and I will always defend it.

I am proud to have been nominated by UNISON, who represent 1.3 million public service workers including care workers and those working in our NHS. I would be honoured if the SHA felt able to support me, but I assure you that whether I succeed or not, I will stand by you and support you and your members.

Best wishes,

Keir Starmer.