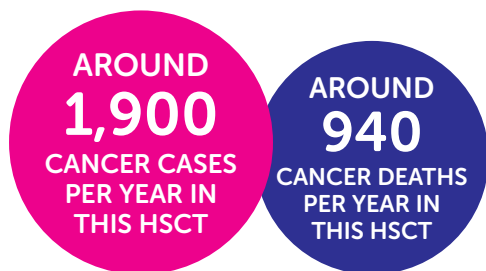


# TOGETHER WE CAN HELP BEAT CANCER IN BELFAST WEST

This data refers to:  
**Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT):** Belfast

We have chosen data most relevant to your constituency.

1 in 2 people will get cancer in their lifetime. Rising referrals and a growing population will increase pressure on cancer services. To achieve world-class outcomes for patients, Government must **tackle preventable risk factors** and **address shortages in the cancer workforce**.



## Together we can prevent more cancers

Around 4 in 10 cancer cases in Northern Ireland could be prevented.

**Smoking** is the largest preventable cause of cancer in Northern Ireland.

**Overweight and obesity** is Northern Ireland's second largest preventable cause of cancer. Obese children are around five times more likely to be obese adults.

### Smoking

**24.2%** of adults currently smoke cigarettes in this HSCT. The Northern Ireland average is (20.0%).

Evidence shows that stop smoking services are the most effective way of helping people to quit smoking.

### Childhood obesity

**20.9%** of 4-6 year-olds are overweight or obese in this HSCT.

**ACTION:** Ask the Public Health Minister to implement a 9pm watershed for junk food marketing.

## Together we can diagnose cancer earlier

Bowel screening is one of the best ways to diagnose bowel cancer earlier, but uptake is low. We want 75% of eligible people to take part.

### Bowel screening

**55.1%** of people aged 60-74 take part in bowel cancer screening in this HSCT. The Northern Ireland average is 59.4%.

**ACTION:** Ask your HSCT how it is planning to improve this figure further.

Early diagnosis (cancer diagnosed at stages 1 or 2) gives patients more effective treatment options, improving their chance of survival.

### Stage at diagnosis

Only **54.4%** of cancers with a known stage are diagnosed early in Northern Ireland.

**ACTION:** Ask your HSCT what it will do to improve diagnosis at an earlier stage and plan for rising demand in the future.

## And meet rising demand

Rising patient numbers means we will need more staff in the future.

### Workforce shortages

Workforce shortages in your area may be affecting cancer services. Cancer outcomes cannot improve without the right staff equipped with the right skills.

**ACTION:** Ask your HSCT what staff shortages it has and what support it needs to fill these gaps.



## TOGETHER WE CAN HELP BEAT CANCER IN BELFAST WEST

### Together we can improve cancer services

Cancer waiting times targets exist to improve patient experience and speed up diagnosis and treatment.

Variation in access to treatment is one reason why cancer outcomes in the UK lag behind other comparable countries.



#### Referral to treatment

TARGET NOT MET

57.2% of patients in this HSCT receive their first definitive cancer treatment within 62 days of an urgent GP referral. This is below the national target (95%). The Northern Ireland average, 66.8%, is also below the national target.

**ACTION:** Ask your HSCT how it is planning to improve cancer waiting times, now and in the long-term, including improving capacity to carry out diagnostic tests.



#### 31-day waiting times

TARGET NOT MET

89.9% of patients in this HSCT receive their first cancer treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat. This is below the national target (98%). The Northern Ireland average, 93.8%, is also below the national target.

**ACTION:** Ask your local health services what they are doing to maintain swift access to treatment and plan for rising demand in the future.

## CANCER RESEARCH UK IN NORTHERN IRELAND



There are **21** Cancer Research UK shops in Northern Ireland. Contact us to find your nearest shop.



We receive no government funding for our research. In 2017, **around £1 million** was raised in Northern Ireland for Cancer Research UK.



In 2017, **2,717** people took part in Cancer Research UK events in Northern Ireland. Contact us to find out how you can get involved in a future event in your area.

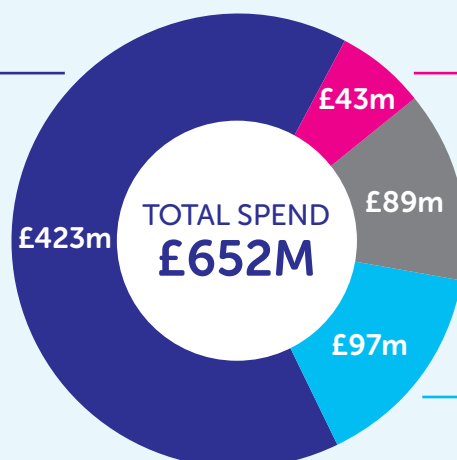


In 2017/18, Cancer Research UK spent **over £2 million** on research in Northern Ireland.

### How much Cancer Research UK spent in 2017/18

#### RESEARCH

This includes clinical trials, the best way to improve treatments and find new ways to prevent cancer. We fund nearly 200 clinical trials, recruiting around 25,000 patients onto trials every year.



#### INFORMATION AND POLICY

#### TRADING COSTS

This includes running our shop network and delivering events like Race for Life

#### VOLUNTARY FUNDRAISING

80p of every £1 raised is used to beat cancer. The remaining 20p helps raise vital funds for the future.