

Petitioner Letter of 23 March 2012

## **Introduction**

Diabetes UK Scotland fully supports the commitment to increased provision of insulin pumps made by the Scottish Government in CEL 4 (2012). We are particularly pleased to see the regular monitoring mechanism whereby Health Boards are required to report on their progress against meeting the new local targets. We are also pleased that the Government has made it clear that the target for 25% of all young people to be on pumps will be expected to be delivered across all health boards.

While there is a cost to Health Boards in meeting the full implementation of the new local targets, we welcome the commitment that diabetes and other health services will not be compromised in meeting this pledge.

## **Remaining concerns**

We believe that the Scottish Government's commitment on this issue is strong and deliverable. We also recognise that the issue has benefited from significant cross party support over a number of years. However, there are a number of concerns still in play that the Public Petitions Committee should be aware of:

1. Continuing professional scepticism at both clinical and corporate level in some Health Boards. For example, since the publication of CEL 4 (2012), we have heard the policy described by a clinician, in a public forum, as 'irresponsible'. What kind of impediment will this be to implementation? We also have some anecdotal evidence from patients that, in some areas, their consultants are significantly downplaying the prospect of growth.
2. Transparency in relation to Health Board plans for pumps. There is some suggestion that these plans will not be made public or that access could be restricted. The public needs to be fully engaged to support implementation.
3. Support for patients who are eligible and considering pump therapy. Patients need clear and unprejudiced information about pump therapy prior to and perhaps during assessment. This may be a missing piece of the jigsaw and could be delivered by the voluntary sector to take the pressure off the NHS.

## **Number of people on Pumps**

CEL 4 (2012) now gives an opportunity to update the original information submitted to the committee in 2011.

We now know that 884 people are on insulin pumps in Scotland – an on trend rise from 696 in 2010 (See Table 1). While this increase is of course welcome, the difference between those areas who have delivered an insulin pump service and other areas who are still to comprehensively deliver their service is now even more stark. NHS Borders now proportionately provides the greatest number of insulin pumps after the Health Board committed to the development of their insulin pump service.

**Table 1 Insulin Pumps in use 2010-2011**

NHS BOARD	Type 1 Population 2010	Number of pumps 2010	Percentage 2010	Type 1 Population 2011	Number of pumps 2011	Percentage 2011
Ayrshire & Arran	2,238	18	0.8%	2,217	35	1.6%
Borders	601	29	4.8%	621	51	8.2%
Dumfries & Galloway	888	20	2.3%	900	23	2.6%
Fife	1,911	113	5.9%	1,976	132	6.7%
Forth Valley	1,568	40	2.6%	1,618	45	2.8%
Grampian	3,045	63	2.1%	3,042	72	2.4%
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	6,115	67	1.1%	6,195	95	1.5%
Highland	1,706	18	1.1%	1,773	29	1.6%
Lanarkshire	3,480	45	1.3%	3,533	56	1.6%
Lothian	4,109	173	4.2%	4,184	208	5.0%
Orkney	116	3	2.6%	120	5	4.2%
Shetland	119	2	1.7%	123	2	1.6%
Tayside	1,837	104	5.7%	1,866	130	7.0%
Western Isles	177	1	0.6%	178	1	0.6%
Scotland	27,910	696	2.5%	28,346	884	3.1%

### Adult and Children services

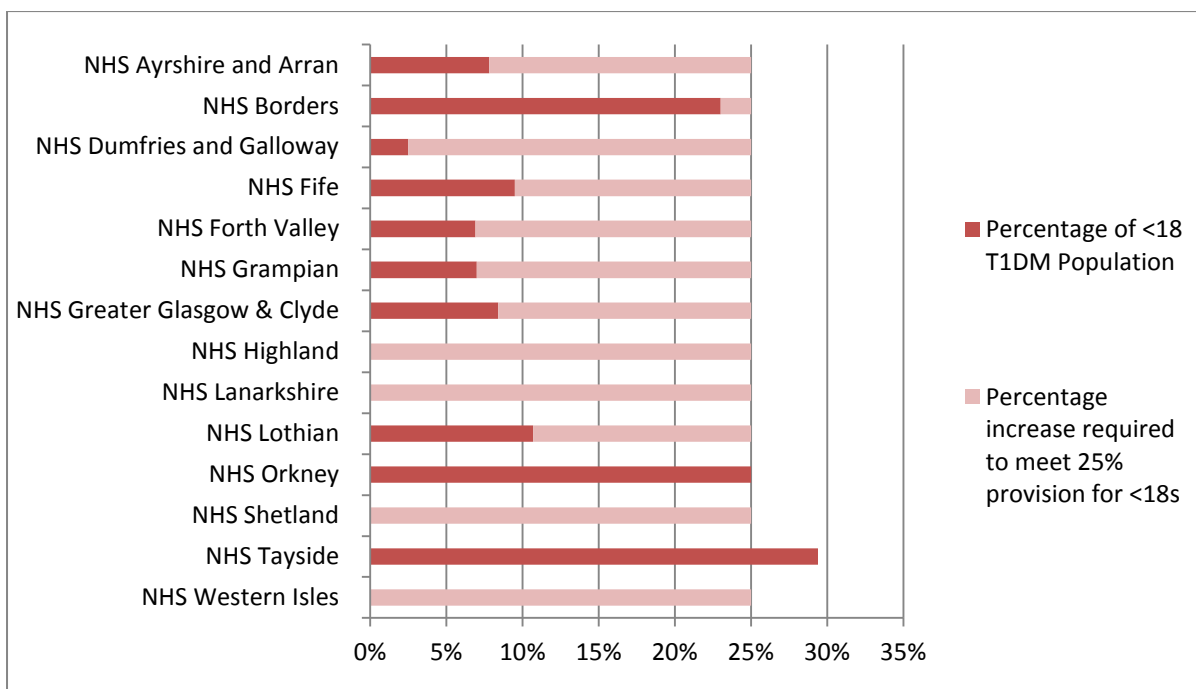
The CEL also indicates that 241 pump users are under the age of 18 and 643 are adults. This is particularly useful information as we can now, for the first time, see a difference in insulin pump provision across health boards by age. These new statistics present solid evidence that the difference in provision for under 18s across Scotland is now even more stark. NHS Borders, Orkney and Tayside have all nearly reached or have exceeded the 25 per cent target. However, NHS Highland, Lanarkshire, Shetland and Western Isles have no one under 18 on insulin pumps

For adult services (see table 2), Borders, Fife, Lothian and Tayside have insulin pumps allocated to at least 4 per cent of the adult population. NHS Glasgow, Ayrshire & Arran & Western Isles have less than 1 per cent on pumps.

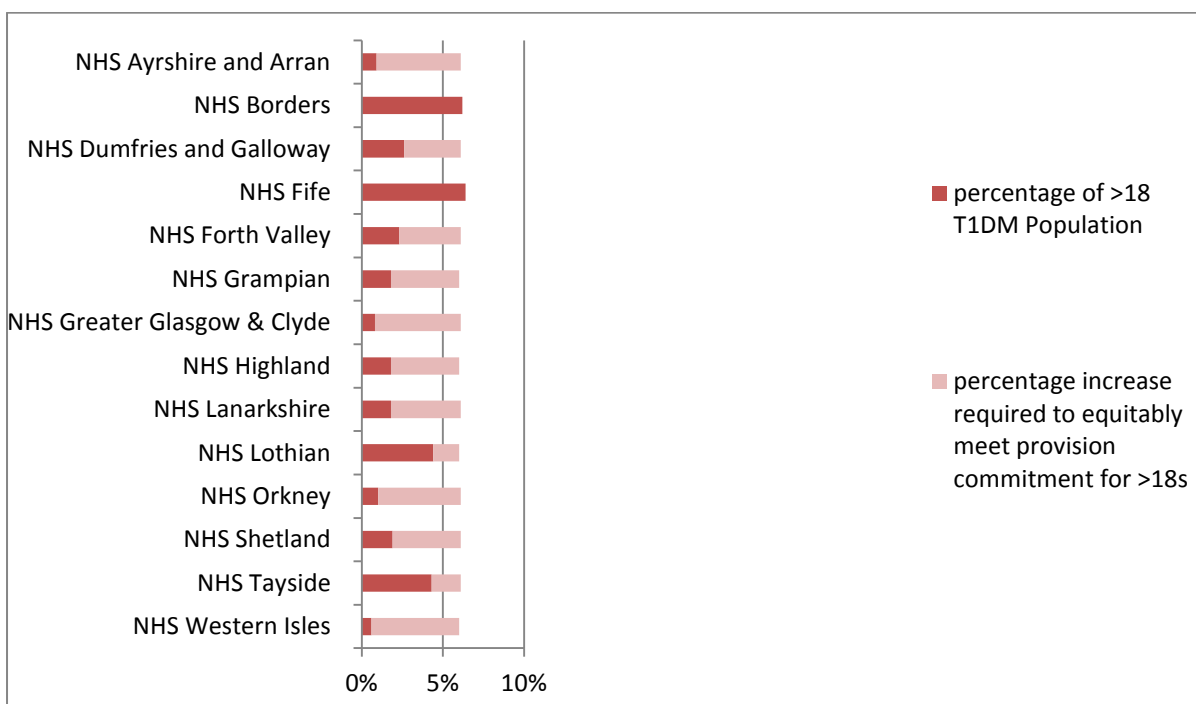
**Table 2 Number of people on an insulin pump by age and number required to meet target**

NHS Board	Number of people <18 on an insulin pump and percentage of <18 T1DM Population		Number of extra pumps and percentage increase required to meet 25% provision for <18s		Number of people >18 on an insulin pump and percentage of >18 T1DM Population		Number of extra pumps and percentage increase required to equitably meet provision commitment for >18s	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Ayrshire and Arran	18	7.8%	40	17.2%	17	0.9%	104	5.2%
Borders	17	23.0%	2	2.0%	34	6.2%	0	0.0%
Dumfries and Galloway	2	2.5%	18	22.5%	21	2.6%	29	3.5%
Fife	19	9.5%	31	15.5%	113	6.4%	0	0.0%
Forth Valley	12	6.9%	32	18.1%	33	2.3%	55	3.8%
Grampian	22	7.0%	56	18.0%	50	1.8%	116	4.2%
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	50	8.4%	99	16.6%	45	0.8%	295	5.3%
Highland	0	0.0%	51	25.0%	29	1.8%	66	4.2%
Lanarkshire	0	0.0%	99	25.0%	56	1.8%	134	4.3%
Lothian	39	10.7%	52	14.3%	169	4.4%	63	1.6%
Orkney	4	25.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.0%	5	5.1%
Shetland	0	0.0%	4	25.0%	2	1.9%	4	4.2%
Tayside	58	29.4%	0	0%	72	4.3%	29	1.8%
Western Isles	0	0.0%	5	25.0%	1	0.6%	9	5.4%
Scotland	241	8.4%	487	16.9%	643	2.5%	909	3.6%

**Chart 1 Under 18s on Insulin Pumps in Scotland and increased required by each Health Board to meet 25 per cent target**



**Chart 2 Over 18s on insulin pumps and increase required by each Health Board to meet overall increase to 2,000 patients**



## Delivering the new targets

### The challenge of meeting the Scottish Government Insulin Pump Targets

Table 2 and Chart 1 demonstrate that for many areas delivering insulin pumps to 25 per cent of under 18s and 6 per cent of adults will be a significant challenge requiring additional investment and a redesign of services. The Scottish Government will fund the cost of pumps and consumables up to £1.86m on the submission of action plans from Health Boards. This represents a significant investment of pump-priming monies, which should provide a strong foundation for progress.

Implementing the new targets will require a determined effort from Health Boards and, in areas where provision is currently low, they will require to invest finance, staff and clinical will into meeting the new target. The last of these, in its absence, has been a key blockage to progress in the past; going forward, the success of the new policy could stand or fall on its presence.

Health Board Pump Plans need to be made public. The commitment to making insulin pumps a 'mainstream therapy' across Scotland was stated in the Scottish Diabetes Action Plan (2010-13). Implementation of the Action Plan is built on the principle of patient involvement at national (Scottish Diabetes Group) and local (Managed Clinical Network) levels. Pumps plans should be part of this process at local as well as national level.

We would like to see Health Boards, when they submit their plans to the Scottish Government, demonstrate commitment to developing processes to support patients in understanding pump therapy and determining its advantages for their care.

**We would suggest to the Public Petitions Committee that they continue to monitor and investigate provision of pump therapy in Scotland at least to the point where satisfactory plans are in place at Board level and evidence of progress is explicit, i.e. that the £1.86 m is allocated and addressing current inequities.**

**We would also further suggest that the committee investigate why some Health Boards have shown leadership on pumps and why other areas have historically been reluctant to put pump services in place.**

**Key dates:**

**March 15, 2012**

Chief Executives should appoint a senior member of their Executive Team to lead on this work and who will have overall responsibility for achieving local targets. Health Boards to submit an indication of the number and type of pumps that each NHS Boards requires to be purchased by Scottish Government for use in 2012/2013.

**March 23, 2012**

Health Board to submit their Action Plans to the Scottish Government.

**2012** The Scottish Diabetes Survey will publish age related data on insulin pumps for the first time in 2012.

**2013** NHS Boards are required to ensure that 25% of people under 18 years living with type 1 diabetes receive insulin pump therapy by March 2013.

**2015** By March 2015, NHS Boards will almost triple the number of pumps available to people of all ages with type 1 diabetes to more than 2000.

These dates will give an indication of the commitment to developing services from individual health boards and following on from these we expect to see this commitment turn into delivering a pump service. **The committee may wish to see the result of any progress from these dates and a clear commitment from Health Boards to delivering the ministerial pledge before deciding on any further action.**