

# Older People Diabetes Network

## The network

The older people diabetes network is led by NHS Diabetes & IDOP (The Institute of Diabetes for Older People). It aims to bring together health and social care professionals who share a common goal: to ensure that older people with diabetes get the best possible care. Network membership is open to those who work in diabetes services, older people services, social care, the third sector and the private sector. Membership is also open to service users and their families or carers. The network is supported by four area 'Champions' and four dedicated network coordinators (please see overleaf for contact details).

## Why are we doing this?

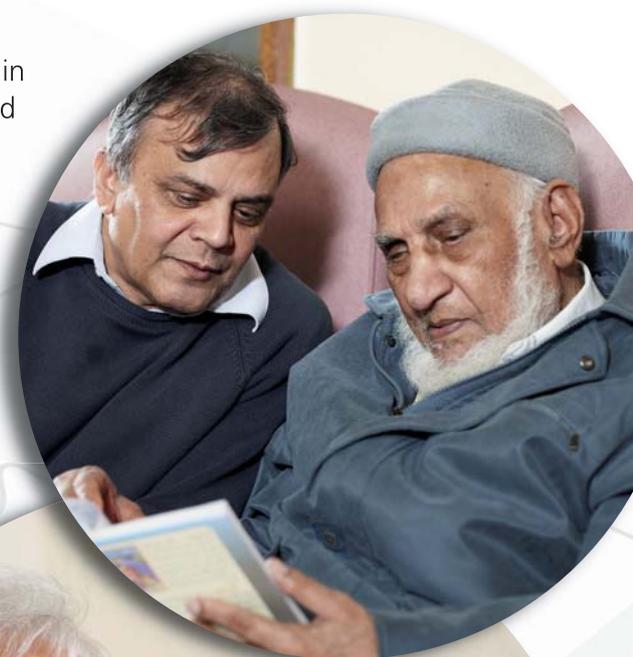
Diabetes in older people is common, often serious and complex. One in four older people in residential and nursing care will have diabetes and preventing complications in this group is a priority. Diabetes and age-related decline are strongly associated with major metabolic disturbance, vascular disease, functional loss, cognitive dysfunction, depressive illness, infections and falls. Innovative strategies are needed to minimise the negative impact of diabetes in this group.

The challenge is to ensure that diabetes is not a barrier to excellent care in old age and that old age is not a barrier to excellent diabetes care.

## The action

The older people diabetes network is already making a real difference, and by getting involved, you too can play a part. The network activities already underway include:

- Building regional groups that meet to discuss important local issues. These groups are working together to influence service commissioning and delivery and promote the dissemination of national guidance and best practice.
- Running a series of workshops around England to bridge some of the knowledge and skills 'gaps' that exist.
- Supporting members through online forums, podcasts and web-based seminars on key themes.
- Keeping members informed through regular e-bulletins, outlining best practice and the latest developments in the care of older people with diabetes.



## What next?

This is a terrific opportunity to take a major step forward in enhancing the diabetes care of older people in England.

As for all our networks, the success of the older people groups depends on input from our network members. It is your enthusiasm and participation that keeps the network alive!

## Network champions

- North:  
Dr Ahmed H Abdelhafiz,  
Consultant Geriatrician, Rotherham General Hospital
- Midlands and East of England:  
Dr Mohamed Roshan,  
GP and Associate Medical Director for NHS Leicestershire and Rutland
- South:  
Dr Simon Crosson,  
Consultant Physician, Bristol Royal Infirmary
- London:  
Professor Angus Forbes,  
The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery,  
King's College, London



## Network coordinators

- North:  
Julia Hobbs [julia.swifthealth@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.swifthealth@btinternet.com)
- Midlands:  
Binal Anandji [Binal.Diabetesopn@gmail.com](mailto:Binal.Diabetesopn@gmail.com)
- South:  
Alison Fowler [alison.fowler@videre.co.uk](mailto:alison.fowler@videre.co.uk)
- London:  
Lisa Phillimore [lisa.diabetesopn@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.diabetesopn@gmail.com)

*The Network Champions and Coordinators are members of a National Steering Group chaired by Professor Alan Sinclair, National Clinical Lead for Diabetes in Older People, NHS Diabetes. The project is managed by Julian Backhouse of NHS Diabetes.*

## Please join us

To find out more or to join the older people network, contact your area coordinator above or Julian Backhouse, programme lead for older people at NHS Diabetes – [julian.backhouse@diabetes.nhs.uk](mailto:julian.backhouse@diabetes.nhs.uk).

## More Information

[http://www.diabetes.nhs.uk/networks/older\\_peoples\\_network/](http://www.diabetes.nhs.uk/networks/older_peoples_network/) or <http://instituteofdiabetes.org/>

[http://www.diabetes.nhs.uk/networks/older\\_people\\_network/](http://www.diabetes.nhs.uk/networks/older_people_network/)