



*Oldham & Saddleworth*

**Green Party**

***Youth Manifesto  
2015***



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# Youth and Education

*We believe in free education for all and we would phase in the abolition of student tuition fees in higher education. We would phase out Academies, Trust Schools and Free Schools because businesses and private interests shouldn't have that much influence on our schools. Teachers and educational staff should get comprehensive training on all diversity and inclusion issues. Schools should promote equal opportunities in their anti-bullying procedures and equality issues should be monitored in teaching recruitment.*

*We would double the amount that local authorities spend on youth services. We would create 2,000 Young People's Centres - dedicated spaces for young people to meet and to access information and specialist support. We would spend £1bn per yer on ensuring universal access to quality facilities for music, art, drama, dance and youth clubs, as well as sports.*



Some young people leave school without the qualifications which they will need to make a move towards employment. Oldham has some of the the worst results in the country, and this is being investigated by an Education Commission. More money is being spent on consultants, instead of teachers. Cuts in the Oldham Lifelong Learning Service will make it more difficult for 'second chance students' to move forward. The options of paying for a college course may not be practical, but is especially important when many local residents still need to achieve basic level qualifications.

# Mental Health

*There has been an alarming rise in mental health problems in recent years, especially among young people. According to NHS England, mental illness accounts for 28% of illness but only 13% of NHS spending. In the course of a year, one in four adults experiences some form of mental ill health. If you have diabetes there's a 92% chance you'll get treatment. If you have a mental illness, that chance goes down to 28%. Around 70% of prisoners have two or more mental health conditions. The government's own Chief Medical Officer says mental health should be given greater priority. It will take time to train more staff and expand services but the Green Party will put an end to mental health's Cinderella status and achieve parity of esteem by 2020.*

*Every young person should have 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access to support services.*

## *What will we do?*

- Ensure that spending on mental health care rises within our overall commitment to increase real spending on health.*
- Ensure that no one waits more than 28 days for access to talking therapies.*
- Ensure that everyone experiencing a mental health crisis, including children and young people, should have safe and speedy access to quality care, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*
- The use of police cells as 'places of safety' for children should be eliminated by 2016, and by the end of the next Parliament should only occur for adults in exceptional circumstances.*
- Ensure that everyone who requires a mental health bed should be able to access one in their local NHS Trust area, unless they need specialist care and treatment. If specialist care is required, then this should be provided within a reasonable distance of where the patient lives.*
- Implement a campaign to end the discrimination and stigma associated with mental health through supporting the Time for Change programme and offering employment support to those with mental health problems.*
- Invest in dementia services, ensuring that support is available for all affected by this debilitating disease, including families and carers.*
- Pay special attention to any mental health issues of mothers during and after pregnancy, children and adolescents, Black and Minority Ethnic people, refugees, the LGBTIQ communities and ex-service people and their families.*
- Improve access to addiction services, including both drugs and alcohol addiction.*
- Give higher priority to the physical healthcare of those with mental health problems.*

Oldham is a diverse community and young people struggling with their mental health come from a range of backgrounds. It is important that staff are well trained and it's disappointing that staff at the NHS Pennine Trust have received less diversity training than other trusts across the country, we want this to improve. Projects like Missing from Home run by community organisations such as The Children's Society offer a valuable addition to what is offered by the statutory services and these organisations should be acknowledged and supported.

# Work Opportunities

*We reject workfare and forcing unemployed people into unsuitable jobs by threatening to remove benefits. We will end zero hours contracts. We support moves towards workplace democracy, through encouragement of individuals' membership to Trade Unions and worker co-operatives having a greater role within our society.*

*We will increase the minimum wage so that it is a living wage. We propose a minimum wage target for everyone who is working in the UK, regardless of age of £10 per hour by 2020. We would work towards fair pay ratios, ensuring that the maximum wage in any organisation is no more than ten times the minimum wage in that organisation.*

*We would offer Green workforce training and an environmental community programme, including training courses for jobs in energy conservation and renewable energy. We would invest in creating training places and offering opportunities to unemployed people, in particular the young.*

## What will we do?

- Increase the minimum wage so that it is a living wage. We propose a minimum wage target for everyone who is working in the UK of £10 per hour by 2020. In 2015 this would mean a minimum wage of £8.10 an hour generally (and £9.40 in London), saving £2.4 billion a year in tax credits and generating an additional £1.5 billion a year in income tax and National Insurance. This would be offset by £0.7 billion a year additional costs in the public sector.
- Revive the role of democratic trade unions, including the right to belong to a union and have the employer recognise it, and the right to take industrial action, including strikes and peaceful picketing.
- Phase in a 35-hour week. Apart from improving the quality of our lives, this would combat unemployment by sharing available work out more equitably.
- End exploitative zero-hour contracts.
- End the exploitation of interns, and ensure no unpaid full-time internship lasts more than four weeks.
- Make equal pay for men and women a reality.
- Introduce a maximum pay ratio of 10:1 between the best paid and the worst paid in every organisation.
- End blacklisting. We will set up a full investigation into blacklisting in the construction industry and consider the creation of a new criminal offence.
- Give workers a greater say in the running of their companies, including employee-elected directors in medium and larger companies.
- Reduce Employment Tribunal fees so that tribunals are accessible to workers



"Installing solar panels" by Oregon Department of Transportation is licensed under CC BY 2.0

# Democracy (Voting at 16)

*We would introduce the right to vote at 16 because we believe that young people should have a say, as proven by the Scottish Independence Referendum in 2014. We would introduce proportional representation, including for the House of Lords, to help fix our unfair electoral system, hold people to account, and make sure that every vote counts. We believe that issues should be decided at a local level whenever possible. We would decentralise and localise, putting power back in the hands of people. We would revive local government through grassroots democracy and the use of smaller community and district councils with enhanced powers including new tax-raising powers.*

*Caroline Lucas (MP) for Brighton Pavilion since 2010 has been tireless in office, winning countless awards and taking the lead on a wide range of issues. Most recently submitting a private member's bill to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education education statutory in all state-funded schools. Her Bill also includes making Sex and Relationships Education a core part of PSHE and a compulsory part of the curriculum.*

*Caroline's #PSHEBill has been backed by organisations from End Violence Against Women, the NUT and NAHT to Stonewall, the Royal College of Nurses and the PSHE Association.*

*"Children feel like they're being pushed through exam after exam on academic subjects but we're really not preparing pupils for life, by not giving them sex and relationships education in particular...but also things like personal finance, first aid, nutrition, food, there's a whole range of preparation for life that we're simply not giving our pupils and PSHE really covers a lot of that territory."*

*- Natalie Bennett, Green Party*

Age	Turnout %
18-24	44%
25-34	55%
35-44	66%
45-54	69%
55-64	73%
65+	76%



CONSTITUENCY	TURNOUT %	ELECTORATE
Oldham East & Saddleworth	61.36	72,557
Oldham West & Royton	59.30	72,359

Source: Ipsos MORI, How Britain Voted in 2010.

One of the negative consequences of the voting age being where it currently stands is clearly visible with regards to the movement of Saddleworth school. Children aged 16 who attend the school appear to have had very little say in a situation that directly affects them. As different political parties have differing opinions on where the new school should be built, giving the vote to those at the age of 16 would allow students to have a say in decisions like this in the future

## ***Why did you get involved in the Green Party?***

*"I have only recently become interested in politics. I have been part of various local environmental groups including: Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Foxdenton & District protection group and decided it would be a good idea to get involved with my local Green Party, as they are one of the only parties that address important environmental issues. I believe that the only way we will meet our carbon emissions reduction target is if greens gain more political power, which I hope to help them do in my area."*

**Jess - 24**

*"I decided to join the green party and get involved because they are the only party that gives me hope for a brighter future. I was so turned off politics that I completely disengaged after the excitement of voting for the first time wore off. The people who inhabit Westminster don't look normal and regardless of which party they represent they all sound the same. That was when I realised that radical change will only come from outside the mainstream political system. The Green Party represent a fairer, common sense approach to governing a society. I am fed up of wars, inequality, pollution and rampant capitalism. The Green Party are too. That's why I am happy to be called a member"*

**Andy - 27**

*"I first became interested in politics when I was about 16. I was looking for a local group in my community that I could contribute to. In looking for a community project to help with this opened up a whole new load of questions regarding my local community and what I have to offer to it. This new interest in politics found me steering towards the Green Party as it is the only party, to me, that seemed genuinely concerned with opening up equal opportunities for young people. What also made the Green Party appeal to me were their great policies regarding issues such as; housing, education, jobs and equal opportunities. As well as this, the Green Party is the only party to approach the issue of climate change - a subject that I take a lot of interest in myself as I believe it is important we take the responsibility for preserving the earth for future generations."*

**Lauren - 19**



# Green Party

*Vote **Green** in 2015*

Printed by Andrew Stuttard of 30 Kendal Drive, Shaw, OL28JQ. Promoted by Andrew Rossall on behalf of Oldham & Saddleworth Green Party, both C/O 19 Marlborough Drive, Failsworth, M35 0LP