

The Government must address the chaos engulfing Universal Credit – Abrahams

Debbie

Abrahams MP, Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, commenting on the Citizen's Advice Bureau report on Universal Credit said:

"The Government must address the chaos engulfing Universal Credit. It must pause the programme to tackle the serious design flaws in UC at the same time as addressing its chaotic mismanagement."

"The Government's cuts to Universal Credit means that on top of the design and delivery issues, it fails to make work pay, compounding people's ability to make ends meet. In spite of this Government's warm words about making Britain fairer, their tax and spending choices have done the opposite."

"Labour will invest to reform Universal Credit, under our plans to create a social security system that, like the NHS, is there for us all in our time of need."

Theresa May's Brexit strategy risks a cliff-edge for the economy and is a threat to jobs and investment – Starmer

Keir Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, commenting on the CBI Director-General Carolyn Fairbairn's speech on Brexit said:

"Today's speech from the CBI underlines what Labour has been saying for months: that Theresa May's Brexit strategy risks a cliff-edge for the economy and is a threat to jobs and investment."

"Labour agree that we need an early commitment to ensure strong transitional arrangements, and that these should be on similar terms to those we currently enjoy. Without that commitment, and without a bridge to new trading arrangements with the EU, there will be growing uncertainty for businesses

and investment decisions will be delayed.

“Labour are clear that jobs and the economy must come first in the Brexit negotiations. It is time the Prime Minister and the Brexit Secretary listened to the growing concerns from businesses and the Treasury and changed their reckless approach.”

Inhumane treatment of deportees is unacceptable – Diane Abbott

Speaking in response to the first annual report of the official watchdog monitoring treatment of deportees, **Labour’s Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott said:**

“This report presents a troubling picture of the way deportees are treated.

“Inhumane treatment can never be justified. Where deportation is appropriate, it should always be conducted in a reasonable, effective and humane way. We cannot allow a climate of hostility to spill over into mistreatment of anyone. The Government needs to act to ensure there is no recurrence.”

The report from the independent monitoring board can be found here <https://www.imb.org.uk/enforced-removal-people-uk-chartered-flights-falls-short-humane-treatment-occasions/>

We will transform the social security system so that, like the NHS, it is there for us all in our time of need – Abrahams

Debbie Abrahams MP, Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, commenting on today’s figures on the estimated impact of the household benefit cap on parents by age of youngest child, said:

“Today’s figures highlight the huge impact the new, lowered household benefit cap has on lone parents who make up well over half of households affected, with nearly 80% having children under five.”

"As we warned, the impact of this and the Government's other social security cuts is pushing more children into poverty, punishing them for their parent's circumstances.

"The Government must listen to the High Court's judgement that this policy is discriminatory and unlawful, marking another blow in their failing austerity agenda.

"Labour has stood against the reduction of the benefit cap. We need to tackle our struggling economy, labour market inequalities and the high cost of housing rather than penalising children."

"We will transform the social security system so that, like the NHS, it is there for us all in our time of need."

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- Today's figures can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/benefit-cap-estimated-impact-on-parents-by-age-of-youngest-child>.
- Lone parents make up 63% of households estimated to be in scope for the lower cap and of these lone parents 78% have a youngest child under the age of 5
- The High Court judgement on the 22nd June ruled that the benefit cap is unlawful and illegally discriminates against single parents with young children under the age of two.

NEWS FROM LABOUR: Jeremy Corbyn Speech – British Chamber of Commerce

*****CHECK AGAINST
DELIVERY*****

**Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader
of the Labour Party**, speaking at the British Chamber of
Commerce, said:

Thank you to the British
Chamber of Commerce for inviting me to speak to you again today.

This is an important
conference, on a crucial subject business and education which goes to the
heart
of building that better economy, which we all know is not only possible but

necessary if our economy is to thrive.

During the general election campaign I travelled to every part of Britain, campaigning for real change in Britain on the basis of a popular manifesto that offered hope to millions of people, and won support from every region and nation.

Our manifesto offered a comprehensive plan for a new direction in our economy. Based around investment in the economy and the jobs of the future, and the public services that sustain them, and a new settlement with business, that would benefit you, and the whole country.

It is that programme of change, which won a huge increase in Labour's support, and means that we are now not just the official opposition, but a government in waiting.

So we need to be engaged, and in dialogue about the country's future, far more closely than we have before.

Britain has been living through a lost decade.

A decade of lost growth, a decade of stagnant living standards, a decade when investment and productivity fell so far, that it takes a worker five days to produce what takes four days in Germany and France.

Britain can't afford another lost decade.

We have investment levels that are described by the Governor of the Bank of England as "markedly weak".

We have productivity that lags far behind our main competitors ... and that fell further behind on yesterday's official statistics.

We have an explosion of low-paid, insecure jobs, the Bank of England's Chief Economist has now said that 7% of the entire workforce could be on zero hours contracts within a decade.

We've had a period of lost wage growth and falling real terms pay that the Institute of Fiscal Studies describes as "completely unprecedented".

We have unsecured
household debt rising to record levels.

And now we have economic
growth, that has slowed to just 0.2% in the latest quarter, the worst in the
G7.

It's against this
backdrop that Labour set out our vision to change our society, and invest in
our economy.

To build a strong,
sustainable economy in which no region or nation of the UK is left behind,
and
where everyone shares in the wealth that we create together.

At the heart of that
vision is education.

Education must be at the
heart of the drive to raise productivity, increase our economic dynamism, and
allow our businesses to compete on the world stage.

Investing in our
education system, will be central to halting the spread of low-paid,
low-skilled, insecure work.

By providing the skilled
workforce that businesses need, if they are to create high-skilled, better-
paid
jobs.

And there is a payback
for government too. In creating a labour market where work pays, with higher
revenues from income tax and national insurance, and lower payments in tax
credits and housing benefit.

Education allows
individuals to realise their full potential, and participate fully in our
economy and society.

But if education is to
bring those benefits, we need an education system that responds to the needs
of
our economy, and which allows people to make a smooth transition from
education
to the workplace.

This is something that
we, the next Labour government, business, and educators need to do together,
in
partnership.

Working together on this
is vital, and by being here today, I know you recognise that.

And I know there are
many great initiatives already happening.

From the Young Chamber
Initiative, for example, which allows schools and colleges to tap into the
expertise of business, and prepare their students for the world of work.

To the many excellent
work experience programmes, and careers advice services, provided by our
education institutions.

But government also has
a vital role to play.

So let me set out what a
Labour Government would do.

There are no shortcuts
if we are to create a high skilled, high wage and high productivity economy.

We're going to have to
invest more.

To upgrade our economy
for the 21st century and that will mean businesses pay a bit more
tax, to invest in education, while still maintaining low tax rates by
historical and international comparisons.

We know that early
year's education plays a crucial role in attainment, and cognitive
development.

That it's in our schools
that children become young adults, ready to face the world.

That our universities
are the birthplaces of the ideas and inventions that will define our economy
and society in the 21st Century.

And that education now
has to continue throughout people's lives, to allow all of us to grow and
develop, and meet the needs of a rapidly changing economy.

That's why our manifesto
set out plans to build a National Education Service. Providing lifelong
education and training, free at the point of use, for every single person in
this country.

Our National Education
Service will be a key institution of fairness and prosperity for the 21st

Century, just as the NHS transformed people's prospects in the 20th century.

We believe education is
a public good.

That business, large and
small, prosper when education, skills and training are given laser-like
attention by a committed government.

And individuals benefit
too, bringing them opportunities they wouldn't possibly otherwise have.

Through our National
Education Service we will extend 30 hours of free childcare to all 2 to 4
year
olds.

And, unlike the
Conservative Government, we will put the funding in place ... to make sure that
we actually deliver on our promises.

And by making the
transition to a supply-side system and a graduate-led workforce, we will give
every child access to high quality early years education, that research shows
is crucial to educational attainment and social capabilities later in life.

This won't be achieved
overnight; it will be part of a five year programme to develop higher quality
and universal childcare for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

We will properly fund
our schools.

We now have an utterly
unacceptable situation, in which schools are forced to beg parents for
donations just to cover costs, or even shorten the school day, just so that
they can pay their staff.

And we will scrap the
public sector pay cap that, along with rising stress levels, is causing good
teachers to leave the profession, leading to a recruitment and retention
crisis.

But equipping children
for the world of work is not just about the necessary funding for schools.

In the age of the fourth
industrial revolution, employers deciding who to hire do not look for
automatons, schooled in arcane forms of grammar, learning for tests, and
reciting the names of past kings and queens by rote.

They're looking for

people with the soft skills that keep every business going, and the creativity that helps firms to innovate and grow.

That's why the next Labour Government will reverse the narrowing of the curriculum that has taken place under this Government.

Including through a new Arts Pupil Premium to give every child access to the arts, and we will put more trust in teachers' professionalism and experience, by giving them more of a say in how children are taught.

We will also consult on introducing teacher sabbaticals, and placements in industry, as a way to encourage interaction between education and business, and to introduce broad experiences into the classroom.

I've often been impressed by teachers who have come to the profession later in life, having worked in other sectors, and their experience benefits their teaching.

As you may well have heard, we have promised to scrap university tuition fees, and reintroduce maintenance grants, for students from low income households.

With graduates now due to leave university with £57,000 of debt that will last a lifetime, we risk deterring working class students, leaving talent wasted, and potential untapped.

Our plans for a high-skill, high productivity economy, rely on a large graduate workforce, and that means no one should be discouraged from going to university because of debt.

Our universities are among the best in the world. But while they are the birthplace of many world-changing ideas, it is all too common for those ideas to be taken up and commercialised by businesses based in other countries.

We want to work with you to bridge this gap between innovation and product building links between universities and business. To ensure that the benefits of Britain's great research centres, are not halted at the walls of the ivory tower.

It's a similar story for the talent our great universities produce. Our world-leading universities are spread across the country, from St Andrews to Exeter.

But the regional imbalances in our economy mean that disproportionate numbers of graduates seek to build their adult lives in London. This is a great loss to local economies in the rest of the country.

That's why Labour is committed to a National Investment Bank and a network of Regional Development Banks.

To ensure that every region and nation of the UK has a strong economy, using our £250 billion National Transformation Fund to boost and rebalance investment across the country.

Creating economic opportunities for all.

Technological change, from automation to decarbonisation, means that many jobs and industries will disappear or shrink in the coming years and decades.

But I am not one of the doom-mongers, who believe that will inevitably herald an era of mass unemployment.

At every stage of economic and industrial history, jobs, industries and skills have been lost, replaced and transformed.

But whether that happens at huge social cost, as it did for example in the early days of the industrial revolution and the Luddites.

Or is embraced and benefits everybody depends on managing and planning for technological change. We can't simply leave it to the market.

We need public institutions, public investment and public enterprise to work with business to manage the social and economic effects of rapid technological change ... so that it benefits the many not the few.

We need to ensure that everyone, workers, government, and businesses, share in the benefits that new technology brings.

As in every other technological revolution, disappearing jobs will be replaced by new, as yet unforeseen, forms of work.

But there will be churn,
as these new forms of work will often require a different set of skills to
those they replace.

That means we will need
to invest in a step change in skills and training.

To upgrade the skills of
the existing workforce, and make sure everyone is able to retrain at any
point
in life, to meet the changing needs of the economy.

That's why Labour has
made a flagship commitment, to make all further education courses free at the
point of use for everyone, at any stage of their lives.

There has been quite a
bit of focus on our policy to scrap university tuition fees.

Which now appears to be
under consideration by the government, or at least some members of it.

But perhaps of even
greater significance and certainly less discussion, is our policy to scrap
fees
for adult education courses in colleges too.

Vocational training has
long been the poor relation in our education system.

Successive governments
have paid lip service to the desire to achieve parity of esteem between
academic and technical education.

While leaving the
deep-rooted historical snobbishness of Britain's two-tier education system
fully intact.

One thing I am
passionate about, as the child and sibling of engineers, is the development
of
engineering and science skills.

Which have to start
earlier, before children get to secondary schools, and we all have a role in
tackling the gender imbalance in STEM subjects.

Labour will correct the
historic neglect of the further education sector.

By finally giving it the
investment in teachers and facilities it deserves, giving college lecturers
greater job security, making all courses free at the point of use, to ensure

the sector continues to be a world-leading provider of adult and vocational education, meeting the skills needs of their local economies.

Right now we have a Government that often behaves as if all businesses want is lower wages.

That thinks jobs should be measured by quantity rather than quality, and that reckons competitiveness is simply a matter of driving down costs.

As I hope I've made clear, that is not Labour's view or vision of our future.

We want to use our myriad talents and resources to make Britain the most prosperous and dynamic economy in the world.

A Labour government will invest in the future, both in our physical infrastructure, and our workforce.

Our Business team, led by Rebecca Long-Bailey, is developing plans to deliver a game-changing industrial strategy.

That will rebalance our economy and drive up the quality of work across all sectors.

Our Education team, led by Angela Rayner, will be setting out more detailed proposals to invest in a National Education Service, to equip our workforce with the skills they need to do those jobs.

I've set out the framework for what a Labour Government would do.

But turning that vision into practice cannot be the job of government alone.

Making our plans a reality will require the collaboration of everybody here today, business, educators and politicians.

That's why I want to end with a final pledge: a Labour Government will trust in your experience, listen to your expertise, and work with you, in partnership.

To create an education system that delivers for our economy, and an economy that works for the many, not the few.

Thank you.