

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING IN COMMON OF THE BOARDS OF NHS
ENGLAND AND NHS IMPROVEMENT HELD ON THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020
AT 2.30 PM BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Members:

NHS Improvement

Sir Andrew Morris	Vice Chair
Sir David Behan	Associate Non-Executive Director
Lord Patrick Carter of Coles	Non-Executive Director
Dr Tim Ferris	Non-Executive Director
Wol Kolade	Non-Executive Director
Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed	Non-Executive Director

NHS England

Lord David Prior	Chair (Chair for item 1 and from item 5 onwards)
Lord Ara Darzi of Denham	Non-Executive Director
Ian Dodge	National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy (non-voting member)
Noel Gordon	Non-Executive Director (non-voting member)
Emily Lawson	Chief Commercial Officer
Sir Simon Stevens	Chief Executive Officer
David Roberts	Vice Chair (in the chair for items 2 to 5)
Laura Wade-Gery	Deputy Chair

Joint members

Julian Kelly	Chief Financial Officer
Ruth May	Chief Nursing Officer
Amanda Pritchard	Chief Operating Officer/Chief Executive Officer NHS Improvement
Professor Stephen Powis	National Medical Director

In attendance:

Sofia Bernsand	Head of Governance
Simon Enright	Director of Communications
Prerana Issar	Chief People Officer
Bill McCarthy	NHS North West Regional Director
Claire Murdoch	National Director for Mental Health
Ninjeri Pandit	Director of the Office of NHS Chairs, CEO and COO
Clare Perry	Senior Business Manager to the Chairs
Pauline Philip	National Director for Emergency and Elective Care
Matthew Whitty	Interim Director of Innovation, Research and Life Sciences, and Chief Executive of the Accelerated Access Collaborative

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1. Apologies for absence had been received from Baroness Dido Harding and Jeremy Townsend. It was noted that Baroness Harding was taking a leave of absence from her role as Chair of NHS Improvement with immediate effect, through to May 2021, with ongoing review, to focus her efforts with Test and Trace and the National Institute for Health Protection. Andrew Morris, as the Vice Chair of NHS Improvement, would serve as acting chair of NHS Improvement.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1. No declarations of interest were raised over and above those held on record.

3. Minutes from the meetings held on 1 October 2020 (BM/26/(Pu))

3.1. The minutes from the meetings held on 1 October 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 across England, highlighting the number of COVID-19 positive inpatients and the geographical pattern of pressure. The Chief Executive expressed gratitude to all colleagues across the health service for their continuing work and dedication.

4.2. An update on COVID-19 vaccines was provided, noting that considerable work is taking place to mobilise readiness for the delivery of the vaccines once approved by the UK's independent medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). An update on the outcome of the Spending Review was also provided.

5. COVID and winter/operational and financial performance update (BM/20/27(Pu))

5.1. The Chief Operating Officer introduced the reports and provided an overview of the ongoing COVID-19 response work and restoration of non COVID-19 services. The importance of supporting staff through the latest wave of COVID-19 infections and winter pressures was emphasised.

5.2. An update on elective care was provided, noting that positive progress has been made in relation to cancer treatment levels and waiting lists. To help ensure cancer service recovery COVID-protected hubs for cancer surgery will be maintained and non COVID-19 capacity will continue to be prioritised for cancer services.

5.3. It was noted that activity in primary care is back to pre COVID-19 levels and primary care colleagues were thanked for their continued contribution to supporting the clinically extremely vulnerable patients and the flu vaccination programme. The increase in demand for mental health services was noted and continued to be an area of focus.

5.4. The National Director for Emergency and Elective Care provided an update on urgent and emergency care and the roll out of the NHS 111 First initiative, which encouraged the public to call NHS 111 before attending A&E. It was noted that the Government has made available Lateral Flow Device testing for asymptomatic patient-facing NHS staff. Staff testing positive will be required to follow up with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. A discussion took place on infection prevention and control and hospitals' work to keep COVID-19 secure pathways separate from those where patients have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or were at risk.

- 5.5. Improvements made to NHS services since the start of the pandemic were discussed including multidisciplinary clinical leadership, improvements in digital and technology support and the focus on health inequalities
- 5.6. The Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the NHS financial position across the NHS as at month 6 of 2020/21 and noted that the aggregate level of spend had remained consistent during the first six months of the financial year. Provider capital expenditure was also considered. The additional funding announced in the Spending Review for diagnostics was discussed.

6. Innovation, research and life sciences and Accelerated Access Collaborative update (BM/20/28(Pu))

- 6.1. Lord Darzi introduced the report and the Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) hosted by NHS England/Improvement. The Chief Executive of the AAC provided an overview of the work carried out and its impact during its first twelve months. Board members commended the work of the ACC and a discussion took place on embedding innovations.

7. Next steps of integrated care systems (BM/20/29(Pu))

- 7.1. The Chief Executive, Sir Simon Stevens, introduced the report, which set out steps to be taken from April 2021 to extend Integrated Care Systems (ICS) across England. The Chief Operating Officer provided an overview of work that has taken place to develop the proposals which reflected on the extensive engagement and feedback. The proposals were aimed at delivering better care and outcomes for patients through local collaboration and stronger partnerships. It was noted that the proposals supported the commitment to improve population health, enhance value for money, and help the NHS to support broader social and economic development. The NHS North West Regional Director also provided his view of the development and direction of the proposals.
- 7.2. The National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy provided an overview of the process and engagement undertaken to develop the NHS' recommended legislative proposals, which involved two specific legislative options for ICSs.
- 7.3. The Boards welcomed the report and the direction of travel and highlighted some of the benefits this would have for patients. A discussion took place on some aspects of the report and the importance that digital and data transformation will have. The future role of commissioning was considered. The Boards endorsed the proposals for public engagement.

8. Staff health and wellbeing (BM/20/30(Pu))

- 8.1. The Chief People Officer introduced the item and thanked staff across the health sector. An overview of the health and wellbeing offer was provided. It entails a spectrum of self-care and primary prevention as well as mental health assessment and treatment. The offer is available to all NHS staff and elements of the offer

have been extended to social care. Additional work has also gone into supporting black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) and faith groups.

- 8.2. The National Director for Mental Health provided an update on the mental health and wellbeing hubs offering additional occupational health and wellbeing support during the winter period. These hubs provide outreach and assessment services, giving staff rapid access to specialist mental health support. A national referral route will also be offered to colleagues with complex needs and for staff groups most at risk. Psychological wellbeing training will also be offered to critical care staff.
- 8.3. The Boards welcomed the staff health and wellbeing offer noting that NHS England/Improvement has just been awarded the 2020 Personnel Today awards for Health & Wellbeing and HR Impact.
- 8.4. It was agreed that going forward the Boards should be presented with updates on the staff health and wellbeing offer.

ACTION: PI, SB

9. Use of NHS England Seal (BM/20/31(Pu))

- 9.1. The Boards noted the report which sets out details of all documents that have been authorised and sealed with the NHS England seal between 1 June and 31 October 2020.

10. Any other business

- 10.1. There was no other business.

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