

Election Results – May 2016

ukactive Strategic Partner Group Briefing



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Overview:

On Thursday 5th of May, Britain went to the polls in the biggest set of elections before the next General Election in 2020. Notable results include:

- **Sadiq Khan has been elected as the Mayor of London.**
- **The Labour party has put in a strong performance in local elections winning 1,289 seats in total to the Conservative's 828 seats.**
- **In Scotland, the SNP had a decisive victory but failed to get a majority.**
- **Labour won the Welsh election comfortably, however Plaid Cymru and UKIP made significant gains.**

What these results mean for the Political Landscape and the future of the physical activity sector

Overall, the May local elections were won by Labour – but only just. Despite reclaiming London after eight years of Boris Johnson in charge, Labour failed to make any gains in Scotland and for the first time in history fell behind the Conservatives. As a barometer of public opinion, the results show Jeremy Corbyn has not been as roundly rejected by the electorate as many commentators predicted he would – but is not yet on course for a General Election victory in 2020.

Sadiq Khan, as well most parties in the devolved administrations, campaigned on strong public health platforms - many of which specifically made reference to physical activity. While the results don't shed much light on the prospects of who will be the next Prime Minister, its clear tackling physical inactivity and promoting public health remain high on the agenda.

London Mayoral elections

Results:

Sadiq Khan has been elected as Mayor of London, after beating the Conservative candidate Zac Goldsmith by a margin of 57% to 43%. This victory gave him the largest personal mandate of any politician in UK history, and ends eight years of Conservative control of City Hall.

About Sadiq Khan and key manifesto priorities:

Sadiq Khan is a British politician and solicitor who has been the Member of Parliament for Tooting since the 2005 general election. Ideologically, he lies on the moderate left of the party.

Khan campaigned on a pro-business platform, and aims to set up a 'Skills for London' programme which will ensure that Londoners are able to train and get the skills the UK economy needs, as well as enforcing regulations to make London a Living Wage City. He aims to build affordable homes,

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freeze TfL transport fares until 2020, improve the air quality in London, and promote initiatives to make cycling and walking safer in London.

Khan on health and physical activity:

Healthy living was a cornerstone of Khan's campaign which prioritised public health to a much greater extent compared to Zac Goldsmith's.

Improving public health:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles in hard-to-reach communities to tackle health inequalities.
- Developing a public health strategy focused around the promotion of **active lifestyles**, including sport, walking and cycling.
- Supporting those who want to shake off lifestyle risks.

Childhood obesity:

- **Tackling childhood obesity**, through **promoting active lifestyles** and challenging the spread of fast food shops in areas close to schools.

NHS:

- Campaign for extra powers to ensure greater access for Londoners to important services.

Cycling:

Sadiq aims to make cycling and walking safer and easier. He will continue with the momentum of the last two Mayors and:

- Continue the **Cycle Superhighway Programme** and focus on segregated provision.
- Prioritise Quietways – continuous cycling routes running through parks, alongside waterways and down quiet backstreets
- Review the Safer Junction Programmes to improve more of London's major accident blackspots.
- Deliver more cycle storage and parking.

London assembly:

Results:

Labour enjoyed electoral success in London, winning 12 seats, while the Tories now have eight having lost one to Labour. This means that Sadiq will work relatively unchallenged in the Assembly and has scope to fully implement his manifesto and achieve his election pledges.

London Assembly seats (25 in total):

- 12 seats Labour Party
- 8 seats Conservative Party

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- 2 seats Green Party
- 2 seats UK Independence Party
- 1 seats Liberal Democrats

English local government:

Results:

The Labour Party has put in a relatively strong performance in the English local elections, losing only eighteen seats to the Conservative's forty seven. Nationally, with results from 123 out of 124 contested councils now in, the Conservatives have 828 seats, and Labour, by contrast have 1,289 seats. Labour's candidates won in the three mayoral races across the country, with Marvin Rees winning in Bristol, Paul Dennett in Salford, and in Liverpool Joe Anderson has won a second term Mayor.

Scottish parliament:

Results:

The Scottish National Party (SNP) has won its third victory in the Scottish Parliament elections - but failed to secure enough for an overall majority. The SNP is the largest party with 63 seats, ahead of the Conservatives on 31 and Labour on 24. This is the first time in history that the Conservatives have beaten Labour in Scotland, and has been widely reported as a significant blow for Jeremy Corbyn.

Key SNP policies:

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon aims to create a "fair, equal and prosperous nation with opportunity for us all to grow and thrive". While Scottish independence is still a cornerstone of SNP policy, Sturgeon he aims to give Scotland's children a better start in life and more opportunities for the rest of their lives, as well as offering fresh ideas and greater investment in the health service and supporting small businesses and fair wages for staff.

SNP on health and physical activity:

Physical Activity and Sport:

- Implement the **Active Scotland Outcomes Framework** which sets out Scotland's ambitions for sport and physical activity and underpins our ambitions to get the nation more active.
- Working with Sport Scotland the SNP will **increase the number of Community Sports Hubs** to 200 by 2020, with greater targeting in areas of deprivation to make a positive impact on inequalities through sport and physical activity.
- The SNP has provided almost **£1 million** for the Scottish Association for Mental Health to **better promote the benefits that physical activity** can bring to both physical and mental health, and how this could inform a system of 'social prescribing' in the future.

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- The SNP will establish a **£300,000 Sporting Equality Fund** aimed at increasing the **participation**, engagement, and promotion of women in sport. They will also continue to work with sports' governing bodies to support efforts to end LGBTI discrimination in sport.
- They will increase the number of regional sports centres across Scotland for community and elite athlete use.

Child Health

- Develop a new 10-year Child and Adolescent Health and Well-being Strategy, covering both physical and mental well-being.
- The SNP's ambition is for Scotland to be the **first "Daily Mile" nation** with roll out to nurseries, schools, colleges, universities and workplaces across the country. Every school will be offered help to become a Daily Mile school.

Public Health

- The SNP will implement a **Diabetes Improvement Plan** which will better support **prevention** and early detection and improve structured education following diagnosis. They will create a new national outcome for diabetes to support progress in addressing Type 2 diabetes.

Apprenticeships

- Increase the number of Modern Apprenticeships to 30,000 a year by 2020 and provide free bus travel to all young people under 21 undertaking an apprenticeship.

Welsh assembly:

Results

Labour remains the largest party in Wales, winning 29 out of 60 seats, but was denied a majority as Plaid Cymru and UKIP both made notable gains.

Key Welsh Labour policies

Big pledges in the manifesto include childcare support for working parents, more money for schools, 100,000 all-age apprenticeships, tax cuts for small businesses, a new treatment fund for the NHS, and a "better deal" for people who need care in old age.

Welsh Labour on health and physical activity

- Focus on the **responsibility of individuals to look after themselves**, arguing that "everyone in Wales has a responsibility to look after their own health, supported by the NHS".
- For North Wales, Labour says it will start discussions with locals about the future of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.
- Prioritisation of mental health treatment, support and prevention services.

Welsh Labour on education

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- Labour is promising £100m extra to drive standards in schools, and to create 100,000 "all-age" apprenticeships.
- Pilot a new model of Community Learning Centres "providing extended services from 8am to 6pm with childcare, parenting support, family learning and community access to facilities built around the school day."
- Pilot of "**lunch and fun**" clubs at schools.

Northern Ireland assembly:

Results:

Little moved in the Northern Ireland assembly with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) winning 38 seats and Sinn Féin winning 28. Arlene Foster will continue to be first minister.

Key DUP policies:

Key policies in the DUP manifesto seek to increase spending on health by at least £1bn, work towards a single education system, work with the agricultural industry to implement recommendations arising from 'Going for Growth', and fully implement Fresh Start anti-paramilitary measures.

The DUP on health and physical activity:

- The DUP pledges to seek to increase spending on Health by at least £1 billion by the end of the next Assembly term.
- Encourage **active and healthy ageing**. The DUP will establish a Commission on Adult Care, and support to analysis of the challenges facing the system and to think radically about what changes must be made to safeguard it for future generations.