

NHS CONFEDERATION



Delivering
on your behalf

acute providers

2020/21

Ten ways we've made an impact

The NHS Confederation is the only membership body that brings together, supports and speaks for the whole healthcare system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We promote collaboration and partnership working as the key to improving population health, delivering high-quality care and reducing health inequalities.

The last 12 months have stretched the health and care system to its limit. Throughout the year, we have focused on supporting you to respond to immediate challenges and to look ahead to the next phase. We have been your voice in public and your advocate behind the scenes, lobbying for the changes you have requested.

Here are just some of the ways we have supported you this year.

It's time for a handbrake turn on the direction of health inequalities, by all of us working as partners, not adversaries. The NHS Confederation has a lead role in co-shaping the system-based partnerships of the future.

Dr Owen Williams OBE
Chief Executive, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

01 COVID-19 response

From PPE and test and trace, to the roll out of the vaccine (particularly in primary care) and the easing of regulatory burdens, we have been one of the most prominent voices making the case for the issues that mattered most to you.

02 NHS Reset campaign

We launched the NHS Reset campaign to help shape what the health and care system should look like in the aftermath of the pandemic. Among our successes, we helped secure a commitment for a leaner and lighter approach to governance and regulation. We are launching an update to the campaign in March to focus on what needs to happen in the recovery phase.

03 Health inequalities

Our BME Leadership Network campaigned for action on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on people from BME backgrounds, successfully lobbying government for ethnicity to be recorded on death certificates. Our new NHS Race and Health Observatory immediately started work to understand the barriers to take up of the vaccine among BME staff.



04

Extra NHS funding

We worked with the Health Foundation to make the case for additional funding to respond to the impact of the pandemic and to 'fill in the gaps' in the 2018 funding settlement. The Chancellor awarded £3 billion in the Spending Review – more than was expected but less than was needed.

05

System working

This has been at the heart of our work and we have engaged with leaders across the system to support the transition to every area becoming part of an ICS from April 2021. We have published three major reports and are influencing NHS England and NHS Improvement's proposals on next steps.

06

Brexit

We are a leading voice in the health sector on Brexit and run the influential Brexit Health Alliance and the Cavendish Coalition. The UK-EU trade and cooperation agreement met many of the provisions we have campaigned for on behalf of our members and the sector.

07

Support for social care

For the past 18 months we have led Health for Care, a coalition of health organisations that has been increasing pressure on the government to boost funding and support for social care.

08

Workforce

Through NHS Employers, we have provided support and guidance to workforce leaders throughout the pandemic, supplying information and advice on a range of issues, including shielding and testing, pre-employment checks and life assurance, and staff deployment and wellbeing.

09

Mental health

Our Mental Health Network played a key role in highlighting the additional demands on services due to the pandemic, helping to secure an extra £500 million for mental health as part of the Spending Review.

10

Membership for the whole system

We achieved our goal of launching new networks for our PCN and ICS members. Each network meets regularly and we are increasingly acting as the voice of PCN and ICS leaders, providing them with opportunities to influence and raise their profile on key issues.



Working on your behalf

Acute providers have been at the forefront of the response to COVID-19. During this difficult year, we have been here to support and represent you, and voice your concerns nationally.

We have also sought to learn from the last 12 months and look to the future, exploring what the health and care system could look like and how transformation can be sustained.

In 2020/21 we have represented you, kept you connected and supported you in a number of ways.



Represented

- Successfully lobbied the Care Quality Commission to suspend inspections.
- Wrote to Ruth May and Susan Hopkins about PPE guidance and whether FF3 masks should be issued as standard.
- Secured automatic extension of visas for NHS staff that were due to expire last year.
- Held member-only roundtables with parliamentarians, including a session with health minister Edward Argar MP on cancer services.



Connected

- Hosted the NHS Reset Chairs Forum, bringing together chairs and non-executives from across England, Northern Ireland and Wales.
- Facilitated member sessions with decision-makers on issues including the phase three guidance, provider collaboration, test and trace, and Brexit.
- Worked with members to start discussions on a new policy framework for elective care.
- Hosted member sessions with the Health Foundation to explore modelling ahead of the Spending Review.



Supported

- Provided support through our regional teams, which cover the seven NHS regions, including bespoke regional events.
- Worked with organisations outside the NHS to explore issues such as the relationship between the NHS and colleges, how the NHS and voluntary and community sector can work better together, and how the NHS can put sustainability at the heart of what it does.
- Produced member briefings on issues of interest, including the Spending Review 2020, phase three guidance, understanding long COVID and the urgent and emergency care clinical review of standards.

Support for leaders

The NHS Confederation's programme of peer learning and support for first-time provider chief executives continued this year, generating a report on learnings from the first wave, and contributing to the creation of NHS England and NHS Improvement's executive suite.

Our successful Health and Care Women Leaders Network published *Action for Equality: The Time is Now*, which provided renewed impetus for greater gender representation and diversity on NHS boards. The network also commissioned a survey to better understand the impact of the pandemic on women working across health and care services.

The BME Leadership Network has been a vital source of support for BME leaders throughout the pandemic and a leading voice on combatting inequalities. In December, it published a major report on the underlying factors behind the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on BME communities and outlined necessary action to mitigate risks.

We launched the Health and Care LGBTQ+ Leaders Network, which aims to increase the numbers and visibility of LGBTQ+ people on boards and in senior leadership and to improve the experience of LGBTQ+ staff and patients. The network celebrated National Coming Out Day by publishing a compilation of coming-out stories from some of our LGBTQ+ leaders.

In November, all three networks hosted a festival of learning, wellbeing and inclusion, attended by over 170 delegates and featuring speakers including former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard. One hundred per cent of delegates who provided feedback said they would recommend the event to a colleague and felt it was good value for money.



Our support in numbers

Represent



3,000+ people took part in our NHS Reset campaign, attending more than 50 events and contributing to 10 major reports



Contributed to **20** parliamentary inquiries, regularly giving evidence based on your insights



35 policy reports calling for targeted changes that our members want to see



Regular appearances in the national media, acting as the voice of leaders across the system

Connect



100+ events, roundtables and webinars, bringing together leaders across the system



Regular meetings of our equality and diversity networks, providing independent safe spaces **3**

Support



200+ daily COVID-19 briefings, distilling latest news, views and developments



180+ blogs, sharing learning and sparking debate



Monthly sessions for first-time provider chief executives, equipping leaders and providing peer support



90+ policy briefings, summarising and analysing policy and guidance

The last year has shown what we can achieve for patients, families, carers and staff by supporting each other and sharing our expertise. The NHS Confederation is invaluable in helping us achieve it.

Sam Allen
Chief Executive, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Keeping you informed and connected

There are a number of ways to keep in touch with our work and connect with what we do.



We have a regional lead in each of the seven NHS England and NHS Improvement regions. Please do make contact with them via regional.leads@nhsconfed.org



We offer a wide range of email newsletters and bulletins, including daily member briefings, a weekly round-up of topical issues, and a range of special interest bulletins across key topics such as integrated care, system working, Brexit, and diversity and inclusion. Subscribe by visiting www.nhsconfed.org/newsletters



Providers of NHS services can access our bulletin focused on integrated care and system working, and supporting them in their role in local systems. Subscribe by visiting www.nhsconfed.org/newsletters



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The NHS Confederation is the membership body that brings together and speaks on behalf of the whole NHS

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