



General Election 2017

Making your voice heard



Make sure your local parliamentary candidates commit to supporting NHS managers

Dear member

Managers in Partnership is campaigning in support of hardworking NHS and social care staff across the country who are working to meet the formidable challenges facing health and social care services. As your trade union, we help health and care managers do the job you are passionate about: delivering dignified and effective healthcare to patients.

A general election is an important time for us to press politicians of all parties for policies that will support NHS managers and make a huge, positive difference to all NHS staff.

Before the general election on 8 June 2017, we are urging members to write to your local parliamentary candidates to ask them to make commitments on:

- **Funding the NHS and social care properly**
- **Switching resources to where they're needed most**
- **Supporting the NHS workforce**
- **Supporting managers in the NHS**

To secure the future of the NHS, we need MPs to advocate for and campaign on these issues in the new parliament – and the best time to secure their support for the future is when they are seeking your vote now.

This toolkit will help you to put forward our policy proposals and ask you local candidates to commit to representing your views in parliament should they be elected. It also provides you with the tools to write to local newspapers and share your activity on social media.

MiP does not campaign for, or endorse, any political party and is not seeking to influence voters to vote for or against political parties or categories of candidates, including those who support or do not support particular policies or issues.

If you would like more information about contacting your local candidates or engaging in the general election, please contact Dylan Underhill on mip@connectpa.co.uk or call Dylan on 020 7592 9592.

Yours sincerely



Jon Restell
Chief Executive
MiP

How to engage in the election

There are several ways you can engage in the general election. This toolkit provides a step-by-step guide for you to follow and templates for you to get in touch with your local candidates directly.

Remember, you are engaging – in correspondence or on social media – as a citizen on general issues about health and social care, and you should not highlight the institution in which you work.

1. REGISTER TO VOTE

The most powerful way to use your voice is to vote.

To register to vote visit: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Through this website you can also update your name, address or other details on the electoral register or change your voting preferences, for example to vote in person or by post.

Key dates:

Deadline to register to vote – Monday 22 May

Deadline to apply for a postal vote – Tuesday 23 May

Polling day – Thursday 8 June

Please encourage your staff to register to vote too.

2. WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES

MiP is at its most influential when MPs advocate and campaign on the issues we care about in parliament. The best time to secure their support in the future is when they are seeking your vote now.

To contact your local candidates, follow this step-by-step guide:

- You can find details of all your local parliamentary candidates by using this website: [Who Can I Vote For](https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/) (<https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>).
- Simply enter your home postcode and the website will list all the candidates that individual parties have selected to stand in your constituency in the election.
- This website is being updated with candidate details all the time, so please check back regularly if not all of your candidates' details are available.
- Click on each candidate and make a note of their email addresses.
- Use the template email on Page 6 of this toolkit to write to each candidate. You can personalise this email with local issues.
- We advise you to use your personal email addresses when contacting your candidates.
- Forward any replies you receive from candidates to Dylan Underhill at mip@connectpa.co.uk so we can keep track of what local candidates commit to. All replies will be treated in confidence and will not be published.

3. SHARE YOUR MESSAGES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Once you've written to your local candidates, or if they do not have an email address listed online, you can tweet your local candidates, using the hashtag #NHSmanagers so we can track the messages.



Tweet your candidates

Make sure you tag your candidate's Twitter name in the tweet

Suggested tweets include:

- Hi [\[@candidate\]](#), will you work with #NHSmanagers by supporting proper funding for the NHS and social care?
- I'm calling on my local candidate [\[@candidate\]](#) to support #NHSmanagers by standing up for the #NHS workforce.
- Hi [\[@candidate\]](#), will you support #NHSmanagers by ensuring the government switches #NHS resources to where they're most needed?
- We need good management in the NHS. I'm asking my local candidate [\[@candidate\]](#) to support #NHSmanagers in improving the #NHS.

PS: Remember to follow MiP on Twitter: [@MiPhealth](#)



Facebook your candidates

If your candidate has a Facebook campaign page, you should be able to post messages directly to their page.

Suggested posts include:

- In this election, will you work with #NHSmanagers by supporting proper funding for the #NHS and social care?
- I'm calling on my local candidates to support #NHSmanagers by standing up for the #NHS workforce. Can we count on you?
- Will you support #NHSmanagers by ensuring government switches #NHS resources to where they're most needed?
- We need good management in the NHS. Will you support #NHSmanagers in working to improve the #NHS?

You can use the hashtag #NHSmanagers on all social media platforms – not just on Twitter and Facebook, but on LinkedIn and Instagram too.)

PS: Have you liked the new MiP Facebook page? [Click here](#) to view it and make sure you 'Like' and 'Follow' to get updates from MiP straight to your Facebook news feed.

4. WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER IN SUPPORT OF NHS MANAGERS

One way to make local candidates pay attention to your issues in an election campaign is to write a letter to your local newspaper. You can find contact details for your local newspaper on their website on the 'contact', 'letters' or 'opinion' pages.

Use the template letter on Page 7 of this toolkit to write to your local paper. You can personalise this letter with any local issues that you think your local candidates will notice, but remember you are writing as an individual citizen and not in your official capacity as an NHS manager.

If your letter gets published, please send a copy to Dylan Underhill at mip@connectpa.co.uk so we can keep track of local coverage.

5. PREPARE QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE CANVASSED OR IF YOU ATTEND HUSTINGS

During the election campaign, you may be canvassed by local candidates who ask for your vote either in the street or on your doorstep. Being canvassed is a useful opportunity to ask local candidates whether they support NHS managers.

Local newspapers or other local organisations sometimes organise 'hustings' or community meetings where members of the public can put their questions directly to candidates.

If you are canvassed by a local candidate or if you attend a local hustings event, some suggested questions to ask your local candidates are:

- Will you commit to increase NHS funding to the same level as France and Germany (11% of GDP) by 2022?
- Will you support NHS managers and other staff who are working to deliver change locally? Are you prepared to take difficult political decisions, invest in transforming services and switch resources to where they're needed most?
- The NHS needs a credible, comprehensive workforce strategy to tackle growing staff shortages and to train and develop all staff – especially the lower-paid, unregistered staff who deliver most patient care. Will you oppose the 1% pay cap for public sector workers?
- The NHS needs managers. They look after the NHS's scarce resources, plan essential services and provide vital support to doctors and nurses. Will you agree to publicly respect and value the role of managers in the NHS, treat managers like other NHS staff and commit to invest in the management skills we need?

Remember: MiP does not campaign for, or endorse, any political party and is not seeking to influence voters to vote for or against political parties or categories of candidates, including those who support or do not support particular policies or issues.

Policy briefing

MiP helps health and care managers do the job they are passionate about: delivering dignified and effective healthcare to patients. This section gives you some more information about the four commitments we are asking all local candidates to make for the 2017 general election:

1. FUND THE NHS AND SOCIAL CARE PROPERLY

We urge all politicians to commit to increase healthcare funding to the same levels as France and Germany (11% of GDP) by 2022. NHS staff and other experts agree that the NHS needs more money to provide decent healthcare in the future.

We also urge candidates to work with politicians of all parties to take the bold and urgent action needed to tackle the funding crisis in social care. Nothing should be ruled out in this process, including considering a tax on estates as a way to fund decent social care for the elderly in the long term.

2. SWITCH RESOURCES TO WHERE THEY'RE MOST NEEDED

There has long been a consensus that the NHS needs to switch more resources towards community and mental health services, public health and prevention programmes, and better organised acute care. The 'Five Year Forward View' is the just most recent expression of this policy consensus. But progress is unacceptably slow, and both NHS staff and the public have been shut out of the planning process. The NHS needs action, not more vague promises.

We urge candidates to support managers and other staff who are working to deliver change locally. We call on politicians to take difficult political decisions where necessary and provide the funding needed to transform services.

3. SUPPORT THE NHS WORKFORCE

Everyone agrees that the workforce is the NHS's most important asset. The NHS needs a credible, comprehensive workforce strategy to tackle growing staff shortages, and to train and develop all staff – especially the lower-paid, unregistered staff who deliver most patient care. We need to offer all staff flexible working, good workplaces and manageable workloads.

Even the government's own pay review body accepts that NHS pay policy – capping pay rises at 1% each year – is at a dead end. With growing staff shortages and living standards for NHS staff falling further behind, we urge all parties to commit to funding a fair and realistic pay rise for hardworking NHS staff.

We believe that EU citizens currently living in the UK should have the right to remain in order to protect our health and social care services.

4. SUPPORT MANAGEMENT IN THE NHS

The NHS needs managers. They look after the NHS's scarce resources, plan essential services and provide vital support to doctors and nurses. Yet managers are all too often undermined and denigrated in public debate – especially during election campaigns – and left out of workforce planning.

We call on all candidates to publicly respect and value the role of managers in the NHS, treat managers like other NHS staff and commit to invest in the management skills we need.

All of these four policy commitments are ambitious but realistic. They would make a huge, positive difference to the NHS and social care services – and hence to almost everyone living in this country. NHS staff are already playing their part in transforming health and social care for 21st century. We ask politicians to give them the support they need and deserve.

Letter to local parliamentary candidates

Feel free to amend this letter to personalise it to your local area.

Dear [insert name of candidate]

As my parliamentary candidate, will you commit to supporting NHS managers in their work to protect and improve health and care services in the UK?

I live in the [name] constituency and am writing to you about the key policies that are vital to ensuring the future of our NHS and social care services. I support Managers in Partnership (MiP), which campaigns on issues to support hardworking NHS and social care staff across the country in meeting the formidable challenges facing health and social care services.

As my parliamentary candidate in the general election, I would like to know if you will pledge your support on the following issues:

1. Fund the NHS and social care properly

I urge you to commit to increase healthcare funding to 11% of GDP by 2022 – the same level as in France and Germany. NHS staff and other experts agree that the NHS needs more money to provide decent healthcare in the future.

I also urge you to work with politicians of all parties to take the bold and urgent action needed to tackle the funding crisis in social care. I believe nothing should be ruled out in this process, including considering a tax on estates as a way to fund decent social care for the elderly in the long term. How do you propose to tackle this crisis? And how quickly will you act?

2. Switch resources to where they're most needed

There has long been a consensus that the NHS needs to switch more resources towards community and mental health services, public health and prevention programmes, and better organised acute care. But progress is unacceptably slow, and both NHS staff and the public have been shut out of the planning process. The NHS needs action, not more vague promises.

Will you support managers and other staff who are working to deliver change locally? Are you prepared to take difficult political decisions when necessary and provide the funding needed to transform services?

3. Support the NHS workforce

Everyone agrees that the workforce is the NHS's most important asset. The NHS needs a credible, comprehensive workforce strategy to tackle growing staff shortages, and to train and develop all staff – especially the lower-paid, unregistered staff who deliver most patient care. We need to offer all staff flexible working, good workplaces and manageable workloads. Will you commit to implementing such a workforce strategy in the NHS?

Even the government's own pay review body accepts that NHS pay policy is at a dead end. With growing staff shortages and living standards for NHS staff falling further behind, will you support an end to the 1% pay cap and will you commit to funding a fair and realistic pay rise for hardworking NHS staff?

4. Support management in the NHS

The NHS needs managers. They look after the NHS's scarce resources, plan essential services and provide vital support to doctors and nurses. Yet managers are all too often undermined and denigrated in public debate – especially during election campaigns – and left out of workforce planning.

Will you agree to publicly respect and value the role of managers in the NHS, treat managers like other NHS staff and commit to invest in the management skills we need?

These commitments would make a huge, positive difference to the NHS and social care services – and hence to almost everyone living in this country. NHS staff are already playing their part in transforming health and social care for 21st century. Please give them the support they need and deserve.

As my local parliamentary candidate, I would be interested in hearing your thoughts on these issues.

Yours sincerely

[Your name]

[Your home address, including postcode]

Letter to local newspaper

Feel free to amend this letter to personalise it to your local area.

Dear editor

We should be supporting NHS managers in this general election

I would like to see all our local parliamentary candidates supporting the hardworking NHS and social care staff in our community as they work to tackle the formidable challenges facing health and social care services.

I hope all candidates at this election will commit to increasing healthcare funding to the same level as in France and Germany by 2022 – 11% of GDP. NHS staff and other experts agree that the NHS needs more money to provide decent healthcare in the future.

Everyone agrees that the NHS needs to switch more resources towards community and mental health services, public health and prevention programmes, and better organised acute care. But progress is unacceptably slow, and both NHS staff and the public have been shut out of the planning process. The NHS needs action, not more vague promises.

Even the government's own pay review body accepts that NHS pay policy is at a dead end. With growing staff shortages and living standards for NHS staff falling further behind, all candidates need to support an end to the 1% pay cap and a fair and realistic pay rise for hardworking NHS staff.

The NHS needs managers. They look after the NHS's scarce resources, plan essential services and provide vital support to doctors and nurses. Yet managers are all too often undermined and denigrated in public debate – especially during election campaigns – and left out of workforce planning.

I urge all candidates to publicly respect and value the role of managers in the NHS, treat managers like other NHS staff and commit to invest in the management skills we need.

Yours sincerely

[Your name]

[Your home address]