**General election 2019**

**Key issues for deaf children**

Deafness isn’t a learning disability, and with the right support, a deaf child can achieve as much as a hearing child. However, across England, deaf children on average are falling a whole grade behind their hearing peers in their GCSEs

Deaf children rely on specialist support from Teachers of the Deaf, a service provided by local authority specialist education services for deaf children. Since 2011, the number of qualified Teachers of the Deaf has fallen by 15%. We want the Government to address this by introducing a new bursary to train the next generation of Teachers of the Deaf.

Since 2014, over a third of local authorities have cut £6.6m from their budgets for specialist education services for deaf children. We campaign to make sure these vital services get the funding they need.

**There are over 45,000 deaf children across England**

Unemployment among deaf people is more than double that of hearing people. We’re launching a new campaign to improve careers support for deaf young people – will you support us?

Hearing aids don’t fully restore hearing, but are vital for thousands of deaf children to make the most of the hearing they have. Hearing aids are provided by children’s audiology services.

There are around 130 children’s audiology clinics across England. Just 22% of them have been inspected and accredited as a high-quality service. We need more services to become accredited so that parents can be sure that their child is getting a good service.

Every child has the right to develop language and communication. Many deaf children use technology called radio aids to help them hear conversations and take part in family life. We campaign to make sure local authorities provide radio aids for deaf pre-school children to use at home.

73% of local authorities in England say they provide radio aids for families to use at home. Can you help us make it 100%?

Take a look at our website to find your nearest group: [www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/local-support-groups/find-your-nearest-local-group/](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/local-support-groups/find-your-nearest-local-group/)