+++On the left at the top of the page are Breakthrough's contact details:

Breakthrough UK, The Kevin Hyett Suite, The Abraham Moss Centre, Crescent Road, Crumpsall, Manchester M8 5UF

Tel: 0161 234 3950

E-mail: admin@breakthrough-uk.co.uk

Website: www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk

To the right of the graphic is Breakthrough UK's logo, comprising of the words 'Breakthrough UK' in green and the words 'including disabled people' in grey below it. There is also a purple arrowed circle going clockwise from the letters 'ng' in 'including', under the 'B' to the 'th' in 'Breakthrough UK'

++'May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears'

Nelson Mandela

None of us see ourselves as simply disabled - there are all sorts of aspects to our identities - we are mums, dads, children, partners, workers and carers. That is why, at this defining moment in history, Breakthrough UK, a disabled persons led organisation, has drawn together some of the key issues facing our wide and varied communities that we would like politicians of all parties to answer to for the upcoming General Election on 8th June 2017. We are not a party political animal - our values are person-centred and our mission is to promote the rights, responsibilities and respect of disabled people. All disabled people.

There are 13 million disabled people in the UK - 21% of the population. We ask all disabled people, their friends, families and allies to register to vote by 22nd May - in person or using a postal vote – and to use their vote towards creating a better society, and to hold candidates to account on that vision.

The government is ourselves - those of us that will vote, and those of us that will not. Make sure your choices reflect your commitment to creating a society you can be proud of - ask your local candidates to share their vision on these issues.

(If any disabled people are struggling to place their vote or access their local candidates, contact us - we can help).

++1. Fairness

Photo of an excerpt from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The main title of the excerpt says 'Inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out by the Committee under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention'.

Every citizen of Great Britain deserves to be treated fairly.

Ask your candidate what will they do now and after Brexit to ensure

there is no reversal and no watering down of our proud tradition of human rights, and

remain committed to fairness, dignity, respect and independence - regardless of where disabled people are from, what we believe or how we choose to live our lives?

++2. Care

Photo of a graph called 'How the cuts are targeted', which explains the cuts in care of various people. There are 4 large grey arrows pointing down, each with an amount in pounds. From left to right they are £467, £2195, £4410 and £8832. Below these, there are 4 men figures in light grey, blue, red and black, representing from left to right: Most citizens, People in poverty, Disabled People and Disabled People in Highest Need.

Women can bear the brunt of the crisis in social care – policies like the 'rape clause' in welfare reform are abhorrent and have no place in a civilized society.

Ask your candidate what they will do to

ensure a minimal level of well-being and social support for disabled women and men without current means to support their basic needs,

tackle the increasing poverty and isolation of many disabled people, and

the wide scale 'warehousing' of disabled people forced into care homes where abuse, torture and inhumane treatment is allowed to go unrecognised by bureaucratic cover ups?

++3. Health

Photo of the details of a 'Learning Disabilities: Share and Learn Webinar' by NHS England, with a female nurse on the left smiling. The webinar is about 'Reducing Inappropriate Psychotropic Drugs in People with a Learning Disability in General Practice and Hospitals in 2016'. Three people will be in this: David Branford & Ben Briggs from the Learning Disability Programme and Carl Shaw who is a Learning Disability Advisor.

The UK's National Health Service is one of the best health care systems in the world for health outcomes and value for money, outperforming most other global systems. It is a democratic service offering universal health care to all. It addresses health inequality like no other health service. Disabled people have access to good quality medical treatment according to need, not according to their ability to pay.

Ask your candidate what will they do to reverse the eroding of our NHS, basic health care rights and dignity of all disabled people?

++4. Prejudice

Photo of a group of words at right angles and in different sizes, all of them representing prejudice. These words include 'Discrimination', 'Prejudice', 'Bias', 'Race', 'Difference', 'Exclude', 'Right' and 'Disability'.

Attitudes towards disabled people are hardening and experience of crime remains higher for disabled people than non disabled people. Similarly, over a third of BAME people have witnessed or experienced racial abuse in the seven months following the referendum vote. Anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim sentiment and attacks have been at an all time high. All types of hate crime, harassment and hostility have increased year on year whilst criminal justice and other responses have been all too slow to recognise and respond effectively.

Ask your candidate what will they do to ensure zero tolerance towards all identity based violence and make sure that both the criminal justice system and the law are effective in providing all citizens equal protection from rising tides of prejudice?

 ++5. Education

Photo of a group of words at right angles and in different sizes, all representing education. These words include 'Education', 'Culture', 'Resources', 'Effective', 'Use', 'Movement', 'Learning', 'Open' and 'Sharing'.

Inclusive education should be a bedrock of any society. Disablist, racist, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying has become widespread in schools . Xenophobic, anti-Muslim and racist bullying are on the increase. Celebrating different families and tackling all kinds of bullying is crucial to making all children feel welcome, and enabling them to learn and accept others for who they are.

Ask your candidate how they will ensure the conditions for all to learn and develop are present in our educational institutions, tackling disadvantage and discrimination that prevent people reaching their full potential?

++6. Access

Photo of a wheelchair user next to a playground, with a young lad on a swing. There is text next to the wheelchair user saying 'I wish there was a playground for me.'

An inclusive society???

For disabled people, many workplaces and leisure facilities are inaccessible, there is very little choice of where to live and the public spaces through which people need to move can be full of barriers.

Ask your candidate what they will commit to doing to address these unacceptable standards of quality of life and inequality?

++7. Citizenship

First image has text on the left saying 'Children in families including a disabled person are almost twice as likely to live in poverty'. On the right are four people, three in grey and one in purple. The far right person is a wheelchair user. Bottom right is the text '#Worktogether'.

Second image has text on the left saying 'Disabled people are 4 times more likely to be out of work than non-disabled people'. On the right are two groups of people, two in purple and eight in green. Bottom right is the text '#Worktogether'.

Ask your candidate how they will ensure that every disabled citizen has equal access to the cornerstones of full citizenship - including a right to life, justice, welfare and employment regardless of wealth or background - and how disadvantage and discrimination and the widening of the gap between rich and poor will be eradicated?

++8. Participation

Photo of a blue cube with the text 'Access to Politics for Disabled People in Scotland' on the front of it. There is a small cross in the bottom left of the cube.

Ask your candidate how would they go about redressing this imbalance in the lifetime of their office?

[Ends]