



Campaigning for a better patient and staff orientated service in the NHS

Response to NHS England Long Term Plan January 2019

An underlying message in this plan is the implementation of integrated care systems (ICS) across England. Our NHS Our Concern supports this approach to providing streamlined care for the population. However, it is essential that Commissioners, Local Authorities and Providers use this opportunity to also create a streamlined management and governance approach within their partnership boards, rather than continue to pursue the past NHS and Social Care way of working through creating additional layers of bureaucracy and management which contribute to wasted cost and frustration for staff members. We are pleased to see the reference to local appointment of the ICS chair and would urge that fair and transparent election processes to the partnership board members is also considered.

Our NHS Our Concern has been campaigning for a change to the model of delivery of Emergency Care within district general hospitals, which the plan states is required, alongside greater use of Ambulatory Emergency Care services. We are writing to Simon Stevens to outline an innovative model for Emergency Care, which in our role as a think tank we have worked with clinicians to develop, and we will continue to present this model to clinicians, managers and leaders across the UK to encourage diffusion and take up of this model.

Providing sufficient staff with the right skills and knowledge is a clear requirement if any of the elements of this plan are to be successful. It is disappointing but not surprising that the plan does not include detail on an NHS and Social Care workforce plan. International recruitment remains essential in the short term and Our NHS Our Concern members have been key influencers and providers of successful international recruitment activities. However, the success of these activities is being seriously hampered by policy from other Government Departments. For example, the immigration health tax will double to 400 per family member from this month. With this tax being payable up front this is now a serious barrier to the NHS recruiting the international staff it desperately needs. Our NHS Our Concern will be campaigning for a change to this policy as part of its continued work with our partners on international recruitment.

One of our core principles is that we wish to see more transparency in how NHS funding is used. The public should be able to judge our local and national NHS

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leaders on how effectively they use existing funds and the increased funding allocations outlined in this plan. Although Provider and Commissioner Board papers include financial details, it is rarely possible to judge how efficiently these Boards use their finite funds. It will be essential throughout the 10 years of this plan that outcome evaluations for the additionally funded programmes are published to provide assurance that the funding has truly made a difference. If this transparency is not undertaken there is a high risk that the extra funding will just add to the existing waste of money through inefficiency which 52% of Provider Trusts agree still currently happens.

The next steps in developing local plans will be crucial and the involvement of frontline staff in the development and delivery of the individual elements of the plan will be key to success and health improvements for patients.

Notes

Our NHS Our Concern is campaigning for a better patient and staff orientated service in the NHS.

Further detail on our proposals for elected board members, a new model for emergency care, international recruitment and more public transparency of funding can be found at https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b6b2bb_4320b019d62941e3a1d00a76398acf45.pdf?index=true

For further information contact: info@ournhsourconcern.org

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