

NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

22nd April 2021

Retrospective report: 8th April – 22nd April

8th April

According to [data](#) released by NHS England, the NHS has recruited 10,000 more healthcare support workers in the first three months of the year. The new staff will assist nurses, midwives and other healthcare professionals to perform health checks, update patient records, help patients wash, dress and move around, and care for families in maternity services. They will also support people with mental health conditions, learning disabilities and autism. Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England, said: “We are so pleased to be welcoming people from all different walks of life into the NHS. The last year has seen nurses and midwives play a leading role in the fight against coronavirus, inspiring millions across England with their skilled and compassionate care”.

9th April

The *Health Service Journal* [reports](#) that senior NHS England officials have outlined their expected models for new provider collaboratives, as well as how key funding flows could work within integrated care systems (ICSs). Speaking at an *HSJ* event, Matt Neligan, system transformation director at NHSE, said upcoming guidance on provider collaboratives will “probably give three specific examples” of how these should work: 1) Lead provider model — where one main provider holds the budget and subcontracts to other providers 2) Shared leadership model — in which decision-making would need to have unanimous support and 3) Provider leadership board — where each provider would have member representation but likely with a system of majority voting. Mr Neligan also said that new guidance should be issued by June.

13th April

On 13th April, ministers from the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) were quizzed on a number of policy areas including health and social care integration, local health services and the independent medicines and medical devices review. A full transcript from the session can be found [here](#).

15th April

According to a [piece](#) by the *Health Service Journal*, the Chief Executive of NHS England Sir Simon Stevens has said that the restructure of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) featured in a government Health Bill expected later this year should be “simple, local [and] evolutionary”. The Health Bill will take forward proposals in the Government’s Integration and Innovation White Paper, which include major reforms to the National Health Service, including the scrapping of Clinical Commissioning Groups and creating statutory Integrated Care Systems (ICSs).

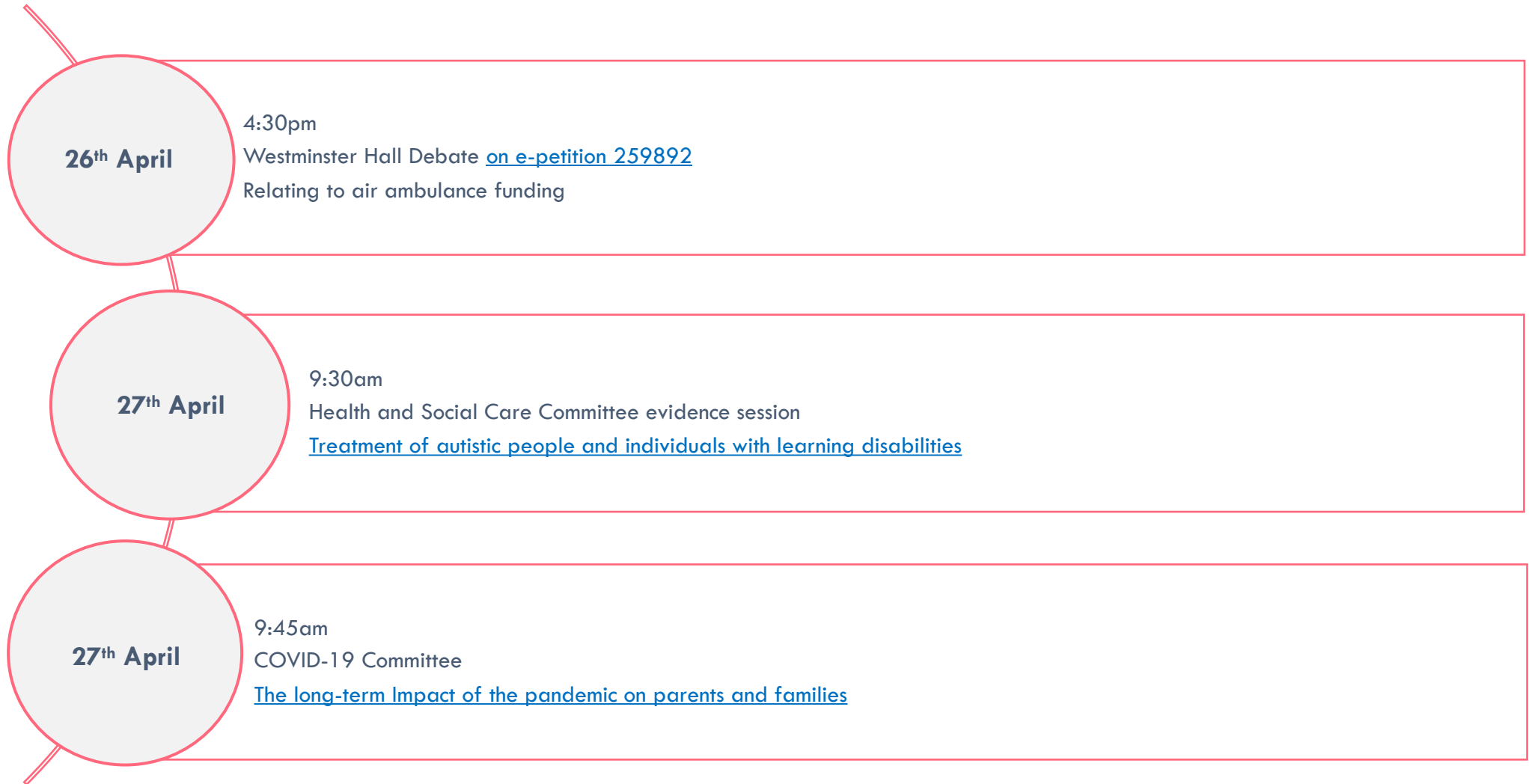
19^h April

According to an official government [document](#), NHS England and Improvement will publish a tender for a single HR, payroll, finance and procurement system covering the whole service in the summer. The new system described as an “*enterprise resource planning solution*”, would bring together the functions of two major national HR and finance systems used by the NHS and host services which affect the NHS’ 1.7 million staff and billions of pounds worth of NHS expenditure.

20th April

On 20th April, DHSC [launched](#) a new Covid-19 Antivirals Taskforce to roll out innovative antiviral treatments for the coronavirus later this year. The taskforce will identify treatments for UK patients who have been exposed to the virus to stop the infection spreading and speed up recovery time. According to the statement, the aim is to have at least two effective treatments available this year, either in a tablet or capsule form. The Medical Director of Primary Care for NHS England, Dr Nikita Kanani, said that, “*the NHS has put research into reality at record speed during the pandemic and this taskforce will now help us to identify and roll out even more new, convenient treatments for patients with COVID-19*”.

Lookahead: 23rd April- 6th May



29th April

Time TBC

House of Lords Oral Question

Government plans for the new Office for Health Promotion to take over responsibility improving the health of the nation - Lord Moynihan

6th May

12pm

House of Lords Oral Question

GP surgeries and appointments back to normal capacity - Lord Balfe

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](#)

Upcoming events

- **Monday 26th April - Westminster Health Forum:** [Next steps for diabetes prevention and improving patient outcomes in England - innovation, reducing variation, and the impact of key policy developments](#)
- **Wednesday 28th April - Westminster Health Forum:** [Next steps for improving older people's care - integration, managing the impact of COVID-19, and driving forward preventative healthcare](#)
- **Monday 26th - Thursday 29th April - King's Fund:** [Integrated care systems and place-based partnerships](#)