What do the parties have to say about mental health?

Now the major parties have all released their manifestos, Big White Wall takes a look at what they are promising on mental health, with links to the full documents.

The **Conservatives** promise to spend an extra £1.25bn on mental health services in England over five years, enforce waiting time and access standards and ensure that women have access to mental health support during and after pregnancy.

The **Liberal Democrats** put mental health on the front page of their manifesto, and set out the most comprehensive range of policies, dedicating several pages to the subject. Their policies include 6-week waiting time standards for therapy for depression and anxiety, a 25% access rate for talking therapies and increasing mental health spending in England by £500m a year by 2016/17.

**Labour** promises to give mental health the same priority as physical health by investing in training for NHS staff and teachers, setting out a strategy for a 28-day waiting time standard for talking therapies, and enshrining the right to talking therapies in the NHS Constitution.

The **Green Party** manifesto includes proposals to repeal the Health and Social Care Act, increase the NHS budget by £12bn each year, and implement a 28-day waiting time limit for talking therapies as part of their overall plan to create parity of esteem with physical health by 2020.

**UKIP’s** pledges include investing £1.5 billion into mental health and dementia services and increasing mental health funding by £170 million annually. They also plan to issue veterans with a card to fast-track them to mental health services.