



Senedd (Welsh Parliament) election manifestos 2026

Ahead of the Senedd elections in 2026, we have been working hard with Allied Health Professions Federation Cymru to raise the profile of AHPs with political parties.

Below, we are pleased to highlight key points from the manifestos of the six main political parties that are particularly relevant to RCSLT members. Please find links below to each party's full manifesto should you wish to explore further detail.

We look forward to engaging constructively with whichever party or parties form the next Welsh Government, to help ensure that their commitments fully recognise and maximise the contribution of speech and language therapists, and ultimately improve outcomes for individuals with communication needs, as well as eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

Welsh Labour

- Recruit, train and retain the staff the NHS needs through a long-term workforce plan.
- Plans include developing a new Rural Health Plan to ensure access to high quality healthcare for people living in rural Wales.
- The party proposes guaranteeing access to a member of the primary care team within 48 hours for those with urgent primary care needs, alongside expanding community diagnostic services and pharmacy based care to bring services closer to home.
- Commitments include ending long waits for neurodevelopmental assessments for both children and adults.
- The party proposes prioritising investment in digital transformation to improve information sharing between organisations.
- Improving support for people with dementia through the implementation of a new Dementia Strategy for Wales.
- The party proposes ensuring all school staff are trained to support children and young people with Additional Learning Needs.

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

Welsh Conservatives

- Develop a **workforce strategy for Allied Health Professionals**, including safe staffing levels, aimed at supporting prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation while helping people remain active and in work.
- The Welsh Conservatives propose retaining, recruiting and training more doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives and **other health professionals** in order to improve access to appointments.
- They would immediately reopen closed wards in existing community hospitals across Wales, aiming to support patients with step down and rehabilitation care closer to home.
- The Welsh Conservatives would increase spending on health and social care in real terms in each year of the next Senedd term.
- They would increase funding for primary care each year and increase the proportion of NHS funding allocated to primary care.
- Develop a network of Surgical Hubs and Diagnostic Centres operating seven days a week across Wales to increase capacity, reduce waiting times for tests and treatment, and minimise the need for repeat hospital appointments.
- Work with stakeholders to develop and publish new national delivery plans within 12 months for the four leading causes of death in Wales: cancer, heart disease, stroke and dementia.
- Publish a Patients' Rights Charter to strengthen patient choice over care and treatment.
- Establish a single health and social care inspectorate, independent of the Welsh Government and Health and Care Improvement Wales, with a remit to raise standards and promote good practice.
- Appoint an NHS Ombudsman for Wales to support learning from complaints, protect whistleblowers and strengthen patient safety.
- Review legislation and support arrangements for pupils with Additional Learning Needs.
- The party proposes introducing an Autism and Learning Disability Bill for Wales to provide autistic people with a clear pathway to diagnosis and a statutory right to receive timely services that meet their needs.
- Expand the capacity of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to reduce the need for young people to receive treatment far from their families.

Read the full Welsh Conservative Party manifesto [here](#).

Plaid Cymru

- The party proposes improving healthcare planning and delivery to end regional disparities, including legislating to strengthen collaboration between health boards.
- Commitments include maintaining the NHS Wales Bursary and delivering a long term workforce growth plan.
- This would include expanding education and training places and **widening access through routes such as apprenticeships.**
- The party proposes enhancing access to telehealth and telemedicine as part of efforts to reduce waiting lists. Commitments include legislating to improve data standards and enable better data sharing across health and social care systems. This would include implementing a 10-year digital strategy promoting innovation and the use of AI in the NHS.
- The party proposes aligning policymaking across government to address the social determinants of health. Plans include creating a Minister for Public Health to coordinate health and wellbeing policy. Commitments include developing a comprehensive Public Health Strategy and Framework. This would include shifting resources towards prevention and wellbeing initiatives.
- Regarding improving care for complex and long term conditions, the party proposes developing and strengthening the NHS workforce, by supporting **Allied Health Professionals, expanding apprenticeships and placements, and improving access to specialist staff across women's, children's and older people's services.** Plans also include improving rehabilitation services and multidisciplinary care for long term conditions.
- The party proposes simplifying and clarifying the Additional Learning Needs system to improve consistency across Wales. Mandatory ALN training would be introduced for all teachers and teaching assistants.
- Plans include introducing a new Older People's Health Plan with a focus on prevention.
- The party proposes extending Welsh Language Standards to UK Government bodies and the private sector.
- The party proposes pursuing the devolution of justice and policing powers to Wales. A devolved system would include reformed youth justice focused on rehabilitation and restorative approaches.

Read the full Plaid Cymru manifesto [here.](#)

Welsh Liberal Democrats

- The party proposes prioritising early intervention and community-based care to reduce pressure on hospitals and improve long term outcomes.
- Plans include training more GPs and **allied health professionals** to improve access to local services.
- The party proposes developing an NHS and social care workforce strategy focused on safe staffing levels.
- Plans include improving workforce data to better inform education and training provision.
- Plans include improving early access to mental health support and addressing underfunding, particularly in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- Commitments include ensuring public services, including health and social care, are available in Welsh through improved workforce planning, training and funding support.
- Plans include devolving policing, prisons, youth justice and probation services to Wales to enable a more community based justice system.

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

The Green Party Wales

- The party proposes improving NHS data collection and comparability across health boards to identify inequalities and support person-centred care.
- The party proposes reducing health inequalities by directing support to areas of greatest need.
- The party proposes delivering a fully funded long term workforce plan for NHS Wales and social care.
- A national approach to health equity would be developed.
- Local health and wellbeing hubs bringing together services such as physiotherapy, podiatry would be developed to deliver a range of community services
- These hubs would support hospital discharge and recovery.
- The party proposes implementing a Youth Mental Health Plan.
- School based support would be expanded and early intervention pathways developed.
- The party proposes delivering person centred care for older people. Care would focus on comfort, communication and individual needs.
- The party proposes establishing a dedicated gender service for young people. This would provide access to support, therapy and advice for families.

- The party proposes strengthening the Additional Learning Needs system and improving accessibility for disabled learners. Early intervention support for additional learning needs would be expanded.
- The party proposes delivering a long term Disabled People's Rights Plan. A Minister for Disabled People would be appointed.
- The party proposes placing prevention, early intervention and equality at the centre of mental health policy.

Read the full Green Party Wales manifesto [here](#).

Reform UK Wales

- Reform UK proposes introducing a national electronic patient record system to reduce duplication, improve safety and enable modern care pathways.
- Reform UK proposes undertaking a comprehensive workforce review across NHS Wales to identify staffing gaps and establish realistic workforce planning trajectories.
- Flexible working models would be promoted to improve staff retention and reduce reliance on agency staffing.
- A national stroke awareness campaign would be launched to improve rapid response time.
- A national dementia framework would also be introduced, focused on early diagnosis and improved support.
- The party proposes prioritising early intervention and community-based care to reduce pressure on hospitals and improve long term outcomes.
- The party proposes reviewing the Additional Learning Needs system. This would aim to improve consistency, support special schools and ensure access to specialist provision.
- The party proposes increasing collaboration with health visitors to support early childhood development. This would focus on improving school readiness and monitoring key developmental milestones.

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