

Programme for Government

Priorities in redesigning Diabetes Services 2011 - 2015



..diagnose early, treat effectively
and provide education to
support self-management..

Redesigning Diabetes Services

Diabetes is a complex condition which can impact on the heart, kidneys, eyes, hands and feet.

Diabetes is one of the biggest health challenges facing us today. If we are to curb this growing crisis and see a reduction in the number of people dying from diabetes and its complications, we need to increase awareness of the risks, bring about wholesale changes in lifestyle, improve self-management among people with diabetes and improve access to integrated diabetes care services.

Any Diabetes diagnosis is serious but Type 1 and Type 2 are the most common. Over **70,000 people** are currently diagnosed with Diabetes in Northern Ireland and diabetes treatment and care was estimated in a 2010 Assembly research paper to cost the Health Service here over **£1,000,000 per day**. This represents a huge financial impact – almost **£400 million each year**.

The numbers of people diagnosed is growing year on year. In the years 2006 – 2010 the number of people diagnosed with Type 1 or Type 2 **rose by 34%**, an additional 17,000 people, which equates to almost 1,000 people in every Assembly constituency in four years.

Diabetes UK campaigns for more action to prevent Type 2 diabetes and complications arising from all types of Diabetes. We

know a healthy diet and moderate exercise can reduce the risk of Type 2 Diabetes by as much as 60 per cent.

Diabetes is more prevalent in poorer communities and involves increased risk of an early death.

Do you know how well diabetes care is delivered in your constituency?

In what ways can you support the best use of the knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals, and the most effective use of today's available medications and technologies, to stem the growth of diabetes?

**Invest Now....
to save now**

We already know that well controlled Type 1 Diabetes can reduce the risk of developing complications by three quarters. Yet **up to 70%** of patients with diabetes currently die within 5 years of having an amputation. One diabetes-related amputation is carried out here each week. Diabetes remains the leading cause of blindness in people of working age.

Diabetes UK asks new MLAs and Councillors to support:

- The early publication of an updated Diabetes Strategy by DHSSPS to be funded by Commissioning Groups and delivered by Diabetes Managed Clinical Networks in each Trust from 2012.
- Directed access to Structured Diabetes Education for people newly diagnosed and regular reinforcement sessions delivered in Primary Care supporting self management;
- Mainstreaming of current pilot programmes on pre pregnancy care and the structured patient education programmes provided for children and adolescents from 2013 onwards;
- Integrated Diabetes Care Pathways in all Health and Social Care Trusts involving GP practices, Diabetes Specialist Nurses and Allied Health Care professionals working with Acute Hospital specialists maximising outcomes for people living with Diabetes.
- Access to specialist training in Diabetes for professional staff in Primary and Community Care with an accelerated programme of Insulin Pump provision for adults and children as proposed by the All-Party Group on Diabetes in the last Assembly.
- Ensure that all services commissioned are evidence-based, safe and of high quality, and deliver improved outcomes for people with diabetes;
- A policy of active and aggressive interventions to prevent the onset of Type 2 Diabetes and prevent or delay complications in people already diagnosed with Diabetes;
- Commissioners directing Trusts to produce a real increase in the levels of emotional and psychological support services available for people with diabetes;



The development and implementation of these policies would make a crucial difference to the treatment, care and support of the thousands of people with diabetes, not only in your constituency but across Northern Ireland, and we hope we can rely on your support to do this in the months and years ahead..

Diabetes UK Northern Ireland is the leading charity for people living with Diabetes, their family, friends and carers. Our mission as part of Diabetes UK is to improve the lives of people with diabetes here and work towards a future without diabetes. We do this by funding research, campaigning and supporting people living with diabetes – 3.8 million across the UK.

Diabetes will be a major issue for the new Assembly and new Councils. It extends beyond Health: to Education; Employment; Culture, Arts and Leisure, Agriculture and Food; the Environment, planning and transport. Diabetes costs in premature death, reduced quality of life and early retirement from work for many, and incidence in children is increasing. We need action.



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