

Liberal Party Policy Statement



Fair and Humane Immigration Pathways for Working Families

The Liberal Party believes there should be a fair and open pathway for legitimate immigration and residence in this country. Those wishing to make our country their home should be able to apply without fear of delay or obstruction.

An open immigration policy should priorities those with links to the country and who can demonstrate their abilities to contribute to our communities, both materially and culturally.

Our country has a long history of welcoming and absorbing those arriving from abroad, be they the French Huguenots escaping religious persecution, Polish and now Ukrainian refugees escaping conflict, or Asian and Hong Kong citizens escaping social upheaval. All have contributed to making our nation what it is today.

Our immigration services have limited resources and as such irregular and unashamed economic migrants should not be entitled to monopolies the legitimate pathways to residence to the disadvantage of others who have applied patiently.

1. Principle

The Liberal Party believes in an immigration system that is fair, humane, and rooted in the fundamental principles of justice, equality and community cohesion. Migrants who contribute to our society — socially, economically, and through public service — deserve stability, dignity, and a clear pathway to settlement.

2. Context

Recent Government proposals to introduce a **15-year residency requirement** for permanent settlement, alongside uncertainty around the future of the **Health and Care Worker visa**, have created widespread fear among migrant families. These proposals disproportionately affect workers in essential sectors such as social care, health support, and local government services.

The policy risks destabilising key public services already facing staff shortages and threatens to uproot families who have built their lives, careers, and communities here in the UK.

3. Policy Position

A. Oppose Extended Residency Requirements

The Liberal Party **opposes any increase** to the current 5-year settlement route for skilled workers and key workers in the care sector.

We believe:

- The 5-year route is fair, internationally standard, and allows families to plan stable futures.
- A 15-year requirement is punitive, unnecessary, and harmful to families and communities.
- Migrants contributing consistently to the UK should not face decades of insecurity.

B. Protect the Health and Care Worker Visa Route

We call for:

- **Long-term security** of the care visa route beyond 2028.
- Clear Government commitments to maintain pathways for overseas care workers, who are essential to the UK's social care system.
- Protection against abrupt policy changes that could force long-settled workers to leave.

C. Recognise the Contributions of Migrant Workers

The Liberal Party champions the right of migrant workers to:

- Build families and establish themselves in the UK
- Access fair employment protections
- Live without fear of sudden rule changes
- Be treated with dignity and equality

Migrants working in critical sectors such as health care, social care and local government are essential to national stability and prosperity.

D. Support Family Stability

We oppose policies that:

- Separate families or force them to uproot
- Create instability for children born or raised in the UK
- Penalise families who have already invested financially and emotionally in building a life here

The Party believes all families deserve clarity, consistency, and a stable path to settlement.

4. Proposed Liberal Party Reforms

We propose the following reforms to ensure fairness and public confidence in the immigration system:

1. **Restore and safeguard the 5-year route to settlement** for skilled and essential workers.
2. **Legally guarantee visa stability**, preventing retroactive changes for families already living and working in the UK.
3. **Introduce a clear “Contribution Pathway”**, granting settlement after sustained employment, tax contributions, and good character.
4. **Strengthen protections for key workers**, particularly in the NHS, social care, and public sector roles.
5. **Ensure immigration rules are announced with ample notice**, with full impact assessments on families, public services, and local authorities.
6. **Create a Migrant Stability Impact Test**, requiring government proposals to consider effects on workforce shortages and community cohesion.

5. Commitment to Human Dignity

The Liberal Party reaffirms its commitment to:

- Championing migrant rights
- Upholding compassion in policymaking
- Supporting families who have made the UK their home
- Defending the integrity of essential public services
- Ensuring Britain remains an open, welcoming country rooted in fairness and respect

Councillor Joe Dunne

Liberal Party Councillor for Tuebrook Breckside Park ward

Printed and published by Steve Radford on behalf of the Liberal Party, 41
Sutton Street, Liverpool, L13 7EG