

# A campaigning toolkit for the Cardiomyopathy Community

This general election, help us to ensure that access to cardiomyopathy services and support is a priority for every candidate standing to be an MP.

## Why should I contact people standing as candidates to be MPs?

A general election provides a good opportunity for people in the cardiomyopathy community to have their voices heard. Candidates will be campaigning and listening to what people have to say in their constituency as they want your vote.

By joining our campaign, you can be part of a collective voice calling for improved services and support for people with cardiomyopathy.

## Who can get involved?

Anyone living in the UK can get involved! It doesn't matter where you're from in the UK, your age or your experiences of cardiomyopathy, as long as you are passionate for change you can share your story.

Health policy is a devolved issue, which means that decision making on the issues that affect people with cardiomyopathy is the responsibility of the different legislative bodies in the UK. These include:

- The Westminster Parliament
- The Scottish Parliament
- The Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament
- The Northern Ireland Assembly

Even though this is a general election where MPs will be elected to the Westminster parliament, many candidates in devolved nations will still be interested in hearing about issues relating to healthcare.

## The issues to focus on

1. Early detection and diagnosis.
2. Mental health support for people living with long-term conditions.
3. Access to specialised care, treatment and drugs.
4. Reduce heart failure deaths by 25% in 25 years.
5. Investment in life sciences.

For more information on our 5 priority calls, please [read our manifesto](#).

## Engaging with parliamentary candidates

The candidates standing in your constituency want to hear about your views, experiences of living with cardiomyopathy and the issues that are most important to you. If they are elected as your MP, there will be many ways they can advocate for better support and services for people with cardiomyopathy.

Here are some ways that you can engage with your parliamentary candidates in this General Election:

### 1. Write to them:

The full list of candidates was finalised on 7 June 2024. Find out the candidates in your constituency by visiting, [whocanivotefor.co.uk](https://whocanivotefor.co.uk) and search for your postcode.

- You will find their email addresses by clicking on their names.
- Please write to all candidates in your area so every political party understands the impact of cardiomyopathy on people's lives. Even if a candidate isn't elected, they may be able to help make your voice heard in other ways.
- You can copy and paste the Cardiomyopathy UK letter to candidates and include your own story, or you can write your own email.
- Please attach the Cardiomyopathy manifesto to your email.

### 2. Meet the candidates in person:

Candidates will want to speak to as many people as possible during the election campaign. They will want to earn your vote, but also understand the key issues their voters are facing. There will be plenty of opportunities to meet the candidates in person.

You could ask a question at a local hustings. A hustings is an in-person meeting where candidates will debate and take questions from voters. To find a hustings taking place in your constituency, try searching online, on social media or looking in your local paper. Candidates and their supporters may also knock on your door while canvassing for votes. This another good opportunity to ask them a question about their plans.

### 3. Get candidates' attention on social media:

Many candidates use social media such as Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). You can use social media to ask the candidates questions about services and support for people with cardiomyopathy or to share your own story. Remember to be polite and concise and use the tag for the correct person.

## Thank you!

Thank you for getting involved in our campaign to improve access to services and support for people with cardiomyopathy. Please let us know if you contact your candidates and keep us updated if they respond to you. For more information, please email [policy@cardiomyopathy.org](mailto:policy@cardiomyopathy.org), and to send on any responses that you receive, if you are happy to do so.