

Patron

Fiona Millar

Chair

David Chaytor MP

Secretary

Margaret Tulloch

Treasurer

Malcolm Horne

Gen Sec SEA

Seven action points to keep up the pressure

• **Sign the Comprehensive Future declaration**

Comprehensive Future was launched with the support of many local councillors, Labour MPs, Labour Group Leaders, academics and trade union leaders. We are working to maximise the number of Constituency Labour Parties supporting the *Comprehensive Future Declaration* (text overleaf). Has this been discussed at your monthly CLP or branch meeting? Please put this on the agenda at your next CLP. Please also copy and distribute the enclosed form and send your personal declaration in to *Comprehensive Future*.

• **Respond to the Big Conversation**

Please ensure that you respond as soon as possible to the Prime Minister's Big Conversation calling for an end to selection. You can phone 0870 590 0200, write or email from the web site www.bigconversation.org.uk If you can, please copy your response to *Comprehensive Future*.

• **Get your MP to sign Early Day Motion 409**

Over 100 Labour MPs have now signed up to Early Day Motion 409 calling for an end to selection by ability in England's secondary schools. Is yours one of them? Check the list overleaf. If not please phone, email or write *immediately* to your Member of Parliament asking them to sign EDM 409. If they are unwilling or ineligible to sign, ask them to state clearly if they support selective admissions policies in secondary schools and whether they think the current policy of ending selection only by local parental ballots is workable.

• **In Manchester on March 13th? Come to our fringe meeting**

Come to our fringe meeting *No Selection under a Labour Government?* at the Labour Party Spring Conference on Saturday 13th March, at 1.15pm in the French Room, Crowne Plaza Midland Hotel. Speakers: David Miliband MP, Minister for School Standards; Pauleen Lane, Deputy Leader Trafford; and Peter Clarke, Leader of Gloucestershire City Council.

• **Come to the Comprehensive Future conference, May 1st in Birmingham**

This is the one you must not miss. The first Conference of *Comprehensive Future* will be held in the Council House, Birmingham, on Saturday May 1st. Details of speakers and booking forms will be in the next mailing. To book now email the Secretary, Margaret Tulloch, at mtulloch@poptel.org or phone 020 8947 5758. This is a working conference designed to demonstrate clear support for an end to selection and to produce a workable alternative to current policy on ending selection to be proposed to the July National Policy Forum.

• **Respond to the just-published Labour education policy document**

The second stage of consultation on Labour education policy is now underway with publication of *The Best Education for All*. It can be downloaded from www.labour.org.uk/consultingonpolicydocuments The relevant section is 'Admissions and Selection' on page 8. Please respond by calling for a policy commitment to end selection to England's secondary schools by ability and aptitude. Consultation ends on May 14th. Following consideration of the document by the Education and Skills Policy Commission (see below), the revised document will be debated at the National Policy Forum in July.

• **Get in touch now with your policy making representatives**

This is essential if we are to win the argument at the July NPF meeting. A list of members of the Education and Skills Policy Commission and a list of CLP representatives on the Labour Party National Executive is overleaf.

Comprehensive
Future

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Government to end selection

In a move little publicised in England, the Government has announced the end of the 11-plus in Northern Ireland, following an extensive consultation. The Government accepted the key recommendation of the Post Primary Review Body, chaired by former ombudsman Gerry Burns, which was based on evidence collected by Tony Gallagher of Queens University. A new system without entry by selection will be implemented by 2008. *Comprehensive Future* will continue to press for similar bold action in England. If it's OK in Northern Ireland why not in England?

Comprehensive Future Declaration

I/We celebrate the achievement of over 30 years of comprehensive schools in delivering improvements in both pupil achievement and in participation in further and higher education.

I/We reject the assumption that general ability or specific aptitude is fixed or predetermined or that this can be definitively assessed by the age of transfer to secondary school. I am/We are concerned about the dangers of social exclusion and increasing inequalities between schools.

Wales and Scotland have successful comprehensive systems. I/We want the next Labour manifesto to be bold enough to make clear the virtues of a comprehensive system and promise to extend this system to England by ending all selection by ability and aptitude within the first two years of the next parliament.

Policy making representatives

All can be contacted c/o The Labour Party, 16 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP

Members of the National Executive from the Constituency Labour Parties

Ann Black, Shahid Malik, Tony Robinson, Mark Seddon, Ruth Turner and Christine Shawcroft.

Education and Skills Policy Commission

Government – Charles Clarke MP, Alan Johnson MP, Ivan Lewis MP.

NEC representatives – Cath Speight (Amicus-AEEU), Mary Turner (GMB), Jonny Reynolds (Youth representative).

National Policy Forum representatives – Simon Burgess, Jamie Hanley (CLPs), Parmjit Dhanda MP, and Marge Carey (USDAW).

'What progress it was in the 1960s when the comprehensive ended the division of children into successes and failures at the age of 11.' *(Tony Blair, October 2003)*

EDM 409 Admission Criteria

That this House notes the clear statement in the current School Admissions Code of Practice that 'Academic selection should never be used to decide entry into primary education'; celebrates the internationally recognised achievements of Britain's comprehensive primary schools; recognises that the National Curriculum applies equally to all pupils within primary and secondary schools; and calls on the Government, therefore, to ensure that the next edition of the Schools Admissions Code of Practice includes an equally clear statement that 'Academic selection should never be used to decide entry into secondary education'.

Mr David Chaytor
John Austin
Mr Harry Barnes
Andrew Bennett
Mr Joe Benton
Mr Roger Berry
Mr Harold Best
Mr Clive Betts
Kevin Brennan
Mr Ronnie Campbell
Mr Martin Caton
Mr Colin Challen
Mr Michael Clapham
Mr Tony Clarke
Harry Cohen
Mr Michael Connarty
Jeremy Corbyn
Tom Cox
Mrs Ann Cryer
John Cryer
Valerie Davey
Mr Ian Davidson
Mr Terry Davis
Mrs Janet Dean
Mr Andrew Dismore

Jim Dobbin
Mr Frank Dobson
Julia Drown
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody
Mr Huw Edwards
Mr Bill Etherington
Mr Mark Fisher
Paul Flynn
Mr Derek Foster
Dr Hywel Francis
Mr Neil Gerrard
Dr Ian Gibson
Jane Griffiths
Mr Win Griffiths
Patrick Hall
Mr David Heyes
Mr David Hinchliffe
Paul Holmes
Mr Kelvin Hopkins
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Eric Illsley
Glenda Jackson
Helen Jackson
Mr Brian Jenkins
Helen Jones

Lynne Jones
Mr Nigel Jones
Mr Piara S Khabra
Mr Peter Kilfoyle
Mr David Lepper
Mr Terry Lewis
Mr Tony Lloyd
Andrew Mackinlay
Alice Mahon
Mr Robert Marshall-Andrews
Chris McCafferty
John McDonnell
Mr Kevin McNamara
Mr Michael Meacher
Mr Alan Meale
Mr Austin Mitchell
Julie Morgan
Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Edward O'Hara
Diana Organ
Mr Colin Pickthall
Mr Peter L Pike
Mr Kerry Pollard
Mr Gordon Prentice

Mr Gwyn Prosser
Mr Ken Purchase
Mr Andy Reed
Mr Ernie Ross
Joan Ruddock
Mr Malcolm Savidge
Phil Sawford
Alan Simpson
Mr Marsha Singh
Mr Dennis Skinner
Llew Smith
Mr George Stevenson
David Taylor
Jon Trickett
Mr Paul Truswell
Mr Dennis Turner
Dr Rudi Vis
Joan Walley
Mr Robert N Wareing
Brian White
Dr Alan Whitehead
Mrs Betty Williams
Mr Mike Wood
David Wright
Derek Wyatt