

# We will put no limits on our ambitions for Glasgow

This Thursday, voters across Scotland will go to the polls to decide who runs their local council for the next 5 years.

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## Diabetes care for children improving

The Annual Statement of Progress for Diabetes highlights that the number of children and young people with Type 1 diabetes achieving blood glucose in the target range has increased from 17.8 % (2014-15) to 27.2% (2015-16).

Meanwhile, the number of these with high blood glucose levels reduced from 21.6% (2014-15) to 18.6% (2015-16).

The rates of young people undergoing essential key care processes such as foot and kidney checks have also improved.

The report also shows:

- A decrease in the rate of people dying from cardiovascular disease, which has a high prevalence among people with diabetes
- Improved care for patients in hospital people with diabetes, with a decrease in the average length of stay
- Better opportunities for patients to inform diabetes services
- Improved care for pregnant women with diabetes
- The success of the diabetic retinopathy screening service
- The 'Think Glucose' project is supporting quality improvement of patient care whilst in a hospital

The report sets out the progress made against the Diabetes Delivery Plan. Speaking ahead of a debate later today [Tuesday 2 May] on diabetes services in Wales, Health Secretary, Vaughan Gething, said:

“This report demonstrates that paediatric diabetes care has made significant strides in the quality of care and the outcomes being achieved over the past six years. The impact of the improvement in blood glucose levels, as well as those in some essential care processes, will reduce the risk of future complications significantly. This is good news for children and young people.

“As well as the improvements in paediatric diabetes care, we have

seen improved hospital care, a decrease in the rate of people dying from cardiovascular disease, and better engagement with patients.

“One of our key aims over the coming years will be to continue to work closely with the public on prevention. While there are no lifestyle factors associated with Type 1 diabetes, we must all reduce our risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by being active, eating a healthy balanced diet and maintaining a healthy body weight.”

Dr Andrew Goodall, Chief Executive of NHS Wales, said:

“Diabetes can have a major impact on the physical and psychological well-being of individuals and their families. However with careful management, healthy lifestyle choices and good blood glucose control the risks of complications are markedly reduced.

“During 2015-16 there was continued progress in the care of patients with diabetes in Wales. At an all Wales level, there have been infrastructure improvements including the creation of a number of national leadership posts and delivery structures.

“However, we continue to work to ensure standards are consistently high across the system and that people get the support they need. Ensuring adults with diabetes receive all eight health checks is a priority, which is why we are working with the NHS to ensure the checks are completed and providing more diabetes education opportunities so people are better able to self-manage their condition.”

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## [News story: Travel advice on EXPO 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan](#)

Expo 2017 is an International Exposition scheduled to take place between 10 June and 10 September 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

### **Dates:**

Advice for visitors travelling to Kazakhstan for the Expo 2017 International Exposition in Astana from 10 June to 10 September 10, 2017

## Venue:

EXPO 2017 Pavilion in Astana is located between main streets of Astana: Kabanbai batyr avenue, Orynbor street, Hussein bin Talal and Turar Ryskulov streets. \* during the exhibition, seven new shuttle-BUS routes will be launched, which will have 250 buses, running from all major points of the city – shopping centres, railway stations and the airport to the territory of the EXPO with a minimum number of stops it can take around 30 minutes to get to the exhibition centre from the city centre \* the pavilion is about 3 km from Baiterek City Center, 11 km from the central railway station, 8 km from Astana International airport

Astana, Kazakhstan – Expo 2017 site map can be found [here](#) As well as this advice, check out our [travel advice for Kazakhstan](#)

## Visas and Passports

- until 31 December 2017 you can travel to Kazakhstan without a visa, provided your stay does not exceed 30 days (the day you arrive counts as day 1, regardless of arrival time).
- if you wish to stay longer than 30 days, you'll need a visa. You should contact your nearest [Embassy of Kazakhstan](#) for further information.
- your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of your request for a visa. Your passport should also have at least 1 blank page for your visa
- your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay
- if you violate the conditions of your visa, you could face a short term of imprisonment and/or a ban on entry to Kazakhstan for up to 5 years
- you should carry your passport with you for identification purposes
- always take care of your passport, as getting a replacement is costly and time-consuming. Keep a photocopy separately from the original document, this will help speed up the replacement process if needed
- if you lose your passport, you'll need to get an Emergency Travel Document from the [British Embassy, Astana](#). The service is available within the Embassy working hours

## Registration

- for most visits, British passport holders don't need to register with the local authorities
- when entering Kazakhstan, travellers receive a white registration card. You must fill in and retain this card throughout your stay in Kazakhstan.
- if you don't need to register with the local OVIR office (the Department for Visas and Registration under the Ministry of Internal Affairs), you must keep your white immigration card stamped by Kazakh Immigration throughout your journey and present it on departure.
- if you intend to enter through a land or sea border point check with the [Kazakhstan Embassy](#) to see whether registration is required.

## Insurance

- take out appropriate [travel insurance](#), even if you're only going for one night; it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties. Note there is no reciprocal healthcare agreement between the UK and Kazakhstan.

## Local Information

### Personal Security:

- be prepared for increased controls and security checks
- most trips are trouble free, however, mugging and theft occur in cities and rural areas foreigners can be targeted.
- although homosexuality isn't prohibited by law, public attitudes are less tolerant than in the UK and public displays of affection may attract negative attention. There's no provision under Kazakhstan legislation guaranteeing freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation
- look after your personal belongings, in particular your passport and your money
- smoking and drinking alcohol is prohibited in public places; this includes airport and its areas, transport, bus stops, underground crossings, cultural, sports and governmental establishments, playgrounds and parks
- don't get involved with drugs – the penalties are severe

## Transportation

- get information on how to get to the [Astana International Airport](#) and [Railway Station](#) to the city centre
- use official taxis which display the name and telephone number of the taxi company. agree a price with the taxi driver for your journey in advance
- buses are the only public transport; price for one way route is 90 KZT but can be overcrowded at peak times

## Disabled Travellers

- we've been advised that [Astana EXPO Pavilions](#) will have facilities / access for disabled travellers
- the rest of Astana has very limited facilities for the disabled traveller – the pavements, even on the main roads can be difficult to negotiate for those with disabilities
- access to public transport is also difficult

### ####Currency:

- the official currency in Kazakhstan is Tenge (KZT). US dollars and Euros are the easiest currency to exchange in Kazakhstan. Sterling may also be exchanged at a more limited number of sites. Scottish and Northern Irish notes aren't accepted. Use only official exchange booths.
- ATMs are available and credit cards are widely used in Astana

- the government of Kazakhstan imposes limits on how much foreign currency can be imported or exported, and certain goods are subject to custom regulations. For further information please visit the website of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#)

## **Climate and Time**

- the average temperature in summer is around 20°C – 25°C during the day. Mostly very windy and dry. You can find information on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/1526273>
- Astana is plus 5 hours BST

## **Language**

- the main language is Kazakh. Russian is also widely spoken
- younger generation usually has a good knowledge of English

## **Religion**

- Kazakhstan has predominantly Muslim (70%) population although there are Orthodox Christians (23%) and Catholics (7%)
- respect local traditions, customs, laws and religions at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure they do not offend other cultures or religious beliefs

## **Consular Assistance**

If there's a genuine emergency during your visit to Astana (e.g. one involving accident, injury or loss/theft of your passport) call +7 7172 556 200 and follow the instructions to be put through to a consular officer.

## **Lost or stolen passports**

If your passport is lost or stolen report the loss to the local police as soon as possible and get a copy of the police report. You can't travel back to the UK without a valid travel document. You'll need to apply to the Consular Section of the British Embassy Astana for an Emergency Travel Document (ETD). Please see our [ETD web page](#) for more information.

For more information visit the [British Embassy, Astana](#) Contact the British Embassy Astana 62 Kosmanavtov st, Chubary district Renco Building, 6th floor Telephone: +7 7172 55 62 00 (including out of hours assistance) Email: [astana.consular@fco.gov.uk](mailto:astana.consular@fco.gov.uk) Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am to 5pm On Friday 9am to 4pm

## **Emergency services numbers**

101 – Fire 102 – Police 103 – Ambulance

## **Further information**

- EXPO 2017 official website: <https://expo2017astana.com/>

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## Online assessments set to replace paper for national reading and numeracy tests

National reading and numeracy tests in Welsh schools are set to replace paper with innovative online assessments that adapt to a pupil's abilities, Education Secretary Kirsty Williams announced today (Tues 2nd May).

Monday 01 May 2017

Currently the tests, taken by all pupils in years two to nine, are carried out on paper. They aim to find out about pupils' reading and numeracy skills in order to identify what each child needs to focus upon to progress.

The paper tests will be replaced with new personalised assessments to be taken online that have been specifically designed for use in Wales. The new assessments will automatically adjust the level of the questions to match the individual taking the test, providing an appropriate level of challenge for each learner.

The change to online tests will reduce marking time and administration.

Benefits include:

- Assessments tailored to individual pupils.
- More detailed information on a child's performance.
- A reduction in feedback times to teachers and learners.
- Schools will be able to test classes, small groups or individuals according to their facilities and at a time that works for them and their learners.

The new tests will be phased in over three years, starting from the 2018/19 academic year.

Kirsty Williams said:

"These tests are about raising standards by showing the next steps that children need to take in their learning. The move to online personalised assessments for reading and numeracy will benefit pupils, parents and teachers.

"Pupils will be taking assessments that will adapt to their needs and skills. They will have the benefits of automatic marking and schools will have feedback faster than before, giving them a better

picture of how they can help all their learners to move on.

“This approach is tailor made for Wales. It shows how we are investing in our schools to continue our national mission of education reform to drive up standards and make sure every pupil in Wales, whatever their background, has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.”

[May 2017](#)

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## [Labour will put 10,000 more police on the streets to cut crime](#)

Labour is today committing to provide funding to the 43 forces across England and Wales to hire an extra 10,000 officers operating in community policing roles. We will provide the framework to enable community engagement and funding to ensure at least the equivalent of one more bobby per electoral ward.

It will mean an extra police officer dedicated to community policing in each electoral ward in England and Wales to tackle crime for the many not the few.

- Labour will add 10,000 new police officers for England and Wales
- Paid for by reversing cuts to Capital Gains Tax
- Reported crime is rising under the Tories, up for almost every police force
- Under Theresa May, the Tories have cut over 20,000 police officers since 2010
- They have also broken their pledge to protect the police budget

- Labour  
will protect current police levels and not cut the police budget

Almost every police force in the country recorded an increase in crime over the last year, with worrying rises in some of the most violent offences, including gun and knife crime and homicide. Since 2010, under Theresa May, police numbers have been cut by 20,000. Labour will reverse cuts to Capital Gains Tax which will more than fund these new officers in addition to guaranteeing current police levels.

**Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, will make the pledge on a visit to Southampton on Tuesday 2 May. He will say:**

"Cutting police numbers especially when there is more crime to deal with is unacceptable. That's why Labour will put 10,000 new police officers on our streets. The safety of our communities is vital to us all.

"Community policing means uniformed officers being visible, local and accessible. They engage with the public, have a detailed local knowledge and build a network of relationships.

"That's why Labour will reduce crime by putting more police in the community to make sure policing works for the many not the few."

**Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, she will say:**

"Theresa May failed to protect communities as Home Secretary and has continued to fail them as Prime Minister.

"Labour will reverse the Tories' tax breaks for the rich, providing new money that can be used to put a bobby on the beat in every electoral ward in the country. We will reinforce confidence in our police forces, with a renewed focus on working with communities, and for communities to fight crime."