

Tories' record on children & young people's mental health has been shocking – Keeley

Barbara

Keeley MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Mental Health, commenting on the announcement of measures contained within the new Children and Young People's Green Paper, said:

"This announcement leaves many unanswered questions, in particular whether the reported funding will amount to new investment and whether the incentives offered will lead to every school being able to offer proper mental health support to their pupils.

"What is clear, however, is that the Tories' record on children and young people's mental health has been shocking, with a postcode lottery of provision across Child and Adolescent Mental Health services and many long waits for treatment.

"The Tories can only be taken seriously on children and young people's mental health by following Labour's example and pledging to increase spending on these services, ring-fencing budgets and ensuring children and young people have access to a counselling service in every secondary school."

Under the Tories, social mobility has totally stalled. It is no surprise the whole Social Mobility Commission has resigned in frustration – Trickett

Jon

Trickett MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office, responding to the resignation of the Social Mobility Commission board, said:

"As inequality has grown under the Tories, social mobility has totally stalled.

Theresa May has rewarded the rich whilst holding everyone else back. It is no surprise the whole Social Mobility Commission has resigned in frustration.

"Under

the Tories, how well people do in life is still based on class background rather than on talent or effort.

"Labour will change our country so it works for the many not the few."

RBS priority should be serving the best interests of UK customers – Reynolds

Jonathan Reynolds MP, Labour's Shadow City Minister, responding to the RBS jobs cuts announcement, said:

"The decision by RBS to close 1 in 4 of its outlets is hugely disappointing. Not only will this result in the potential loss of 1,000 jobs, but many people depend on being able to use bank branch facilities in person. As the taxpayer continues to own 71% of the bank, its priority should be serving the best interests of UK customers.

"We are astounded that the Government has signed off on these proposals and urge them to reconsider such a drastic move which risks serious harm to local communities. Labour will change bank regulations to stop branch closures where there is a clear impact on local communities and businesses."

Tories fail to meet net migration target yet again – Diane Abbott

Diane

Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, commenting on today's ONS data showing net migration is at 230,000, said:

"This

is yet another failure by the Tory government to meet its own unworkable net migration target.

"This isn't a genuine policy, but allows a permanent campaign against migrants and migration.

"The Tories' chaotic mishandling of the Brexit negotiations has already seen many sectors experiencing severe staff shortages, including the NHS and social care.

"It is time to drop this meaningless target. Labour offers fair rules and reasonable management of migration. Our priorities are growth, jobs and prosperity. We make no apologies for putting these aims before bogus immigration targets."

The Government has conceded the need to protect rights in response to Tom Watson's landmark legal challenge but must go further

Amber Rudd has today proposed changes to the new Investigatory Powers Act in response to successful legal claim brought by Tom Watson MP but Government proposals do not go far enough and only partially comply with this landmark judgment. Martha Spurrier, Director of Liberty, has described the proposals as "window dressing" which does not provide the robust action needed.

Tom Watson MP, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, said:

"The current legislation fails to protect people's fundamental rights or respect the rule of law. That's what my legal challenge proved, and I'm glad Amber Rudd is making significant concessions today. But I will be asking the court to go further, because today's proposals from the Home Office are still flawed.

"Ministers

aren't above the law – they don't get to pick and choose which rights violations they address and they can't haggle with the courts to avoid properly protecting people's freedom. All of the fundamental safeguards demanded by the court must now be implemented."