

Reversal of infant mortality rates is heart-breaking – Jonathan Ashworth

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Labour's Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary, responding to new ONS figures which shows that infant mortality has risen, said:

“The continued reversal of infant mortality rates is heart-breaking and must prompt serious action from ministers.

“We urgently need to tackle all factors influencing this, an important first step would be to halt swingeing cuts to public health and early years services by this Tory government.

“Ministers can't ignore the fundamental truth that rising child poverty, deprivation and severe inequality betray our children and worsen health outcomes. Narrowing health inequalities and improving the health and wellbeing of every child will be an explicit aim of the next Labour government.”

Rebecca Long Bailey responds to Unison report on the Big Six

Rebecca Long Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Business Secretary, responding to Unison's report calling for the Big Six energy companies to be brought into public ownership, said:

“The energy supply market has led to broken trust and spiralling costs for households and businesses, and a failure to invest in the energy workers who will be needed to make our homes more energy efficient, and the electricity and heat we use lower carbon.

“Radical reform is needed, and I welcome this exciting publication as a contribution to the debate on public ownership.”

Barbara Keeley responds to Prime Minister's announcement on prevention in mental health

Barbara Keeley MP, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, responding to the Prime Minister's announcement on prevention in mental health, said:

“Once again we hear warm words from the Prime Minister on mental health, but the reality is that mental health services are stretched to breaking point and people with mental health problems aren't getting the support they need.

“The Prime Minister is failing to address the real crisis in mental health. Training for teachers and other professionals is welcome but when we know thousands of children and young people are either turned away from mental health services or have to wait too long for treatment, it's clear that she's missing the real issue.

“This Tory government has cut local authority funding and failed to protect mental health budgets. Labour will invest more in mental health services and ring-fence budgets, so that funding reaches those who need support.”

Knife-related offences continues to soar – Diane Abbott

Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, commenting on new statistics which show that in the year ending March 2019 the highest number of knife and offensive weapon offences since 2010 were formally dealt with by the Criminal Justice System, said:

"The number of knife-related offences continues to soar under this government. The overstretched and under-resourced police and criminal justice systems are only able to tackle a fraction of the total level of crime.

"The Government should stop just talking about a public health approach and actually adopt one. This includes properly funding the police, ending the Tories' damaging cuts to public services and reinvesting in youth services to provide young people with genuine hope for their future prospects."

Rebecca Long Bailey comments on GMB's report on Amazon's public sector contracts

Rebecca Long Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Business Secretary, commenting on GMB's report on Amazon's public sector contracts, said:

"It is shocking that the government has spent millions with a company that makes massive profits while mistreating its workers and paying barely any tax.

"Labour in government will insist that when taxpayer funded public services and goods are delivered by private companies, they operate to the highest standards, with a public service ethos and not simply in the interests of shareholders. We will clamp down on tax avoidance and evasion, and implement our Tax Transparency and Enforcement Programme to build an economy that works for the many, not the few."