

NHS Long Term Plan

What has the NHS planned for the next 10 years?

Launched on Monday 7 January 2019, the NHS Long Term Plan comes after the Prime Ministers' announcement last year of £20.5bn additional NHS funding. The Plan aims to transform the health service over the next 10 years into one that is fit for the future, sustainable and where taxpayers' investment is used effectively. Devised from the collaboration of NHS frontline staff, patients and families and experts, the Plan represents the experience, views and ideas of 3.5 million people. It is perceived as a welcome step forward for the NHS, recognising the major challenges people face in the health system. Yet, some remain sceptical about the practicalities of funding and staffing to deliver the Plan.

It calls for some ambitious changes focused around prevention, resolving the staffing crisis, redistribution of resources and tackling inequality:

A New Service Model The NHS has stated there will be a guaranteed investment of £4.5bn each year in primary care and community services by 2023/24. The Plan aims for widespread successful Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) which are groups of local NHS organisations working together and to extend the range of community services in order to relieve pressures on GPs and curb the reliance on hospitals. In doing so, it aims to save 30 million hospital visits, empower patients in health management and increase same day emergency care.

Prevention and Inequality The Plan states that 500,000 lives could be saved each year through the Plan's combined preventative action and early detection. The key clinical priorities include cancer; increasing early diagnosis of cancers from half to three-quarters by 2028, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, multi-morbidities, supporting an ageing population, learning disabilities and autism and mental health. Additional funding of £2.3bn has been committed to mental health services with a particular focus on young people. Every local area is required to set out goals and mechanisms to narrow inequalities over the next 5 and 10 years.

Tackling Workforce Pressures Current staff will be supported with more flexibility in their working hours and career. The number of NHS volunteers will double and a workforce strategy with a training budget is expected later in 2019 to expand the workforce to keep up with growing demand.

Harnessing Technologies The NHS will create the right for all people to access GP services digitally. Clinicians, too, will benefit from better access to patient records and care plans, in doing so, supporting ICSs.

The next step of the Plan is for STPs and ICSs to work together with local councils and partners to develop and implement local strategies to fulfil the ambitions of the Plan. These local 5 year plans are to be published Autumn 2019. Until then, local Healthwatch, NHS groups and local community groups will work to ensure that the views of patients and the community are represented.

Read the NHS Long Term Plan [here](#).