

NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

1st July 2021

Retrospective report: 17th June – 1st July

22 June

The Department of Health and Social Care have published [a new data strategy](#) to grant new power over how identifiable patient data is collected and stored, as well as imposing a ‘duty’ on NHS organisations to share patient information. The strategy, which was produced by NHSX, includes several plans which DHSC seeks to legislate as part of the new Health and Care Bill. The legislative proposals were originally published in the government’s white paper on NHS reforms, but the new data strategy contains more details on why the changes are being proposed.

24 June

A draft of the Health and Care Bill is likely to be published imminently, with the second reading expected before the summer break. NHS England has called for the government’s forthcoming health and social care bill to be developed in a ‘spirit of listening [and] consensus’ or risk becoming ‘a distraction from our focus on improving NHS care’. On 24 June, an [NHSE board paper](#) included five “aspirations for the legislative process”. One is that “the spirit of listening to and achieving consensus with NHS organisations, staff and patients”, which it said characterised the formulation of the NHS’s own legislative proposals in recent years, “should hold true for the passage of this bill”.

29 June

On 29 June, an [Adjournment debate took place](#) in the House of Commons on changes to the NHS Integrated Care System (ICS) Boundaries. Many members discussed their concern towards the proposal set out in the White Paper that ICS boundaries should be redrawn to be coterminous with upper-tier local authority social care boundaries, adding that the current arrangement of ICSs work well. Members also criticised the “inadequate”, “unaccountable” and un-transparent consultation process that led to the proposal. One suggestion put forward was to allow the current ICSs to implement the new legislation and then look at whether boundary changes are necessary, rather than trying to do both at the same time. The Minister said that coterminous boundaries can support more joined-up working between the NHS and local government but accepted the point that “sometimes natural geographies of place can mean a lot more to our constituents than administrative boundaries”. The Minister reassured members that if there were any changes made to ICS boundaries as a result of the review, they would not impact on the patient’s right to choose or use services outside of their ICS or current patient pathway flows.

29 June

On 26 June, Sajid Javid was appointed as the new Health Secretary following the resignation of Matt Hancock over outcry caused by a video showing him breaching social distancing guidance by kissing a colleague. [NHS Confederation have warned](#) that if Javid delays the introduction of NHS legislation, the service will lose good managers and could sacrifice a rare consensus on health policy. Mr Javid is understood to be reviewing whether he wants to stick to this timetable, even though he has had no involvement in the bill, which Labour criticised yesterday as an “unworkable top down reorganisation”.

30 June

According to [new guidance](#), NHS England will publish each integrated care system’s carbon footprint before October, under plans to track progress against the health service’s sustainability programme. NHSE have said that regional and ICS baseline carbon footprints would be released by 30 September, with trust footprints developed after that. NHSE’s Greener NHS National Programme team will calculate each ICS and trust’s footprint based on local data, which must be submitted quarterly. The guidance has been issued following an instruction to trusts and ICSs to develop their net-zero plans by the end of this financial year. Trusts have been told to draw up their plans by 14 January 2022, which will then be “consolidated” into system-wide strategies. ICSs will be given two months to draw up these strategies, which must be submitted to NHSE’s regional teams by 31 March for peer-review before being published.

1 July

According to the HSJ, the candidates for the post of NHS England chief executive face 10 hours of interviews and a full day of psychometric testing. Applicants are due to be shortlisted on Tuesday 2 July – after which the final selection process will be finalised. However, a number of sources close to the process have revealed the following is being proposed. There will be a day of psychometric testing, and an initial interview with senior representatives from Number 10, the Treasury and the Cabinet Office, including Cabinet secretary Simon Case. The shortlisted candidates will also, separately, be interviewed by those NHS England and Improvement non-executive board members who are not represented on the final panel (see below). The board will conduct these interviews in groups of three – meaning candidates may face at least two interrogations at this stage. Unless the process is delayed because of the arrival of Sajid Javid as health secretary, the final formal interviews are due to take place in the week commencing 19 July.

Lookahead: 1st July – 15th July

TBC

Publication of the Health and Care Bill.

12 July

4:30pm

Westminster Hall Debate [on e-petition 564582](#), relating to research into motor neurone disease

13 July

House of Commons - Oral Questions to the Department of Health and Social Care

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

- **Tuesday 6th July:** The Health Foundation - [Webinar: A healthy recovery: Acting on findings from the COVID-19 impact inquiry](#)
- **Tuesday 6th July:** Westminster Health Forum - [Health and care service reform in England - policy developments, implementation, collaboration, integration, funding, accountability, and health outcomes](#)
- **Monday 12th July - Thursday 15th July:** The King's Fund - [Health and care explained \(July 2021\) virtual conference](#)
- **Tuesday 13th July:** Westminster Health Forum - [Improving children's mental health in the wake of the pandemic - policy priorities, services and targeted support, workforce development, tackling root causes](#)
- **Thursday 15th July:** Westminster Health Forum: [The future for procurement in the NHS - resilience and future health emergency preparedness, value for money and transparency, sustainability, and key lessons from COVID-19](#)
- **Thursday 15th July:** The Health Foundation - [Webinar: NHS reform - what do the proposals mean for general practice?](#)