

# NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

17<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Retrospective report: 4<sup>th</sup> June – 17<sup>th</sup> June

6<sup>th</sup> June

According to a [report](#) in *The Times*, Baroness Dido Harding is considering a surprise application to become the next head of NHS England. The Conservative peer and former TalkTalk boss is currently on leave, having finished her role as Head of NHS Test and Trace in England back in April. A source said: “She is seriously considering it but has not reached a final decision.” Baroness Harding’s time in charge of NHS Test and Trace was controversial, with the system itself said to have had “minimal impact on transmission”. The rumours provoked a strong reaction from Labour MPs in particular, with David Lammy MP calling the idea a “dangerous joke” and Angela Rayner adding that “*Tories are so good at failing upwards*”. The board of NHS England will oversee the selection process to replace Sir Simon Steven when he steps down at the end of July, but Health Secretary Matt Hancock has a veto on the appointment.

8<sup>th</sup> June

Speaking at the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Sustainability Summit on 8th June, NHS Chief Sustainability Officer, Dr Nick Watts, [said](#) that all trusts and ICSs will be required to develop net zero plans by April 2022. Last October, the NHS became the first health system in the world to commit to becoming carbon neutral by 2040. However, Dr Watts said that this target “*means nothing unless it is translated into local actions*”. He acknowledged the target would be “*challenging given everything that’s going on*”, but he added: “*The plans don’t have to be perfect, but they need to start today. The message is: Let’s get on with it and start to deliver something.*” **The UTA will be monitoring and engaging with this process to understand what Integrated Care Systems will be focusing on, and feeding in where necessary.**

8<sup>th</sup> June

On 8th June, the Commons’ Health and Social Care Committee published its second [report](#) into its inquiry into ‘*Workforce burnout and resilience in the NHS and social care*’. The inquiry concluded that staff burnout across the NHS and social care in England has reached an “emergency level” and poses a “serious risk” to the future functioning of services. The report’s main recommendations included provisions within the Health and Social Care Bill to require Health Education England to publish objective, transparent and independent annual reports on workforce shortages and future staffing requirements that cover the next five, ten and twenty years, workforce reports to be undertaken in consultation with the devolved administrations and the level of resources allocated to mental health support for health and care staff to be maintained.

**13<sup>th</sup> June**

NHS England [announced](#) that 14 areas of the country will benefit from new clinics which will offer a 'one stop shop' for women suffering from incontinence and other pelvic floor issues. The clinics, which will provide additional support to up to 175,000 women each year, will bring together midwives, specialist doctors and specialist physiotherapists. They will also provide training and support for local clinicians including GPs. According to research, one in three women experience urinary incontinence in the first year after giving birth and up to three quarters of these women continue to experience this in the following 12 years. A further one in 10 women experience faecal incontinence and another one in 12 will have a pelvic organ prolapse.

Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, NHS England's Chief Midwifery Officer, said: "Our message to women is that issues like incontinence are preventable and treatable and that the NHS is there for them if they need support, including at these 14 new sites."

**16<sup>th</sup> June**

Speaking at the NHS Confederation Conference on 16<sup>th</sup> June, Julian Kelly, NHSE's Chief Financial Officer, [said](#) that NHS England will ask health systems to make "tougher" savings in the second half the financial year. During the pandemic, NHS trusts have been operating under a financial regime in which additional funding has been provided and where efficiency targets have been suspended. However, Mr Kelly said that there is now a need to "restore" those normal financial disciplines that were relaxed in 2020-21 and to think about how systems can make real progress on productivity and cut waste at the same time. He also said integrated care systems will need to have developed their capital plans for the next few years "pretty soon" as NHSE looks to collect more data and intelligence on its capital spending needs to put to the Treasury.

**16<sup>th</sup> June**

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) [announced](#) that thousands of patients and NHS staff will benefit from a share of £36 million which will go towards dozens of new artificial intelligence (AI) pioneering projects which will transform the quality of care and the speed of diagnoses for conditions such as lung cancer. Matt Whitty from NHS England and NHS Improvement, said that the announcement "demonstrates our backing for a broad range of innovations, including those to improve cancer care and support for our first mental health project. The NHS has the tools in place to become a world leader in testing and deploying new AI technologies that can improve patients' lives and showcase the breadth of talent and ingenuity present throughout the UK across academia, industry and the NHS."

## Lookahead: 18<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July

**21<sup>st</sup> June**

6:15pm

Westminster Hall Debate

[e-petition 328408](#), relating to Government contracts during the covid-19 outbreak

**24<sup>th</sup> June**

Adjournment Debate

[Use of patient data as part of NHS Digital's General Practice Data for Planning and Research programme - David Davis MP](#)

**24<sup>th</sup> June**

House of Lords Debate

[Social care provision in the UK and the role of carers in that provision](#)

**29<sup>th</sup> June**

House of Lords Oral Questions

[Reduction of waiting lists for hospital treatment to March 2020 levels, and regular publication of data on waiting times](#)

## 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](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Supporting those with dementia and their carers](#)
- **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** - [Standard adult ready-to-drink oral nutritional supplements: ACBS policy](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care, Welsh Government, and Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards** - [Reforming the national Clinical Excellence Awards scheme](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [The appointment and operation of the Patient Safety Commissioner](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [NHS holiday pay for voluntary overtime: equalities impact assessment](#)
- **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency** - [MHRA Patient Involvement Strategy consultation](#)

- **Public Health England** - [Community Health and Wellbeing Worker: employer demand scoping](#)

## Upcoming events

- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June-Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June - King's Fund:** [Community is the best medicine \(virtual conference\)](#)
- **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - NHS England:** [A review of the current evidence for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health in England](#)
- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Health Foundation:** [Tech and NHS recovery - what you should know](#)
- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June-Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July - King's Fund:** [Navigating the future of population health \(virtual conference\)](#)
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - King's Fund:** [The journey towards a smarter hospital within a new integrated care landscape](#)
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Westminster Health Forum:** [Next steps for the use of genomics in healthcare](#)
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Nuffield Trust:** [Acute specialists' roles in planning and delivering place-based care](#)
- **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June - Westminster Health Forum:** [Digital healthcare and new technologies in the NHS - system transformation, overcoming barriers to adoption and addressing key healthcare challenges](#)