



Summary of National Documents

April 2017

Support for people with a learning disability

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee | April 2017

Two years ago, the previous Committee of Public Accounts reported on the Department of Health's efforts to move people with a learning disability out of mental health hospitals and into the community. At that time, the Committee found that progress had been poor but was promised improvements.

This follow up report finds the Transforming Care programme has moved some people out of hospital, however more needs to be done to address known barriers. There is also concern that support for people with a learning disability who live in the community is patchy.

- Download the full report [here](#)
- Report summary available [here](#)
- Report conclusions and recommendations available [here](#)

Access to General Practice.

The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee | April 2017

This follow-up report finds that the Department of Health and NHS England now have objectives to improve and extend access to general practice and have made some effort to understand the demand for extended access. However, the committee notes that extended hours are being introduced without an understanding of the level of access currently being provided, or how to get the best from existing resources.

The report also notes that despite the government's target to recruit 5,000 more GPs, the overall number of GPs has reduced in the last year, and problems with staff retention have continued.

Health Education England has increased the number of trainee GPs recruited, but still did not manage to meet its recruitment target last year.

- Download the full report [here](#)
- Report summary available [here](#)
- Report conclusions and recommendations available [here](#)



Impact of care quality commission

CQC | April 2017

This report considers what the CQC knows about how effective it has been so far. The focus for this report is on the CQC's main activities of registering, monitoring, inspecting and rating care services, enforcing against regulations and using their independent voice.

The full review is available [here](#)

Mental health patients to benefit from new digital services

NHS England | 12th April 2017

NHS England has announced funding for seven mental health trusts to enable them to pioneer [digital services for mental health patients](#). It is intended that all key professionals involved in a patient's care have access to real-time records – from triage and initial assessment, through to admissions or referrals, as well as transfer between services and follow up care.

The trusts will also develop remote, mobile and assistive technologies to empower patients to manage their conditions and enable family and carers to provide the best possible support.

The trusts will have up to £70m to invest in digital services – consisting £35m with additional match funding from themselves of £35m – in order to become 'Global Digital Exemplars for Mental Health' helping the organisations become world-leading in the use of IT, providing knowledge and expertise to the wider NHS in order to reduce time and costs for others.

This is all part of the NHS' plan to harness technology to improve services and become more efficient.

The full overview is available [here](#)

Help offered to medical students in crisis

The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund (RMBF) has today re-launched its programme of support for UK medical students. In two new publications it encourages students to seek help and offers advice on how to cope with the demands of studying medicine.

- A new downloadable publication, [The Vital Signs for Medical Students](#), highlights key pressure trigger points for medical students and provides advice on managing stress during the rigours of medical education. A new-look leaflet, for distribution in medical schools, will also set out the support on offer and encourage students to seek help in difficult times.



- The re-launched RMBF website also hosts an [updated guide](#) to medical student finances, which provides information on sources of funding, advice on applying for bursaries and grants, and tips for saving money as a student.

Professional Development Framework for Educators

The Educator Hub is a web-based multiprofessional e-learning resource for clinical educators | HEE | April 2017

Modules are linked to the new 'Professional Development Framework for Educators' which is being adopted in London and South East in the first instance. The framework domains map to professional regulatory standards for education and training including HEE's Quality Framework standards and are applicable to all educators working in clinical practice and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as guidance for best practice.

The framework areas are:

- Ensuring safe and effective patient care through training
- Establishing and maintaining an environment for learning
- Teaching and facilitating learning
- Enhancing learning through assessment
- Supporting and monitoring educational progress
- Guiding personal and professional development
- Continuing professional development as an educator

Find out more [here](#)

Implementing shared decision making in the NHS

Shared decision making requires a shift in attitudes at all levels but can become part of routine practice with the right support, say Natalie Joseph-Williams and colleagues | BMJ

Adoption of shared decision making into routine practice has been remarkably slow, despite 40 years of research and considerable policy support. In 2010, the Health Foundation in the UK commissioned the MAGIC (Making Good Decisions in Collaboration) programme to design, test, and identify the best ways to embed shared decision making into routine primary and secondary care using quality improvement methods

Read the full article [here](#)



How Cultural Alignment and the Use of Incentives Can Promote a Culture of Health

This report focuses on two questions that are central to understanding how individuals and sectors think about health and are motivated to promote it | RAND

Key Findings:

- Establishing health as a shared value is an important but challenging step in promoting health and well-being.
- The importance of both individual and community health and well-being needs to be acknowledged.
- Data can support the development of shared values.
- Stakeholders spoke of equity as requiring integration, collaboration, and thinking about health equity from a broader perspective than just health or resolving health disparities.
- Equity is often addressed in silos, which impedes progress toward a unified goal of health equity for all.
- Structural inequity among organizations serving different communities can pose a barrier to progress.
- Addressing equity takes time and effort.

Read the overview [here](#)

The full report is available [here](#)

Public Health England Business Plan 2017 to 2018

Public Health England (PHE) has published their business plan for 2017/2018. | April 3rd

The business plan for 2017 to 2018 outlines the main steps and actions PHE will be focusing on over the next year to protect and improve the public's health and reduce health inequalities.

It also describes how PHE will deliver the second year of the strategic plan 'Better outcomes by 2020' and should be read in conjunction with this document.

- Read the Business Plan [here](#)
- 'Better outcomes by 2020' is available [here](#)



Workforce Planning and Development Tool

New resource launched to help you implement a new workforce development plan | Skills for Care | April 2017

Developed in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, Skills for Care is helping employers get to grips with the complexities of workforce planning with the launch of a new online tool.

This tool is designed to help your organisation plan for and implement a new workforce development plan. Complete any of the 9 sections of the tool, and you will receive a free and personalised report based on your answers, and sent direct to your inbox.

In addition to advice and guidance based on your responses, each report contains links to further resources and guidance on the skills for care website.

The tool is available online [here](#)

UK top in primary care co-ordination according to international survey

The UK emerges as the first of 11 countries in an international survey of care co-ordination in primary care settings | The Commonwealth Fund | April 2017

The dimensions of care coordination assessed for this study were:

- access to medical records or test results;
- receiving conflicting information;
- use of diagnostic tests that the patient felt were unnecessary; sharing of information between primary care doctor and specialist.

The UK had the highest percentage of patients reporting no care coordination gaps within primary care.

Full results can be accessed [here](#)

STPs: who, what, why, when, where

BMJ | April 10th 2017

The NHS Delivery Plan – setting out what’s in store of the English NHS in the coming years, has been delivered by Simon Stevens the chief executive. Key to those are the sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) which have been made in 44 areas, and yet again reorganise care –



crucially, this time, with social care included in the mix. The BMJ have published two items explaining STPs:

- A podcast by Hugh Alderwick, senior policy advisor at the King's Fund explains what STPs are, and what they're planning, and crucially, the cash involved. The podcast is available [here](#)
- A related article 'Sustainability and transformation plans for the NHS in England: what do they say and what happens next?' is available [here](#)

Mindfulness training can reduce depression and anxiety among nurses

Hunter, L. (2017) *BMJ Evidence-based Nursing*. 20(2)

Commentary on: *Guillaumie L, Boiral O, Champagne J. A mixed-methods systematic review of the effects of mindfulness on nurses. J Adv Nurs 2016. Published Online First.*

Implications for practice and research:

- Mindfulness can help relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety among nurses and may improve patient care.
- There is a need for future quantitative studies to measure the nurse-perceived benefits of mindfulness identified in qualitative research.
- Mixed-methods reviews can help develop a more complete and clinically relevant understanding of a given topic.

Read the full commentary [here](#)

Read the original research article [here](#)

Updated revalidation standards and guidance

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has updated its revalidation standards and guidance in line with a planned review and stakeholder feedback | NHS Employers

All documents except the Code have been revised. The standards and guidance includes:

- New examples of circumstances which would not count towards practice hours,
- Changes in *How to revalidate* and the guidance sheet to explain why the reflective discussion partner must be a registrant and why the discussion must be a single discussion with one other person.



- Changes to the continuing professional development (CPD) examples to clarify that CPD is separate and different from everyday learning.
- An explanation on how confirmation differs from appraisal.
- Amendments to the alternative support arrangements guidance sheet.

More detail at [NHS Employers](#)

Download the revised [guidance documents](#) via NMC

Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework

The Better Care Fund will provide financial support for councils and NHS organisations to jointly plan and work together to deliver local services | April 2017

This document sets out the story of integration of health, social care and other public services, and provides an overview of related policy initiatives and legislation.

It is intended for use by those responsible for delivering the Better Care Fund at a local level (such as clinical commissioning groups, local authorities, health and wellbeing boards) and NHS England.

It includes the policy framework for the implementation of the statutory Better Care Fund in 2017 to 2019, which was first announced in the government's Spending Review of 2013 and established in the Care Act 2014.

It also sets out proposals for going beyond the Fund towards further integration by 2020.

- The Social Care Institute for Excellence's report, [Integration 2020: Scoping research](#), has also been published.
- Full paper: [Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2017 to 2019](#)

Long-term sustainability of NHS and Adult Social Care

The House of Lords Select Committee | April 2017

The House of Lords Select Committee on the Long-term Sustainability of the NHS has published The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care.

The Committee highlights the 'short sightedness' of successive governments for failing to plan effectively for the long-term future of the health service and adult social care. It makes a number of recommendations including the establishment of an independent Office for Health and Care Sustainability which will be able to identify clearly the healthcare needs of a changing population and the staffing and funding required to meet these needs.



The full report is available [here](#)

A related video overview of the report can be viewed [here](#)

Implementing a people powered approach to health

NESTA | March 2017

This report gathers a wide range of insights taken from three community sites on how to implement a people powered approach to health and wellbeing.

These three main insights were found to be the most important to making a difference on the ground:

- Helping people help themselves
- Creating opportunities for people to help one another
- Creating value between the professional and social spheres – helping health and care

The objective of the programme was to work with three sites to explore the opportunities to support effective ways of combining people power and community resources, together with publicly funded services, for better health outcomes across local communities.

The report goes into detail on how each of the three insights above can be developed to support a social movement in health for people and communities.

The full report is available [here](#)



References

Support for people with a learning disability

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Access to General Practice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpubacc/892/89202.htm>

Impact of care quality commission

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/review-cqcs-impact-quality-and-improvement-health-and-social-care>

Mental health patients to benefit from new digital services

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/04/mental-health-patients-set-to-benefit-from-pioneering-new-digital-services/>

Help offered to medical students in crisis

<http://www.rmbf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/the-vital-signs-for-medical-students.pdf>

Professional Development Framework for Educators

<http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/educator-hub/>

Implementing shared decision making in the NHS

<http://www.bmj.com/content/357/bmj.i1744>

How Cultural Alignment and the Use of Incentives Can Promote a Culture of Health

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR1800/RR1889/RAND_RR1889.pdf

Public Health England Business Plan 2017 to 2018

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/608484/PHE_Business_plan_2017.pdf

Workforce Planning and Development Tool

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=143220008590>

UK top in primary care co-ordination according to international survey

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/in-the-literature/2017/mar/minding-the-gap>

STPs: who, what, why, when, where

<http://www.bmj.com/content/356/bmj.i1541>

Mindfulness training can reduce depression and anxiety among nurses

<http://ebn.bmj.com/content/20/2/57>

Updated revalidation standards and guidance

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/news/2017/04/updated-revalidation-standards-and-guidance>



Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605164/Integration_and_BCF_policy_framework_2017-19.pdf

Long-term sustainability of NHS and Adult Social Care

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldnhssus/151/151.pdf>

Implementing a people powered approach to health

http://www.nesta.org.uk/sites/default/files/mobilising_communities.pdf

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www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/bulletins--blogs.html

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