

## Policy Briefing: Next Steps for the Five Year Forward View

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### Purpose of document

As the NHS approaches its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the health service has released its latest plan for next steps on how the NHS will deliver practical improvements to address the changing nature of patient need, as more people live longer and with multiple long-term conditions, and as the traditional model of managing care through in-patient stay in hospital becomes less appropriate. The document is an important update on the state of the NHS following two-and-a-half years on from the original NHS Five Year Forward View programme in 2014. Its purpose is to review what progress has been achieved in improving care since then and what changes will take place in a number of key areas over the next two years.

### Summary of contents

The report describes the NHS in 2017 including: progress since the Five Year Forward View, what will be achieved over the next two years and national priorities (Chapter 1). It focuses on 4 key areas of health: urgent and emergency care, primary care, cancer and mental health. It discusses a) what has been achieved over the past three years; b) key improvements for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and c) how changes will be implemented, for each of the 4 areas of health (chapters 2-5). It goes on to discuss integrated care locally (chapter 6), followed by funding (in light of the financial strain that the NHS is under) and speeding up improvements in efficiency to deliver better care (chapter 7). The report discusses strengthening and growing the frontline and medical workforce and improving working conditions (chapter 8). The next sections discuss key patient safety improvements (chapter 9) and making the best use of technology (chapter 10).

### Summary of outcomes

Next steps is one of the biggest national moves towards a more integrated health and social care system to help put the service on a more sustainable footing for the future. The document provides a balanced assessment about how realistic it will be to put the plan into practice and achieve what has been set out, over the next two years. Much of what is described in the plan is already in progress or being planned for except for the chapter on integrated care locally which provides more clarity about developing Sustainable Transformation Partnerships (STPs) (these are plans to help ensure that health and social care services in England are built around the needs of local populations) and Accountable Care Systems (ACS) (where NHS organisations work together with local authorities to take on joint responsibility for resources and healthcare providers). It recognises the need for ongoing development of new technology, methods, ideas and products to save money and to ensure that the NHS can be maintained at a certain level in the long-term for future generations. It clearly acknowledges the intense pressure that the NHS is under and the scale of the challenges it faces in a difficult financial position, while at the same time promising to focus on improving urgent and emergency care, primary care, cancer and mental health.

### Summary of recommendations

*Primary care:* Better access to GP services where everyone benefits from extended access to GP appointments in the evenings and weekend, newly designed 'Urgent Treatment Centres' and enhanced 111 services to ease pressure on A&E.

*Cancer care:* Improved cancer care to include one-stop testing centres, screening programmes, state of the art radiotherapy machines and a definitive diagnosis within 28 days after GP referral.

*Mental health:* Increase beds and the availability of psychological therapies and mental health services for children and young people, more beds for new mothers and increase the number of mental health professionals in communities and hospitals.

*Integrated care:* Better care that brings together services provided by GPs, hospitals, therapists, nurses and care staff to cut emergency admissions and time spent in hospitals.

Further information and resources

Five Year Forward View (2014)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/5yfv-web.pdf>