

## **Renewed vision for outcomes in Northern Ireland**

### **General Election Manifesto 2019**

Cancer Focus Northern Ireland wants cancer rates in NI to be among the lowest in the world and for those living with cancer to have the best outcomes possible. Cancer Focus NI is leading the way on reducing the impact of cancer on people's lives in NI, providing locally based cancer support services, supporting local research and progressing cancer prevention policies.

Northern Ireland needs a new, ambitious vision for cancer prevention and services. Crucially, Northern Ireland needs to action the recommendations set out within the proposed new cancer strategy, due in summer 2020.

This is our manifesto for the Westminster Election 2019. We call on all political parties to adopt these proposals in their General Election manifestos

### **VISION**

#### ***Real progress in cancer prevention and treatment outcomes***

- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to support the full implementation of the recommendations set out in the updated Northern Ireland Cancer Strategy, due to be published in summer 2020.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI urges MPs to support the recommendations in full, across all work streams, including: prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support, living well, palliative care and end of life and children and young people.

### **PREVENTION & DETECTION**

#### ***Increased investment in cancer prevention measures including:***

- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to champion the implementation of a catch-up HPV vaccine programme for boys.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to support HPV screening as part of the cervical cancer screening programme.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to support the replacement of the Faecal Occult Blood (FOB) with the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) as the primary screening test for bowel cancer in the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) in Northern Ireland. This should be extended to men and women aged 50 and over as recommended by the UK National Screening Committee.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to progress the implementation of a ban on smoking in cars with under 16s present.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs support a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes to under 18s.

### **Meeting Ministerial Targets for Cancer**

- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to ensure that investment in cancer services in England is matched here in Northern Ireland.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI demands that MPs place Northern Ireland on an equal footing with the rest of United Kingdom in opening up patient access to innovative new treatments.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to ensure the transformation of Northern Ireland's health and social care services in line with the aims and recommendations of Bengoa.

- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to champion a healthcare workforce strategy which addresses key staff shortages right across the NHS and facilitates the implementation of ambitious prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies. This to include investment in the long-term training and skills of the workforce.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to support full compliance with the established Ministerial Targets for Cancer. Set in 2009, these ambitious targets have yet to be met. These include:
  - 95% of patients with an urgent referral for suspected cancer to begin treatment within 62 days;
  - 98% of patients commencing first treatment within 31 days of the decision to treat being taken;
  - 100% of patients with an urgent breast cancer referral being seen within 14 days.

## RESEARCH

- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to commit to increased investment in cancer research in our universities and hospitals.

## EUROPE

- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to ensure our relationship with the EU delivers for cancer patients and maintains our status as a world-leader in research, including remaining aligned with EU clinical trials regulations; prioritising swift access to new medicines through a close relationship with the EMA; and delivering an immigration system that works for research.
- ✓ Cancer Focus NI calls for MPs to support the European Cancer Patients Bill of Rights.

**For further details please contact:**

**Gerry McElwee, Head of Cancer Prevention**

[gerrymcelwee@cancerfocusni.org](mailto:gerrymcelwee@cancerfocusni.org)

**Tel: 028 90663281**

[www.cancerfocusni.org](http://www.cancerfocusni.org)

