

Manifesto for the 2026 Scottish Elections

Scotland needs leadership that fosters real collaboration between powerful opposing interests

The Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS) is a charity that provides a range of high-quality professional development opportunities for Scotland's community nurses and midwives, encouraging them to tackle health and care inequalities in collaboration with the people they care for.

Community nurses and midwives work in many different settings including care homes, prisons, GP practices, community mental health teams, in schools, and in community learning disability teams.

QNIS believes that a prevention-oriented, community-first approach to health and social care is essential for Scotland. This approach must be shaped not just by professionals and policymakers, but by communities and the wider population.

Everything we know about health outcomes, demographics, long-term conditions, workforce, inequalities, financial pressures, climate change, and social care tells us we cannot continue with the model we have.

The next government must provide leadership that fosters real collaboration between powerful opposing interests and facilitates a clear-eyed focus on the future health of Scotland. At QNIS our priorities include developing and protecting career pathways for community nursing and midwifery but right now, we believe that what community nurses and midwives most need is the thing we all need – a modern, fit-for-purpose and fit-for-the-future arrangement for the safe and sustainable provision of health and social care.



We cannot afford to limit ourselves to the concerns of any single professional group. We need thoughtful deliberation that includes diverse perspectives and questions long-held assumptions.

To have the best possible chance of addressing the health and social care problems we face, both short-term and long-term, QNIS wants to see:

- **Cross-party working to enable long-term planning beyond electoral cycles.**
- **An ambitious, fair, and feasible plan to guide the distribution of increased resources to primary and community health care.**
- **Planning approaches that understand primary health care is delivered by a range of clinical professions and not limited to general practice.**
- **Meaningful involvement of communities and people with lived experience in decision-making about health and social care services.**
- **Sustained focus on improving health equity and ensuring high-quality health and social care is accessible for those facing the most severe disadvantages.**
- **Strengthened relationships with third sector providers and a robust vision for their long-term contribution to Scotland's population health.**

