

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING IN COMMON OF THE BOARDS OF NHS ENGLAND AND NHS IMPROVEMENT HELD ON THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2021 AT 2 PM BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

Members:

NHS England

Lord David Prior	Chair
Michael Coupe	Non-Executive Director
Lord Ara Darzi of Denham	Non-Executive Director
Ian Dodge	National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy (non-voting member)
Susan Kilsby	Non-Executive Director
Rakesh Kapoor	Non-Executive Director
Dr Emily Lawson	Chief Commercial Officer (non-voting member)
Sir Simon Stevens	Chief Executive Officer
David Roberts	Vice Chair
Jeremy Townsend	Non-Executive Director

NHS Improvement

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

Joint members

Dr Tim Ferris	National Director of Transformation (non-voting member)
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 Board Governance
Tim Kendall	National Clinical Director for Mental Health (for agenda item 8)
Claire Murdoch	National Director for Mental Health (for agenda item 8)
Prerana Issar	Chief People Officer
Dr Bola Owolabi	NHS Inequalities Director (agenda item 11)
Clare Perry	Senior Business Manager to the Chairs
Pauline Philip	National Director for Emergency and Elective Care
Nick Watts	Chief Sustainability Officer (agenda item 10)

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1. Apologies for absence had been received from Baroness Dido Harding (Chair, NHS Improvement) and Laura Wade-Gery (Non-Executive Director, NHS England).

- 1.2. The Chair of NHS England noted that this was Sir Simon Stevens', David Roberts' and Emily Lawson's last Board meeting and on behalf of the Boards thanked them for their tremendous contribution to the NHS and its national leadership.

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 25 March 2021 (BM/21/14(Pu))

- 3.1. The minutes from the NHS England and NHS Improvement Board meetings held on 25 March 2021 were approved.

4. Chief Executive's Report (verbal update)

- 4.1. The Chief Executive, Sir Simon Stevens, introduced the update and thanked the current and past Board members for their work and support during his seven years leading NHS England.
- 4.2. An update on the latest position on COVID-19 infection rates across England was provided, noting an increase in the number of hospital inpatients being treated for COVID-19. The number of individuals having received the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine was noted. Sir Simon Stevens thanked Emily Lawson for her support for the COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Programme and highlighted the upcoming 'Grab A Jab' campaign.
- 4.3. Successful work on restoring elective activity, and the imminent publication of the Health and Social Care Bill were both noted.
- 4.4. The Chief Executive noted that Monday 5 July marked the 73rd anniversary of the NHS. NHS staff who were on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19 will attend a special service of commemoration and thanksgiving to be held at St Paul's Cathedral.
- 4.5. The Chief Executive concluded by expressing his personal gratitude to his colleagues across the NHS for their work and dedication to the NHS and its patients.

5. Update on the COVID-19 vaccination deployment (BM/21/15(Pu))

- 5.1. In her capacity as the Senior Responsible Officer for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment, the Chief Commercial Officer provided an update on progress made by the COVID-19 vaccination programme, highlighting the acceleration of the second dose recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to counter the spread of the Delta variant (B1.617.2).
- 5.2. To date, over 36 million people across England have now received their first dose of the vaccine and over 26 million people have had both doses. The acceleration of second doses to anyone aged 40 or over who received their first dose by mid-May and the offer of the first dose to all adults aged 18 and over by 19 July was

noted. The 'evergreen' offer for those who had not yet taken up their offer of a COVID-19 vaccine was highlighted.

- 5.3. An overview of the work to prepare for the autumn COVID-19 booster programme was provided, noting that the JCVI's interim guidance was expected by the end of the month. A clinical study is also underway before JCVI determine the approach to co-administration of the flu and COVID-19 vaccine. A discussion took place on flu and the potential risk of a challenging winter flu season.
- 5.4. Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed further provided an overview of the impact of the COVID-19 vaccines on hospitalisation rates. Board members highlighted the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine and encouraged members of the public to continue to come forward when offered their vaccines.

6. NHS Operational and financial performance (BM/21/16(Pu))

- 6.1. The Chief Operating Officer introduced the reports and provided an overview of operational performance of the NHS, noting that the increase in prevalence of COVID-19 infection rates had not yet substantially increased the number of individuals treated in hospital for COVID-19.
- 6.2. An overview of the increase in the overall number of emergency admissions was provided, noting that urgent and emergency care activity had increased to, and in some areas was above, pre-pandemic levels. The impact infection prevention and control (IPC) measures have on available capacity was noted. The work underway through the urgent and emergency care programme in response was highlighted.
- 6.3. An update on elective recovery and an overview of initiatives to improve demand management were provided. The positive impact of the additional funding made available through the Elective Recovery Fund on increasing elective activity was highlighted. Progress made by the Elective Recovery Accelerator Programme to look at new models of care and innovations was noted.
- 6.4. An update on cancer recovery was also provided, highlighting progress made in addressing cancer referral levels and the continuation of the Help Us Help You campaign to encourage anyone with cancer symptoms to come forward.
- 6.5. The Chief People Officer and the Chief Nursing Officer provided an update on initiatives to support recovery of the NHS workforce and recruitment.
- 6.6. The National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy provided an update on discharge and community services. The rollout of the two-hour crisis response standard for support at home is being accelerated across all parts of England and will be offered to relevant patients by April 2022. The significant progress made by primary care in supporting individuals with learning disabilities and ongoing efforts to increase primary care activity and support the COVID-19 vaccination programme were highlighted.
- 6.7. The Executive Directors thanked all colleagues across the NHS for their continuing work and dedication.

6.8. The Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the NHS financial position as at month 12 of 2020/21, noting the additional funding provided to the NHS over and above the original mandate to respond to the pandemic. The month end revenue position was considered. Front line organisations had ended the year with a net surplus of £244m. An overview of performance against COVID-19 ring-fenced budgets was also provided.

7. NHS System Oversight Framework for 2021/22 (BM/21/17(Pu))

7.1. The Chief Operating Officer introduced the item and summarised the outcome of the consultation on the proposed NHS System Oversight Framework for 2021/22. The Board was reminded that the new framework will align oversight of NHS Providers and clinical commissioning groups within Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and replace the current special measures regime with a national recovery support programme. It will also introduce a 'balanced scorecard' approach to oversight, with six oversight themes aligned with the NHS Long Term Plan, the development of ICSs and tackling health inequalities.

7.2. An overview of the response to the consultation was provided, strong support for a system-based approach, the phased and flexible approach to implementation of the new framework and the principle of earned autonomy. Additional feedback included the need for further clarification on how primary care performance and accountability will be specifically considered.

7.3. An overview of further changes made to the framework as a result of the consultation and the engagement process was provided. The Boards considered the changes and welcomed the new framework, emphasising that this was a positive step in the journey to integrated care.

RESOLVED:

7.4. The Boards approved the NHS System Oversight Framework for 2021/22.

8. Update on Mental Health (BM/21/18(Pu))

8.1. The Chief Executive, Sir Simon Stevens, introduced the item and highlighted the commitments made to mental health in the NHS Long Term Plan and the increase in mental health needs arising from the pandemic.

8.2. The National Director for Mental Health provided an overview of the context to NHS England's Mental Health Programme, highlighting the ringfenced investment of at least £2.3 billion a year in real terms by 2023/24, and that investment in mental health is growing faster than the overall NHS budget. The approach to transforming mental health services was considered. The importance of improving the use of digital to enable patients to be more in control of their care was emphasised.

8.3. An overview of achievements to date was provided, and the close collaboration with other national and local partners was highlighted. The increase in demand for

mental health services was considered, in particular for children and young people's services and eating disorder services.

8.4. The Boards welcomed the progress made to date, thanked the teams for their work.

9. Health and Social Care Bill (BM/21/19(Pr))

9.1. The National Director for Primary Care, Community Services and Strategy introduced the item and provided an update on the Health and Social Care Bill (the Bill).

9.2. An overview of provisions incorporating recommendations developed by the NHS was provided, noting the proposals to abolish Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority (together NHS Improvement) and transfer NHS Improvement's duties and powers to NHS England, provisions around ICSs and the expectation that ICSs would become statutory bodies from April 2022.

10. A Net Zero NHS – June 2021 progress update (BM/21/20(Pr))

10.1. The Chief Sustainability Officer introduced the item, noting that in October 2020 the NHS became the world's first national health service to commit to a net zero plan, recognising the impact that climate change has on population health.

10.2. An update on progress made since October 2020 in reducing carbon emissions across the NHS was provided. The NHS Carbon Footprint Plus was considered, noting the commitment by the NHS to no longer purchase from suppliers that do not meet or exceed NHS' commitment to net zero by 2030. The establishment of the Greener NHS National Programme and associated governance framework to monitor progress was also considered.

10.3. The Non-Executive Directors welcomed progress made to date. The importance of ensuring the goals and milestones are measured and where appropriate accelerated was emphasised. External factors that could influence NHS' achievement of its net zero goals were discussed.

10.4. A discussion also took place on anaesthetic gases and an overview of the future approach was provided.

11. Tackling inequalities in NHS care (BM/21/21(Pu))

11.1. The NHS Inequalities Director introduced the item and provided an overview of the work carried out to date to address health inequalities, highlighting the commitment made by the NHS in the NHS Long Term Plan and the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on health inequalities. Successful work on addressing health inequalities through the COVID-19 vaccination programme was noted. Working with local community and faith leaders, the NHS Inequalities Improvement Team has been able to increase the rate of COVID-19 vaccination uptake amongst more hesitant groups, noting the increase from 38% in January 2021 to 70% in May 2021 for people from a black African ethnic background. The

significant increase in uptake of annual health checks by people with learning disabilities was also noted.

11.2. An overview of next steps was provided, highlighting the approach to population health management and a focus on the 20% most deprived communities. An outline of five key clinical areas was also provided.

11.3. A discussion took place on the need to ensure that factors that affect health inequalities are not addressed in isolation. The Boards considered how the NHS can increase its role in preventing and influencing different environmental and social aspects that can result in health inequalities.

12. Use of the NHS England Seal (BM/21/22(Pu))

12.1. The Boards noted the report which set out details of all documents that have been authorised and sealed with the NHS England seal between 1 November 2020 and 10 June 2021.

13. Any other business

13.1. There was no other business.

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