The NHS journey into 2015

Through the 2015 Challenge campaign we led the debate on the NHS in 2014, providing a route map for fundamental change and helping to bring about the right conditions for NHS leaders to drive this change locally. We achieved more influence for the front line, more collaboration and consensus, more money for the NHS and more clarity for the future.

March
David Nicholson departed as CEO of the NHS with a stark warning that changes to the NHS cannot wait until the next general election.

March
Surveyed 500+ members on the key challenges facing the NHS. Results show strong consensus on the need for change and the real and significant consequences for the NHS and patients if it is not achieved.

March
Poll led 300 MPs across the UK. The vast majority of MPs believe their local NHS needs to change to meet the needs of patients.

March
The Budget came and went with nothing new except a continued commitment to protect the NHS budget.

May
Built a coalition of national stakeholders to support our 2015 Challenge Declaration, setting out the 'burning issues' facing the health and care system.

June
Met with the Secretary of State, senior shadow health ministers and national bodies, to set out in the clearest terms the purpose and urgency of the 2015 Challenge.

July
Summer of silence as MPs remained tight lipped on their future plans for health and care.

August
Surveyed 1,500 members of the public. Results showed the vast majority would support evidence-based changes to their local NHS services, but want politicians to be more honest with them about the NHS and its future.

September
Published the 2015 Challenge Manifesto with the support of the largest ever coalition of 20 national stakeholders, outlining the shared 'asks' of politicians and policy-makers.

September—October
The 2015 Challenge set the tone and framework for debate at the three party political conferences. Politicians heed our calls announcing a number of party pledges to support the NHS.

October
Publication of the Five Year Forward View reflecting the majority of our 2015 Challenge calls to action and supporting a new narrative around national and local leadership. We are asked to support implementation of the recommendations.

December
The Chancellor commits to a transition fund for the NHS in the Autumn Statement and additional funding to meet the deficit, a key plank of the 2015 Challenge campaign.

December
Publication of the Dalton Review which backs our call for local leaders as 'system architects' and flexibility in implementing new models of care at the local level. We are commissioned to support its implementation across the NHS.

December
The launch of the 2015/16 planning guidance sets the framework for implementation of the Five Year Forward View. We are asked to sit on a programme to support delivery.

2015 offers real opportunities for transformation in the NHS. The role and position of the NHS Confederation as a strong whole system leader, supporting and enabling this change, is more crucial than ever.

Through the 2015 Challenge campaign we will continue to focus on the big issues affecting the whole NHS:
- ensuring the next Government empowers NHS leaders with the time, space and political support to implement change
- ensuring we have permissive and supportive national bodies and structures that back strong local leadership and flexibility at the local level
- ensuring mental and physical health and care services are properly funded with the right payment systems and incentives in place
- ensuring we have an effective and sustainable workforce both now and in the future
- developing a new relationship between the NHS and the public based on co-production and supported self-care.

We could not achieve all we do on behalf of all our members, the NHS and patients without our members’ input and support.