

# NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Retrospective report: 27<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> September

**31 August**

On 31 August, NHSX [launched](#) new digital guidelines to support local NHS leaders and organisations to transform services for patients. The ‘What Good Looks Like’ framework calls for patients to be able to digitally access their care and test results, trusts to explore new ways of delivering care such as remote monitoring and consultations, and care to be improved through the use of electronic prescribing systems. The guidelines will be following up with an assessment process to be outlined later this year, so NHS services can identify their gaps and prioritise areas for investment and improvement. NHS England Chief Executive Amanda Pritchard said that digital transformation is an “*essential enabler for the NHS to help patients and staff*”, whilst Health Secretary Sajid Javid said the new guidance “*provides a clear direction to all NHS trusts on how to drive digital transformation forward and transform organisations, which will improve patient care and save lives.*”

**2 September**

Six new NHS trusts across England will receive funding for a ground-breaking trial of artificial intelligence to diagnose prostate cancer quicker, [according to](#) the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC). AI will be used to automatically detect prostate cancer from biopsy images, helping to reduce diagnostic errors and speed up accurate diagnosis. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men. In the UK, nearly 100,000 men undergo a prostate biopsy every year – a number expected to double in the next 10 years. More than 40,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in England every year. Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid said: “*Artificial intelligence has the potential to transform our health and care system and studies like this are vital in understanding the impact AI can make. Cancer diagnosis and treatment has remained a top priority throughout the pandemic, and I am committed to busting the backlog in cancer care.*”

**2 September**

New [analysis](#) by the NHS Confederation and NHS Providers shows that the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the cost of running frontline services by £4-5 billion a year. There are many reasons for this increase, such as extra cleaning to meet strict infection prevention and control (IPC) requirements, service expansion to cope with higher patient demand in terms of volume and acuity, and the need to bring in bank or agency workers to cover for staff who are self-isolating. The analysis explains that these extra costs will be a long-term feature of the health service, and consequently, it estimates that the NHS England 2022/23 budget needs to increase by around £10 billion compared to the 2018 NHS settlement to cover ongoing COVID-19 costs (£4.6 billion); recover care backlogs (£3.5-4.5bn); and make appropriate allowance for lost efficiency savings.

## 7 September

On 7 September, [the Health and Care Bill](#) Committee had its first and second sittings, which heard from witnesses from a number of organisations, including NHS England and NHS Improvement, NHS Providers and the British Medical Association. Amendments were not voted on but committee members sought views on certain aspects of the Bill from senior industry figures, including the Chief Executive of NHS England, Amanda Pritchard, and Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of NHS Confederation, the membership body for organisations that commission and provide National Health Service services. Mr Taylor said that their “major concern” about the Bill is the extension of the Secretary of State’s powers in relation to reconfiguration, which runs the risk not only of delaying necessary changes in the system, but of putting less emphasis on the views of local people and of clinical advice. The next sitting of the Health and Care Bill Committee takes place on 9 September.

## 7 September

On 7 September, the government [published](#) their long-awaited plans for health and social care, including a plan to tackle the elective backlog in the NHS and a plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs. The plans set out investment of £36 billion over the next three years and from April 2022, the government will introduce a new, UKwide 1.25 per cent Health and Social Care Levy, ringfenced for health and social care. The levy is expected to raise around £12 billion in extra funding per year. Speaking in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister said: *“You can’t fix the Covid backlogs without giving the NHS the money it needs. You can’t fix the NHS without fixing social care, you can’t fix social care without removing the fear of losing everything to pay for it, and you can’t fix health and social care without long-term reform. The plan I am setting out today will fix all of these problems together. The ‘Build Back Better’ plan also sets out the government’s intention to publish a white paper with further ambitions on integration and social care reform later this year.*

## 9 September

Earlier today, *The Times* [reported](#) that the NHS is hiring dozens of senior managers on salaries of up to £270,000, with chief executives of the 42 new integrated care systems being sought on pay averaging £223,261. MPs have warned that public money is being “thrown down a bottomless pit” but Health Secretary Sajid Javid MP has insisted that he would be “watchful for any waste or wokery”. The Health Secretary has faced criticism over the last few days for handing the NHS billions without clear commitments to improvements, with Anne Marie Morris, Conservative MP for Newton Abbot, asking, *“Without a plan, without accountability, how can we look the taxpayer in the eye and say ‘if you pay, we will deliver?’”*

**Lookahead: 10<sup>th</sup> September– 23<sup>rd</sup> September**



## 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](#)
- **Public Accounts Committee** - [COVID-19: Government procurement and supply of personal protective equipment](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Clearing the backlog caused by the pandemic](#)
- **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](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [General Practice Data for Planning and Research](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Cancer Services](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Expert Panel: evaluation of the Government's commitments in the area of mental health services in England](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Children and Young People's Mental Health](#)
- **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](#)
- **Work and Pensions Committee** - [The work of the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work](#)

## Relevant Consultations that are currently open

- Department of Health and Social Care – [The Health and Social Care Act 2008 \(Regulated Activities\) Regulations 2014: extension of expiry date](#)
- Department of Health and Social Care - [Making vaccination a condition of deployment in the health and wider social care sector](#)
- Department for Work and Pensions – [Shaping future support: the health and disability green paper](#)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency – [Point of Care Consultation](#)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency – [Early Access to Medicines Scheme \(EAMS\) Consultation](#)
- Migration Advisory Committee – [The impact of the ending of freedom of movement on the adult social care sector](#)

## Upcoming events

- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September:** King's Fund: [Building a culture of learning and accountability: learning from when things go wrong \(virtual conference\)](#)
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September:** Urology Trade Association: [NHS Reform – The Key Priorities for the Urology Sector](#)
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September:** Westminster Health Forum: [The future for urgent and emergency care in England - service transformation, efficient patient care, and learning from the response to COVID-19](#)
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September:** NHS Confederation: [NHS Communicate Conference](#)
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September:** NHS Confederation: [Peer learning: health inequalities and the elective and diagnostic backlog](#)
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September -Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:** King's Fund: [Anchor institutions: using resources and influence to reduce health inequalities \(virtual conference\)](#)
- **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September:** King's Fund: [Innovation in medicines: adapting for the future](#)
- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:** King's Fund: [Now or never: a systemic investment review of mental health care in England](#)