

NHS LONG TERM PLAN & PRIMARY CARE

What is the NHS Long Term Plan?

The NHS Long Term Plan is an ambitious plan to move forward with the changing health and social care landscape so that, in 10 years' time we continue to have services that meet the needs of patients. Published in January 2019, frontline health and care staff, patients and their families and other experts have all contributed to a realistic plan of action for the NHS. The Long Term plan aims to “give everyone the best start in life; deliver world-class care for major health problems, such as cancer and heart disease, and help people age well”.

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>



How does this impact Primary Care finance?

Chapter one of the NHS Long Term Plan “A new service model for the 21st century” sets out several key challenges for Primary Care each of which will require investment and support.

1. We will boost ‘out-of-hospital’ care, and finally dissolve the historic divide between primary and community health services.

The plan sets out a guarantee of a £4.5 billion real terms increase in the funding of primary care and community health service by 2023/24.

The plan establishes Primary Care Networks and sets out how these will be invested in, including the new Network Contract DES (see next page).

The plan commits to recruiting and retaining General Practitioners. The plan allocates funding for a two-year GP fellowship scheme and invests £12 million into GP retention.

2. The NHS will redesign and reduce pressure on emergency hospital services.

By April 2021 it is intended that the funding for the existing Extended Hours Access DES and for wider CCG commissioned extended access services will be combined into a single payment to Primary Care Networks which will ensure 100% of their populations will be covered by out of hours offerings.

3. People will get more control over their own health, and more personalised care when they need it.

Expansion of multi-disciplinary teams will now be given a major boost in order for patients to have more personalised care. Funding for this will flow through a new reimbursement mechanism within the Network Contract DES.

Along with the implementation of integrated care teams in the community, improved QOF indicators will help improve the quality of patient care and be more reflective of patient choice.

4. Digitally-enabled primary and outpatient care will go mainstream across the NHS.

The Digital Technologies work stream commits to all patients having the right to web- and video-consultations by April 2021; having access to their full records from 2020; and being able to order repeat prescriptions electronically by April 2019. This will be supported by investment from NHS England in the GP IT infrastructure, as set out in the GP IT Operating Model.

In 2019 a review will be undertaken looking at of out-of-area patient registration arrangements and the choice of digital-first primary care. The Long Term Plan ensures that practice funding will be revised to improve fairness as a result of digital-first primary care.

5. Local NHS organisations will increasingly focus on population health and local partnerships with local authority-funded services, through new Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) everywhere.

Primary Care will form the cornerstone of Integrated Care Systems. To support ICS development, a new integrated care contract will be available from 2019. The pioneering contract allows the contractual integration of primary medical services with other services in order to achieve the full integration of care.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

What is a PCN?

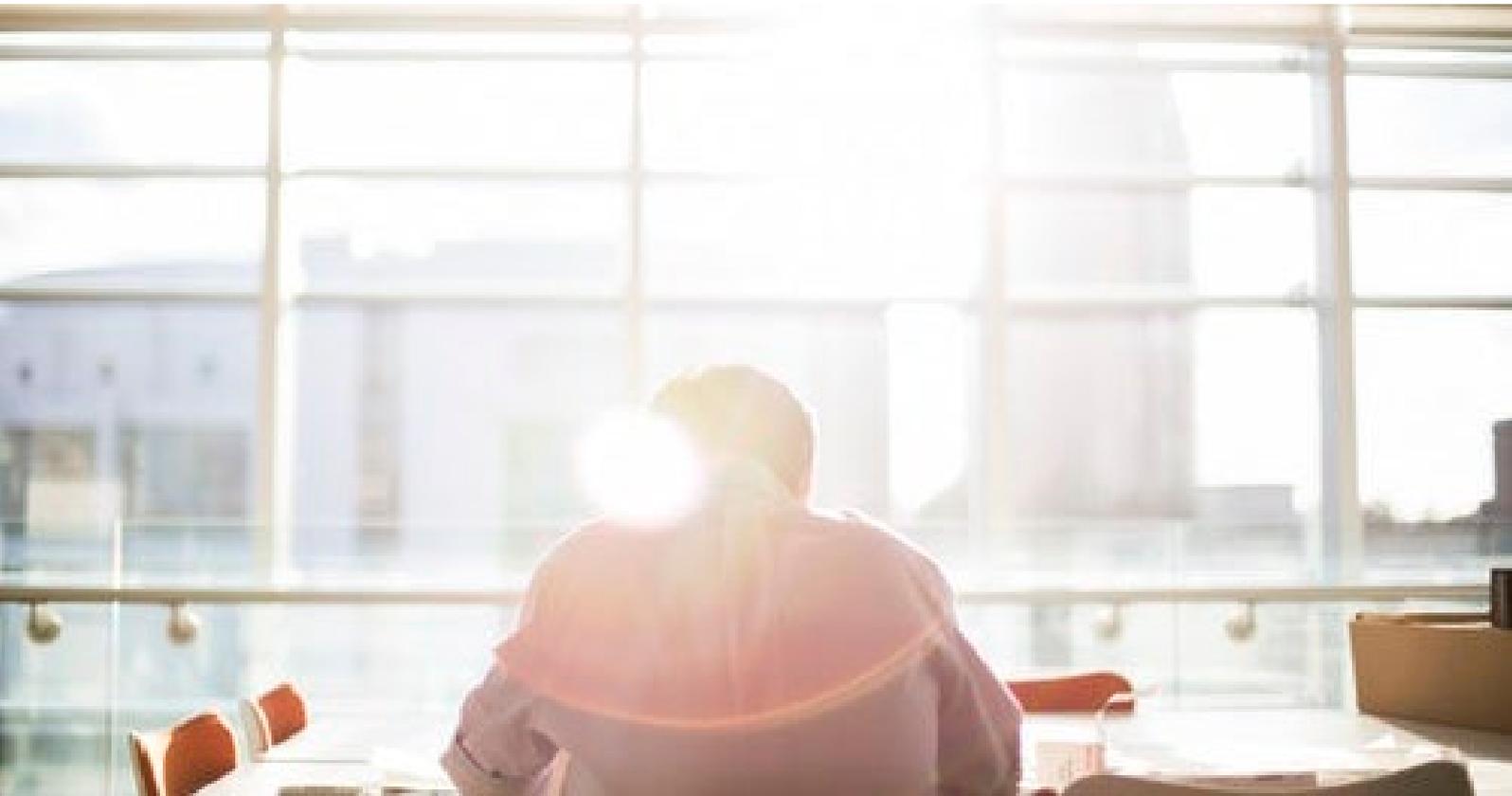
Established in the NHS Long Term Plan, Primary Care Networks build upon existing relationships in general practice. A PCN will consist of groups of general practices working with local providers such as community services, social care and the voluntary sector, to improve and extend the range of services that are available in the community. It is expected that by working together partners will be able to make resources go further and that care for patients will be more co-ordinated.

Networks will typically be based around local communities and, in the main, will be serving between 30,000 and 50,000 patients. Networks will maintain the personal care valued by both patients and GPs but at the same time, through integrated working, be large enough to provide resilience for their communities and as well as benefiting from economies of scale.

Investments

Investment in PCNs will flow through Network Contract DES. By 2023/24 it is expected that nationally, £1.8bn will be passed to PCNs through various investment areas including:

- £1.50 per patient core funding
- £0.514 per patient clinical director contribution
- Additional roles reimbursement
- £1.099 per patient (Jul-Mar 2020) Extended Hours Access
- £1.76 per patient Network Participation payment (paid to practice)



Workforce

The Long Term Plan emphasises the need for PCNs to build a local workforce capable of delivering care with the right professional. Networks will receive funding for up to 20,000+ additional staff by 2023/24 including:

- clinical pharmacists
- social prescribing link workers
- physiotherapists
- physician associates
- community paramedics

This objective builds upon pilot work done nationally which has shown that patients and practices have seen the benefit of larger teams of staff working together to ensure patients get better access to a wider range of support for their healthcare needs.

<https://www.futurefocusedfinance.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/General%20Practice%20new%20ways%20of%20working.pdf#page=4>

The current funding will meet 70% of employment costs for additional clinical pharmacists, physician associates, physiotherapists and community paramedics and 100% of the costs for additional social prescribing link workers, up to a maximum amount.

Case Study

In Salford, five PCNs have been established to join community services and GP practices to benefit patients in Salford.

PCNs in Salford will provide proactive, coordinated care in different ways to match the needs of their local populations. The networks will support patients to make informed decisions about their own health and care and connect them to a wide range of statutory and voluntary services to ensure they can access the care they need.

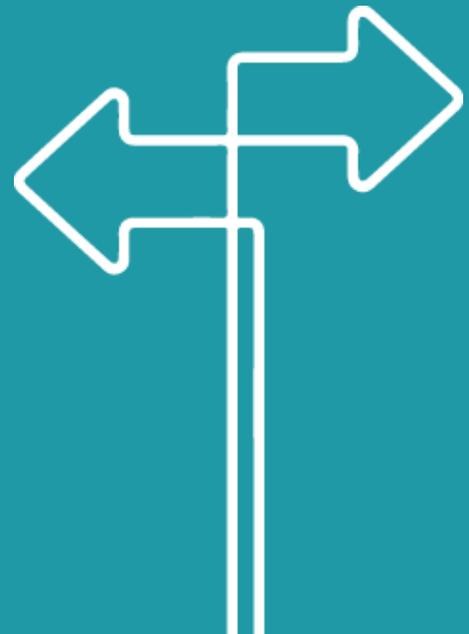


The NHS Long Term Plan - <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

The NHS Long Term Plan Implementation Framework -
<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/long-term-plan-implementation-framework-v1.pdf>

Investment and Evolution: A five-year framework for GP contract reform to implement The NHS Long Term Plan - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/gp-contract-2019.pdf>

HFMA Summary of the NHS long-term plan implementation framework -
<https://www.hfma.org.uk/docs/default-source/publications/Briefings/summary-of-nhs-long-term-plan-implementation-frameworkd4040dce1ab7692cb427ff0000b8cb05.pdf?sfvrsn=0>



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