



General Election 2005

What the Liberal Democrats will do for people with disabilities



**easy read
summary**



About the Liberal Democrats

The Liberal Democrats are a political party that believes in treating everyone fairly and equally.



This paper is our “manifesto”. It tells you what the Liberal Democrats believe in. It tells you what the Liberal Democrats would do if they won the election.

If you would like to find out more about the Liberal Democrats you can:

write to:



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go to our website: www.libdems.org.uk

Our top 4 policies for disabled people



These are the 4 main things the Liberal Democrats would do to make things better for disabled people.

1. One law to fight discrimination

Discrimination is when you are treated unfairly. This could be because of your sex or your race or because you have a disability.



There are laws against discrimination. For example, there are some laws about treating people of different races fairly and other laws about treating disabled people fairly.



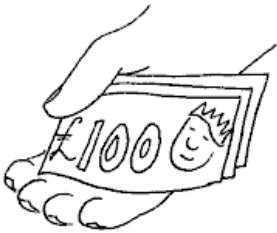
But we think there should be just one law for all types of discrimination. This would make it clear that it is just as wrong to treat disabled people unfairly as it is to treat people of a different race unfairly.



2. Helping people to help themselves

We want to make it easier for people to help themselves. We want people to be able to live the way they want. We want them to be able to go where they want. We want more disabled people to get jobs.

We would help people live the way they want by:



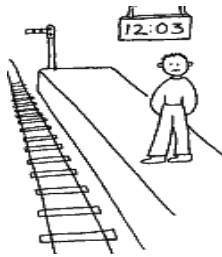
- thinking of ways to change the benefit system so disabled people can take part-time jobs without worrying about losing their benefits and ending up worse off



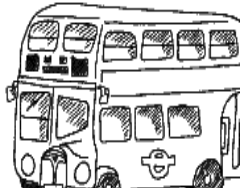
- giving more support for disabled people who are looking for work



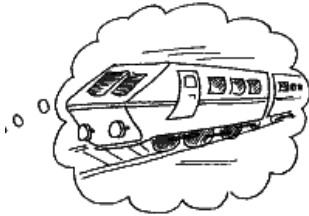
- giving more help with any problems disabled people and their bosses are having at work



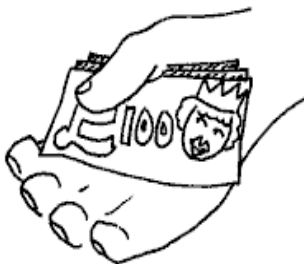
- making public transport services easier for disabled people to use so they can get a job or go wherever they want to go



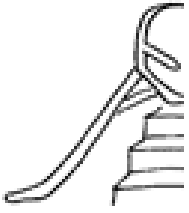
- letting all disabled people travel free on local buses – except during busy times



- making all railways stations and trains better for disabled people



- giving all people with severe disabilities an extra £200 a year to pay for heating in the winter
- getting rid of the unfair council tax so that poor people will pay less than people with more money



- getting local councils to make lists of any homes that have been changed to meet the needs of disabled people. This will mean people do not have to wait so long to get a home that meets their needs



- making it easier for people to buy a home and building homes that people will be able to afford even if they are disabled and do not have much money.

3. Better health and education services



We want to make sure that everyone with a disability can easily get good services which meet their needs. This includes health services and care services.

We also want disabled people to get a better education from schools and colleges.



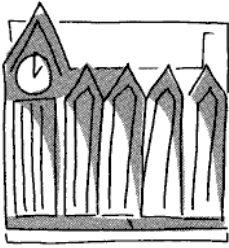
We would:



- make sure that more disabled people have their own health plan saying how they will be cared for and treated



- make sure everyone - including disabled people - gets regular tests and check ups on their health



- bring in new laws to protect the rights of people with mental health problems



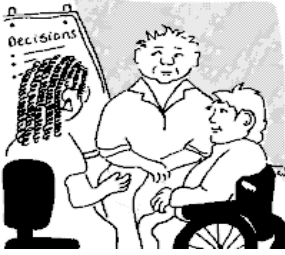
- make sure that more people can get their medicines free from the chemist



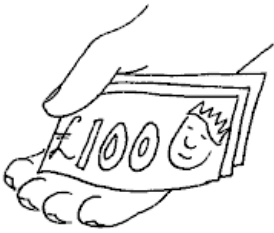
- test children when they are younger to find out if they have a disability, so they can get extra help as soon as possible



- give schools more help and support in working with disabled children
- give special schools more support
- have smaller classes for all children – so that all children get the teacher's attention



- give all students more choice in what they learn, so students with disabilities can choose to learn the things they really like and need



- spend more money on colleges and have more courses that help people to find jobs.

4. Giving disabled people a say



Disabled people still feel that they are not listened to. This means a lot of disabled people do not bother to vote in elections. We want to give disabled people more of a say.

We would:

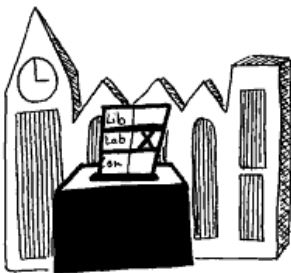
- make sure that blind people and other disabled people can get the information they need – this would mean making most government and local government information leaflets and booklets available in Braille, on tape or in easy read



- make sure that internet websites are easy to use and understand if you have a disability



- make sure more disabled people vote - the places where you go to vote need to be easier to get to and people need to know they can post their vote





- make sure more disabled people have a say when important decisions are made by helping and encouraging them to take part – getting disabled people to become members of the local council or be on the jury at a court case



- support information and advice services as well as advocacy services to help disabled people to have their say



- support groups such as the UK Disabled People's Parliament, which speaks out for the rights of all disabled people.

Thank you for reading our manifesto for people with a disability.

Thank you to Change Picture Bank for the images and to Mencap for making this easy read.

Published and promoted by Chris Rennard on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, both at 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB