
Campaigning for a change in Labour policy to bring about an end to selection at 11 both by ability and aptitude

Patrons

Fiona Millar
Lord Hunt of Kings
Heath

Chair

David Chaytor MP

Secretary

Margaret Tulloch

Treasurer

Malcolm Horne
Gen Sec SEA

Show your support for the ending of selection

• **Come to Birmingham on May 1st**

Enclosed is a booking form for this conference which is crucially important. Please book now and let other Labour Party people know about it. Phone or email for more forms. It is a working conference designed to demonstrate clear support for an end to selection at 11 and to produce a strategy and a workable alternative to current Labour policy. An excellent line-up of speakers will set the scene — Roy Hattersley, Lord Hunt, Professor Margaret Maden and Fiona Millar.

• **Respond to the Big Conversation**

Time and again Labour leaders at the Spring conference emphasised the importance attached by the leadership to the Big Conversation. You can phone 0870 590 0200, write or email from the web site www.bigconversation.org.uk Respond by calling for an end to selection.

• **Discuss and respond to the proposed Labour education policy**

The Best Education for All can be downloaded from www.labour.org.uk/consultingonpolicydocuments The relevant section is on page 8, 'Admissions and Selection'. Please respond to this document by calling for a policy commitment to end selection to England's secondary schools by ability and aptitude. Consultation ends on May 14th. Policy then will be debated at the National Policy Forum in July.

• **Sign up to the Comprehensive Future declaration (overleaf)**

Comprehensive Future wants to show the wide support for change in party policy on selection. Please copy and distribute this as widely as possible and put it on the agenda at your next CLP. Individuals and CLPs are signing up every day, so please send your personal declaration in to *Comprehensive Future*. See overleaf too for a report on our successful fringe at the Labour Party conference in Manchester.

• **Send a donation**

Meetings cost a lot of money! If you can, please send a donation, cheques payable to *Comprehensive Future*.

**Comprehensive
Future**

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Since 1983 the number of secondary pupils in grammar schools in England has risen from 117,147 pupils to 150,750 now, a rise from 3.1% to 4.6%.

Oral answer from Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Skills to Conservative MP Sir Teddy Taylor, Hansard 18th March 2004.

I'd vote to scrap the 11-plus, says education minister

David Miliband MP, Minister for School Standards, told the packed *Comprehensive Future* fringe meeting at the Spring Conference that, were he a parent, he would vote against the 11-plus examination in any local ballot.

Responding to criticism from delegates and local councillors about the fixing of the electorates for local ballots, he acknowledged that it was necessary to learn from the experience of parents in the several selective LEAs which had tried to launch the ballot procedure.

He added that it was essential, in any debate about the future organisation of secondary schools, that the Government struck the right balance between what was the clear responsibility of central government and what was legitimately an issue for local determination. He also spoke of the need to

raise standards in some areas which were 'comprehensive'.

Cllr Peter Clarke, Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, and Cllr Pauline Lane, Deputy Leader of Trafford MBC, both spoke of the damaging and divisive effect of selection in their local authorities. Cllr Clarke spoke of the ferocious abuse he had received when proposing a reorganisation of secondary schools in Gloucester where hundreds of children were bussed in and out of the city every day and local children prevented from attending their nearest school.

Cllr Lane spoke of the huge costs of secondary selection in respect of transport and the administration of the tests and the depressing effect of selection on the post-16 staying on rate in comparison to similar LEAs.

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.

Please sign and send to the address below

Signed..... Date

Print name

Address.....

Phone.....

Email

Constituency Labour Party

Are you signing individually or on behalf of your CLP or TU branch etc ?

Please send to: Comprehensive Future, PO Box 44327, London SW20 0WD