
A Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2021-2031



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Cancer Strategy 2021-2031 Consultation Document

Introduction

1. We would welcome your views on the draft Strategy to improve outcomes in cancer services in Northern Ireland.

Background

2. The publication of a 10 year Cancer Strategy is identified as an immediate priority of the Northern Ireland Executive in New Decade, New Approach (NDNA).
3. The advent of the global COVID-19 pandemic have also changed the picture of cancer services in Northern Ireland. The possibilities offered by new and novel technological solutions, as embraced during the pandemic, to enhance access and choice and improve outcomes are also a key focus of the draft Strategy.
4. The Cancer Recovery Plan published on the 24th June 2021 by the Health Minister, Robin Swann MLA, not only addresses immediate service improvement requirements but also acts as precursor to the new Strategy.
5. The draft consultation strategy has a central vision to ensure that everyone in Northern Ireland, wherever they live, has equitable and timely access to the most effective, evidence-based referral, diagnosis, treatment, support and person centred cancer care.
6. Our aim is to have a world class service which is based on improving outcomes for everyone diagnosed with cancer.

Purpose

7. The draft Strategy sets out 67 high-level recommendations over 4 themes to take forward significant strategic change over the next decade. These are:
 - a. Preventing Cancer
 - b. Diagnosing and Treating Cancer

- c. Supporting People to Live Well and Die Well
- d. Implementing the Strategy

Co-production

8. The Strategy was co-produced over a period of 26 months, with extensive input and direction from a wide range of stakeholders. This was due to the pandemic and development was suspended for a total of 7 months. Stakeholders included those with lived experience, carers, community and voluntary organisations, academics, health professionals and their representative bodies, Health and Social Care organisations, politicians and governmental departments.
9. We have sought to consult and engage as broadly as possible during the development of this draft Cancer Strategy. Social distancing constraints associated with COVID-19 meant that during the pandemic our usual methods of co-production, such as face to face meetings, focus groups and engagement events, were not possible, therefore co-production was taken forward via virtual means.

Steering Group and Subgroups

10. A steering group was established to support the Department in developing the draft strategy, and provide policy advice on the key themes. In addition there were 7 sub-groups: Prevention; Diagnosis; Treatment, Care & Support; Living Well; Palliative Care and End of Life Support; Children & Young People. The subgroups covered all aspects of the cancer journey and were made up of individuals with lived experience, representatives from statutory health and social care, the voluntary and community sector, academia and professional bodies.
11. A series of pre-consultation events with key groups of stakeholder including people with lived experience of cancer, parents of children with cancer, cancer charities, professional bodies, trade unions, NICaN also provided early feedback on the sub-group's contributions.

Virtual Stakeholder Engagement Events

12. Several stakeholder engagement events took place in May 2019 and January 2020, these attracted high numbers of attendees.
13. The first event provided initiation of the strategy/co-production event with key stakeholders to agree methodology and scope and the opportunity to contribute to the policy development process from the beginning. Input was sought on the important elements for inclusion in the draft vision and founding principles, and key issues that should be addressed under 7 key, headline themes. The feedback and input received was of very high quality, and directly informed the development of the vision included in the draft Strategy, and the work of the 7 sub-groups.
14. The second event in January 2020 was opened by The Health Minister and provided an opportunity for the Department to present an early draft vision, and the sub-groups to present on the key areas covered in their policy advice papers. Feedback received was positive and extremely useful to development of the draft Strategy for consultation.
15. Ongoing meetings and discussions with stakeholders took place and focused on particular points raised during the Strategy development process.

Funding of the Strategy

16. The draft Strategy does not include indicative costings, however it should be noted that the recovery plan which accounts for around 70% of the 1st 3 years strategy recommendations has been costed, with an ongoing rolling implementation plan.
17. It is important to note the timescales and costs outlined in the implementation plan, when published, will be indicative and will require further prioritisation, workforce mapping and planning to ensure delivery. The investment required is in addition to existing expenditure in cancer services, and is dependent on

new funding becoming available to be effective the majority of this funding needs to be recurrent. Any investment in cancer services will have to be balanced against other service priorities and in the context of the Department's financial settlements, and this will determine the rate at which new investments are made.

Implementation of the Cancer Strategy

18. The implementation of the Cancer Strategy will be a significant project and will span over the full 10 year life span. The implementation will be inclusive and cross sectoral and will draw on existing co-production structures.

Impact assessments

19. A number of impact assessment screenings have been completed, and the outcome of these is available in **Annex A** of this document. The full screening documents are also available as part of the suite of consultation documents.

How to Respond

20. We are seeking views on the draft Cancer Strategy, and invite written responses by no later than Wed 20th October 2021.

21. You can respond online by accessing the consultation documents on the Northern Ireland Government Citizen Space website and completing the online survey there using the link below:

[Consultation on the Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2021-2031 - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

22. We would prefer responses using Citizen Space, however, if you wish to send an email or hard copy of your response please send it to:

Department of Health
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Cancer.Strategy.2020@health-ni.gov.uk

23. The full set of consultation questions are provided in Annex B to this consultation document.

24. When you reply, it would be very useful if you could confirm whether you are replying as an individual or submitting an official response on behalf of an organisation. If you are replying on behalf of an organisation, please include:

- your name;
- your position (if applicable);
- the name of your organisation;
- an address (including postcode); and
- an e-mail address.

25. If you have any queries, or wish to request a copy of the draft Strategy in an alternate format, please contact the Department using the email address below to make your request:

Cancer.Strategy.2020@health-ni.gov.uk

Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses

26. We will publish a summary of the consultation responses and, in some cases, the responses themselves but these will not contain any personal data. We will not publish the names or contact details of respondents, but will include the names of organisations responding.

27. For further information on how we will process data and your rights, see the Cancer Strategy Consultation Privacy Notice at **Annex C**.

What Happens Next

A number of virtual engagement events will be held during the consultation period. Information on these events will be published on the Department of Health website and will be distributed through the [Department of Health Twitter page](#).

Following the close of the consultation on Wed 20th October 2021, all responses and feedback will be collated for review by the Department of Health, and a consultation report will be produced. The consultation report will be published alongside the final strategy and implementation plan.

Annex A: Impact Screening Outcomes

Full impact assessment screening documents are available as part of the full suite of consultation documents, and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cancer-strategy-northern-ireland-2021-2031>

A summary of the outcome of each is provided in the table below:

Impact Assessment Screening	Outcome
Equality/Human Rights	No significant impact identified or is not possible to quantify at this stage – full impact assessment not required
Regulatory	No significant impact identified or is not possible to quantify at this stage – full impact assessment not required
Rural	No significant impact identified or is not possible to quantify at this stage – full impact assessment not required

Annex B: Consultation Response Form

I am responding:

(please tick one option)

As an individual

As a health and social care professional

On behalf of an organisation

About you or your organisation:

Name (optional):

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Job Title:

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Organisation:

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Address:

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Tel:

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E-mail:

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If replying as an individual, please indicate if you do not wish for your identity to be made public.

Consultation Questions

Number	Question
<i>Strategic priorities</i>	
1	<p>Do you agree that the strategy has identified the correct strategic priorities?</p> <p>Yes/No</p> <p>Do you have any further comments?</p>
<i>Theme 1: Prevention</i>	
2	<p>Do you agree that these recommendations will reduce the number of preventable cancers in NI?</p> <p>Yes/No</p> <p>Do you have any further comments?</p>
<i>Theme 2: Diagnosis and Treatment</i>	
3	<p>Do you agree that these recommendations will improve outcomes for people living with cancer?</p> <p>Yes/No</p> <p>Do you have any further comments?</p>
<i>Theme 3: Supporting People</i>	
4	<p>Do you agree that these recommendations will deliver person centred care?</p> <p>Yes/No</p> <p>Do you have any further comments?</p>
<i>Theme 4: Implementation</i>	

5	Do you agree that these recommendations will enable delivery of the 10 year strategy? Yes/No Do you have any further comments?
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Annex C: Cancer Strategy Privacy Notice

Data Controller Name: Department of Health (DoH)
Address: Castle Buildings, Stormont, BELFAST, BT4 3SG
Email: Cancer.Strategy.2020@health-ni.gov.uk
Telephone: 02890523311

Data Protection Officer Name: Charlene McQuillan
Telephone: 02890522353
Email: DPO@health-ni.gov.uk

Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals about how we may use personal data is a key element of the [Data Protection Act \(DPA\)](#) and the [EU General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR). The Department of Health (DoH) is committed to building trust and confidence in our ability to process your personal information and protect your privacy.

Purpose for processing

The Department of Health has developed a draft 10 year cancer strategy which is published for public consultation. We are encouraging organisations and institutions to respond but also people with lived experience and carers. We will process personal data provided in response to consultations for the purpose of informing the strategy. We will publish a summary of the consultation responses and, in some cases, the responses themselves but these will not contain any personal data. We will not publish the names or contact details of respondents, but will include the names of organisations responding.

Lawful basis for processing

The lawful basis we are relying on to process your personal data is Article 6(1) (e) of the GDPR, which allows us to process personal data when this is necessary for the performance of our public tasks in our capacity as a Government Department.

We will only process any special category personal data you provide, which reveals racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious belief, health or sexual life/orientation when it is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest under Article 9(2)(g) of the GDPR, in the exercise of the function of the department, and to monitor equality.

How will your information be used and shared

We process the information internally for the above stated purpose. We don't intend to share your personal data with any third party. Any specific requests from a third party for us to share your personal data with them will be dealt with in accordance the provisions of the data protection laws.

How long will we keep your information

We will retain consultation response information until our work on the subject matter of the consultation is complete, and in line with the Department's approved Retention and Disposal Schedule [Good Management, Good Records](#) (GMGR).

What are your rights?

- You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being [processed, and access to your personal data](#)
- You are entitled to have personal data [rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete](#)
- You have a right to have personal data [erased and to prevent processing](#), in specific circumstances
- You have the right [to 'block' or suppress processing](#) of personal data, in specific circumstances
- You have the right to [data portability](#), in specific circumstances
- **You have the right to [object to the processing](#)**, in specific circumstances
- **You have rights in relation to [automated decision making and profiling](#)**.

How to complain if you are not happy with how we process your personal information

If you wish to request access, object or raise a complaint about how we have handled your data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer using the details above.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are not processing your personal data in accordance with the law, you can complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
casework@ico.org.uk