

Have you got diabetes?

If so, we would like your help to improve diabetes services in Somerset



There are 19,200 people diagnosed with diabetes in Somerset and an estimated 5,000 undiagnosed, predicted to rise to 28,000 in total by 2017. Good management can improve quality of life and greatly reduces the risk of complications developing.

Give us your views and make a difference to thousands of lives

See inside for information on our proposals to improve diabetes services and the different ways you can contribute your views.

Why change?

Somerset patients with diabetes are more likely to have their blood sugar under control than the national average and to live longer. However, there is still room for improvement.

We know that patients with diabetes want:

- More information about their condition
- More choice and control over how it is managed
- More control of their care while in hospital

We also know that patients living in some areas of Somerset are less likely to have their blood sugar levels under control than those living in others.

We want:

- To provide high quality accessible care to all patients in Somerset, wherever they live
- Care that is personalised and responsive, delivered in the context of how people want to live their lives

Overall, we want the NHS to use its resources to the best effect to help people live healthier and longer lives.

Key improvements proposed

- Healthy eating and physical activity programmes
- Multiple screening opportunities and targeting of patients at high risk of developing diabetes and diabetes complications
- Structured education and support for people with diabetes
- Ensuring that every patient has an agreed management plan
- Delivering as much care as possible closer to where patients live
- Enhancing the skills of community based healthcare professionals so that there is more capacity in the system to support patients with diabetes
- Ensuring that the professionals who contribute to diabetes care work closely together
- Providing diabetes training for hospital staff

You can help us make a difference

We are planning to redesign local services for adults with diabetes and will shortly be asking local people for their views.

We would like to know your views on:

- How we can better help people avoid getting diabetes
- How we can support people with diabetes to keep as well as possible, avoiding complications
- How we can improve the care we provide to people who already have complications

These are just a few of the questions we have sought to answer in our draft service redesign proposals 'Improving Services for Adult Patients with Diabetes'.

How can you give your views?

There are several ways you can learn more about these proposals and give us your views:

- By attending one of our September engagement events (see dates and venues on back page)
- By accessing our new service proposal document online at: www.somersetpct.nhs.uk/diabetes and submitting feedback electronically
- By receiving our new service proposal document through the post and returning your responses to us by Freepost

Our draft service proposals will be available at your GP practice and on the Somerset Primary Care Trust website on **21 August 2008**.

Engagement events

The following events are for people with diabetes, and families and carers of people with diabetes.

Taunton	Monday 8 September 2008 6.00 - 8.00 pm Lyngford House Conference Centre
Chard	Wednesday 10 September 2008 2.00 - 4.00 pm Boden Room, Healthy Living Centre
Yeovil	Friday 12 September 2008 2.00 - 4.00 pm Somerset Primary Care Trust HQ, Wynford House
Shepton Mallet	Tuesday 16 September 2008 6.00 - 8.00 pm Charlton House Hotel
Bridgwater	Wednesday 17 September 2008 2.00 - 4.00 pm Bridgwater Rugby Club
Williton	Thursday 18 September 2008 2.00 - 4.00 pm Council Offices

Refreshments will be provided at afternoon events and a light buffet will be available at evening events.

To help us organise catering please let us know which event you wish to attend either by telephoning or emailing Christine Lincoln:

Phone: **01460 260200**

Email: christine.lincoln@somersetpct.nhs.uk