



## **NHS Monthly Insight Report**

**December 2020**

360 assurance is a member of The Internal Audit Network (TIAN) which comprises the 10 NHS internal audit consortiums and in house teams operating in England. These organisations collaborate across a number of areas to leverage their collective knowledge and expertise and drive efficiency and effectiveness. The monthly insight report highlights key publications and is intended as a useful update and reference tool. This report is produced by TIAN and shared by 360 Assurance.

# Monthly Insight Report

## December 2020

### Introduction

The Internal Audit Network (TIAN) comprises the 10 NHS internal audit consortiums and in house teams operating in England. These organisations collaborate across a number of areas to leverage their collective knowledge and expertise and drive efficiency and effectiveness. The monthly Insight Report is produced by CW Audit on behalf of TIAN and is shared across TIAN members and their clients.

### Developments in the NHS

Ockenden review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust



This review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust independently assesses the quality of investigations relating to newborn, infant and maternal harm at the trust.

This report covers the emerging themes and trends identified from 250 fully assessed cases. It makes system-wide suggestions and recommendations for action to improve maternity care. It can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ockenden-review-of-maternity-services-at-shrewsbury-and-telford-hospital-nhs-trust>

***For consideration by providers and commissioners of maternity services***

Board measures and assessment & assurance tool – maternity services (in response to the Ockenden review)

NHSE/I are encouraging Boards to ask themselves whether they really know that mothers and babies are safe in their maternity units and how confident they are that the best quality care is being provided in their organisation. Boards are expected by the regulator to robustly assess and challenge the assurances provided and have developed a dashboard with a minimum set of measures from which trusts should build a local dashboard.

The measures (KPIs) expected are provided here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/board-measures/>

A tool has also been issued to support providers to assess their current position against the 7 Immediate and Essential Actions (IEAs) in the Ockenden Report and provide assurance of effective implementation to their boards, Local Maternity System and NHS England and NHS Improvement regional teams. This can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/assessment-and-assurance-tool/> and must be submitted locally to NHSE/I by 15 February 2021

***For consideration and submission by providers with maternity services***

## Developments in the NHS

Mandating patient-level costing for NHS community services

The consultation document with regard to mandating patient-level costing for NHS community services has been issued by NHSE/I, inviting stakeholders to respond to the proposal. It can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/mandating-patient-level-costing-for-nhs-community-services/>

***For consideration by community service providers and commissioners***

NHS Providers briefing: 2020 spending review

At the start of the pandemic, the government made it clear that the NHS would get whatever it needed to deal with COVID-19. NHS Providers summarise what this and the latest spending review means for the NHS in this briefing for governors <https://nhsproviders.org/resource-library/briefings/2020-spending-review>

***For information***

NHS Providers briefing: The future NHS financial framework

This briefing outlines the proposed development of the NHS financial regime in 2021/22. It summarises the strategic context and highlights the potential implications for providers and integrated care systems (ICSs). It also describes NHS trust leaders' views on key elements of the new regime, including system funding envelopes, the development of blended payment approaches, and financial governance, and sets out what NHS Providers is seeking for the new system.

The briefing can be found here: <https://nhsproviders.org/resource-library/briefings/the-future-nhs-financial-framework>

***For information***

Nuffield Trust report: Understanding the impact of Brexit on health in the UK

The UK's transition period for leaving the European Union ended on 31 December 2020. This major new report from the Nuffield Trust maps out the health areas that will be affected by this decisive exit from the Union and discusses the dilemmas faced by the health sector in the face of such huge legislative changes.

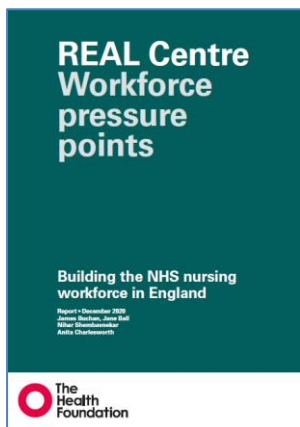
The report can be found here: <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/understanding-the-impact-of-brexit-on-health-in-the-uk>

***For information***



## Developments in the NHS

Building the NHS nursing workforce in England (Health Foundation report)



Since 2017/18, nurse numbers have increased, with the number of FTE nurses and health visitors in the NHS rising by 4.8% in the year to June 2020. However, disparities between service areas continue to widen. Over the past 10 years, only adult nursing and children's nursing have seen increases in FTE nurse numbers, while the numbers in community nursing, mental health nursing and learning disability nursing are all lower than they were in June 2010. Across all staff groups, the NHS had 83,591 FTE vacancies in June 2020. A quarter of all nursing vacancies are in mental health. This is particularly concerning as COVID-19 is likely to lead to further demand for mental health services. In 2020 there was a 23% increase in the number of students accepted onto nursing degree courses in England (relative to 2019) – the highest annual number of acceptances since 2011.

The UK ranks below the average of high-income OECD countries in terms of the number of practising nurses and the annual number of new nurse graduates relative to its population. Further, about 15% of registered nurses in the UK are trained outside the UK – more than double the OECD average. The 50,000 target will be insufficient to meet increased demand. In this report, the Health Foundation argues there needs to be a shift in focus, away from a single top-down target to a more sustainable, long-term approach.

The report can be found here: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/building-the-nhs-nursing-workforce-in-england>

### **For information**

Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review



This report has been produced by the UCL Institute of Health Equity and commissioned by the Health Foundation as part of its [COVID-19 impact inquiry](#) to investigate how the pandemic has affected health inequalities in England. The report highlights that:

- inequalities in social and economic conditions before the pandemic contributed to the high and unequal death toll from COVID-19
- the nation's health should be the highest priority for government as we rebuild from the pandemic
- the economy and health are strongly linked – managing the pandemic well allows the economy to flourish in the longer term, which is supportive of health
- reducing health inequalities, including those exacerbated by the pandemic requires long-term policies with equity at the heart
- to build back fairer from the pandemic, multi-sector action from all levels of government is needed
- investment in public health needs to be increased to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on health and health inequalities, and on the social determinants of health.

The report can be found here: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review>

### **For information**

## Developments in the NHS

The government's approach to test and trace in England – interim NAO report

This is the first of two NAO reports. This interim report provides an overview of test and trace services for addressing COVID-19 in England, including how the government's approach has developed, and how it managed performance and capacity in the period from May to October 2020. This report does not cover post-October planning for mass testing. It covers some aspects of public engagement efforts in relation to improving compliance with tracing.

The NAO intends to publish a further report in spring 2021 which will provide a fuller value-for-money assessment of test and trace. This will include an update on spend and performance, and matters not covered here, including examining the end-to-end process in more depth, the development and implementation of the contact tracing app, and a detailed look at elements of contract management.

The NAO found that overall NHST&T had achieved a rapid scale-up in activity in respect of both testing and tracing, and had built much new infrastructure and capacity from scratch. However, issues with implementation and potentially the initial choice of delivery model mean that it is not yet achieving all its objectives. As it plans and rolls out further changes in COVID-19 testing, including the introduction of rapid turnaround tests and mass testing, government needs to learn lessons from its experience so far. It is very important that testing and tracing is able to make a bigger contribution to suppressing the infection than it has to date.

The report can be found here: <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-governments-approach-to-test-and-trace-in-england-interim-report/>

### ***For information***

NAO Investigation into preparations for potential COVID-19 vaccines

This is the NAO's first report on the preparations for COVID-19 vaccines and covers the period from April to 8 December 2020. It examines government's progress in securing potential vaccines and determining how they will be deployed to the public. They undertook this review in real-time while government has been making decisions and responding to various challenges. Their aim is to provide Parliament and the public with an independent account of the challenges facing government at this stage and how they are being addressed. This report covers:

- government's approach to identifying potential vaccines (Part One);
- government's progress to date (Part Two);
- how government is organising itself to work at pace (Part Three); and
- challenges government needs to manage as it deploys the vaccine (Part Four).

The report can be found here: <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/investigation-into-preparations-for-potential-covid-19-vaccines/>

### ***For information***

**Disclaimer: This briefing paper is intended to highlight recent developments and issues within the NHS that may be of interest to non-executive directors, lay advisers and NHS managers. It is not exhaustive and TIAN cannot be held responsible for any omission.**