



NORTHERN IRELAND CONFEDERATION
FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



Building on progress

Rising to the challenge

NICON Election Briefing

Areas for Action for Health and Social
Care in Northern Ireland 2011-2015





Areas for Action for Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland 2011 - 2015

Building on Progress

The Northern Ireland 2011 assembly elections present an important opportunity to consider how we address the greatest financial challenge in a generation. We must face these issues with honesty and realism. Led by our elected representatives, supported by our professionals and working with the public we must make bold choices, to address the health, social care and wellbeing challenges, which are right for our citizens now and their children to come.

In this paper we seek to raise awareness and understanding, generate wider debate, and promote the pursuit of practical solutions to ensure an affordable, sustainable healthcare system of which we can all be proud.

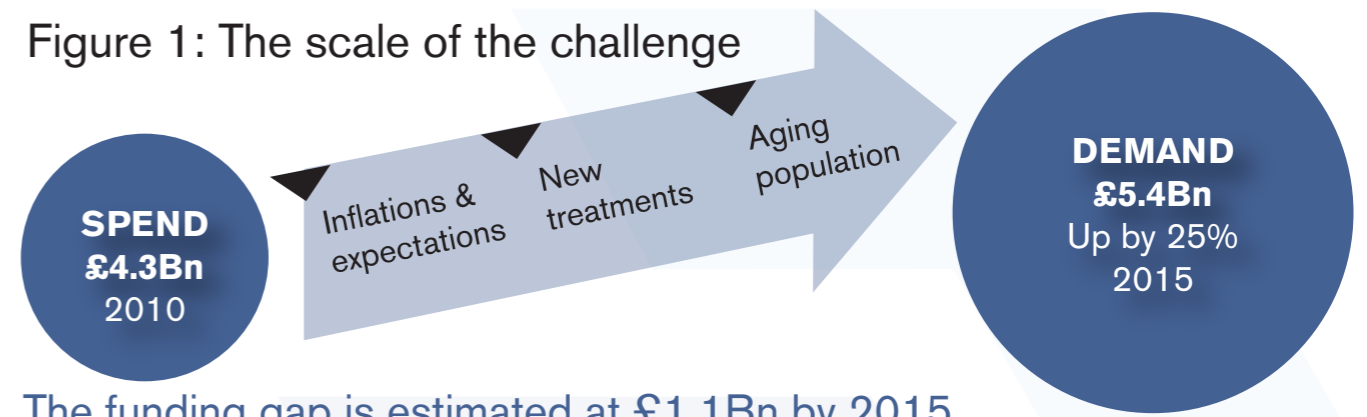
Our population is healthier than it has ever been and we are building on significant progress in the last four years;

- People now live considerably longer, 76 for males and 81 for females
- Increased investment in health and social care by 16% from £3.6Bn to £4.3Bn, a 5% increase in real terms
- Dealt with a 20% higher level of demand
- Secured the best cancer survival rates in the UK
- Significantly reduced the time people wait for treatment and care
- Improved ambulance response times to 999 calls by 30%
- Dealt with swine flu – the first pandemic in 40 years
- Provided an extra 500 social workers
- Implemented the RPA, reducing management costs to on average 3.2% (Below the 3.6%UK average)
- Delivered efficiencies in excess of 9% across delivery bodies (£344M recurrent savings)

We cannot rest on these achievements. We continue to face significant health inequalities and many people still suffer from conditions which can be prevented. Furthermore the need for services continues to grow at an unprecedented pace as our population grows and ages, expectations rise and we find new ways to treat people.

Experts estimate that the demand for resources, if we continue with our existing model of care, will rise by 25% in just four years from £4.3Bn now to £5.4Bn.¹ Figure 1 summarises the scale of the challenge.

Figure 1: The scale of the challenge



The funding gap is estimated at £1.1Bn by 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

In the current financial climate it is clear that this additional level of funding will not be available. To address the challenges ahead the NI Health and Social Care Confederation is making 17 key recommendations for action.

Keeping people well and addressing health inequalities

1. The public health agenda must be prioritised
2. Investment should be targeted on supporting the most vulnerable
3. Citizens should be able to access information easily

Improving operational efficiency

4. Continued systematic focus on driving efficiency
5. Development of a balanced performance management framework

Best practice approach to hospital care

6. Focus on keeping people out of hospital
7. Drive change in the design and delivery of our hospital care system

Embracing new thinking

8. Develop projects which encourage and support greater innovation
9. Focus on innovations which are already proven and that yield the most benefit - greater collaboration, income generation, use of social enterprise and partnerships with the private sector

Health and Wellbeing- A responsibility for all

10. The development of a Programme for Government, where health and wellbeing targets are included in every departmental business plan
11. The development of a model which supports a joined up approach at local level
12. The development of a new social contract with citizens

Strong leadership and driving well informed public debate

13. Build consensus around a strategic approach, which is evidence based and focused on better outcomes for citizens.
14. Government must drive national strategy
15. Leaders at political, clinical and managerial levels must work together
16. Public engagement processes must be enhanced

The Future in Mind

17. We must be honest with citizens about the scale of the challenge ahead and begin a public debate about how we can best meet the needs of future generations

We acknowledge that there is nothing new about these recommendations. What will be radical however will be the scale of focused and concerted action necessary to take significant strides forward in each of these areas.

In the full report we set out more detail on the scale of the challenge, progress to date and what we believe needs to be done to address the health and social care issues facing our communities. Additionally, for information the key health and social care statistics in Northern Ireland are set out in an accompanying document.

The NI Confederation for Health and Social Care

The Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Care (NICON) is a membership body for the range of bodies that make up the Health and Social Care family and is part of the wider NHS Confederation.

Our ambition is a health and social care system that delivers first class services and improved health for all. We work with our members to be a driving force for positive change by; influencing policy, supporting leaders, networking, communication, sharing best practice, and promoting excellence in employment issues. All our work is underpinned by four core values;

- member driven
- putting patients, service users and the public first
- providing challenge
- creating dialogue and consensus

NORTHERN IRELAND CONFEDERATION
FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



For more information you can see www.nhsconfed.org or contact us; 028 90 644 811; heather.moorhead@niconfedhss.org, or at The Beeches, 12 Hampton Manor Drive, Belfast, BT7 3EN

This is a summary document, the full document is available for download at:
<http://www.nhsconfed.org/NationalAndInternational/NorthernIreland>

Reference

1. The Financial information in the report is based on DHSSPS evidence to the Health and Social Services, September 17, 2010.

