



NHS Monthly Insight Report

September 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

September 2021

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

HFMA Summary of 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance – October 2021 to March 2022



The updated planning guidance for the second half of the financial year was issued on 30 September. It confirms that the operational priorities and the financial framework for the next six months will build on the requirements for the first half of the year. There are a number of submissions to be made. Proposals for targeted investments to materially change activity or demand are due by 14 October. Standard system activity, performance, workforce and finance collections are to be submitted by 16 November. Provider financial planning templates are due by noon on Thurs 25 November.

This briefing summarises the key points from the guidance. The guidance should be referred to for the full detail. The briefing can be found here: <https://www.hfma.org.uk/publications/details/summary-of-2021-22-priorities-and-operational-planning-guidance-october-2021-to-march-2022>

For action: NHS bodies

HFMA briefing: The future financial sustainability of health and social care

On 6 July 2021 the Health and Care Bill, was given its first reading in Parliament and is now making its way through the various stages in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

This briefing considers whether the bill enables the change that the health and social care system needs, both in the short term as the country seeks to recover from the pandemic and in the longer term as the sector more fully addresses population health and wellbeing. It builds on a joint HFMA and CIPFA roundtable discussion held on 21 July 2021 with senior leaders from across the NHS and social care.

It can be found here: <https://www.hfma.org.uk/publications/details/the-future-financial-sustainability-of-health-and-social-care>

For information

Developments in the NHS

The recovery challenges for NHS hospital services (A CQC report)

In May and June 2021, the CQC asked 73 trusts about their approaches to longer waiting lists and how they are considering people's care in a fair and equal way. They wanted to know about their assessments of the challenges.

During the pandemic, hospital capacity has been under pressure, resulting in the suspension of some elective care. Other challenges that hospitals have had to factor in include wider infection and control measures, increased cleaning procedures and the use of personal protective equipment, and enhanced testing. Despite these pressures, the trusts told the CQC about new and innovative examples of people receiving care. This included developing 'waiting well' packages of support, emphasising the importance of keeping people up-to-date while waiting for elective operations. Another example involved establishing a 'virtual ward' in a patient's home following their surgery, with regular visits from specialist nurses and therapists, plus virtual consultations with doctors.

This report also updates on data on deaths in care homes, people detained under the Mental Health Act and ONS data on all weekly deaths in England compared with the average for 2015-2019. It can be found here: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/recovery-challenges-nhs-hospital-services>

For information

NHS E/I issues their 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance – October 2021 to March 2022

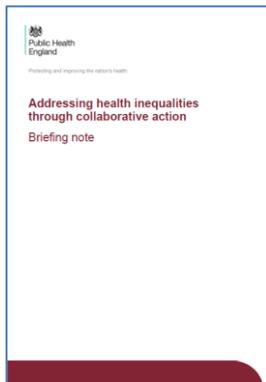
The NHSE/I has issued planning and submission guidance and finance and contracting arrangements for H2. They can be found here: [2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance: October 2021 – March 2022](#)
[2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance: October 2021 – March 2022: Submission guidance](#)
[Guidance on finance and contracting arrangements for H2 2021/22](#)

Also see above for HFMA summary of the planning guidance.

For action NHS bodies

Developments in the NHS

PHE briefing on Health inequalities: place-based approaches to reduce inequalities



This briefing provides a short summary of Public Health England (PHE)'s approach to health inequalities and the action that can be taken to address them. System leaders, and colleagues across organisations, can draw on the briefing:

- to support the development of a common understanding of health inequalities
- to consider how partners might work together to systematically address health inequalities
- to identify the components and benefits of a cross-system and place based approach
- as a source for links to other resources

The briefing and detailed reports can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-inequalities-place-based-approaches-to-reduce-inequalities>

For information

Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care



This paper sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the elective backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets.

It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

This paper was laid in Parliament on 7 September 2021. It can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/build-back-better-our-plan-for-health-and-social-care>

For information

Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) engagement document

This document sets out The Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and the Local Government Association's expectations for the role of Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) within Integrated Care Systems.

It aims to support Local Authorities, Integrated Care Boards and other key stakeholders in considering what arrangements might work best in their area when laying the foundations for establishing ICPs. This is connected to the Health and Care Bill.

It can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-care-partnership-icp-engagement-document>

For information and action as required within ICS

Developments in the NHS

NHS Providers' briefing: Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) engagement document

The Department of Health and Social Care published the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) engagement document on 15 September 2021. This briefing summarises the document, which was developed with NHS England and NHS Improvement and the Local Government Association and provides their initial analysis of the role and expectations of ICPs.

The briefing can be found here: <https://nhsproviders.org/resource-library/briefings/next-day-briefing-integrated-care-partnership-engagement-document>

For information and action as required within ICS

NHS Providers next day briefing: ICS and place based partnerships guidance

On 2 September NHSE/I published several ICS guidance documents, including

- Thriving places: guidance on the development of place-based partnerships as part of statutory ICSs and ICS implementation guidance on partnerships with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector,
- effective clinical and care professional leadership, and
- working with people and communities.

(These can be found here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/integrated-care-systems-guidance/>)

This briefing summarises these resources and sets out NHS Providers' initial analysis of the implications for trusts and can be found here: <https://nhsproviders.org/resource-library/briefings/nhs-providers-next-day-briefing-ics-and-place-based-partnerships-guidance>

For information

The NHS Long Term Plan and COVID-19: Assessing progress and the pandemic's impact (The Health Foundation report)

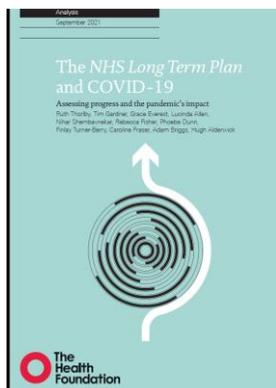
The NHS Long Term Plan remains the blueprint for the NHS's evolution, but the pandemic has dealt a huge blow to both the NHS and social care. In this report, the Health Foundation provide a narrative of what was achieved before the pandemic, assemble the evidence of how the pandemic has affected progress against the plan's major commitments, and identify implications for the future as the NHS and government plans its recovery from the pandemic.

Their analysis finds that the core principles set out in the long term plan remain as relevant now as they were before COVID-19, but their implementation has been derailed. The NHS now faces major delay, disruption and increased demands on services. Waiting lists for hospital care are the worst on record, at over 5.45 million at the end of June 2021. Significant additional investment has been promised, but major unknowns around the future course of the pandemic mean there is considerable uncertainty over whether this will be enough.

Alongside the recent funding increase for the NHS, government must now work with the NHS to develop an updated strategy for delivering the NHS Long Term Plan. And while the government's focus on reducing the NHS backlog is welcome it should not come at the expense of addressing health inequalities already widened by COVID-19.

The report can be found here: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-nhs-long-term-plan-and-covid-19>

For information



Developments in the NHS

NHS Confederation report:
Manifesto for recovery



This report from the NHS Confederation explores how the health and care sector can address the challenges, and sustain the beneficial changes, brought about by the pandemic.

It can be found here: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/manifesto-recovery>

For information

A reckoning: the continuing cost of COVID-19



The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the cost of running frontline NHS services by £4-5bn a year. These costs are in addition to other key financial factors, such as the need to fund capital investment and recover care backlogs, and they will be with us for the duration of the three-year period that is expected to be covered by the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

This joint briefing by NHS Providers and the NHS Confederation, based on survey data from 54% of the provider sector, explains the long-term impact of the pandemic on the NHS's day-to-day running costs, and calls on the government to ensure these costs are met in full.

It can be found here: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/reckoning-continuing-cost-covid-19>

For information

NHS Providers' briefing: NHS 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance: October 2021 to March 2022

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) published priorities and operational planning guidance for October 2021 to March 2022 on 30 September 2021. The briefing summarises the six priorities it sets out for the second half of the financial year, financial arrangements and planning deadlines.

It can be found here: <https://nhsproviders.org/resource-library/briefings/on-the-day-briefing-nhs-202122-priorities-and-operational-planning-guidance-october-2021-to-march-2022>

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.