

Campaigning and calling for change

Our core policy and advocacy priorities

Poverty and disadvantage:

We're campaigning for an end to poverty and disadvantage, and calling for a 'just economy' in which everyone can reach their potential and live life 'to the full'.

What are we asking for?



An end to the benefit cap.



A protected legal minimum amount of Universal Credit to cover the costs of essentials, with debt deductions not being allowed to reduce support below that level.



Improved employment options, particularly for parents and people with disabilities, including an increase in minimum wage.



Easier access to money and debt advice, with increased provision and visibility of free services.



Trauma-informed, person-centred mental health support available to all without long wait times.



A simpler process to claim Personal Independence Payment, and reduced time taken to receive a decision.



The introduction of a social tariff for energy for people on low incomes and with disabilities or chronic conditions, and those with newly granted refugee status.



Expanding childcare provision to parents working less than 16 hours, those in training and education, and those with no recourse to public funds.

Children and young people:

We believe that all children and young people should be safe, have access to all that they need for their development, and have the opportunity to thrive.

What are we asking for?



Expansion of free school meals to all primary age pupils.



An end to the benefit cap.



A reduction in school costs such as school trips, PE kits and uniforms, including further limits to how many branded items a school can require.



Increased funding for schools to provide mental health and SEND support for children and young people.



Education to be considered in decisions about temporary accommodation for families experiencing homelessness and Home Office accommodation for families seeking asylum.

Housing security and homelessness:

We believe that having a secure home provides a sense of personal dignity and allows families and individuals to flourish.

What are we asking for?



An increase in the supply of social-rented housing, including housing which is accessible.



Local Housing Allowance rates for housing benefit unfrozen and set in line with local rents.



An end to the use of unsupported temporary accommodation (B&Bs) and an increase in safe, supported accommodation which meets people's individual needs.



The provision of temporary accommodation that is close to people's support networks, schools and services.



Every person at risk of rough sleeping being accommodated the same day while homelessness applications are being assessed, including for those not in priority need and those with restricted eligibility.



Further reforms to the private-rented sector to ensure higher quality of rented homes and more affordable rents.



Ensuring that home adaptations made by Local Authorities are carried out with the requirements of the individual as a priority, not just cost considerations.



The commissioning of health services based within homelessness services and link workers to support people to access health services.

Welcoming migrants and refugees:

We believe in the importance of opportunities for positive integration into communities and empowering people to rebuild their lives in this country. We're calling for an end to the hostile environment, discriminatory anti-refugee rhetoric, and more safe and legal routes to the UK.

What are we asking for?



Increased funding for high-quality English for Speakers of other Language classes and free access for all, including people seeking asylum and those who have had asylum claims refused.



A 56 day move-on period from asylum support and accommodation for all, in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and introducing to the Home Office a Duty to Refer for homelessness assistance.



The right to work for people seeking asylum after six months, unconstrained by the Shortage Occupation list.



An end to the use of hotels as accommodation for people seeking asylum.



Access to NHS services, and an end to upfront charging for secondary care.



Reform of the legal aid system, resulting in improved access to legal advice and representation.

For more information on other ways we're campaigning and calling for change, and how you can help make a difference by taking action too, visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaigning