

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING IN COMMON OF THE BOARDS OF NHS
ENGLAND AND NHS IMPROVEMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2020
AT 2.30PM BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Members:

NHS Improvement

Baroness Dido Harding	Chair
Laura Wade-Gery	Deputy Chair
Sir David Behan	Associate Non-Executive Director
Lord Patrick Carter	Non-Executive Director
Dr Tim Ferris	Non-Executive Director
Wol Kolade	Non-Executive Director
Andrew Morris	Non-Executive Director

NHS England

Lord David Prior	Chair
David Roberts	Vice Chair
Sir Simon Stevens	Chief Executive Officer
Lord Ara Darzi	Non-Executive Director
Ian Dodge	National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy
Noel Gordon	Non-Executive Director
Emily Lawson	Chief Commercial Officer
Sir Munir Pirmohamed	Non-Executive Director
Joanne Shaw	Non-Executive Director

Joint members:

Julian Kelly	Chief Financial Officer
Ruth May	Chief Nursing Officer
Prof. Stephen Powis	National Medical Director
Amanda Pritchard	Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer of NHS Improvement

In attendance:

Sofia Bernsand	Head of Governance
Ninjeri Pandit	Director, Office of the NHS Chairs, CEO and COO
Pauline Philip	National Director for Emergency and Elective Care
Prof. Mike Richards	Chair of the Diagnostics Review
Dr Nickl Watts	Chair of NHS Net Zero Expert Panel

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1. No apologies for absence had been received.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1. The Chair of NHS Improvement noted that she had been appointed interim executive chair of the National Institute for Health Protection.

3. Minutes from the meetings held on 28 July 2020 (BM/21/(Pu))

3.1. The minutes from the meetings held on 28 July 2020 were approved.

4. Chief Executive's Report (verbal update)

- 4.1. The Chief Executive, Sir Simon Stevens, provided an update on the latest position on COVID-19. There were now just over 2,000 confirmed COVID-19 positive hospital inpatients, which was a fourfold increase since the start of September. Work was being undertaken across the health service to prepare contingency escalation plans for different levels of local and regional infection rates. In addition, work to prepare for the winter season and an increase in the number of flu vaccinations was progressing.
- 4.2. The Chief Executive thanked staff across the service for their continued work and dedication. He noted that October marked the beginning of the Black History Month and paid tribute to the contribution made to the NHS by generations of colleagues from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 was highlighted as was the work of the newly established NHS Race and Health Observatory.
- 4.3. A discussion took place on national readiness for a possible second COVID wave. Changes since the start of the pandemic included improved testing surveillance and insight into regional and local infection rates. The NHS had secured extra capacity and additional supplies and new treatments were now also available as required. However, notwithstanding these factors a second wave and winter demands would put significant pressure on the health service, emphasising the vital importance of wider public action to mitigate the growth of COVID-19 infection.
- 4.4. The Chief Nursing Officer provided an update on measures to support NHS staff, reduce vacancies and recruit new nurses. The National Medical Director provided an update on medical staff and commended medical colleagues for the work that had taken place since the start of the pandemic, both in treating COVID and non-COVID patients.
- 4.5. An update on primary care was provided, and it was also noted that the Department of Health and Social Care had on 28 September 2020 published their personal protective equipment (PPE) strategy

5. Operational performance and finance update (BM/20/22(Pu))

- 5.1. The Chief Operating Officer introduced the reports setting out progress on restoring non-COVID services. The National Medical Director provided an update on flu vaccination and use of new treatments and clinical practice developments to reduce the COVID-19 mortality rate. The National Director for Emergency and Elective Care provided an overview of work streams in place to prepare for the winter period, which included service transformations such as 111 First, Urgent Treatment Centre programmes and elective referral hubs. It was also noted that the organisations were working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care and the Test and Trace programme who were sourcing and allocating extra supplies, platforms and consumables for NHS laboratories.
- 5.2. The Chief Nursing Officer (and Infection Control SRO) set out actions trusts were taking on infection prevention and control.

The Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the NHS financial position at month 4 of 2020/21 and noted that the headline rate of spend had been consistent since the start of the financial year. This included additional staff costs, COVID-related loss of income for NHS providers and costs in securing independent sector capacity. Financial envelopes for the second half of the year had been issued to local systems, and a discussion took place on the impact of a potential second wave of infections on the financial incentive scheme.

6. Delivering a Net Zero NHS (BM/20/23(Pu))

- 6.1. The National Director, Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy introduced the report, commissioned by Sir Simon Stevens from an expert panel to set goals for a net zero NHS carbon footprint.
- 6.2. Dr Nick Watts the Chair of the Net Zero Expert Panel (who from the 26 October would take up the role as NHS Chief Sustainability Officer) provided an overview of work undertaken to develop the recommendations. A summary of the overall benefits of a net zero health service was provided and the benefits to public health was highlighted. Since 1990, the NHS had achieved a 62% reduction in its carbon footprint, and considerable work had gone into developing a plan for the NHS with ambitious but credible targets for achieving a net zero carbon footprint. The objective was to reach an 80% reduction by 2032 and a net zero footprint by 2040, with the NHS and its wider supply chain to be carbon free by 2045. An outline of key elements to a successful delivery was provided.
- 6.3. The Boards welcomed the report and endorsed the recommendations. A discussion took place on the NHS's work which would be needed to directly and indirectly influence its wider supply chain. The Chief Commercial Officer provided an overview on her team's involvement in the supply chain and estate and facilities interventions, and a discussion took place on tackling carbon emissions from existing NHS estates.
- 6.4. The challenge of reaching 100% from the interim 80% target was considered and an overview of external factors that would contribute to this achievement was provided.

7. Diagnostics: recovery and renewal (BM/20/25(Pr))

- 7.1. Professor Mike Richards introduced his report which set out the proposed approach to transforming the delivery of diagnostic services, to increase capacity and productivity and improve access for patients.
- 7.2. It was noted that the main recommendations in the report were to categorise diagnostics according to the level of urgency, with elective diagnostic services able to be separated away from acute hospital sites to new community diagnostic hubs. This could free up capacity at acute hospital sites and improve patient experience by providing easier access to diagnostic services closer to home. These changes would involve significant investments in facilities, equipment and workforce.

7.3. The Boards welcomed the report and endorsed the recommendations which would partly depend on capital allocations in the forthcoming Government Spending Review, as well as HEE education and training expansions.

8. Public Participation Dashboard (BM/20/24(Pu))

8.1. The Boards noted the annual Public Participation Dashboard.

9. Any other business

9.1. There was no other business.

Close