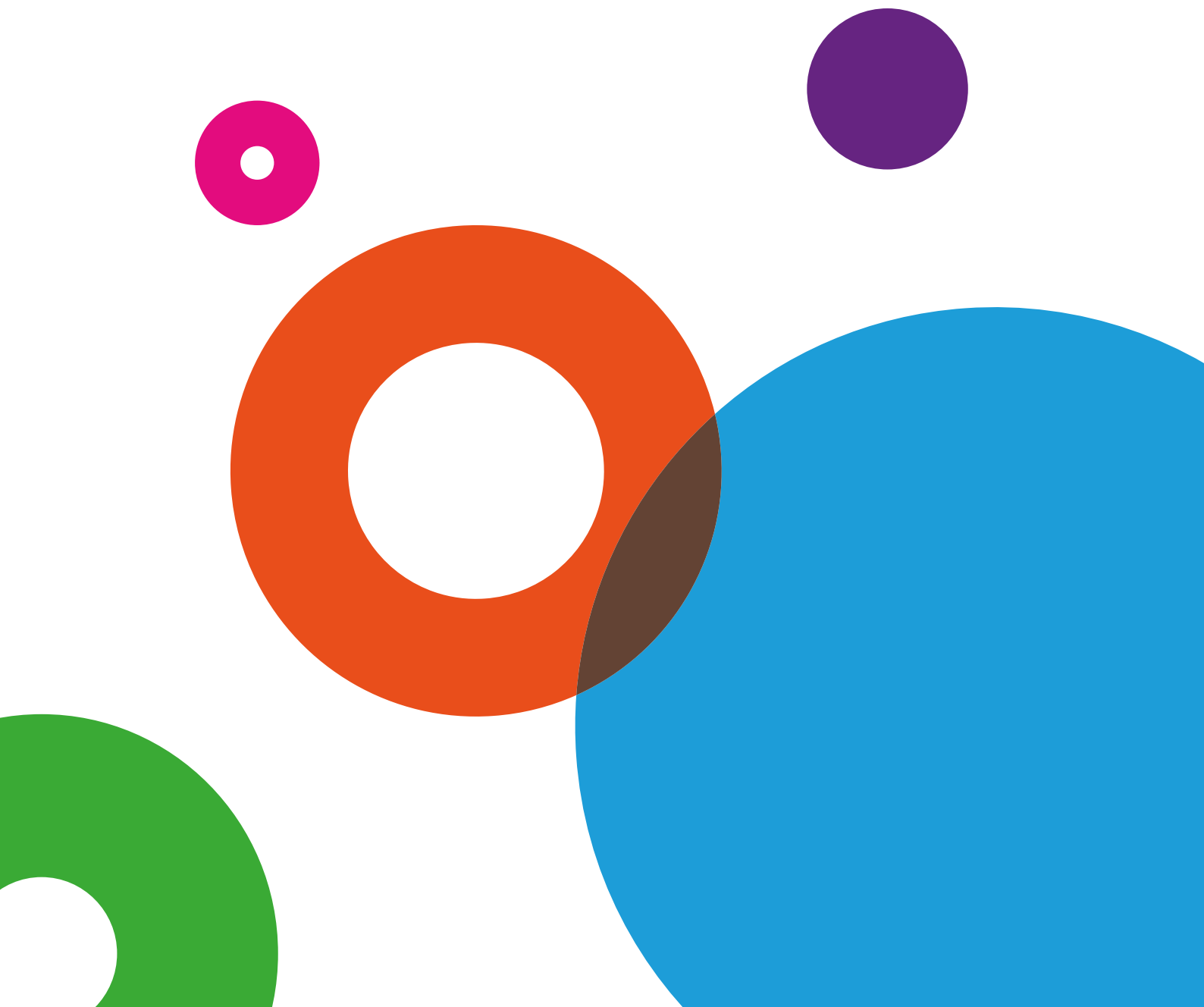


The NHS and social care

A guide for Members of Parliament



Contents

- 3 About the NHS Confederation**
- 4 About our networks**
- 5 About our coalitions**
- 6 National priorities for the NHS**
- 8 The NHS in your constituency**
- 9 The NHS in parliament: What you need to know**
 - Select Committees
 - Health and Social Care APPGs
 - Key bills, consultations and votes to watch out for
 - Key areas where you can support the NHS
 - What the NHS will do in return
- 13 Useful resources**
- 17 Regional engagement leads in your area**
- 18 How the NHS Confederation can help you**
- 19 Join us at ConfedExpo 2020**

About the NHS Confederation

The NHS Confederation brings together and speaks on behalf of organisations that plan, commission and provide NHS services.

Through our networks in England and our operations in Wales and Northern Ireland, we represent the wide variety of organisations involved in commissioning and providing NHS care, and as such we are well placed to articulate the interests of the whole healthcare system.

We work across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with separate operations in Belfast and Cardiff and we have a European Office focused on representing NHS interests in Europe and making sure the needs of patients and the healthcare sector are listened to and acted upon as we exit the European Union.

In England, we also run NHS Employers, which supports the health service in a myriad of ways

in its role as the nation's largest employer. The Confederation's members include:

- NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts providing acute, mental health, community and ambulance services
- independent, social enterprise and voluntary sector providers of NHS services
- academic health science networks.

We see our critical role as being to support and bring together all parts of the health and care system to help develop solutions to the challenges it now faces. We work closely with our partners in local government to do this.

We believe the emergence of system working will make our contributions more vital than ever as every part of England moves to become an integrated care system by 2021.



About our networks

NHS Clinical Commissioners

The independent collective voice of clinical commissioners

NHS Clinical Commissioners

[NHS Clinical Commissioners](#) is the independent membership organisation for clinical commissioners. Our job is to help clinical commissioners get the best healthcare and health outcomes for their communities and patients. We give them a strong influencing voice from the front line to the wider NHS, national bodies, government, parliament and the media. Our networks provide members with the opportunity to share experience and expertise, and provide information, support, tools and resources to help clinical commissioners do their job better.



Mental Health Network

The [Mental Health Network](#) is the voice for NHS-funded mental health and learning disability service providers in England. We represent NHS providers from across the statutory, independent and third sectors in working with government, regulators, opinion formers, media and the wider NHS to promote excellence in mental health services and the importance of good mental health.



NHS Employers

[NHS Employers](#) is the employers' organisation for the NHS in England. We help employers to develop a sustainable workforce, improve staff experience and be the best employers they can be. Our practical resources and expert insights help make sense of current and emerging healthcare issues, to keep employers up to date with the latest thinking and ensure they are informed and equipped to support the NHS workforce.



Independent Healthcare Providers Network

The [Independent Healthcare Providers Network](#) is the representative body for independent sector healthcare providers. We represent independent sector providers of NHS clinical services all services delivered by our members including NHS and privately funded care.

About our coalitions



Brexit Health Alliance

The NHS Confederation leads the [Brexit Health Alliance](#). The Alliance was established to bring together NHS, medical research, industry, patients and public health organisations, to work under the shared aim of safeguarding the interests of patients – and the healthcare and research they rely on – during the Brexit negotiations.

The Brexit Health Alliance does not take a stance on the merits or otherwise of Brexit, and works to ensure that issues such as healthcare research, access to technologies and treatment of patients are given the prominence and attention they deserve throughout the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.



Cavendish Coalition

The NHS Confederation, its networks, and its national and European offices (including NHS Employers), are all leading members of the [Cavendish Coalition](#). The Coalition is a group of 36 health and social care organisations united in their commitment to provide the best care to communities, patients and residents.

The Cavendish Coalition is committed to: creating opportunities for training and employment within its members' communities; promoting employment policy and practice that ensures the UK continues to attract skills from Europe and around the world for the health and care sector; and delivering certainty for those working in the health and care sector who originate from European Economic Area countries.



Health for Care

The NHS Confederation leads [Health for Care](#), a coalition of 15 national health organisations that have joined forces to make the case for a sustainable social care system, backed up by a long-term funding settlement.

The coalition was established in response to the ongoing crisis in adult social care and consecutive governments' failure to resolve the question of how social care should be funded and provided in England.

National priorities for the NHS

The NHS is facing unprecedented demand due to an ageing population, more patients with complex conditions and rising expectations. Combined with serious shortages in the workforce and overdue investment in infrastructure and IT, the NHS is under enormous pressure. Despite the extra funding already announced, the combination of growing demand and years of low growth means that the NHS now faces considerable challenges just to maintain existing levels of service.

The latest performance statistics show that targets in key areas are being missed and the NHS is heading towards its toughest winter yet. There is no quick fix for all the challenges facing the NHS in England but there is an agreed direction of travel laid out already in the NHS Long Term Plan, which was published in January 2019.

Overcoming these challenges will take time and requires action on a number of fronts. The new government needs to make sure there is sufficient investment and support to enable the NHS to meet current and future demands and to change the way it delivers care so that its services are stable and sustainable.

Dawn of a new era

The NHS Long Term Plan marked the dawn of a new era for the NHS. The plan laid out the vision for a future health service characterised by more joined-up care and a greater focus on community, primary care and mental health services.

Prior to the election, the NHS Confederation surveyed its members in England to ascertain what issues matter to them and what frontline services are needed to meet both growing demand and the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan. Respondents included chief executives, chairs and directors from NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups and local integrated care systems.

[Our survey](#) found that health leaders overwhelmingly see workforce, social care and capital investment as the three areas most in need of government attention. Some of these key findings are included below.

The workforce crisis in the NHS must be addressed – nine in ten (91 per cent) health leaders said that understaffing is putting patient safety and care at risk. More than eight in ten said the current issues with the NHS Pension Scheme were exacerbating workforce pressures.

Almost all (98 per cent) of health leaders said the worsening social care crisis is having a knock-on effect on the NHS and damaging patient care.

Despite welcome announcements of new capital funding, NHS infrastructure is not fit for purpose. 93 per cent of health leaders stated that the lack of capital investment persists as a significant problem.

Leaders support the introduction of a more nuanced approach to assessing NHS performance, with some stating that the existing targets are no longer 'fit for purpose', despite having led to reductions in how long patients wait for treatment.

The NHS in your constituency

NHS trusts

Hospitals are often at the heart of our local communities, looking after local people at key points in their lives. Hospitals, also referred to as the 'acute' sector, provide secondary care, but NHS trusts also include mental health trusts, ambulance trusts, and community health trusts.

Clinical commissioning groups

Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) were created following the Health and Social Care Act in 2012 and replaced primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2013. They are clinically led, statutory NHS bodies, responsible for the planning and commissioning of health services for their local area. CCGs are responsible for the health of their entire population, assess local needs, decide priorities and buy services on behalf of the population from providers such as hospitals, clinics and community health bodies.

Sustainability and transformation partnerships

In 2016, NHS organisations and local councils joined forces across England to develop proposals for improving health and care in their areas. In doing so, they formed sustainability and transformation partnerships (STPs). These partnerships were created to enable health services to be delivered in a more coordinated way, and are currently evolving towards becoming integrated care systems.

Integrated care systems

Integrated care systems (ICSs), which evolved from STPs, are collaborative groups between NHS organisations, local councils and other bodies. They take collective responsibility for managing resources, delivering NHS standards and improving the health of the population they serve. Our regional leads are on hand to support ICSs and STPs across the different regions in England. Find out more on page 17.

Primary care networks

Primary care networks (PCNs) bring together all general practices within an area to work collaboratively and at scale. Most networks are geographically based and, between them, cover all practices within the boundary of a CCG.

The NHS in parliament: what you need to know

Select Committees

As part of our responsibility to convey our members' views and interests to parliamentarians, the NHS Confederation often submits written evidence on a diverse array of public policy areas to inquiries of parliamentary select committees. If you are interested in pursuing an inquiry and would like to speak to one of our team about our members' priorities and thoughts on an issue, then please get in touch. We are also happy to provide impartial, written briefings on key topics and welcome requests for briefings of technical or specialist areas if this would be of assistance to your parliamentary duties.

Recent parliamentary contributions by the NHS Confederation to select committee inquiries:

Health and Social Care Select Committee: recent joint work

Earlier this year, the NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and the Independent Health Providers Network submitted written evidence to the Commons' Health and Social Care Select Committee inquiry on the [NHS Long Term Plan: legislative proposals](#). Subsequently, Niall Dickson (chief executive of the NHS Confederation), Julie Wood (chief executive of NHS Clinical Commissioners) and David Hare (chief executive of the Independent Health Providers Network) were invited to deliver oral evidence to the inquiry. Evidence given by the NHS Confederation and its networks informed the committee's [report](#) on the matter, which was published in June 2019.

In 2018, the NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and the Independent Health Providers Network submitted [written evidence](#) to the inquiry exploring integrated care organisations, partnerships and systems. The committee published its [report](#) in May 2018.

Home Affairs Select Committee

In February, Danny Mortimer, chief executive of NHS Employers, gave oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the [EU settlement scheme](#). At the oral evidence session, the NHS Employers informed the

committee about NHS organisations' and employees' experiences of applying for settled status under the EU settlement scheme.

International Trade Committee

In June, the NHS Confederation presented evidence to the International Trade Committee's [inquiry into UK trade in services](#). In its evidence, the NHS Confederation stressed that an early priority of government should be to negotiate a trade agreement with the EU, to promote continuity and to minimise potential disruption and costs after the UK withdraws from the European Union.

Health and Social Care APPGs

We are happy to support MPs and Peers in their work on APPGs where possible.

A selection of health-focused APPGs include:

- The [All-Party Parliamentary Health Group](#)
- The [APPG on Social Care](#)
- The [APPG on Adult Social Care](#)
- The [APPG on Health in All Policies](#)
- The [APPG on Healthcare Infrastructure](#)
- The [APPG on Rural Health and Social Care](#)
- The [APPG on Young People's Health](#)

Key bills, consultations and votes to watch out for

NHS Long Term Plan Bill and NHS Funding Bill

Following the NHS Long Term Plan, the government announced that it would introduce two bills: the NHS Long Term Plan Bill and the NHS Funding Bill. The former would set out the NHS programme of domestic reform that delivers on the people's priorities, while the Funding Bill commits to enshrine NHS multi-year funding settlement into law. Further information about what this bill might contain can be found in NHS England and NHS Improvement's [recommendations paper](#).

Pensions consultation and impact on NHS workforce

In 2019, the Department of Health and Social Care consulted on various changes to the NHS Pension Scheme regulations. The government decided to go ahead with the proposed changes. You can read the full consultation and

government response on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk). NHS Employers' response to the NHS Pension Scheme consultation can be found on the [NHS Employers website](#). The NHS Confederation is calling on the government to undertake an urgent review of the scheme before April 2020 to minimise the damaging impact of the pension scheme on the NHS workforce.

Health Services Safety Investigations Bill

This bill establishes a new independent healthcare safety investigation body to improve patient safety. Initially, [this bill](#) was announced in the Queen's Speech on 21 June 2017, then again on 14 October when it was introduced in the House of Lords on 15 October 2019.

Social care

In 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson committed to fixing the social care crisis. During the general election, the Conservative Party pledged to hold cross-party talks to find a long-term solution. While there are currently no specific debates agreed in the parliamentary calendar, the need to act is greater than ever before. Numerous private and council-funded services are on the brink of collapse, and so the need for the government to invest, reform and plan for the future early in the new parliament is essential.

Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill

The government has outlined its aim to introduce a new points-based system for immigration, including introducing a new fast-track NHS visa to attract the best healthcare professionals from around the world.

Bill on Medicine and Medical Devices

This bill will aim to allow the NHS and patients to get faster access to innovative medicines, while supporting the growth of our domestic sector.

Key areas where you can support the NHS

Over the course of this parliament, we want MPs and Peers to be frank with the public about the scale of the challenges facing health and social care. This should be reflected by holding constructive and – where possible – cross-party consensual debates in parliament that have the interests of patients and the hardworking NHS workforce at heart.

It is critical that the areas mentioned above remain high on the political agenda in parliamentary committees, parliamentary questions, in relevant all-party parliamentary groups and in parliamentary legislation.

There will also be many local areas where debates will be happening about the future of local services. It's right that MPs play a key role in these discussions. We encourage MPs to engage with both our members and patients in their respective constituencies to ensure we can continue to work together to build a world-class health care system.

What the NHS will do in return

This is not just down to politicians. Leaders at all levels of health and care, and in all local areas, need to build on progress made so far and drive the changes required. They will do so working in partnership with people who use the NHS and social care; with the public; with their staff and, as peers in local systems, with each other.

In return for political support, health and care leaders will work to:

- look beyond the boundaries of their own organisations and work in new and innovative partnerships with other sectors in their local area, such as housing, to improve people's care
- support patients, carers and citizens to get involved with, and help shape, health and care decisions
- engage health and social care professions, harnessing their ideas to improve care
- support health and social care professionals to take on leadership roles.

Useful resources

Acronym buster

Use the NHS Acronym app for definitions of over 1,000 commonly used NHS abbreviations. Download the app from App Store or Google Play – just search ‘NHS Acronym’.

Time to deliver: NHS priorities for the new government

[This report](#) reflects on the pledges made in the Conservative Party manifesto and sets out how NHS Confederation members believe they should be developed to provide a comprehensive programme of action for the new government. It covers both the immediate actions needed, and those that need to be delivered within the lifetime of this parliament, in five key areas: workforce, capital investment, social care, mental health and Brexit.

Fit for the future: how should the incoming government help the NHS?

The NHS is consistently ranked among the top issues that voters cared most about during the 2019 general election. The NHS Confederation [surveyed its members in England](#) to gauge what they feel are their most critical priorities for an incoming government.

Chink of light? Tackling the underfunding of social care

[This briefing](#) identifies the factors that have been placing a strain on adult social care in recent years and what the future pressures could be. It analyses the anticipated adult social care funding gap in 2019/20, concluding that to maintain the status quo, the cash injection required is between £1.1 billion and £2.5 billion.

Letter to the Chancellor on impact of pensions tapering on the NHS

The effect of pensions tapering on the NHS’s ability to deliver frontline care is significant. The NHS Confederation [wrote to the Chancellor with recommendations](#) for how the pension system needs to change to stem the impact this is having on patient care and safety.

The NHS and future free trade agreements

[This report](#) assesses the impact on the NHS of future trade deals after Brexit and argues that the impact of trade deals should be assessed to ensure that commercial advantage is not prioritised at the expense of human and economic health. The report finds that a post-Brexit trade agreement with the US will not of itself threaten the founding principles of the NHS, but trade agreements should not include publicly funded healthcare.

The changing face of clinical commissioning

[The changing face of clinical commissioning](#) showcases the unique perspective brought by clinical commissioners – the organisations that plan and purchase health care services at a local level – including clinical expertise, collaborative working with provider and local government colleagues, and an understanding of the population’s needs in the system in which they operate. It makes the case that these are essential components to developing integrated services that are fit for purpose and get the best value for each NHS pound.

Driving forward system working: a snapshot of early progress in collaborative commissioning

[This report](#), produced jointly with NHS Providers, shares examples of local areas that have made progress in collaborative system working. While there is no single best approach to deliver collaborative commissioning, a number of common success factors are already facilitating system working, which are explored in the report.

Towards equality for mental health: developing a cross-government approach

[This report](#) considers the steps that must be taken if the ambition of ‘parity of esteem’ for mental health is to be achieved in England by 2030/31. Its starting point is the belief that improving the nation’s mental health cannot be achieved through a focus on health services alone, vital though these are. A much more ambitious, cross-government approach to mental health is also required.

Modernising the Mental Health Act

The independent [review of the Mental Health Act](#), led by Professor Sir Simon Wessely, has concluded its work with the publication of a report setting out over 150 recommendations on how to improve care for people experiencing a mental health crisis. The Mental Health Network published this briefing on the review’s final report as a concise summary of its findings and recommendations and calls for a sustained focus on improving the inpatient ward environment.

Health in all local industrial strategies?

The government published its Industrial Strategy in November 2017. Every local economic area in England, along with the devolved administrations, is now developing its own local industrial strategy. [This briefing](#) reflects on the emerging importance of health to the local industrial strategies, explores the opportunities for the NHS that exist at both system and organisational level and outlines how to engage with and influence the development of these strategies in the coming year.

The role of the independent sector in the NHS: busting the myths

Throughout its history, the health service has relied on independent and voluntary organisations to provide care and to support the NHS in a host of different ways. [This publication](#) takes a look at the independent sector and dispels four myths on its role in the NHS. It has been produced to enrich debate on topical, sometimes controversial, issues regarding health and care.

Local authorities

Local authorities often work collaboratively with NHS organisations through health and wellbeing boards, which are statutory bodies that were introduced in England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. These boards review the current and future health and social care needs of local people and recommend policy priorities for action on this basis.

Voluntary and independent sector

Voluntary and independent sector organisations are often commissioned by the NHS to provide health services. Voluntary and independent sector organisations play an important role within the NHS, as they allow for enhanced patient choice and control over their health and care.

Regional engagement leads in your area

To support the move towards more integrated working across health and care, the NHS Confederation has established a regional team to provide practical support to local systems and their leaders. The regional team provides access to learning and good practice, support relationships and leadership development, and create opportunities to influence national policy and thinking.



Fiona Claridge

London and East

fiona.claridge@nhsconfed.org



Kerry McQuade

North East and Yorkshire

kerry.mcquade@nhsconfed.org



Rory Deighton

North West

rory.deighton@nhsconfed.org



Denise Vittorino

West Midlands

denise.vittorino@nhsconfed.org



Sarah Walter

South West

sarah.walter@nhsconfed.org



Gemma Whysall

East Midlands and East

gemma.whysall@nhsconfed.org



Helen Wolstenholme

South East

helen.wolstenholme@nhsconfed.org

How the NHS Confederation can help you

Please get in touch if you want further details on any of the issues raised in this guide or would like to discuss the challenges facing the NHS. We can provide information and briefings ahead of parliamentary debates on the key issues affecting the NHS and can put you in touch with local NHS organisations. For more information, please contact Victoria Fowler, public affairs manager at: victoria.fowler@nhsconfed.org

You can visit our website at www.nhsconfed.org or follow us on Twitter at [@nhsconfed](https://twitter.com/nhsconfed)

You can also sign up to our regular bulletins:

- [Daily health media summaries](#)
- [Brexit bulletin](#)
- [International insights newsletter](#)
- [Local growth bulletin](#)

Join us at ConfedExpo 2020

In 2020, the NHS Confederation is partnering with NHS England and NHS Improvement to create one new event to inspire NHS and social care leaders, commissioners, governing bodies, clinicians and industry professionals. ConfedExpo, bringing together the organisations' two annual conference and exhibitions, offers two days of thought-provoking content from across the globe.

Attracting over 5,000 senior managers, clinicians and decision makers from across the sector, the joint venture on 10 and 11 June 2020 promises to be the biggest health and care event in the UK. Admission is free for Members of Parliament.

The event will feature over 150 hours of content across six key themes:

- **System integration, collaboration and partnerships:** Collaborative working and pooling resources put under the microscope.
- **Digital:** How technology could transform the medical profession.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** How to be at the forefront of diversity and inclusion.
- **People:** Leadership skills, motivation and how to promote wellbeing.
- **Environment :** How we can create a sustainable workforce and reduce carbon footprint across the NHS.
- **Quality and clinical improvement:** Driving improvements to ensure a high level of quality is reached.

Speakers including the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the chief executives of both the NHS Confederation (Niall Dickson) and NHS England and NHS Improvement (Simon Stevens) will be invited to deliver keynote speeches.

With networking opportunities and interactive zones, ConfedExpo is a vital event for those interested in preserving the future of the NHS. For more information, please visit confedexpo.org

To RSVP please email confedexpo@nhsconfed.org or sign up on our website at confedexpo.org

10 & 11 June
Manchester Central





How to stay in touch

You can also sign up to our regular bulletins:

- [Daily health media summaries](#)
- [Brexit bulletin](#)
- [International insights newsletter](#)
- [Local growth bulletin](#)

Visit us at www.nhsconfed.org

Contact your regional engagement lead: see [page 17 for details](#)

Blog with us on NHS Voices: visit www.nhsconfed.org/blog



Floor 15, Portland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5BH

Tel 020 7799 6666

Email enquiries@nhsconfed.org

www.nhsconfed.org

Follow the NHS Confederation on [Twitter](#) @nhsconfed

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please email enquiries@nhsconfed.org

© NHS Confederation 2019. You may copy or distribute this work, but you must give the author credit, you may not use it for commercial purposes, and you may not alter, transform or build upon this work. Registered Charity no. 1090329