

Who are we and what we do

Imagine not being able to move, sleep, or smile. Feeling anxious or depressed and struggling to think or remember. Your body does not feel like your own. This is what Parkinson's can feel like.

Parkinson's UK Northern Ireland is here to ensure people with Parkinson's have whatever they need to take back control. As a Parkinson's Community in NI consisting of a local team, volunteer-led local network, healthcare professionals and researchers we are at the forefront of pioneering better care, treatments and quality of life.

PARKINSON'S UK NI - KEY FACTS



Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world and currently there is no cure.



While the majority of people with Parkinson's are over 65 years old when diagnosed, thousands of working age people also live with the condition.



Parkinson's not only affects those with the condition, but also has a significant impact on family, friends and carers.



3,881 people are living with Parkinson's in Northern Ireland.



With population growth and ageing, we estimate that this will increase to around 4,580, by 2030.



Parkinson's is more than a tremor. It affects every aspect of daily living including movement, thinking and mental health.

What we are asking

Alongside fellow members of the Northern Ireland Neurological Charities Alliance (NINCA) we are asking that:

- The Department of Health sets out a funded delivery plan to support the implementation of recommendations made by the Neurology Review Team.
- As a matter of urgency, the Department should take action to increase foundation level medical training places in neurology.
- The Department should commit to retaining a specific focus on neurology services throughout any changes to the re-organisation of health and social care services and commissioning arrangements.
- The Department of Health should ensure that new and review outpatient waiting times in neurology services are prioritised in waiting list initiatives.

"I am personally annoyed with our health service here in Northern Ireland, with their lack of understanding and knowledge of the condition. And we are hugely short of Parkinson's specialist nurses. Our waiting times between appointments to see consultants is totally unacceptable, and is way below par according to the NICE guidelines. Parkinson's is a very complex condition with complex needs. We need to have greater access to services and education on Parkinson's to all healthcare professionals." **Person aged 62 living with Parkinson's for 10 years.**