Developing the Long Term Plan for the NHS

December update from the Long Term Plan Engagement Team – england.ltp@nhs.net

WHAT WILL BE IN THE NHS LONG TERM PLAN?

Some of the policies which will feature in the plan have already made the news; these include:

Cancer – a new strategy to diagnose more cancers early, including lowering the age for bowel screening to 50, further investment in scanners and Rapid Diagnostic Access Centres.

Mental health – up to £250 million a year by 2023/24 for new crisis care services.

Community and primary care – increased investment in community-based rapid response teams and dedicated support for care home residents.

Prevention – new approaches like exploring how digital technology can be used to offer individuals precise, targeted health advice.

Diabetes – patients with type 2 diabetes will have access to low-calorie liquid-only diets.

Personalised care – making social prescribing available in every local area by 2023.

What's happened so far

In June, the Prime Minister asked the NHS to produce a long term plan to improve access, care and outcomes for patients, in return for a five-year funding settlement.

Since then, working groups – comprising local and national NHS and local government leaders, clinical experts and patient/voluntary sector representatives – have been engaging with other relevant stakeholders to develop policy proposals.

We have organised or attended **over 200 events** to hear from a wide range of stakeholders, and received **over 2,500 submissions** from individuals and groups representing the views and interests of **3.5 million people**.

What's happening in December?

The NHS is working to present its Long Term Plan to the government in December, but after the debates on the EU Withdrawal Agreement, to ensure that Parliament has the appropriate time and opportunity to consider it.

Alongside the plan, local NHS organisations will receive their budgets for the next five years, and guidance on planning services for 2019/20.

What will happen in 2019?

Local health and care systems will use the NHS Long Term Plan as the basis for their detailed plans for the next financial year (due by April 2019) and, along with a comprehensive assessment of local needs, their delivery plans covering the next five years (by summer 2019).

Staff, patients, the public and other stakeholders will therefore have the opportunity to work with local organisations to determine what the NHS Long Term Plan means for their area, and how services need to adapt and improve.

We will support local Healthwatch with significant investment, via Healthwatch England, to work with local health organisations in ensuring that the views of patients and the public are heard.

We will also work with the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance to facilitate further engagement at a regional level between local health organisations and people from groups with particular health needs, and whose voices are not often heard.

What we've been working on

Below is a short description of the aims that each of the working groups are working towards:

Life course programmes

- **Prevention, Personal Responsibility and Health Inequalities** - driving reductions in demand caused by smoking, obesity and specific reductions in inequalities across England.
- **Healthy Childhood and Maternal Health** - delivering a 50% reduction in stillbirths, neonatal mortality and maternal deaths by 2025, further improvements to infant mortality, reductions in childhood obesity, and improved care for children with long term conditions.
- **Integrated and Personalised Care for People with Long Term Conditions and Older People with Frailty, including Dementia** – improving support for people to live well with LTCs and frailty and reductions in demand for bed based care through proactive support.

Clinical priorities

- **Cancer** – delivering specific improvements in cancer survival rates including faster and earlier diagnosis.
- **Cardiovascular and respiratory** – improving outcomes for respiratory disease, reducing deaths from heart disease and stroke, reducing variation, and improving hyper acute stroke care and rehabilitation.
- **Learning Disability and Autism** – improving diagnosis, early intervention and personalised support for children and young people.
- **Mental Health** – improving access to appropriate mental health care for children and young people, crisis care for all ages, and perinatal mental health care. Further, looking at how we might improve community mental health care for adults with a severe mental illness and complex needs.

Enablers

- **Workforce, Training and Leadership** – setting out the future size and shape of the workforce, and what can be done in the short, medium and long term to deliver this.
- **Digital and Technology** – setting out a vision for the future of healthcare supported by high quality digital, data and technology through the lenses of individuals, frontline staff, health and care systems and research and industry.
- **Primary Care** – developing a more networked model of care that increases resilience, expands the range of services for patients closer to home, and supports increased multi-disciplinary team working in primary care.
- **Research and Innovation** – delivering improvements in uptake and spread of innovations, increased volumes of people participating in research and expansion of genomic testing.
- **Clinical Review of Standards** – putting forward alternative options for standards which better reflect the needs and priorities of patients and staff.
- **System Architecture** – further developing Integrated Care Systems and considering models that better support integration and collaboration.
- **Engagement** – ensuring that the long term plan for the NHS is based on the expertise and insights of staff, patients and stakeholder groups, and considering what role an 'NHS Assembly' can play in overseeing its delivery.

Please contact england.ltp@nhs.net for all enquiries.