

NORTHERN IRELAND MANIFESTO 2027

Ending the harm caused by diabetes in Northern Ireland











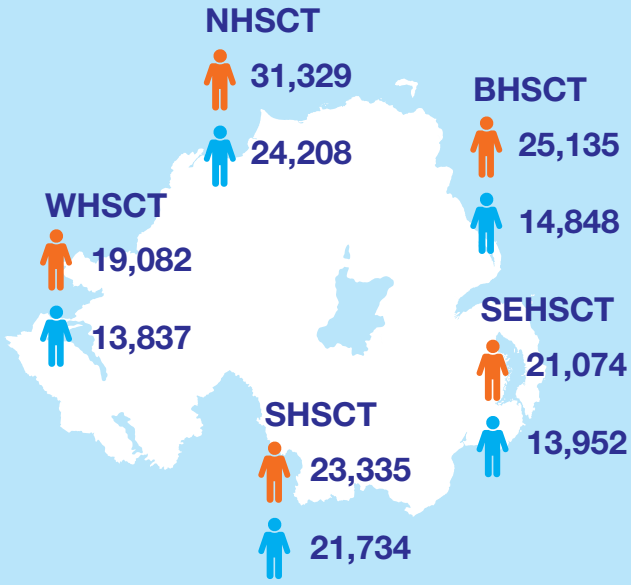
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DIABETES IN NI

119,955 people living with diabetes

88,579 people living with prediabetes

*Figures displayed are Raw Disease Prevalance rates May 2026

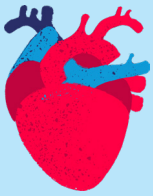


Diabetes continues to rise year on year in Northern Ireland, and more people are being diagnosed with prediabetes.

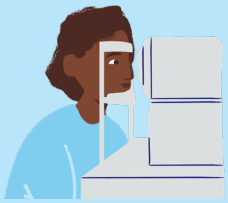
Ever increasing numbers of people experience the impact of serious, life-changing complications including:



AMPUTATIONS



HEART DISEASE



SIGHT LOSS



KIDNEY DISEASE



£1 MILLION PER DAY

spent on diabetes care and its complications in NI = £365 million annually

Diabetes is serious, but much of the harm it causes **can be prevented.**

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ENDING THE HARM CAUSED BY DIABETES

Our Ambitions

Northern Ireland has an opportunity to reduce the impact of diabetes on people's lives and reduce pressures on our health services.

Our ambition is a healthier future for everyone affected by diabetes in Northern Ireland: improved health outcomes, reduced complications and more people supported to live well with diabetes.

The next Northern Ireland Executive must place **prevention, early intervention** and **long-term diabetes planning** at the heart of healthcare policy and reform.

Our Calls to Action

Diabetes UK Northern Ireland is calling on all political parties to commit to five actions to end the harm caused by diabetes.



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INVEST IN DIABETES PREVENTION

Stemming the rise of type 2 diabetes starts with prevention.

With early diagnosis and the right support, prediabetes can be reversed and and type 2 diabetes may be placed in remission.

We are calling for investment in prevention, early detection and early intervention to improve population health and ease pressure on health and social care services.

Type 2 diabetes is one of Northern Ireland's most preventable health conditions.

How to make it happen:

- A regional approach to type 2 diabetes prevention.
- Greater access to evidence-based prevention support.
- Greater access to remission support, helping more people avoid or delay the onset of diabetes.
- Action to create healthier food environments, making healthy choices easier and supporting communites most at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- Stronger community, voluntary and neighbourhood-based support, helping more people aviod or delay the onset of diabetes.

What success looks like:

- ✔ Fewer people develop type 2 diabetes.
- ✔ Healthier communities across Northern Ireland.
- ✔ Reduced pressure on health and social care services.

DINO'S STORY



I'm in my fifties and my blood sugar levels had just gone into the prediabetes range. My GP suggested I go on the Diabetes Prevention Programme run by my local Health Trust. My grandfather and my father had type 2 diabetes. Both had significant complications because of it and died prematurely. I know I don't want that for me. If my son has grandchildren, I want to be healthy enough to enjoy them

Initially, you're a bit dubious about the course - you think it's just another health service tick box. But the course was so valuable that I didn't miss one session. Even when I was abroad, I'd dial in. It helps you shift your mindset around diet and exercise, and what causes the condition, so you understand. You also get a chance to chat with other people with similar stories.

It hasn't been an easy journey. You have emotional ups and downs. Some days you struggle, but I didn't lose heart. Although I've reversed my prediabetes, I know it's easy to go back to old habits, but I continue to use an app on my phone to monitor my steps and food intake, and I get my bloods checked regularly at my GP.

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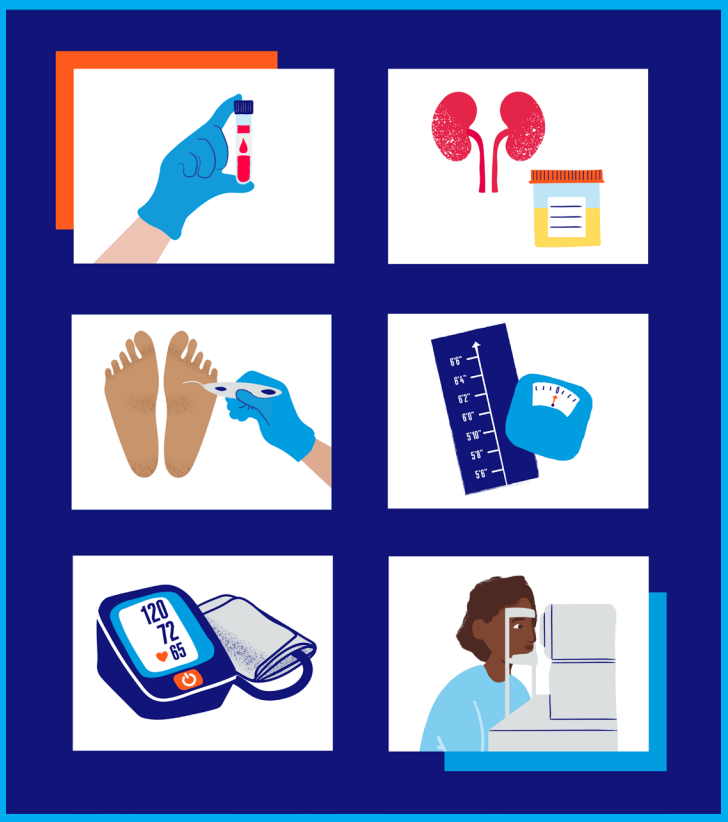
DELIVER EARLIER DIAGNOSIS

Early diagnosis improves outcomes. Early support to manage diabetes changes lives.

When diabetes is identified early, people can access treatment, education and support sooner, reducing the risk of life-changing complications such as heart disease, kidney disease, sight loss and amputations.

For those with type 1 diabetes, innovations in immunotherapy treatment could mean delaying onset for up to 3 years. This is often diagnosed in childhood so could make a big difference to young people's lives.

Everyone diagnosed with diabetes and prediabetes should receive the information, support and care they need from day one.



How to make it happen:

- Earlier identification and diagnosis of all types of diabetes, ensuring people can access support, treatment and interventions before complications develop.
- Greater access to remission support, helping more people avoid or delay the onset of diabetes.
- Action to create healthier food environments, making healthy choices easier and supporting communities most at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- Stronger community, voluntary and neighbourhood-based support, helping more people avoid or delay the onset of diabetes.

What success looks like:

- ✔ More people diagnosed earlier and receive timely support to reduce health impact.
- ✔ More people empowered to manage their condition and live well.
- ✔ Reduced pressure on health and social care services.

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TACKLE INEQUALITIES

People living in areas of higher deprivation are more likely to be affected by diabetes and more likely to experience poorer outcomes.

Inequalities affect access to healthcare, education, technology and support.

No one should experience poorer diabetes outcomes because of where they live, their background or their circumstances.

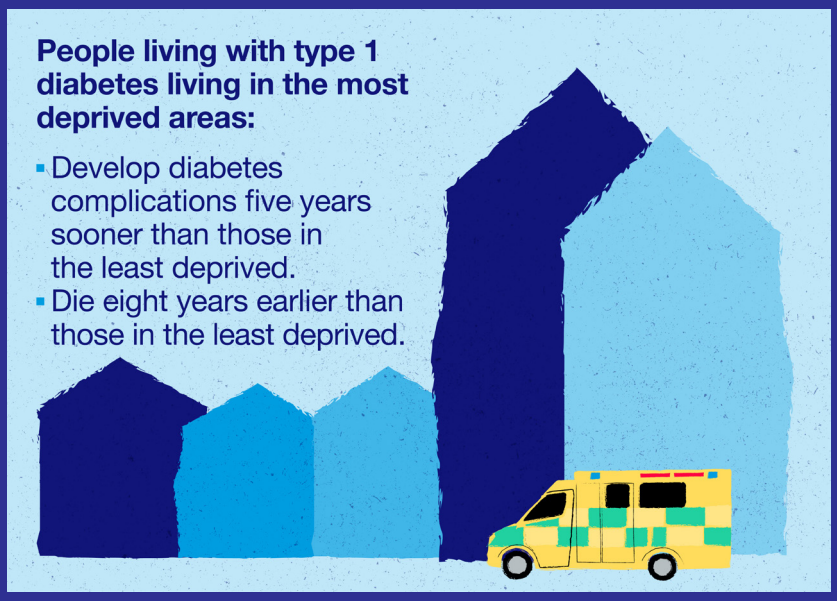
Tackling inequality must be central to improving diabetes care in Northern Ireland.

How to make it happen:

- Fair and equitable access to diabetes care, treatment and support for everyone, anywhere in Northern Ireland.
- Expanded access to education and support through face-to-face, digital and community-based support and education.
- Investment in stronger neighbourhood-based care through community pharmacy and VCSE to support prevention, early intervention and diabetes management.
- Consistent support pathways ensuring everyone diagnosed with diabetes or prediabetes can access the information, care and support they need.

What success looks like:

✔ Everyone affected by diabetes in Northern Ireland can access the support they need to **live well** regardless of postcode, income or circumstance.



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ACCELERATE INNOVATION AND HARNESS DATA

People in Northern Ireland are missing out on new, life-changing diabetes treatment and technology. Innovation in treatments and technology is transforming the lives of people affected by diabetes. Technology such as continuous glucose monitoring and hybrid closed-loop systems are improving outcomes and quality of life. These need to be made available to all who are eligible in Northern Ireland without delay.

At the same time, robust data is essential to understand patient need, identify inequalities, improve services and ensure health service resources are targeted where they are needed most.

Northern Ireland must not be left behind on innovative treatment.

How to make it happen:

- Equitable access to life-changing diabetes technologies, so that everyone in Northern Ireland who can benefit from innovation has the opportunity to do so.
- Continued investment in innovation and digital solutions, improving diabetes care, self-management and health outcomes for people living with diabetes.
- A fully integrated regional diabetes audit providing the evidence base needed to improve services, measure progress and reduce inequalities.
- Better integration, sharing and transparency of data across health and social care, enabling more joined-up care, informed decision-making and future planning.

What success looks like:

- ✔ People experience better health outcomes,
- ✔ Health care professionals have better information to support patient care
- ✔ Decision-makers have the evidence needed to improve services and reduce inequalities.

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SECURE THE FUTURE OF DIABETES CARE

Northern Ireland needs a clear, funded and accountable plan that embeds diabetes within wider health and social care reform and a neighbourhood model of care.

Diabetes care has progressed over the past 10 years – however, it requires a new strategic approach to sustain this progress.

We cannot risk diabetes care stalling at a time when diabetes continues to rise and health services face increasing pressure.

People affected by diabetes need confidence that improving diabetes care remains a long-term priority in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland needs a fully funded, long-term successor to the Diabetes Strategic Framework to:

- Deliver sustained improvements in diabetes prevention, care and outcomes
- Ensure a long-term commitment to making diabetes a health priority(ending October 2026) to deliver sustained improvements in prevention, care and outcomes
- Embed diabetes care within health service reform and neighbourhood care planning
- Ensure clear ownership, accountability, leadership and partnership working to achieve improvements for people affected by diabetes
- Underpin all service delivery and improvement with robust monitoring and data reporting to measure and evaluate progress and drive change.

What success looks like:

- ✔ A clear, long-term strategy that monitors and delivers measurable improvements in prevention, care, outcomes and quality of life for everyone affected by diabetes.

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WHY ACTION MATTERS

The next Northern Ireland Executive has an opportunity to transform lives.

Without action, diabetes prevalence will continue to rise, more people will be impacted by devastating, life-changing complications and pressure on our health and social care services will continue to grow.

Type 2 diabetes is one of Northern Ireland's most preventable health conditions – real change is achievable in the next Assembly mandate.

Diabetes care presents a measurable opportunity for Northern Ireland to demonstrate the value of investing in prevention, early intervention and community based care and to reduce pressures on health services. We believe the outcome can be truly transformative: improved population health and reduced costs to the Northern Ireland health service.

Together, we can build a future where fewer people develop diabetes, where everyone affected by diabetes receives the support they need, and where every person has the opportunity to live well.

DIABETES IS SERIOUS.
ACTION CANNOT WAIT.

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ENDING THE HARM CAUSED BY DIABETES

I pledge to:

- ✔ Invest in diabetes prevention
- ✔ Deliver earlier diabetes diagnosis
- ✔ Tackle inequalities to make sure everyone affected by diabetes is supported
- ✔ Accelerate access to life-changing technology and data
- ✔ Ensure diabetes is a long term health priority

Name:

Political party/ constituency:

Signature:

Date:

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Stay in touch with the local team using the details below.

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