



Anna Morton – On behalf of NHS Diabetes

People living every day with Type 1 diabetes can have positive, healthy and fulfilled lives. However, to do this they must acquire special skills and be supported by the specialist diabetes knowledge and understanding of those best qualified to provide it. Type 1 is complex and if specialist support is not available the consequences can be life-threatening and costly. NHS Diabetes supports the ABCD Type 1 campaign and urges commissioners to address the issue urgently

We are pleased to support this campaign because it is vital that all people with diabetes have access to specialist care as required and that care is properly integrated.”

“One of the strongest messages that has come out of the National Diabetes Audit in the last few years is that people with Type 1 diabetes – and younger people in particular – are much less likely to get the care they need to prevent complications and we hope this campaign helps raise awareness of this issue and ensures people with Type 1 get quick access to specialists. As well as making young people with Type 1 more aware of what care they should be getting, we want the payment system within the NHS to be reviewed so that it encourages good practice and we also need to ensure challenges around accessing structured education, insulin pumps and pregnancy care are addressed so that these can be delivered as part of an integrated service where specialist care has the key role to deliver.

Baroness Barbara Young – On behalf of Diabetes UK

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“It is only by putting these things in place that we can bring an end to people with Type 1 diabetes being lost to the healthcare system and so being put at increased risk of health complications such as blindness and amputation that are devastating for the person and hugely expensive for the healthcare system.”

Dr Helen Hopkinson – On Behalf of DAFNE

“The UK DAFNE Collaborative are pleased to support the ABCD Lost Tribe campaign for people with Type 1 diabetes. We seek a central specialised commissioning process for structured Type 1 diabetes patient education that meets the NICE criteria. We believe this could end the postcode lottery that currently limits access to this vital component of Type 1 diabetes care for up to 50% of the UK.”

Dr Martin Hadley-Brown, Chair of the Primary Care Diabetes Society

“This ABCD campaign is an essential reminder both of the distinct importance of Type 1 Diabetes, and of the need for all Healthcare Professionals to work together. People with Type 1 Diabetes have some very different needs to those with the commoner Type 2 disease, and need easy and fast access to appropriately skilled teams. It is crucial that the new Clinical Commissioning Groups ensure that the necessary safe high quality services are made available, and that all of us working both in hospital and community settings build on existing collaborations towards a better safer future for all people with Diabetes.”

Closing remarks by the chair of ABCD Dr Chris Walton

- ABCD will work with Diabetes UK, NHS Diabetes, PCDS and other professional organisations to get the Type 1 campaign message both down to all the commissioners in the Clinical Commissioning Groups and up to the National Commissioning Board.
- As part of that process we are already working with NHS Diabetes, Diabetes UK and PCDS on a clinical Clinical Commissioning Framework document to promote smarter commissioning.
- There is a growing need to focus on the aspects of care that are the role of the specialist team such as high quality transitional care, access to insulin pumps and access to structured education. We believe all of the above to be subject to postcode issues which must be eradicated.
- ABCD wishes to ensure that people with type 1 diabetes have access to the skills and support they deserve to live long healthy lives during which they control their diabetes rather than their diabetes controlling them.