

The NHS Long Term Plan: Summary

February 2019

Sheffield
LMC



NHS England (NHSE) unveiled its Long Term Plan on 7 January 2019 with the stated aim of making the NHS fit for the future. The full report can be found at:

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/nhs-long-term-plan.pdf>

The elements most closely affecting general practice are:

- Increased ring-fenced funding for primary and community care worth at least an extra £4.5bn a year in real terms by 2023/4.
- Primary Care Networks (PCNs) will be developed further, supporting closer integration of care within the primary and community sector. GP practices, as part of changes to their GP contract, will need to work together within their localities working within a multi-disciplinary team with community colleagues serving between 30,000 and 50,000 patients.
- A workforce implementation plan will be published later in 2019. There is recognition of the need to increase the GP workforce as well as look to other ways of deploying clinicians and other staff flexibly to expand the workforce.
- Other GP contract changes including to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), which will see removal of less beneficial indicators and addition of a quality improvement domain.
- The areas of vaccinations and immunisations is also under review, as well as a pending premises review that will feed into future NHSE capital processes.
- An acceleration in digital services for patients. This will include a commitment to enable all practices to offer video consultations, to offer more online booking, online repeat prescribing ordering and for NHS 111 to make direct bookings for GP appointments.
- Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) will be rolled out by April 2021, with the aim of delivering ‘triple integration’ of primary and specialist care, physical and mental health services, and health with social care. From 2019, the new Integrated Care Provider (ICP) contract will be available for a single lead provider to manage the integrated care system. These contracts would be held by public statutory providers. GPs and PCNs will need to ensure they, with the LMCs, have a voice within any ICS, and are able to influence any ICP decisions.
- The plan outlines that primary and community services will support people in the home as well as enhanced support for those in care homes.
- There is particular focus on more preventative work on smoking, obesity and drug and alcohol abuse.
- There is also some information about moving away from the counter-productive NHS Health and Social Care Act's competition and procurement rules.

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