# General Election - Key Messages to put to Candidates

**Help to make healthcare and physiotherapy an important issue in the election! Send a message or ask a question of your local candidate via social media or email. Use our facts and figures to help you make your point.**

## Funding

All parties should pledge to increase the amount spent on the NHS and social care.

The NHS faces real terms cuts. Average health budgets are set to rise by only 1% a year until 2020, less than healthcare costs will rise.

Spending on social care services for the elderly have fallen by 17% since 2009/10, while need for care has increased

The UK spends less per person on health than countries including Germany, France, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and Ireland. If they can afford to spend more, why can’t we?

Investing in physiotherapy can help reduce the long-term cost of health and social care. Physiotherapy gets people out of hospital and keeps them out of social care.

## #backingrehab

Local physiotherapy services help people reverse disability, reduce dependency and regain health following surgery, illness or injury.

We need to see investment in community rehabilitation to reduce costs for the NHS and social care.

57% of delayed transfers from hospital are due to lack of NHS community services being available.

1/3 people aged over 65 will have a fall. Physiotherapy led falls prevention saves the NHS £4 for each £1 invested.

Candidates can tweet their support for better access to community rehab by using #backingrehab.

## General practice physiotherapy

Physiotherapists can ease the pressure on GPs, improve patient access and save the taxpayer money:

1/5 GP appointments are MSK related.

Physiotherapists are; expert, cost effective, safe, insured, regulated and do not need medical supervision.

Using first contact physiotherapists saves around £75 an hour. compared to a GP seeing MSK patients.

## Workforce supply

We need at least 500 more chartered physiotherapists trained each year. The UK Government has promised 10,000 more AHP and nursing places, but is yet to ensure that the market delivers these.

We can’t afford to lose overseas physiotherapy staff due to Brexit or tougher visa rules.

Everyone has a role to play in expanding the workforce:

Governments must ensure enough physiotherapists are trained and retained.

Given the assurance of on-going public funding to support delivery of physiotherapy as a high-cost discipline, HEIs should expand courses.

Employers should invest in in service training and support practice base learning.

Physiotherapists must support students in practice based learning.

## Fair Pay

The public value NHS clinical staff and so should the Government by giving a fair pay rise:

Unfair pay shows the low value placed on treating patients.

NHS staff including physiotherapists have suffered real terms pay cuts of an average of 12.3% over the last six years.

Limiting NHS pay rises to 1% pa until 2020, when private sector pay is rising, risks a loss of trained staff.