



26 November 2018

To: Council leaders, health and wellbeing boards, healthy scrutiny committees

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP RESIDENTS STAY HEALTHY: NHS PLANNING UPDATE

We would like to share the latest developments of the long-term plan for the NHS and ask for your support with developing the local conversations that are needed to translate it into action during 2019.

In June the Government asked the NHS to develop a long-term plan that described the future for the health service in exchange for a five-year funding settlement. Over the past four months, NHS England and NHS Improvement have set up a number of working groups – comprising local and national health and care system leaders, clinical experts and patient/voluntary sector representatives – to engage with partners on developing proposals.

We are acutely aware of the need to work with communities, including the full range of council services – from housing and planning to leisure, environment, skills and education, addressing the broader determinants of health and wellbeing lie beyond the sole reach of the health service. We are also very mindful of the funding pressures on social care and the need to deliver a sustainable settlement for the sector.

Therefore, the partnership between the NHS and local government and communities has never been more important. Over the past two years we have had a major push to advance the drive towards a more integrated health and social care system with a greater focus on prevention to ensure people stay healthy for as long as possible and get joined up effective care when needed.

To help systems achieve this, we will be joining up the support available to them through a direct presence from Public Health England in our new regional teams.

While the details are still being worked on, at the core of the plan will be a small number of priority areas – mental health services, cancer care, improvement to stroke and heart attack outcomes, children's services, integrated care for older people, and a drive to reduce inequalities.

This is not to say that existing areas of focus are to be downgraded – we will build on a collaborative and preventive approach to public health and improving the health and wellbeing of local people. Health and Wellbeing Boards will have a crucial role to play in this.

In terms of next steps:

- **Early December 2018:** The Long-Term Plan for the NHS will be published.
- **December 2018:** NHS England will publish a five-year funding settlement for every local area, giving a greater degree of financial certainty.
- **January – summer 2019:** Using this financial settlement, NHS organisations, local councils and the voluntary sector work together to develop a local strategy, tailored

for their particular circumstances, that will help to deliver on the aims of the national long-term plan.

The design and subsequent delivery of improvements in each neighbourhood, place and system will depend on your involvement, expertise and guidance. Once the plan is finalised we will be contacting our local authority partners again with further details of how we can work together to ensure successful implementation and future progress.

To meet the Government's target, we have been speaking to all parties involved and as you will see from our attached update, we have received over 2,500 responses to our call for help in designing our long-term approach. We are extremely grateful to our partners, including the Local Government Association, for their ongoing input and advice.

Integrated ways of working are the central core of the long-term plan and while many areas of the country are making great progress, there is still more to be done to turn this into a national reality. This is where the Long-Term Plan, and the subsequent publication of the hugely important social care green paper, will have the maximum impact.

I would also like to assure you that any integration work that has already been undertaken locally will now provide a strong foundation to accelerate the spread of services that are tailored to best suit local needs. NHS England and NHS Improvement have also commissioned Healthwatch to offer further support with local community engagement and local authority leaders will have an important role in helping to shape local plans.

If you have further questions you can get in touch with your regional NHS England team to discuss any issues. A full list of contacts is available at our website - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/regional-area-teams/>

Should you need support or information from the national NHS England team, please contact england.stgcommunications@nhs.net, and for support in engaging NHS providers, please contact NHSI.Stakeholderteam@nhs.net

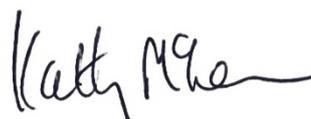
Finally, there is also a wealth of resources concerning integrated system working on the NHS England website and you can sign up for further updates here - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/email-bulletins/future-health-and-care-update/>

There is no doubt that the months ahead will be challenging but we look forward to working with you to ensure the partnership between the NHS and local authorities becomes the strongest it has ever been - making the most of each other's strengths and delivering a lasting improvement for our vital health and care services.

Best wishes



Professor Steve Powis
National Medical Director, NHS England



Dr Kathy McLean
Executive Medical Director, NHS Improvement