

The NHS Long Term Plan

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Background

In June 2018, the Prime Minister made a commitment that the Government would provide more funding for the NHS for each of the next five years, with an average increase of 3.4% a year.

In return, the NHS was asked to come together to develop a long term plan for the future of the service, detailing our ambitions for improvement over the next decade, and our plans to meet them over the five years of the funding settlement.

That plan has now been published.

How the NHS Long Term Plan was developed

200
distinct engagement events, 150 of which were over August and September

500
direct submissions by letter or email

2000+
submissions via the online form

3.5M
Individual or organisational members represented through submissions

5427
readers of blogs about the long term plan

21,788
views of the online discussion guide webpage

Working groups – made up of local and national NHS and local government leaders, clinical experts and representatives from patient groups and charities – were formed to focus on specific areas where the NHS could improve over the next ten years.

They then engaged extensively with stakeholders to come up with and test practical ideas which could be included in a plan.

Over Autumn, working group members organised or attended over 200 events to hear a wide range of different views, and received over 2,500 submissions from individuals and groups representing the opinions and interests of 3.5 million people.

What the NHS Long Term Plan will deliver for patients

The working groups have developed a range of specific ideas and ambitions for how the NHS can improve over the next decade, covering all three life stages:

- Making sure everyone gets the best start in life
- Delivering world-class care for major health problems
- Supporting people to age well



Delivering the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan

To ensure that the NHS can achieve the ambitious improvements for patients, the NHS Long Term Plan also sets out actions to overcome the challenges that the NHS faces, such as staff shortages and growing demand for services, by:

1. Doing things differently
2. Preventing illness and tackling health inequalities
3. Backing our workforce
4. Making better use of data and digital technology
5. Getting the most out of taxpayers' investment in the NHS



Making sure everyone gets the best start in life...

...including:

- reducing stillbirths and mother and child deaths during birth by 50%
- ensuring most women can benefit from continuity of carer through and beyond their pregnancy, targeted towards those who will benefit most
- providing extra support for expectant mothers at risk of premature birth
- expanding support for perinatal mental health conditions
- taking further action on childhood obesity
- increasing funding for children and young people's mental health
- bringing down waiting times for autism assessments
- providing the right care for children with a learning disability
- delivering the best treatments available for children with cancer, including CAR-T and proton beam therapy.

Delivering world-class care for major health problems...

...including:

- preventing 150,000 heart attacks, strokes and dementia cases
- providing education and exercise programmes to tens of thousands more patients with heart problems, preventing up to 14,000 premature deaths
- saving 55,000 more lives a year by diagnosing more cancers early
- investing in spotting and treating lung conditions early to prevent 80,000 stays in hospital
- spending at least £2.3bn more a year on mental health care
- helping 380,000 more people get therapy for depression and anxiety by 2023/24
- delivering community-based physical and mental care for 370,000 people with severe mental illness a year by 2023/24.

Supporting people to age well...

...including:

- increasing funding for primary and community care by at least £4.5bn
- bringing together different professionals to coordinate care better
- helping more people to live independently at home for longer
- developing more rapid community response teams to prevent unnecessary hospital spells, and speed up discharges home.
- upgrading NHS staff support to people living in care homes.
- improving the recognition of carers and support they receive
- making further progress on care for people with dementia
- giving more people more say about the care they receive and where they receive it, particularly towards the end of their lives.

1. Doing things differently

The NHS will:

- give people more control over their own health and the care they receive,
- encourage more collaboration between GPs and their teams and community services, as ‘primary care networks’, to increase the services they can provide jointly;
- place an increasing focus on NHS organisations working with each other and their local partners, as ‘Integrated Care Systems’, to plan and deliver services which meet the needs of their communities.



2. Preventing illness and tackling health inequalities

The NHS will:

- increase its contribution to tackling some of the most significant causes of ill health, including new action to help people stop smoking, overcome drinking problems and avoid Type 2 diabetes, with a particular focus on the communities and groups of people most affected by these problems.



3. Backing our workforce

The NHS will:

- continue to increase the NHS workforce, training and recruiting more professionals – including thousands more clinical placements for undergraduate nurses, hundreds more medical school places, and more routes into the NHS such as apprenticeships.
- take steps to make the NHS a better place to work, so fewer staff leave and more feel able to make better use of their skills and experience for patients.



4. Making better use of data and digital technology

The NHS will:

- provide more convenient access to services and health information for patients, with the new NHS App as a digital ‘front door’;
- provide better access to digital tools and patient records for staff, and;
- improve the planning and delivery of services through the greater use of analysis of patient and population data.



5. Getting the most out of taxpayers' investment in the NHS

The NHS will:

- continue working with doctors and other health professionals to identify ways to reduce duplication in how clinical services are delivered;
- make better use of the NHS' combined buying power to get commonly-used products for cheaper, and;
- reduce spend on administration.



What happens next?

Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) and Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) now need to develop and implement their own strategies for the next five years.

These strategies will set out how they intend to take the ambitions that the NHS Long Term Plan details, and work together to turn them into local action to improve services and the health and wellbeing of the communities they serve – building on the work they have already been doing.



January 2019
Publication of the NHS
Long Term Plan

By April 2019
Publication of local
plans for 2019/20

By Autumn 2019
Publication of local
five-year plans

What this means for staff, patients and the public

This means that over the next few months, staff, patients and the public will have the opportunity to help shape what the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) means for their area, and how the services they use or work in need to change and improve over the next few years.

Local Healthwatch groups will receive national funding to support NHS teams in ensuring that the views of patients and the public are heard, and [Age UK](#) will be leading work across a range of other charities to provide specific opportunities to hear from people with specific health needs.

Planning in 2019/20

- Foundation year for Long Term Plan (LTP)
- Significant changes to the architecture of the NHS – groundwork for LTP delivery
- Clinically led review of standards
- More effective approach to workforce and physical capacity
- New financial framework – more sustainable footing rewarding system working
- Organisational level plans which combine to frame a coherent system level plan



Headlines

- Increased investment in adult and Children and Young People's Mental Health services
- Working with RightCare to reduce variation – national priority initiatives Cardiovascular and respiratory conditions
- Digital Strategies
- 20% reduction in administration costs during 19/20 for implementation in 20/21
- NHS App with NHS login – secure way to access NHS 111 online; GP records; book appointments; set data sharing preferences and register organ donation

Clinical Priorities

- Comprehensive model of same day care for emergencies
- Further reductions in Length of stay
- Focus on transforming outpatient services
- Focus on reducing waiting lists and 52 week waiters
- Cancer remains a high priority – 8 cancer waiting times
- Workforce expansion prioritising mental health
- Increased investment in primary and community care and development of primary care networks



Find out more

The NHS Long Term Plan, along with accompanying resources, case studies and videos, is available online at www.longtermplan.nhs.uk.

And over the coming months, local NHS organisations and their partners will be sharing details of what the NHS Long Term Plan could mean in their area.

