

## Urology Trade Association

### NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Retrospective report: 11<sup>th</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> February

17<sup>th</sup> February

Writing in response to the government blueprint for NHS reform, an [opinion piece](#) shared on *Conservative Home* has argued that the NHS will need more help from the private sector to clear the Covid-19 backlog, not less. Referencing the "ballooning backlog" of care in the NHS, Sebastian Rees from *Reform* argues that the Government should make use of all available capacity and should increase investment in diagnostic community hubs to help ease the burden on hospitals.

19<sup>th</sup> February

According to *The National Health Executive*, NHS Digital – the body tasked with using digital technology to transform the NHS and social care – has rolled out a series of [new improvements](#) to the NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS) to make referring patients smoother and easier for all involved. Improvements will allow primary care clinicians to seek advice from their secondary care colleagues ahead of making a referral, which should increase the number of successful consultations and referrals.

21<sup>st</sup> February

NHS England has [announced](#) that it will offer staff access to evidence-based mental health services at one of 40 new hubs, to support staff who "have pushed their minds and bodies to the limit over the last year". The hubs will be free of charge and will offer confidential advice from qualified mental health clinicians, therapists, recovery workers and psychologists.

#### Contact Details

[imogen.hailstone@whitehouseconsulting.co.uk](mailto:imogen.hailstone@whitehouseconsulting.co.uk)  
[www.whitehouseconsulting.co.uk](http://www.whitehouseconsulting.co.uk)

**23<sup>rd</sup> February**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, ministers from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) answered questions on plans the department has to reform the public health improvement functions of Public Health England, mental health legislation and adult social care. A full transcript of the session can be found [here](#).

**24<sup>th</sup> February**

In a new [briefing](#) exclusively seen by *The Health Service Journal*, NHS Providers has argued that the NHS should be handed back the commissioning of clinical public health services currently dealt with by local authorities. The impending dissolution of Public Health England will see its health protection functions transferred to the newly formed National Institute of Health Protection. However, the agency's other functions have yet to be allocated to another body, with the Government suggesting various options including forming a new agency, moving them to DHSC or NHS England, or devolving them to local government or NHS bodies.

**25<sup>th</sup> February**

The DHSC has [announced](#) that the UK has updated its code of practice for the international recruitment of health and social care staff to align with the World Health Organisation. The move widens the market from which the UK can ethically recruit, which will provide increasing numbers of international staff with the opportunity to come and work within the UK's health service. The move forms part of the Government's Long Term Plan to achieve a sustainable health and social care workforce.

**Contact Details**

[imogen.hailstone@whitehouseconsulting.co.uk](mailto:imogen.hailstone@whitehouseconsulting.co.uk)  
[www.whitehouseconsulting.co.uk](http://www.whitehouseconsulting.co.uk)

Lookahead: 26<sup>th</sup> February – 11<sup>th</sup> March



### Relevant Select Committee Inquiries that are currently open

- **Public Accounts Committee** - [Digital Transformation in the NHS](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** – [Management of the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** – [Pre-appointment hearing for the role of Chair of NICE](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** – [Social Care: funding and workforce](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Delivering Core NHS and Care Services during the Pandemic and Beyond](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Workforce burnout and resilience in the NHS and social care](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Coronavirus: lessons learnt](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Department's White Paper on health and social care](#)

### Relevant Consultations currently open

- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Changes to the NHS Pension Scheme regulations](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Reforming the Mental Health Act](#)
- **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency** - [Isotretinoin: call for information to be considered as part of an expert review](#)

### Upcoming events

- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March-Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – [Nuffield Trust Summit Series 2021](#)
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – King's Fund event - [Patient and user engagement in the delivery of virtual care](#)
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Westminster Health Forum - [The future of medicine regulation in the UK](#)
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – The Whitehouse Consultancy - [Delivering for Patients: An NHS and social care revolution in England and Wales](#)
- **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Health Foundation - [The Health and Care White Paper unbound](#)
- **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Westminster Health Forum - [Next steps for NHS estates - funding, infrastructure modernisation and optimisation, net-zero, and learning from the response to the pandemic](#)

#### Contact Details

[imogen.hailstone@whitehouseconsulting.co.uk](mailto:imogen.hailstone@whitehouseconsulting.co.uk)  
[www.whitehouseconsulting.co.uk](http://www.whitehouseconsulting.co.uk)