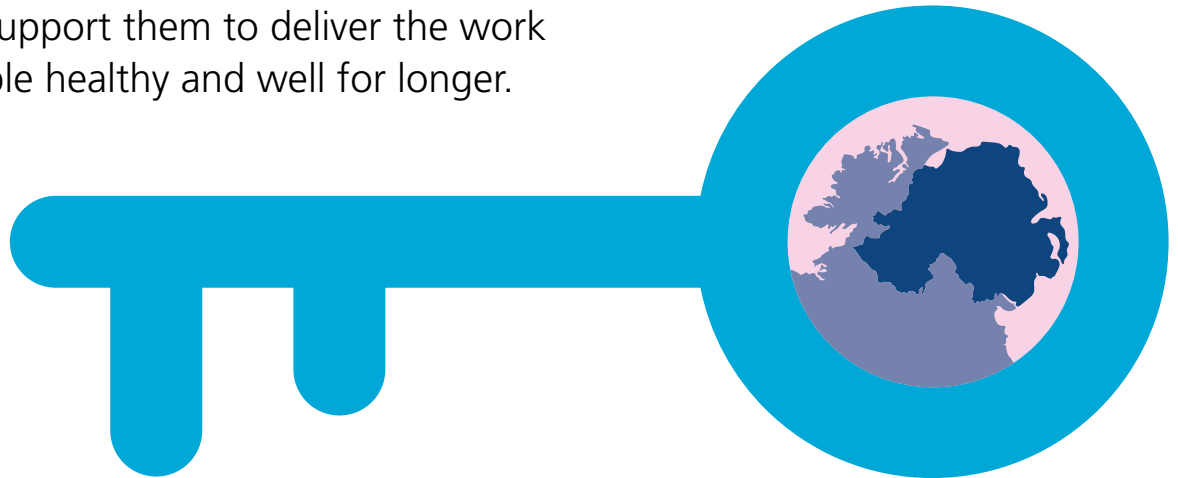


Dietitians: The key to unlocking prevention and early intervention

Dietitians offer many of the solutions our health service needs. This manifesto outlines how politicians can support them to deliver the work that keeps people healthy and well for longer.





Tackle malnutrition with dietetic expertise

Embed good nutrition throughout our health service and society, by allowing dietetic expertise to lead the way.

- ✓ **Update the Promoting Good Nutrition Strategy through a dietetic-led review** and make nutrition one of the core foundations of Neighbourhood Model of Health and Wellbeing.
- ✓ **Develop dietetic-led specialist services** in areas of increasing demand by investing in advanced practice roles in gastroenterology, obesity and diabetes.
- ✓ **Embed healthy nutrition habits from a young age** by introducing universal free school meals in primary schools.



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Develop the dietetic workforce

Build a sustainable workforce pipeline, which is equipped to support neighbourhood care and a prevention-based health service.

- ✓ **Deliver a long-term allied health professions workforce strategy**, backed by multi-year funding.
- ✓ **Build the infrastructure that allows the dietetic workforce to work at the top of their profession** by investing in digital upgrades, prescribing rights and primary care services.
- ✓ **Guarantee fair pay for the dietetic workforce** through pay parity, timely pay awards, and improved progression opportunities across all career stages.



Invest in education and training

Prepare for the future by investing in the skills of the dietetic workforce and developing the pathways that allow them to grow.

- ✓ **Introduce a dietetic apprenticeship to Northern Ireland**, to allow dietetic support workers to become registered dietitians while continuing to work in the health service.
- ✓ **Ring-fence funding for accredited postgraduate training** to ensure the dietetic workforce has the skills needed for the future of the health service.
- ✓ **Guarantee one full-time equivalent, dietetic practice education post in every Trust**, to ensure that all students receive the support they need.