

The Whitehouse Consultancy

NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

8th April 2021

Retrospective report: 25th March- 8th April

25th March

On 25th March, the NHS announced that it is accelerating the delivery of operations and other non-urgent services as part of a £8.1 billion plan to help the health service recover all patient services. The plan, which is set out in the [NHS Operational Planning Guidance](#), also allocates additional funding to support staff who may have been impacted by their experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. The guidance also includes a funding boost for mental health services with children and young people set to benefit from continued increases in access to community mental health services.

29th March

On 29th March, the Department of Health and Social Care [announced](#) the establishment of a new Office for Health Promotion, which will lead national efforts to improve and level up the health of the nation by tackling obesity, improving mental health and promoting physical activity. The Office will help ministers across government design and operationalise a “*step change*” in public health policy. The Office will sit within the DHSC and the lead – yet to be announced – will report jointly into the Health Secretary and the Chief Medical Officer, Chris Whitty.

1st April

On 1st April, the Department of Health and Social Care formally [established](#) the new UK Health Security Agency, with Dr Jenny Harries in charge as Chief Executive. The new agency will work to protect the country from future health threats and ensure the nation can respond to pandemics quickly and at greater scale. It will also work with global partners, becoming a pillar of what the Prime Minister and other international leaders have called “*a more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations.*” The Agency brings together key elements of Public Health England with NHS Test and Trace including the Joint Biosecurity Centre.

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3rd April

In an [article](#) written for *The Times*, NHS Chief Executive, Sir Simon Stevens, said that the “*speed and precision*” of the coronavirus vaccine rollout has shown the NHS at its best and that he is determined to apply the same lessons to the way the NHS supports targeted prevention and tackles other health crises such as cancer, heart attacks, strokes and mental health. He said that the pandemic has “*accelerated*” and demonstrated the benefits of joining up services, adding that this “*goes with the grain*” of the reforms to integrated care systems.

6th April

According to a [piece](#) by the *Health Service Journal*, members of the social enterprise sector have written to the Health and Social Care Secretary warning him that NHS officials are already pushing social enterprise providers out of the service because of the government’s proposed changes to the NHS and social care.

The legislation expected to be put forward this spring will loosen competition and procurement rules and encourage integration among Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) however this has raised concern among members of the social enterprise industry who say this has already led to contracts being taken away from social enterprises.

7th April

On 7th April, the leader of the Scottish National Party, Nicola Sturgeon, set out her party’s plan to ‘remobilise, strengthen and protect’ the NHS ahead of the Scottish elections in May. Sturgeon said that half of all spending on frontline NHS care would go to GPs and community services if the SNP is re-elected.

In addition, the party would set up an expanded network of 10 centres to deliver diagnostic work and elective operations. To help reduce waiting times, she also pledged to increase in-patient, day case and out-patient activity to 10% above pre-coronavirus levels within a year, and maintain that level for the rest of the five-year parliamentary term. Her full speech can be found [here](#).

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Lookahead: 9th April- 22nd April

13th April

2:30pm

House of Commons: Oral Questions to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care ([view questions](#))

13th April

9.00 am

House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee – Oral evidence
[Treatment of autistic people and individuals with learning disabilities](#)

Location: Virtual meeting

14th April

House of Commons: Ten Minute Rule Motion

NHS Pay Award (Report) - Carolyn Harris ([more info](#))

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14th April

10.00am

APPG on Mental Health AGM. Meeting to discuss the [Mental Health Act Review White Paper](#).

Speakers include: Nadine Dorries, Mental Health Minister; Professor Sir Simon Wessely, author of the 2017 Review of the Mental Health Act; Will Johnstone, Policy Manager, Rethink Mental Illness; Dr Clementine Maddock, Mental Health Law lead, Royal College of Psychologists

15th April

House of Lords Oral questions:

Variation in the standard of care received by patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and government plans to work with NHS England to improve care and outcomes for such patients - **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

19th April

1:45pm

House of Commons Public Accounts Committee - Oral evidence

[Adult Social Care Markets](#)

Location: Virtual Meetings

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Relevant Select Committee Inquiries that are currently open

- **Public Accounts Committee** - [Digital Transformation in the NHS](#)
- **Public Accounts Committee** – [NHS nursing workforce](#)
- **Public Accounts Committee** - [Adult social care markets](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** – [Social Care: funding and workforce](#)
- **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** - [Coronavirus: recent developments](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Department's White Paper on health and social care](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Treatment of autistic people and individuals with learning disabilities](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Safety of maternity services in England](#)
- **Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee** - [Long term funding of adult social care](#)
- **COVID-19 Committee** - [The long-term impact of the pandemic on parents and families](#)

Relevant Consultations that are currently open

- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Changes to the NHS Pension Scheme regulations](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** – [Improving Health and Wellbeing of Women in England](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Reforming the Mental Health Act](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** – [Regulating healthcare professionals, protecting the public](#)
- **Public Health England** - [Proposed changes for calculating alcohol-related mortality](#)

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Upcoming events

- **Thursday 15th April (11:45am) – Health Foundation:** [Webinar: How will the public mood shape care after the pandemic?](#)
- **Tuesday 20th April (9am) – Westminster Health Forum:** [Priorities for tackling health inequalities in the national recovery from COVID-19](#)
- **Wednesday 21st April (9am) – NHS Confederation:** [How can virtual hospitals aid recovery and offer a new relationship between the NHS and the public?](#)
- **Thursday 22nd April (9am) Westminster Health Forum: Long COVID:** [Priorities for research and improving patient care, treatment and support](#)
- **Thursday 22nd April (10am)– Urology Trade Association:** [What is the role of medical device regulation post-Brexit?](#)
- **Monday 26th – Thursday 29th April – King’s Fund:** [Integrated care systems and place-based partnerships](#)

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