



Work and Health - Manifesto 2024 brief

Key ask - Universal Access to Occupational Health

Universal Access will boost the UK's economy as it will reduce the number of people who are not in work due to ill health (this level has spiked by over 400k to over 2.6M since the pandemic).¹

A national Occupational Health strategy would cover:

Policy change

- Investment to support people stay and return to work, linking primary care with community assets, and work and pensions staff and occupational health in a tiered framework.
- Every local area to deliver a work and health strategy to strategically support people living with ill health return to work and stay in work.
- Reform of the fit note to support people quickly back to work through case note reviews and rapid access.

OH workforce

- An NHS workforce plan that builds a multidisciplinary occupational health workforce that can deliver occupational health advice across all workplaces.
- A National Director for Work and Health.
- Investment in NHS occupational health capacity to enable health and social care professionals to access the support they need to avoid sickness absence and work-related mental ill health.

Regulation for employers

- A requirement for larger organisations to invest in workplace health, including occupational health.

Investment in research

- A National Centre for Work and Health for evidence generation to inform employers.

¹ https://www.som.org.uk/sites/som.org.uk/files/SOM_Deep_Dive_Research-compressed.pdf