



Manifesto360

General/ cross-cutting issues

Retention of the functions of the Youth Council within the Education Authority and continued recognition across departments of the value of youth work, including recognition of the equivalency of qualifications for professionally qualified youth workers and trainers.

Adoption of early intervention approaches to key social issues including literacy and numeracy, offending behaviours and substance use.

Implementation of the Children's Services Cooperation Act.

Implementation of the Age Goods, Facilities and Services legislation, with the inclusion of under-16s.

Cross-departmental recognition of the issues that procurement causes for the voluntary sector and moves to increase innovation.

Lowering of the voting age to 16.

Health

A large-scale, hard-hitting public health campaign on the impacts of drugs and alcohol.

Implementation of the Mental Capacity Bill, with the inclusion of under-16s.

Minimum pricing of alcohol as part of a wider harm reduction strategy.

Examination of the policy and practice implications of the Psychoactive Substances Act, as part of a wider movement to address the impact of these substances, colloquially known as 'legal highs'.

Establishment of a cross-departmental working group to address the high rate of suicides.

Provision of more services recognising 'dual diagnosis' of drug/alcohol use and mental health.

Justice

Raising of the age of criminal responsibility.

Completion of the Prison Reform process, including recognition of the need for purposeful activity across the prison population and effective resettlement strategies.

Clarification of the responsibility for the delivery of social care in prisons.

Mainstreaming of effective services based on proven results of work on, for example, reducing recidivism.

Implementation of 'Wipe the Slate Clean' for certain offences committed before the age of 18.

Employability

Cooperation and collaboration between the Department of the Economy and the Departments of Education and Communities in the delivery of services for NEET young people.

Support for those who reach the age of 25 and over, who are no longer classed as NEET but still have specific needs.

Good quality, relevant and ambitious careers advice.