The 2015 Spending Review – Summary of our representation to HM Treasury

The Spending Review is a crucial opportunity for the Government to respond to the pressures facing the health and care service and to support the NHS to become more sustainable for generations to come. The Spending Review can establish the financial settlement necessary to enable our members to focus on developing new ways of working so care better meet people’s needs, as set out in the Five Year Forward View (5YFV) published by NHS England and the other national bodies.

Key points in our submission

- The Chancellor has confirmed the Spending Review will commit an additional £8 billion for the NHS in this parliament, and the NHS will need to find £22 billion of efficiency savings to fill the gap between current resources and expected need for care. We recognise spending on healthcare is a political choice. We must ensure the additional funding is delivered in full as a real terms increase of all health spending – this includes capital investment, public health and running costs for the whole system.

- We need consistency and stability if the NHS is to transform services and find savings on the scale required. A key part of this will be a multi-year plan for increasing health spending by 2020/21. We also need as much of the extra funding delivered up-front, so we are asking the Treasury for at least £4billion to be invested by 2017/18. This will allow greater benefits to be realised later in the parliament.

- The Government must address concerns about the funding of social care or else the NHS funding gap will get bigger and the £22 billion efficiency will not be achievable. We call on the Treasury to outline a multi-year plan across the parliament to resource social care appropriately.

- The spending review needs to make good on the Five Year Forward View’s call for a radical upgrade to prevention and public health. We call on the Treasury to reverse the cuts to the public health grant and protect spending on public health and prevention.

- HM Treasury should reaffirm the Government’s commitment to increase funding for child and adult mental health in this parliament.

- There are a number of areas which need investment to help transform services. We call on the Treasury to...
recognise the Five Year Forward View transformation fund will rise to at least £1 billion and the need to establish a wider focus on transformation. We must ensure that local areas have the flexibility they need to decide where to best to invest this money to improve patient care.

- We need to transform the **NHS workforce**. In particular there is a need to modernise the current terms and conditions framework and pay structures for both the medical workforce and NHS Agenda for Change staff groups. To help enable this, we recommend the Treasury agrees to limited flexibilities to allow NHS employers to operate outside of the 1% public sector pay constraint cap.

**About the NHS Confederation**

The NHS Confederation represents 85 per cent of NHS providers and commissioners. The organisation has nearly 500 members across health and social care, including hospitals, community and mental health providers, ambulance trusts and independent sector organisations providing NHS care. It is the only membership body to bring together and speak on behalf of the whole NHS.