



Ten steps

towards a

new plan for

the NHS in England

The NHS Confederation is calling for a national conversation about what we want and can expect from the health service in England over the next ten years. Crucially this needs to involve those who use and those who work for the service.

We propose ten actions which would underpin specific priorities for a new plan. The plan itself would set clear outcomes for patients and for the NHS over the next decade.

- 1** **Healthcare *must* be patient-centred**, with more focus on primary care, community health services and social care, all of which can help keep people in their own homes.
- 2** **We *must* invest in new models of care in the community** which can reduce the pressure on hospitals, rather than using extra funds to support the existing system which will not be able to cope with rising demand.
- 3** **We *must* devise national and local strategies to recruit** – and just as importantly – retain essential staff. That means flexibility in recruiting from at home and abroad – a relentless focus on retention and investment in professional development.
- 4** **We *must* wage war on unwarranted variation** and streamline administrative support and back office services. We need to identify what works and make sure we share ideas and innovation across the service.
- 5** **We *must* update legislation to create simpler structures** that enable organisations to work together for patients. Patients want to understand who is responsible for local services and how they can be held to account. The current system is a patchwork of confusion.
- 6** **We *must* work to put mental health on an equal footing with physical health** by investing so that more people with mental health problems, including children and young people, are treated quickly and effectively.
- 7** **We *must* invest in social care and integrate health and social care services.** The levels of unmet need in social care are a disgrace and cause suffering and increased demand on the NHS.
- 8** **We *must* have a national settlement with local government for commissioning properly integrated local services** – blasting down barriers and shaking off the silo working of the last 70 years.
- 9** **We *must* help manage demand for healthcare** by investing more and more effectively in public health interventions that promote health and prevent illness.
- 10** **The public *must* be consulted and clinical staff *must* be involved** in points 1–9, shaping the NHS long-term plan and transforming the services they deliver. For more detail or to interview Niall Dickson, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, please contact neil.durham@nhsconfed.org