



## **NHS Monthly Insight Report**

**April 2021**

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

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### 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

#### National Quality Board: Shared Commitment to Quality

The National Quality Board (NQB) has refreshed its Shared Commitment to Quality to support those working in health and care systems. The publication provides a nationally-agreed definition of quality and a vision for how quality can be effectively delivered through ICSs. The refresh has been developed in collaboration with systems and people with lived experience and has a stronger focus on population health and health inequalities. Their report can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-quality-board-shared-commitment-to-quality/> and a position statement here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-quality-board-position-statement-on-quality-in-integrated-care-systems/>

The NQB is committed to ensuring that quality is central to planning and decision making within health and care systems. This document:

- sets out what good and outstanding care and services look like within systems - across different organisations, services and local levels of delivery
- provides the foundation for system working around quality - based on collaboration, trust, transparency, and ongoing learning
- champions the need to ensure that quality is a shared goal that requires us all to commit and act.

#### ***For information***

#### Fractured and forgotten? The social care market in England (Nuffield Trust report)



Social care providers in England have been thrown into the spotlight over the last year as they were hit by Covid-19. But providers of these vital care services are still too often ignored in the increasingly intense discussion around reforming our failing system. This report outlines the systemic problems with the way our market for social care operates, and argues that unless they are resolved, funding reforms alone will fail to deliver sustainable change.

This is the first of two reports by the Nuffield Trust looking at the provider market for social care. The second will consider the possible solutions and options for reform that can be learned from international settings.

It can be found here: <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/fractured-and-forgotten-the-social-care-provider-market-in-england>

#### ***For information***

## Developments in the NHS

The ethnicity pay gap in the English NHS (Nuffield Trust report)



This report examines differences in basic pay between ethnic minority staff and White staff employed by the NHS in England based on data from the NHS electronic staff record for one month (December 2017). As well as drawing on previous analyses on the ethnicity pay gap among doctors and the gender pay gap by ethnicity, it explores pay differences across the entire NHS workforce and alternative ways of comparing staff groups – by occupation, pay system and pay band.

It can be found here: <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/the-ethnicity-pay-gap-in-the-english-nhs>

### **For information**

Quality improvement made simple (the Health Foundation)



Improving quality is about making health care safe, effective, patient-centred, timely, efficient and equitable. It's about giving the people closest to problems affecting care quality the time, permission, skills and resources they need to solve them. In the history of the NHS, there has never been a greater focus on improving the quality of health services.

As we shift from the emergency phase of COVID-19 it is vital that health and care workforces are able and supported to lead radical service change and improvements through re-starting, re-designing or developing new processes, pathways and services.

This guide offers an explanation of some popular approaches used to improve quality, including where they have come from, their underlying principles and their efficacy and applicability within the healthcare arena. It also describes the factors that can help to ensure the successful use of these approaches and methods. to improve the quality of care processes, pathways and services.

It is written for a general health care audience and will be most useful for those new to the field of quality improvement, or those wanting to be reminded of the key points.

The guide can be found here: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/quality-improvement-made-simple>

### **For information**

## Developments in the NHS

Developing place-based partnerships: The foundation of effective integrated care systems (The King's Fund)



The King's Fund reviewed existing evidence and experience on place-based working, explored the development of place-based partnerships within three systems and undertook targeted engagement with local leaders from ICSs, local authorities and voluntary and community sector organisations. This research highlights the potential role of place-based partnerships in improving health and wellbeing and illustrates how these opportunities can be realised.

The successful development of place-based partnerships will largely rest on local implementation. The report sets out a series of principles to help guide local health and care leaders in these efforts. It explores how each principle can be applied and examples of how they are being put into practice.

The report also explores the implications of these ways of working for the development of ICSs and for national bodies and regional teams as they approach the next stages of policy development and support for integrated care.

This report can be found here: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/place-based-partnerships-integrated-care-systems>

### **For information**

Shaping the future of digital technology in health and social care



This report, commissioned by the Health Foundation, provides a summary of evidence for how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, smartphones, wearable devices and the internet of things are being used within care settings around the world.

The authors analyse the available evidence around the use of these technologies to support leaders in health and care to engage in long-term thinking about the role of digital technology. The report looks back at recent developments in digital technology in the health and care system before the Covid-19 pandemic, supplemented by the Fund's evidence-gathering on how digital technologies have been used during the pandemic, in England in particular. It also considers a set of potential futures to distil factors driving change and what this means for leaders now.

The report can be found here: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/future-digital-technology-health-social-care>

### **For information**

## Developments in the NHS

Legislating on the future of health and care in England (NHS Confederation report)



In February 2021 the government published Integration and Innovation: Working Together to Improve Health and Social Care for All. The white paper sets out the key elements of a forthcoming health and care bill, the first piece of new primary legislation on health and care in England since the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (HSCA 2012).

This report outlines the views of healthcare leaders on the white paper, the implications for the forthcoming health and care bill and a set of recommendations to government as it develops the finer detail of the legislation. Whilst widely supporting the proposed changes, the report shares concerns in four key areas that the government may wish to address in the bill, according to the NHS Confederation:

1. Increased powers for the Secretary of State over the NHS
2. Governance and accountability
3. The duty to collaborate
4. Pace and timescales

The report can be found here: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/2021/03/legislating-on-the-future-of-health-and-care-in-england>

### ***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 members and NHS managers. It is not exhaustive and TIAN cannot be held responsible for any omission.**