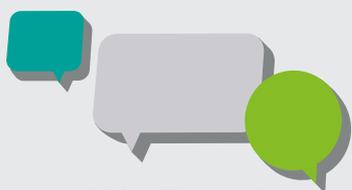


Community health services

Community health services play a key role in our health and care system. They keep people well at home and in community settings close to home, and support people to live independently.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, community health providers have stepped up and shown their value, flexibility and resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges. COVID-19 has shown that with the right funding, workforce and support from the government and national NHS bodies, we can successfully deliver more care within and closer to home; a key ambition of the NHS Long Term Plan.

What are community health services?



100 million patient contacts a year



one fifth of NHS workforce



£10 billion spend of the NHS budget

Services include:

Specialist long-term condition

e.g. nursing for diabetes and cancer

Adult community services

e.g. district nursing and end of life care

Planned community services

e.g. podiatry, physiotherapy

Hospital services

e.g. bedded facilities to support treatment, recovery and rehabilitation

Children's 0-19 services

e.g. health visitors, school nursing

Health and wellbeing services

e.g. sexual health, smoking cessation

Services are delivered in different settings, such as:



Homes



Community hospitals



Community health centres/clinics



Schools

Through different models of provision:

Working with with key partners in primary care, social care and public health.

50%

community interest companies, local authorities, social enterprises, private providers, GP practices, primary care networks, pharmacies



50%

NHS trusts and foundation trusts

Central to the NHS response to COVID-19



Providing innovative, flexible service delivery

Redeploying entire teams to support discharge of COVID-19 patients who were well enough to be cared for in the community.

Reprioritising some staff to new areas or acute services.

Digitally transforming services.



Delivering extra care in the community

Managing increased demand and more complex care needs from former COVID-19 patients.

Supporting people in the community, where care has been delayed.



Playing a crucial role in the COVID-19 vaccine programme

Acting as a lead provider in the early stages of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Reprioritising some staff to work on vaccine programme.



Rapidly speeding up safe discharges and managing patient flow

Working collaboratively to **reduce acute bed occupancy** - by 30-40% in places.

Managing more **complex needs** in the community.



Supporting the social care sector

Providing support with **staffing, personal protection equipment and infection prevention control** in care and residential homes.

Working with primary care to deliver **enhanced health** in care homes.



Tackling the backlog of care

Using **digital technology** to deliver more care more efficiently.

Setting up long-covid clinics to support people with ongoing needs.



Managing these increased demands

Supporting 15% more people than at the same point last year.

And this is set to continue.

What do community health services need to sustainably deliver services and meet new challenges created by COVID-19?



Key leadership role within integrated care systems:

Policies that enable community providers to play a crucial role in joining up care at 'place' level with partners, including local authorities, public health and primary care.

Strategic role within integrated care systems to help deliver more care closer to home and prioritise prevention.



Recruitment drive to increase staffing levels:

National funding and support to boost retention and recruit additional staff to meet increasing and changing demand and tackle the care backlog.



Appropriate funding to sustain and protect delivery:

Appropriate funding and greater transparency about funding flows to community health services.

Bringing forward planned investment in community health service.

Confirm long-term funding to allow hospitals to continue discharging patients as soon as they are well enough to go home.



Sustained national commitment to delivering more care in and close to home:

Policy objectives for more care in the community matched with resources and funding.

Development of strategic role of community health services in integrated care systems, especially around population health management.

The Community Network is the national voice of NHS community providers. We support trusts and not-for-profit organisations providing NHS community health services to deliver high-quality care by influencing national policy development, sharing good practice, and promoting a vision of integrated care in the community. The network is hosted by the NHS Confederation and NHS Providers.