

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 January 2019

Dans Somen

Thank you for your personal leadership of the NHS Long Term Plan.

I know how much hard work went into developing the Plan. I was pleased the chapters were clinically led, and you involved such a broad group of people in the Plan's overall development. The Plan – backed by this Government's historic cash boost – truly sets the direction for the NHS to improve performance, services and outcomes for patients.

It is vital we now get the delivery right. I am delighted you propose to start with good engagement with staff over the coming months on what the Plan means for them. I look forward to seeing the Implementation Framework in April, and its detail on further prioritising and phasing the work so local systems can create plans that are deliverable, yet tailored to their population needs.

In parallel, we must also push further than we have ever done on supporting and developing staff and local NHS leaders, and placing them at the core of delivery. As we have discussed before, I want to see more progress on flexible working. I look forward to seeing this as part of the comprehensive new workforce implementation plan, which will be the foundation for much of the change we need over the coming decade.

I am pleased that you have already begun work with Matt Hancock to deliver the above, and I look forward to updates on your progress.

12. J.

Thank you once again.

Mr Simon Stevens

NHS England media coverage Long Term Plan Summary

- All national newspapers previewed the launch on Monday 7 January with eight front pages and various comment pieces. On Tuesday 8 January all national newspapers covered the Plan and we secured seven front pages. There was strong regional coverage on both days.
- We placed two op-eds in the Daily Express and The Times.
- There were 24 separate broadcast packages across all TV channels throughout the day of the launch, including BBC News, Sky News, Channel 4 News, Channel 5 News, BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show and BBC Politics Show.
- There were 159 separate pieces broadcast across all regional BBC channels and commercial radio stations including LBC and other Global stations (23 million listeners) on the day of the launch.
- The preview led the Sunday evening 5.30pm **BBC One bulletin** (4.5m viewers) with a package on integration in Somerset.
- Simon Stevens' speech from Alder Hey Children's Hospital was broadcast live on the **BBC News Channel** and **Sky News.**
- Launch day led all BBC news outlets, Sky and ITV. The Plan was still the lead for the BBC One, Six and Ten o'clock news and ITV evening bulletins.
- Simon Stevens was interviewed live on BBC Breakfast (1.5m viewers), BBC Radio 5Live (5m listeners) and BBC Radio 4 Today Programme (7.15m listeners) and recorded clips featured in evening news bulletins: BBC, ITV, C4, C5 and Sky News.
- Steve Powis was interviewed live on Good Morning Britain (600,000 viewers), Sky News at 8.45am and BBC News, LBC and Talk radio. Clips from all interviews ran throughout the day.
- Trade and other publications also ran online articles throughout the day: HSJ, BMJ, Pulse, GP Online, Spectator and Huffpost.
- On social media the launch collectively received 1.5 million Twitter impressions, reached 230,000 Facebook users, had 134,000 web views, 15,500 Periscope views of Simon Stevens's speech and 10,700 film views of his speech. 18,000 copies of the plan were downloaded.



Extra £20bn a year

But can we find the

to prevent ill health and thousands more doctors

diagnose disease earlier

and nurses needed?

AN AMBITIOUS plan to make the NHS fit for the future was launched by health chiefs yesterday. It promises sweeping digital reforms and earlier year pledged by diagnosis of the major

be spent until 2029, with claims it will save 500,000 lives in that time. But concerns have been raised traised trained by Prime Minster Mrs May and NHS TURN TO PAGE 4









SEE PAGES 4&5

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE: expressyourself see Pages 27,28829

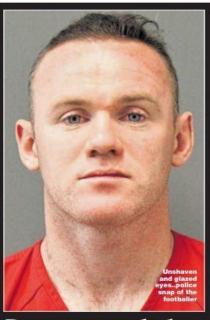
By **Hanna Geissler** Health Reporter

THERESA May will unveil a revolutionary 10-year health care plan in England today, which the Government claims will save 500,000 lives.

Benefits range from improved maternity care to life-changing stroke therapy and extra support for the elderly.

The Prime Minister has promised an extra £20.5billion a year by 2023 as part of the NHS Long nerrotades, which will be list to the blueprint to make the NHS fit for the future reveals how investment in cutting edge

TURN TO PAGE 6



Rooney arrested on drunkenness charge

SEE PAGE 7













NHS targets heart attacks and strokes in £20bn plan

- » Genetic testing and artificial intelligence will help tackle 'major killer conditions' and save half a million lives over the next 10 years
- » Government blueprint to transform health service will harness new technology and healthy living prevention programmes
 - » Biggest ever investment in mental services will help millions suffering from depression and anxiety



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Millions of patients to see doctor by Skype

May wants digital consultations to be NHS norm

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Millions of patients will use Skype for hospital appointments in a "wholesale transformation of the NHS" intended to reduce face-to-face consultations by a third and save billions of pounds.

Digital appointments with consultants will become the norm under a plan for the future of the health service revealed yesterday. Thirty million hospital visits a year will be avoided by use of Skype calls, smartphones and other ways to talk to a doctor.

Simon Stevens, head of NHS England, has promised to end the "outdated and unsustainable" model of hospital appointments that has persisted for 70 years. He argues that online efficiencies would help to close a funding gap and deliver pledges to improve GP care and outcomes for cancer, mental health and heart disease.

However, his plans for spending a f20 billion budget boost by 2023 have already run into controversy because they do not include a commitment to hit waiting-times targets, with some fearing that longer delays will be the price of improved care elsewhere. A call for another NHS legislative reorganisation to implement the plan could also prove a political flashpoint.

Launching the plan yesterday, Theresa Mays aid that it marked a"a historic moment for patients across the nation" that would allow the health service to compete with the best in the world.

Technology would let NHS "make the most of exciting new possibilities and give you greater control over your own care. That means every-

thations to be NHS norm
thing from being able to monitor conditions from the comfort of your own home to accessing your GP via your smartphone,' she said.

As well as being able to book GP appointments on a smartphone, patients have been promised the right to see a doctor online. If their own surgery will not offer this, virtual surgeries such as that offered by the controversial Babylon app will be allowed to expand. This allows patients to swap their family doctor for a virtual service that promises online GP consultations within two hours. It has been criticised for creaming offyoung, healthy people and leaving traditional surgeries with expensive elderly and vulnerable patients. In addition, Mr Stevens promised a fundamental overhaud of hospital outpatients after doctors told him that many did not need to be seen in person. Advice, fellow-up appointments after surgery and the monitoring of long-term conditions can all be done via Skype, telephone or email, he argued. "The NHS long-term plan means a major digital upgrade for the health service, which means patients can access advice at the touch of a button," he said. "Its using the smartphone technology many people already have in their pockets so they can easily see a GP over the internet and even get expert help from consultants without the need for an inconvenient hospital visit. "This will mean that we can make one in three outpatient appointments unnecessary, sparing patients can unsee and the results of the continued on page 2, col 3



First appearance Kevin Spacey arrives at court in Nantucket, Mc charges of sexually assaulting a teenager. His lawyers entered a over claims he plied the 18-year-old with drinks and groped him

Why positive thinking is the best way to get a grip

Kat Lay Health Correspondent

The power of positive thinking has been backed up by science. The more meaningful you believe your life to be, the faster you will walk, the stronger your grip will be and the less chronic pain you will suffer, a study says.

Researchers from University College London found that people who saw the things they did as being worthwhile were healthier as they aged. They had a higher concentration of vitamin D in their blood, healthier cholesterol and lower levels of inflammation.

Andrew Steptoe, the lead author, said that the findings could help efforts to "tease out better ways to promote a good life in middle and older age".

Researchers used data from more than 7,000 adults aged over 50 who were taking part in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing.

They were asked, on a scale of 0-10, how worthwhile they thought the things they did were. Their ratings were compared with data from physical tests and details from wider questionnaires.

Those with ratings of 9 or 10 walked 18 per cent faster than those with scores of 0-3 and had a 13 per cent higher concentration of vitamin D, which boosts bone and muscle strength. They were 40 per cent more likely to report good sleep and had stronger hand grips, a measure of frailty and risk of mortality. Four years on, they were faring better than those with how ratings. They were less likely to have developed chronic pain or depressive symptoms, or to report being lonely. They were more likely to spend time with friends and family, work or volunteer, and exercise. However, it was not clear whether people participated in those activities or had those characteristies because they felt their lives were worthwhile. Professor Steptoes aid: "This is a two-way process. Not only do good social relationships and better health contribute to our sense that we are living meaning-ful lives, but this sense of meaning sustains social and cultural activity, health and wellbeing into the future."

IN THE NEWS

Baby boom deaths

Deaths among baby boomers will peak in 2044, analysis suggests. Life expectancy for the postwar generation is expected to be about 88 for men and 90 for women. Page 4

Train murder suspect

Darren Shane Pencille, the man accused of stabbing to death a father on a train, told a court that he was innocent until proven guilty and was "hearing voices". Page 5

Get tough, PM told

Theresa May will be urged to "play hardball" with the EU today by giving MPs a vote on her deal but allowing them to decide later whether to enter the Irish backstop. Page 12

More airstrikes on Isis

Western forces have increased the bombing of eastern Syria as they fight for Islamic State's last territory. There were 950 airstrikes in December after 650 the month before. Page 26

Patisserie criticism

Luke Johnson, executive chairman of the troubled Patisserie Holdings, retains dozens of directorships despite vowing to scale back his other commitments. Page 33

Mauling for Liverpool

Wolverhampton Wanderers beat Liverpool 2-1 to reach the FA Cup fourth round after Jurgen Klopp rested many of his stars. Manchester United will face Arsenal, Pages 62-63



FA Cup Wolves go through as Neves stuns Liverpool • Sport Tuesday 8 January 2019

Time to curb privatisation of care, NHS chiefs tell PM

Denis Campbell Health policy editor

NHS leaders want Theresa May to

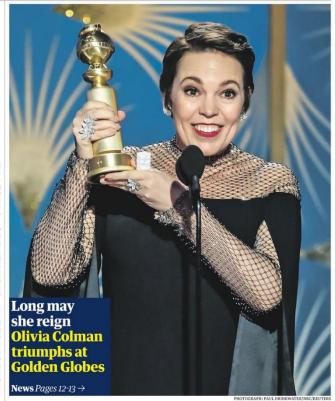
NHS leaders want Theresa May to scrap Conservative legislation that forces it to tender contracts for care, in a move that could hugely reduce privatisation of key health services. In the new Long Term Plan, which maps out the service's future over the next 10 years, Simon Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, demands that the prime minister repeal significant sections of the 2012 Health and Social Care Act.

The document, which Downing Street has endorsed, warns that the

The Health and Social Care Act was a wasteful. bureaucratic disaster

legislation - pushed through against huge opposition by the coalition health secretary Andrew Lansley is damaging the NHS and stopping it making vital improvements to the care patients receive. It outlines in plain language how Lansley's shake-up has damaged the NHS, which May has previously acknowledged. If she agreed to unwind some of the most contentious sections of the act it would spell "the end of automatic tendering", said a senion NHS source. It would also mean that firms such as Richard Branson's Virgin Care, which has won over £2bn of work from the NHS over the last five years and holds more than 400 individual contracts, could no longer mount legal challenges to decisions going against them. The 2012 act obliges NHS clinical commissioning groups in England to offer out to tender any contract worth £615_278 or more. It has led to a huge increase in the number of NHS contracts awarded to profit-driven firms such as Virgin Care and Care UK. An estimated £8_7bn of the service's budget went to non-NHS providers of care in 2017-18, most of which

An estimated E8.7bn or the services budget went to non-NHS providers of care in 2017-18, most of which were private firms, though that also included some charities and social enterprises. NHS



Cross-party call to build 3m new social homes

England must launch the biggest council and social housebuilding drive in its history to rescue millions of people from a future in dangerous,

overcrowded or unsuitable homes, a cross-party commission has told the government.

More than 3 million new social homes are needed in the next 20 years, more than were built in the two decades after the second world war, according to a year-long housing

commission launched in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower disaster. Its commissioners include the former Conservative party chairman Sayeeda Warsi, the former Labour leader Ed Miliband and Jim O'Nell, a former Conservative Treasury minister and Goldman Sachs chief economist.

The call represents a direct challenge to Tory ministers to rapidly increase social housebuilding from its current level of just over 6,000 homes a year. It would mean the construction of seven times more homes than there currently are in Birmingham and 27

times more than in Milton Keynes. It times more than in Milton Keynes. It comes as the government plans possible legislation on social housing after the deaths of 72 people at Grenfell, with stronger regulation and more money for council housing. It has described public housing as a safety net and a stepping stone to home ownership, which Thereas May has said she wants to increase in line with the longheld Conservative belief in a "property owning democracy".

But the commission, convened by the housing charity Shelter,

the housing charity Shelter, is arguing that council

Alarm over safety of MPs

Police have been urged to do more after abuse was hurled by protesters outside parliament yesterday News Page 9 ->





++ Up to 30m NHS outpatient appointments to be via video-link ++ But campaigners warn move could be 'devastating' for elderly who aren't tech savvy

By Sophie Borland and Daniel Martin

TENS of millions of NHS

TENS of millions of NHS appointments are to be carried out by video-link instead of face to face.

Health chiefs believe up to a third of the 90million outpatient consultations each year do not require a hospital visit.

They hope to save time and money by switching these over to Skype-style video services on smartphones or computers.

Patients will be encouraged to have online appointments with specialist doctors and manage long-term illnesses themselves.

However, GPs have warned that some symptoms can be spotted only by direct contact.

And Baroness Altmann, former directorgeneral of Saga, said the scheme could be 'devastating' for the elderly, who are less computer savy. Sometimes machines really can't replace the human touch - older people value that and need it,' she added.

The plans were unveiled in Liverpool yesterday by Theresa May and health chiefs under a ten-year strategy for the NHS, which sets out how a £20billion cash injection will be spent.

Harnessing new technology will be a key part Turn to Page 6



Turn to Page 6





May pleads for EU to give ground and rescue Brexit

Rajeev Syal and Lisa O'Carroll

Theresa May is preparing to make another desperate plea to EU leaders to offer a concession on the Irish backstop as she attempts to win over Brexiters who have vowed to vote down the government's deal.

Brexiters who have vowed to ode down the government's deal.

The prime minister promised yesterday to hold the meaningful vote in parliament in the week beginning 14 January despite growing opposition from Conservative backbenchers and the Democratic Unionist party, whose votes are required to push the deal through parliament.

As MPs prepare to return to Westminster with the crucial vote looming. Downing Street said new compromises could still be won from Europe in order to ensure the safe passage of May's plan. The hope of new developments to break the impasse came sopposition to May's deal hardened. The hurdles facing May include:

Brexiters warning that the government is facing a "disaster" if it fails to ditch the current deal, while the DUP deputy leader, Nigel Dodds, described the Irish backstop as "toxic".

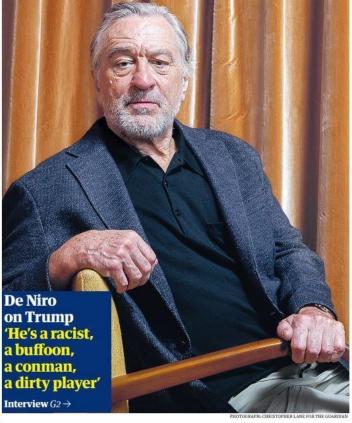
EU sources said talks due to be held

in Dublin tomorrow between the Irish taioseach, Leo Varadkar, and Germany's foreign minister would not seek to reopen negotiations over the 585-page withdrawal agreement.

• Senior MPs, including Yvette Cooper and Nicky Morgan, are launching a negli arough to roughly to the control of the c

- parliamentary campaign to rewrite government legislation to block a no-





NHS to outline plans to save half a million lives

NHS leaders will today outline a future in which genomics, cutting-edge sur-gery and artificial intelligence help save hundreds of thousands more

is improved in return for the govern-

is improved in return for the govern-ment's major funding boost. Theresa May and Simon Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, will finally publish the service's long-term plan, which will pledge to transform between April and 2029 the

help it provides to everyone from pre-mature babies to the growing number of older people.

It will set out detailed plans to dra-matically reduce the number of people dying from big killers such as cancer, heart attacks and strokes. It will explain how the NHS will spend the funding increase May announced last year to mark the health service's 70th anniversary, which will see its budget rise in England from £115bn to £135bn

by 2023-24.
But experts, doctors' leaders and Labour warned the vision risked being

undermined and reduced to "ground-less aspirations" because of the NHS's deepening staffing crisis, continued cuts to public health and limits to what the extra investment could achieve.

Stevens said the document "keeps all that's good about our health ser-vice and its place in our national life. It vice and its place on our national inte. It tackles head-on the pressures our staff face. And it sets a practical, costed, phased route map for the NHS's priorities for care quality and outcomes improvement for the decade ahead." Ministers and NHS Eng land have already disclosed





Gene test for every child with cancer

Better diagnosis and personalised care at heart of NHS plan to save half a million lives

NEWS BRIEFING

Ladies in waiting



Johnson: no deal is voters' idea of leaving EU

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Suspect charged over train stabbing

Special forces troops wounded in Isil attack

The sky's no limit



Trump refuses to back Plastic threatens down on wall money









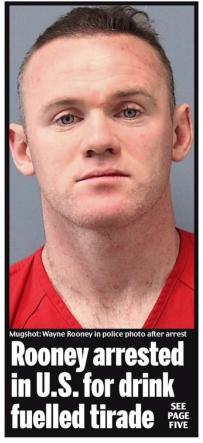
Ten-year plan targets childhood cancer, heart disease and strokes ++ But already **Chancellor warns: We MUST cut waste**

ALL children with cancer will have their treatment tailored to their DNA under an NHS bid to save more than 500,000 lives.

The world-first promise is By Kate Pickles
Health Reporter

unveiled today as part of a long-awaited ten-year plan for the health service.
It follows Theresa May's pledge to hand the NHS an extra £20billion, but writing in the Dally Mail

today Chancellor Philip Hammond warns the health service must drastically improve efficiency to ensure the cash isn't wasted. Mr Hammond, who had reservations over supplying the money, says: 'The public hates waste in the NHS and quite



THE TIMES

Tuesday 8 January 2019

Practical plan will help all generations

Simon Stevens

Comment

he NHS has been marking its 70th anniversary, and there has been pride in our health service's enduring success and in the shared social commitment it represents. There's been concern, about funding, staffing, increasing inequalities and pressures from a growing and ageing population. But there's also been optimism, about the possibilities for continuing medical advances and better outcomes of care.

So this week with the publication of our NHS long-term plan we look forward to the 80th anniversary.

Doctors, nurses, therapists and other staff have come together with patient groups and many others in the NHS to develop our shared route-map for the future.

The plan means keeping what the public are rightly proud of: high quality care for everyone. But it also means tackling the growing

pressure on staff as they care for our growing and ageing population and respond to new health threats such as childhood obesity and young people's mental health concerns. And it means an NHS which

And it means an NHS which capitalises on the amazing medical advances that we know are in prospect. Later this year every child with cancer will have a genome test

so that their treatment will be tailored to what works best for them.

The NHS will not just offer personalised therapies but also more personalised care, with patients agreeing a plan for how they should be looked after and in some cases offered control of their care fund.

These reforms will be backed by a

new guarantee that over the next five years investment in primary medical and community services will grow faster than the overall NHS budget to create a £4.5 billion ringfenced fund to provide better support for people at home and to avoid hospitalisation.

To prevent illness in the first place, the plan helps patients to help themselves. Technology can now be used as an alternative to GP consultations and outpatient appointments. Spending on mental health services, too often ignored in the past, will also rise.

Progress in implementing the plan could be accelerated by the legislative changes that we also recommended, overcoming some of the legal complexity which can too often be a barrier to integration between different parts of the NHS.

As medicine advances, health needs change and society develops, the health service has to move forward. This plan is a practical, detailed and costed route-map for doing so to ensure we have a service future-proofed to meet the needs of our parents and our children.



THE NORTHERN & SHELL BUILDING NUMBER 10 LOWER THAMES STREET, LONDON EC3R 6EN Tel: 020 8612 7000 (outside UK: +44 20 8612 7000)

A shot in the arm for the NHS that's badly needed

OLITICALLY motivated it may be, but news of life-saving investment in the NHS is hugely welcome. Plans to tackle killer conditions will save almost half a million more lives over the next decade, in a world-class, cutting-edge health service.

More than three million patients will benefit from new and improved stroke, respiratory and cardiac services, the Government says.

And then there's the extra mental health help for 345,000 more children and young people through community-based services, including in schools.

A modern, joined-up service fit for the 21st Century is what we are promised. Cynics will say the announcement has

Cynics will say the announcement has come about now because it is the Prime Minister's Brexit plan which is on life support and in need of emergency help.

Well, perhaps the warring Westminster factions do need a timely reminder that spending billions on the NHS rather than giving them to Europe was a reason people voted to leave the EU.

The politicians can argue over the figures, and the reasons, but if hundreds of thousands of NHS patients enjoy better healthcare – and a longer life as a result – then that is to be applauded.



Healthy Optimism

There are reasons to hope that a new long-term plan for the NHS can succeed where past reforms have failed. But is management up to it?

Theresa May described the new long-term plan for the NHS yesterday as a "historic moment". That may be stretching it a bit. The government has committed to increase spending by an average of 3.4 per cent in real terms over the next five years. That is a welcome boost after years when funding rose by an average of only 1.2 per cent, creating pressures reflected in longer waiting times and missed targets. Yet this still falls short of the long-term average funding rises of 3.7 per cent since it was founded in 1948. The new money will lead the NHS out of the desert but hardly to the land of milk and honey. What matters is whether it can seem it is remove more efficiently.

was founded in 1948. The new money will lead the NHS out of the desert but hardly to the land of milk and honey. What matters is whether it can spend its money more efficiently.

This plan provides some reasons to hope that it can. One of those reasons is that this project, unlike previous ones, has been devised by NHS managers. Past attempts to reform a health service struggling to keep pace with demand have failed in large part because they were driven by politicians responding to political priorities. The Blair government's attempts to micromanage the NHS via numerous targets led to a serious misallocation of resources. The Cameron coalition's response was to try to inject more commercial discipline by fragmenting the NHS and putting different service providers into rigid silos. That

impeded the provision of integrated services. The result was that many people who might have been cared for at home have ended up being treated in scarce and expensive hospital beds.

Nonetheless, one of the positive outcomes of the coalition's reforms was the creation of a separate quango to run the NHS in England at arm's length from government. It is this body, led by Simon Stevens as chief executive, that has drawn up the latest plan. It includes a number of sensible measures designed to address such legacy issues. These include significant increases in funding for earlier diagnosis of cancers, lung conditions and heart disease via increased use of genetic testing and cancer screening. This is vital to improve Britain's poor survival rates. There is an extra £4.5 billion for community care, which is important to ensure that more people can live independently at home for longer. The plan envis-

ages greater use of technology, including digital consultations that will allow more outpatient services to be delivered via smartphones. Doctors and patients will no longer need to be in the same place, so resources can be used more efficiently.

Another reason for optimism is that Mr Stevens's plan does not hinge on legislative changes. Much of what is being proposed is already taking

Much of what is being proposed is already taking place in parts of the system. The goal is to spread best practice to all parts of the country. Even so, there is little doubt that greater efficiencies could be achieved if the government were to legislate to remove some of the barriers that prevent closer integration between hospitals, GPs and community services. A long-term solution to the funding of social care for the elderly would also help to reduce pressure on the NHS budget. It remains to be seen whether handing the NHS greater independence has sufficiently depoliticised debates about broader health reform.

The question is whether the health service has the capacity to implement the plan. It is one of the

The question is whether the health service has the capacity to implement the plan. It is one of the biggest employers in the world but Mr Stevens does not enjoy anything like the powers of the Walmart chief executive, one of the few entities that exceed it in size. Big decisions by necessity are devolved to local healthcare providers. Moreover the NHS arguably suffers from a dearth of managers with the skills to run complex integrated services. Remarkably an organisation that employs more than a million people recruits only 100 management trainees a year, a number set to rise to 500. Let us hope that Mr Stevens succeeds. After all, the alternative is an even greater injection of public money, or much more radical reform.



Founded 1821 Independently owned by the Scott Trust № 53,612 'Comment is free... but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Health

NHS bosses have set out their vision. To deliver it, they need money and staff

The NHS long-term plan unveiled yesterday is an important document whose significance goes beyond the individual pledges and projects it contains. The risks of fragmentation and marketisation of the health service have not disappeared, but they have dramatically receded. Simon Stevens, the chief executive of NHS England, and his colleagues have expanded the blueprint contained in 2014's five-year forward view to present a progressive and coherent strategy for modernisation, which includes a redistribution of resources to the poorest areas and least healthy people. They have issued a strong call for the regime of competitive tendering introduced by 2012's Health and Social Care Act to be scrapped.

Particularly welcome is the guarantee that funding for community and primary care will grow faster than hospital budgets. With chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes accounting for an ever-larger share of health spending, it is essential that resources reach people, such as those struggling with weight or addiction, before they become seriously ill. The £2.3bn promised additional funding for mental health is another positive step, though targets in this area, particularly with regard to young people, remain inexcusably weak. While it is not particularly surprising to learn that inequality is costing the NHS £4.8bn a year in hospitalisations, it is refreshing to see this unpalatable truth spelled out. Information is an important aspect of healthcare. As spending rises, from £115bn to £135bn by 2023-24, it is essential that public understanding also grows. Patients must be

partners in prevention and management of long-term conditions, and equipped to use new digital tools. Resolving the NHS staffing crisis is now the priority. With 100,000 vacancies, the current situation is not tenable. A workforce strategy is expected later in

With 100,000 vacancies, the current situation is not tenable. A workforce strategy is expected later in the year, along with a training budget. Brexit casts a dark shadow, with urgent questions surrounding the supply of medicines and work visas diverting attention from longer-term priorities. Social care,

meanwhile, continues to be the unaddressed social policy problem of the age, with councils unable to meet their obligations to a rapidly ageing population, and an explosion of need predicted over the next 20 years. Warnings about the knock-on effects of a failing social care system have become wearyingly familiar. But the cost of beds filled by old people who cannot be discharged, because they have nowhere to go, is real.

discharged, because they have nowhere to go, is real.
But even were legislation to plug the social
care funding gap, holes in NHS finances remain,
with around half of trusts currently in deficit.
The consensus among health experts, the Office
for Budget Responsibility and the Institute for
Fiscal Studies, was that 4% was the annual increase
needed by the NHS to reverse its decline. For its 70th
birthday last June, Theresa May instead offered 3.4%
(£20.5bn over five years). Since then, cuts to public
health spending - including on alcohol and sexual
health clinics funded by councils - means the true
size of the increase in health spending is still lower:
just 2.7% in 2019-20.

We will see in due course which of the promised improvements the NHS is able to deliver, and to what extent these offset public dismay about other social policy failures, notably in welfare reform. It is of course no accident that the plan was launched as Mrs May returns to work after the break, the Commons vote on her Brexit deal looming. The NHS has often been described as a glue holding the nation together. In our divided times, it has a more important role than ever to play.

Om FOR NATIONAL EROES' SERVICE ALL



THOUSANDS of military veterans who struggle adapting to life on civvy street will get a \$10mil lion boost from the NHS.

The new National Heroes Service will help those battling booze, drug or mental health problems.

It will include veteran-friendly service, or TILs to offer lives on the line are properly service.



Plan will honour the debt we owe

SIMON STEVENS



Capitals offence

pital letters is equiva-it to shouting and uld be dealt with by employer in similar





LAST NIGHT'S WINNING members in LOTTO BALLS 49 were: 3, 31, 39, 46 & 48. Bonus 40.

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HOME GADGETS THAT SPY ON YOU EMPT



Radical treatment could help millions

DIABETICS will be given low-calorie liquid diets under radical plans to

beat the disease.

NHS chiefs hope that prescribing fat-free shakes and soups for up to five months will reverse the illness. If the trial succeeds, the treatment

will be rolled out nationally. UK research has already found that half of Type 2 diabeties on the die were in remission within a year.

Details of the strategy are likely to be set out in November. It is based on the idea that Type 2 can be conquered if patients lose enough

weight. On the diet, they would consume between 810 and 850 calories a day, depending on the flavours of the four shakes and soups they choose. Many would shed the pounds very quickly after previously taking in as many as 3,000 calories a day.

The liquid diet was described as

Turn to Page 2



THE TIMES

Saturday 5 January 2019

Heavy drinking patients will be targeted by NHS care team

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Patients who drink too much will be swooped on by NHS alcohol squads within a day of going into hospital under plans to help them to cut down.

Teams of specialist doctors and nurses will review all patients admitted to hospital for signs of alcohol abuse and give them a half-hour chat about the risks and offer advice.

Smokers will also be targeted after local schemes showed that intensive help cut admission rates for drinking and tobacco-related illness.

Setting up "alcohol care teams" in the quarter of hospitals with the most drink-related illness will cost £26 million over five years but is expected to save even more by preventing 50,000 admissions a year. The NHS spends £3.5 billion a year treating alcohol

abuse. Simon Stevens, NHS England's chief executive, said: "Excess drinking can destroy families, with the NHS too often left to pick up the pieces. Alcohol and tobacco addiction remain two of the biggest causes of ill health and early death. The right support can save lives."

On Monday he will launch a ten-year plan for the NHS which was requested by Theresa May after she promised a budget boost of £20 billion by 2023.

It is expected to focus on avoiding needless hospital treatment through better local care and Mr Stevens said that patients would also get support to take greater control of their health.

NHS bosses are concerned that the plan will be unaffordable if patients are promised better care for political priorities such as cancer and mental health at the same time as shorter waits.

Jonathan Ashworth, the shadow

health secretary, said: "It's welcome that NHS bosses are now adopting Labour's policy to place specialist alcohol staff in hospitals. But these new proposals will be severely hindered by deep cuts of £34 million to alcohol and drug addiction services and £3.1 million cuts to community smoking cessation services ministers are imposing this financial year."

Councils, which are responsible for public health, said the plan's ambitions required a reversal of cuts to their budgets for preventing illness, which have been raided to give more to the NHS.

Duncan Selbie, chief executive of Public Health England, said: "Tobacco kills 1,500 people a week so helping people to quit when admitted to hospital helps them, their families and the taxpayer." He also welcome the focus on alcohol-dependent people.

1 December 2018



NHS to offer mental health treatment for new fathers

Thousands of new fathers are to be offered screening and treatment for mental health problems on the NHS.

Help for anxious and depressed fathers will be part of the 10-year plan for the health service, which must decide how to spend the £20bn extra promised by Theresa May by 2022.

Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, said: "These days dads and partners are rightly expected to be more hands-on, and NHS mental health services also need to step up and support families at times of extreme stress and anxiety."

The move comes after warnings that men's mental health was being overlooked. One in five women suffer mental health problems during pregnancy or in the first year after birth.

2 December 2018



NHS to introduce mental health checks for new fathers

Health service in England to offer help for men whose partners experience health problems

New fathers and fathers-to-be will be offered mental health checks if their partner is suffering anxiety, psychosis or postnatal depression, NHS England has announced.

While it is well recognised that pregnant women and new mothers can experience mental health problems, little attention has been paid to their partners.

NHS England describes this offer as a radical initiative, arguing that men should not be allowed to suffer in silence, attempting to help their partner but possibly experiencing distress of their own. The help may take the form of peer support, couples' behavioural therapy sessions, family and parenting interventions in community perinatal mental health settings, or other talking therapies.





INSPIRE

As 23,600 of you sign up for Mail campaign, health chiefs unveil major new drive to boost patient carers

EXCLUSIVE

By Sophle Borland Health Editor

THE NHS wants to double its volunteer army in recognition of

voninteer army in recognition of the huge benefits for patient care, the Daily Mail can reveal. Officials plan to increase the voluntary workforce from the current 78,000 to 156,000 over the next three years. The news comes as support is growing for the Mail's hospital volunteer campaign, which was launched at the beginning of December in partnership with Helpforce - a



fast-growing health service charity. By last night a total of 23,655 readers had signed up, pledging a combined total of 1,344,135 hours in help and support.

The campaign has been backed by JR Rowling, Claudia Windeman and Bir Cliff Bichard alongside Prime Minister Theresa May and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

NHB chiefs believe volunteers have a huge impact on patients and hospital staff, and at the same time greatly enhance their own lives. While older volunteers stay active and connected, younger eccruits gain invaluable stalls

Turn to Page 4



It's official: Strictly finalist Joe Sugg has confirmed that he is in a relationship with dance partner Dianne Buswell

OLUNTEERING has always been at the heart of the National Health Service When the first NHS hospi-Trafford Park in Greater Manchester, opened its doors on July 5, 1948, the Women's Voluntary Service - which had assisted our civil defence the Second World War immediately signed up to help out as receptionists, canteen staff and snack trolley vendors. Beventy years on, the commitment of volunteers remains unchanged. As the NHS marks its birthday this

As the NHB marks its borthday trus year rolunteers are central to its celebra-tions, helping to organise thousands of 'Big 'Itea' parties to mark the molestone and raise huge sums for NHB charties. But rolunteers have always done more than push tea trolleys and help in hoppital cases. The learner though a

hospital cafes - welcome though a cuppa and a sympathetic ear can be at a stressful and uncertain time.

a stressful and uncertain time.

At the NHB's inception, they also organised blood donation sessions, wrote letters for patients to loved ones and even ran 'Darby and Joan' clubs where sensor citizens spending long spells in hospital could socialise.

spells in hospital could socialise. Volunteers are not substitutes for shilled staff, but they do bring different talents and experience. There is no doubt that they add the smooth running of the NHB by supporting staff to focus on doing what they do best, allowing them to deliver some of the best healthcare in the world.

That is why we are delighted that the Daily Mail has chosen, as its Christmas campaign, to support the Help-

mas campaign, to support the Heip-force charity.

It is testimony to our country's gener-osity of spirit and can-do attitude that in just a few short days, more than 10,000 readers have pledged their time

and energy to help the NHB.

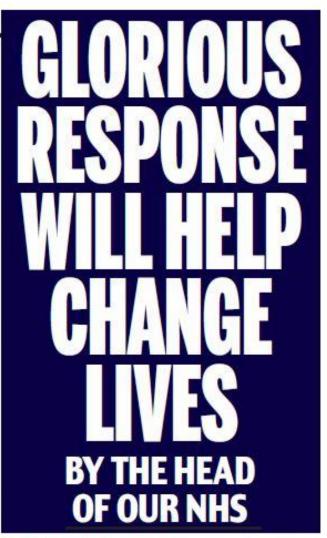
Yesterday morning it was heartwarming to hear listeners bombard
LBC Radio's dedicated phone-in show to pledge their support for the mpajen.

It is a campaign that has it is a campaign that has united people across political and generational divides -from Prime Minister Theresa May and Labour's shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth to singers Sir Tom Jones and Spice Girl Geri Halliwell.

HE NHS's hard-working staff have also given their backing with a wholehearted with a wholenearted endorsement from the Royal College of Nursing, who have rightly spoken about the outstanding contributions made by those who freely give their time to help staff and patients.

As well as carrying out more traditional jobs, volunteers can help out in a number of more modern ways: from deving a mobility buggy to providing patients with basic manicures and beauty treatments.

I felt the benefit first-hand I fer the opened tost-hand myself when, as a seven-year-old with a hip problem, I had to spend the best part of a school term stuck on a chil-dren's orthopaedic ward. As





COMMENTARY by Simon Stevens

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NHS ENGLAND

well as the care I received from nurses, physios and doctors, volunteers were on hand to play, chat and help.

Just as medicine has

Just as medicine has advanced, so, too, has the contribution of volunteers. Indeed, there are now more than 300 different roles that they perform.

Whether it's helping patients with their physio exercises, picking up an outpatient's gooceries or holding the hand of a dying patient who is without a loved one in their final hours, volunteers make a difference in so in their dnai hours, voiun-teers make a difference in so many ways. Volunteers also accompany paramedics, assisting those who may not need hospital treatment, but could use some support after,

cound use some support aree, for example, a tall.

In other hospitals, volun-tees help transport urgent medication from one end of an enormous hospital to another, freeing up nurses to

stay on busy wards. And the 1,400-strong 'Blood Bitters' group provide an overnight delivery service to ferry surgical tools, human milk and cal tools, numan mult and other much-needed medical supplies - including blood -to hospitals. For NHB staff and patients, the benefits of volunteers are clear.

UT volunteers also hugely benefit from their own lindness and dedication by meeting others and developing their shills.

It can have a huge impact on their well-being, contidence and - for younger people - job prospects.

pie – Job prospects.

This initiative comes at a crudial time. Cancer care has improved dramatically, but we can do even better by catching the disease in the early stages when it is easier

to treat. Hundreds of thousands more people are getting help with mental health conditions than just a few years ago, and the NHB will ramp

up provision to help address the previously hidden need. Yes, to deliver those improve-ments the NHS will need to recruit and train thousands more doctors, nurses, thera-

pists and other staff.

But to help these new clini-clans focus on what they do best, the NHB also needs to recruit and train thousands more volunteers.

Age is no barrier to volun-teering for the NHS. Just look at John Gaunt, 89, who ioon at John Gaunt, 89, who was honoured as a Dady Mad health hero, for volunteering at an age when most of us would be putting our feet up.

As the NHS gears up to

deliver our long-term plan to improve our services, we are asking you to heed the Daily Mail's appeal. The expert caring staff

have made our healthcare system the enry of the world. But it is our foot soldiers that allow it to function that allow it to function, smoothly every day of the year. We need people from all walks of life to chip in and support staff, patients and their local communities. We need people like you.

DR MAX: HELPING HELPED M