

POLICY UPDATE

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CANCER SUPPORT

May 2017

Welcome to 'Policy Update', a monthly bulletin on the latest policy developments of relevance to those with an interest in cancer.

If you are reading this document on screen, the web addresses are hyperlinks which will take you directly to the relevant web pages or documents. If you would like any further information or have any questions or comments about 'Policy Update', please contact Emer Sheehy on 02070912487, or emsheehy@macmillan.org.uk.

United Kingdom.....	2
England.....	3
Scotland.....	5
Wales.....	6
Northern Ireland.....	7

United Kingdom

Health think tanks outline priorities ahead of General Election.

The Nuffield Trust has highlighted the [three core issues](#) facing the NHS that political parties should seek to address in their manifestos:

- Put health and social care funding on a more sustainable footing
- Outline a clear plan to address the challenges facing the workforce
- Provide legislative and financial support to transform service

NHS Providers has also published its [election manifesto](#) which includes calls such as investment in a sustainable social care system and a commitment to locally-led, nationally supported, health and social care integration.

The Health Foundation has published a [briefing](#) which outlines three key challenges for the NHS and social care in terms of funding.

Finally, the NHS Confederation has called on political parties to commit to a series of pledges – [Brexit and the NHS: Election 2017](#) – ahead of the 8 June election. The nine commitments include a detailed analysis of the costs and benefits of exiting the EU to ensure the NHS is protected, and continued access to collaborative EU-wide research programmes and clinical trials after Brexit.

Responses to the House of Commons Health Committee Brexit report.

Various organisations and think tanks have published responses to the House of Commons Health Select Committee's report, [Brexit and health and social care – people and process](#).

Chief Executive of the [Nuffield Trust](#), Nigel Edwards, said: “The major implications for the NHS must not be overlooked in Brexit negotiations, and we support the call for a clear list of the issues to be planned for and who is in charge of doing so”.

Niall Dickinson, Chief Executive of the [NHS Confederation commented](#): "We rely on staff from Europe, who make a fantastic contribution to health and care services throughout the UK - indeed, we could not manage without them. It is therefore vital, as the Committee argues, that we end the current uncertainty about their status, and the anxiety it is causing to them and their families, as well as employers.”

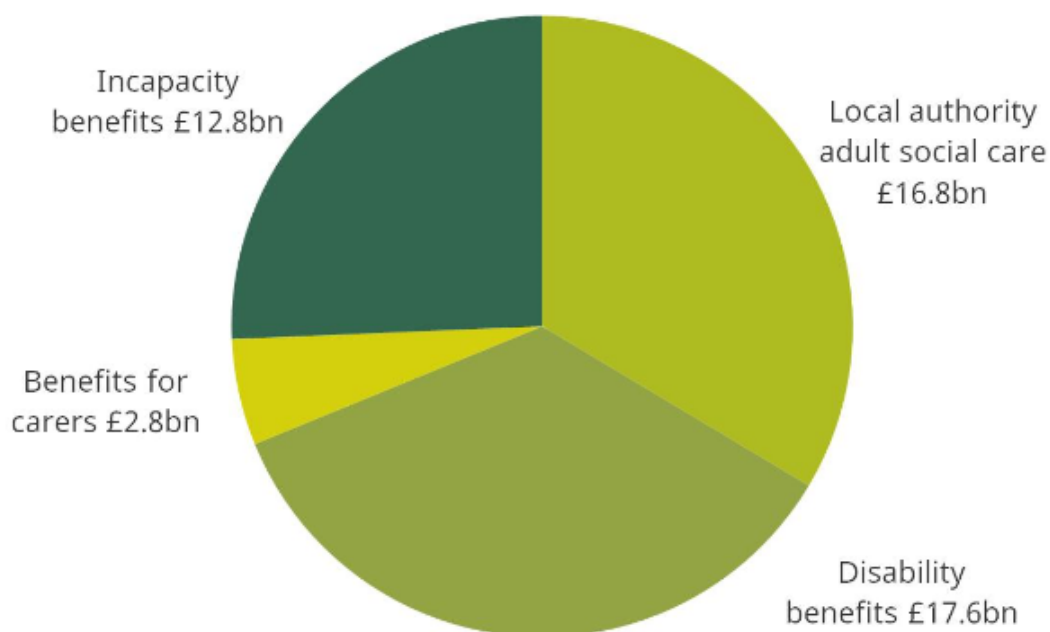
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England

Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) publishes health spending figures.

Public spending outside the NHS on adults with care needs and disabilities is around £50 billion annually

Figure 1. Public (non-health) spending on individuals with disabilities or care needs in England in 2015-16 (2017-18 prices)



The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has published an analysis of how public spending on health has changed over time, and the short and long-term pressures faced by the health service.

The analysis shows that UK public health spending grew in real terms by 1.3% per year between 2009-10 and 2015-16, compared to a 4.1% average since 1955-6. Spending growth under the coalition Government was the lowest five-year average since records began.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Analysis shows number of patients waiting longer for surgery could double.

Patients are being urged to exercise their legal right to choose a hospital provider of their choice, whether from the public or independent sectors, as new analysis of NHS figures has found the number of people waiting longer than 18 weeks for planned operations could exceed 800,000 by May 2020.

The NHS Partners Network, which represent independent providers of NHS care, is warning that the relaxation of the 18 week referral to treatment target could see patients waiting longer for care. They are calling for urgent action to be taken to ensure patients are aware of their right to choose where they receive NHS treatment - key to helping people access care as quickly as possible.

[Click here for more information](#)

Study finds nearly half of GPs plan to quit in next five years.

Two-out-of-five GPs in south-west England intend to quit medicine in the next five years, a new study from the University of Exeter has revealed.

A survey of more than 2,000 GPs in the region found that 40% were planning to leave the profession in the next five years, while 70% are looking at changing their working patterns.

BMA education, training and workforce GP lead Krishna Kasaraneni said: "With the NHS at breaking point, we need the Government to take the evidence of a workforce crisis seriously and act to implement a long-term, well-funded plan that results in more GPs being available to treat the public."

[Click here for more information](#)

BMA calls for urgent implementation of extra funding promised in GP Forward View.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has published its evaluation of the progress of the [GP Forward View](#) in England, a year on from its launch. The analysis calls for the urgent implementation of promised extra funding after a patchy first 12 months of delivery.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul, BMA GP committee chair, said: "The BMA's GP committee believes that it is vital NHS England is held to account to deliver its promises and funding commitments, and do so in a way that translates into real support for GP practices.

"[Our analysis of the first year of the GP forward view](#) highlights that whilst there has been some delivery, there have been cases where promised funding has been severely delayed or distributed unevenly across the country. This confusing and inadequate implementation is unacceptable given the huge pressures on general practice from a combination of factors, including rising patient demand, falling resources and staff shortages."

[Click here for more information](#)

Nuffield Trust: How hospitals can collaborate with social care.

The Nuffield Trust has published an article on the lessons learned from their recent event on managing the interface between hospitals and social care.

The event tackled the tensions between the health and social care systems which visibly present themselves in hospitals, looking at possible solutions and tips from attendees to minimise risks and create positive change.

[Click here for more information](#)

The King's Fund: Who is responsible for organising care at the NHS front line?

The King's Fund has published a report looking at the reality of caring for acutely ill medical patients at the NHS front line, and asks how care in hospitals can be improved.

The report comprises a series of essays by frontline clinicians, managers, quality improvement champions, and patients. It serves as a starting point for an ongoing inquiry into improving care processes for acutely ill medical patients

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Scotland

Consultation into safe and effective NHS staffing.

A consultation is underway on proposals to enshrine safe staffing in law in Scotland. The Safe and Effective Staffing legislation is intended to build on arrangements already in place to support nurse and midwifery workforce planning, staffing levels and employment practice across the country.

Launching the consultation, Health Secretary Shona Robison said: "We know there is a clear link between effective and sustainable staffing levels and high quality care. NHS staffing has increased to a record high under this government, but it's vital we have the right number of staff in place, with the right skills, long into the future."

[Click here for more information](#)

Training for GP practice staff in Scotland.

The Scottish Government has announced a £2.5 million investment in training for general practice staff, as part of the additional £71.6 million investment in general practice announced in March.

The Government's press release says; "Receptionists and practice managers will be able to access training on signposting patients to the most appropriate source of help or advice. This could be a service available in the practice or elsewhere in the community, such as a community pharmacist or a local optician. Staff will also be up-skilled to allow them to take on more of the administrative tasks currently carried out by GPs."

Health Secretary Shona Robison MSP said: "We want to reinvigorate general practice and attract more people into the profession. We also want to shift the balance of care into the community, and general practice clearly has a significant role to play."

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Wales

Government commits to securing rights for EU workers.

The Welsh Government has reaffirmed its commitment to BMA Cymru Wales to do all it can to secure the rights of EU workers in the NHS.

BMA Cymru Wales outlined its support of the working time directive and the need to secure a flexible, reciprocal immigration system to ensure the entry of highly skilled doctors into the UK, and these positions were supported by First Minister Carwyn Jones. Jones also said he believed Wales should continue to benefit from access to relevant EU programmes post-Brexit.

[Click here for more information](#)

Government announce funding for innovative health technology projects and genomics.

Health Secretary Vaughan Gething has announced £7.3 million funding for 11 innovative projects through the Efficiency Through Technology Fund.

Projects that have secured funding include the Public Health Wales led molecular diagnostics project and a project led by NHS Wales Informatics Service to digitalise the lung cancer patient pathway record.

The Welsh Government has also announced £6.8 million funding to support the introduction of the Genomics for Precision Medicine Strategy, to help develop new services and technologies to improve the diagnosis and treatment of complex illnesses including cancer. Patients will benefit through improved diagnostics, reduced waiting times and better treatments

[Click here for more information](#)

International nursing recruitment campaign launched in Wales.

A major new campaign – Train/Work/Live in Wales – has been launched as the Welsh Health Secretary has announced that NHS Bursaries will continue to be available in Wales in 2018/19.

The recruitment campaign forms part of the Welsh Government commitment to attract and train more nurses, GPs and other health professionals across Wales. The international campaign will target newly qualified and experienced registered nurses, as well as those who may be considering returning to the profession..

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Northern Ireland

No stories this month.