

2026 Scottish Parliament election manifestos

Following the launch of RCSLT Scotland's manifesto asks ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections on 7 May, we are pleased to share key points from the six main political parties' manifestos which will be of relevance to RCSLT members. A link to each party's manifesto is provided if you wanted further information.

There's still time to challenge all of your local parliamentary candidates to support our asks - [all you need is five minutes and your postcode](#).

We look forward to working with whichever party/parties form the next Scottish Government to ensure their manifesto pledges maximise the role of speech and language therapists and deliver better lives for people with communication or eating, drinking and swallowing needs.

Scottish National Party (SNP)

- Launch an NHS Job Guarantee to all graduates for medicine, dentistry, nursing and other NHS professions in Scotland with a guaranteed position for a minimum 3-year contract, so they can put their training into practice.
- Develop a Long Term Conditions Framework for adults and children
- Deliver £531 million investment in primary care over three years as part of a commitment to see as much healthcare as possible provided in local communities and closer to people's own homes
- Trial and pilot new innovations to keep people healthier and to identify indicators of poor health as early as possible, including new 'health MOTs' for over-40s
- Invest in recruitment of specialists and training places to address Health workforce issues in rural and island communities
- Expand NHS Near Me digital consultation service
- Ensure specialised ASN provision in every school
- Implement the Royal College of Psychiatrists' 4-tiered national pathway for neurodevelopmental conditions to ensure anyone with or without a formal

neurodevelopmental diagnosis can access the support they need when and where they need it. This work will be integrated with a new National Staged Intervention approach for Additional Support Needs in education.

Read the full SNP manifesto [here](#).

Scottish Labour

- Shift resources from hospitals into local communities, with more diagnostics and outpatient care delivered through neighbourhood health hubs that co-locate general practice, pharmacy, dentistry, community health, physiotherapy, social care and other health services in one place
- Create a single patient record which both patients and medical professionals can view to improve communications and continuity of care, and ensure patients no longer have to explain their treatments and conditions from scratch in new settings
- A 10-year health workforce plan that links university places to training posts, jobs and career development. It will ensure that staff can have fulfilling careers and the health service has the safe staffing that it needs.
- Establish a 'virtual hospital' for online consultations and follow-ups
- Collaborate across the UK to expand access to specialist treatment
- Reduce the number of territorial health boards and streamline national bodies
- Deliver a **right to rehab** so that those recovering from surgery and living with long-term conditions can maintain their health and mobility for as long as possible.
- Deliver health checks for people with learning disabilities
- Introduce training on neurodiversity and additional needs for school and healthcare staff
- A new national neurodevelopmental pathway so that neurodivergent people can get the right support instead of being stuck on inappropriate mental health waiting lists
- Increase staff capacity in ASN classrooms

Read the full Scottish Labour manifesto [here](#).

Scottish Conservatives

- Increase funding for the NHS by uplifting its annual budget above inflation in every year of the next Scottish Parliament
- Roll-out walk-in mental health hubs to help those with mental health conditions get the support they need
- Invest in NHS staff with a new workforce plan that will be developed in consultation with staff and patients
- Deliver a “One NHS” IT platform to reduce the need for patients to repeat their medical history to different parts of our health service
- Roll out AI across the NHS to cut down on administration costs
- Conduct workforce planning to address staff shortages through its Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy

Read the full Scottish Conservatives manifesto [here](#).

Scottish Greens

- Fully utilise nurses and allied health professionals to ensure primary and routine healthcare is delivered locally in rural and island settings as far as is possible
- Improve digital and IT systems and introduce a single electronic patient record between primary care, hospital and social care teams
- Reform funding and structure of Integration Joint Boards, to allow local health boards to invest better in preventative and community healthcare
- Introduce a cost-of-living increase to the student nurse bursary and extend the bursary to all student **allied health professionals**
- Make Additional Support Needs teaching a promoted post and ensure additional support needs are covered in Initial Teacher Education and in Continuous Professional Learning opportunities
- Reform Coordinated Support Plans
- **Mainstream disability inclusive communication approaches** across public bodies and services

- Introduce a **Right to Rehabilitation** whereby everyone is assessed for rehabilitation needs on diagnosis or discharge from hospital
- Create and implement a national multi-disciplinary long covid pathway
- Create walk-in mental health hubs
- Expand CAMHS support services
- Create a national neurodevelopmental pathway which would deliver consistent assessment, diagnostic and post-diagnostic processes across Scotland
- Adopt a multi-agency approach so the list of professionals able to work as clinical interviewers in neurodevelopmental assessment is expanded
- Drive down waiting times for ADHD and autism assessments by rolling out a network of community hubs for assessment, diagnosis and post-diagnostic support
- Introduce mandatory autism and ADHD training for health and social care staff, teachers and other relevant education staff, and police and justice services

Read the full Scottish Greens manifesto [here](#).

Scottish Liberal Democrats

- Increase in-class support by recruiting 2,000 pupil support assistants and rolling out more specialist support such as **speech and language therapists**
- Recruit more ASN staff, including '**speech and language therapists** and educational psychologists'
- Help neurodivergent children and their families receive the right help at the right time
- Take pressure off the NHS by promoting preventative health
- Introduce a 'Fair Deal for Rural Healthcare', aimed at increasing the range of services, treatments and diagnoses available locally, and recognising that the current model of centralisation has left people in many parts of Scotland with longer journeys
- Expand GP access by embedding 900 multidisciplinary staff (e.g. nurses, pharmacists, mental health professionals) in local practices

- Ensure NHS IT systems are interoperable and improve transparency on waiting times
- Publish an AI plan for health and roll out digital tools nationwide
- Reduce hospital pressure by improving community and social care provision
- Introduce a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill

Read the full Scottish Liberal Democrats manifesto [here](#).

Reform UK Scotland

- Create an independent Scottish Healthcare Reform Commission, with priorities such as: workforce planning, delayed discharge, adult social care integration, prevention, community and GP services, tech/AI, NHS App-style tools
- Shift to a prevention strategy in persistent health inequalities
- Expand GP and frontline services in the community
- Introduce long term funding and optimisation of the integration of adult social care
- Implement creative delayed discharge solutions to increase hospital efficiency

Read the full Reform UK Scotland manifesto [here](#).