



Easy read summary of the NHSE Medium Term Planning Framework

How we work together to make changes



**We have made this document for people with a
learning disability**

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What this document is about



The NHS is going through its biggest change since it started.



The leaders from across healthcare have worked together writing plans for the NHS 10 Year Plan.



The 10 Year Plan has helped us write what needs to happen next in this document.



This document tells the NHS in local areas what they need to do from now until the end of March 2029.

Important messages



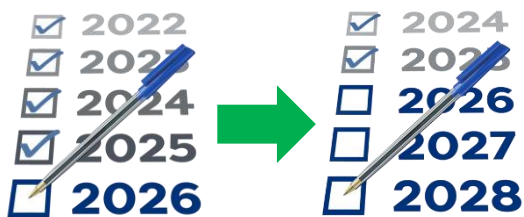
The NHS is not working as well as we want. How it is run needs to change.



Local NHS teams and organisations should make changes that help their area.



We will improve how people feel about the NHS by making it easier to get help quickly, listen to feedback, and make sure everyone gets the best standard of care



We are changing from asking people to do plans every year to over three years to help the NHS plan for the changes that are needed.



The 3 changes that need to be made to the NHS are:



- keeping people healthy before they get sick instead of treating people who have illnesses



- more people having care and treatment at home rather than in hospital



- using more online digital services like the NHS App



- this means more care will happen online, like video calls or messages

What we will try to do in the next three years

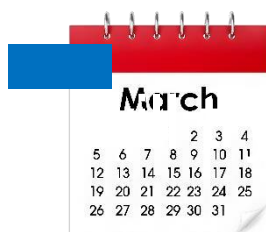
Elective care



Elective care is healthcare you know about before it happens.

It is not an emergency. It means you might be:

- waiting for a test like a scan or blood test or for an operation or treatment



By the end of March 2029:

- people should get **elective care** quicker than they do now





- Most patients should get their treatment within 18 weeks of them being referred for their treatment



- each **NHS trust** should improve waiting times



NHS trusts are the healthcare services in your local area.

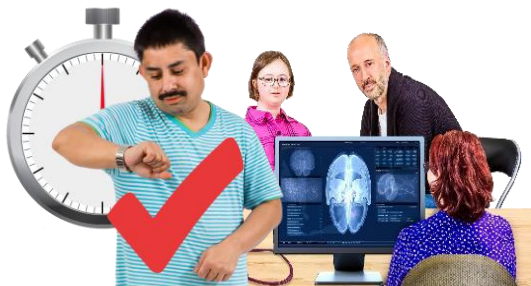


NHS trusts include hospitals. community health and mental health services.

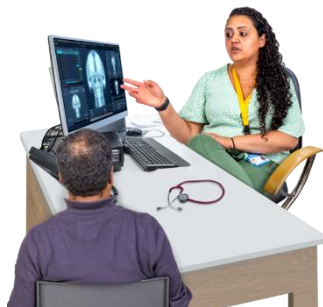
Cancer care



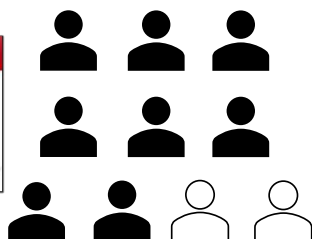
By the end of March 2029:



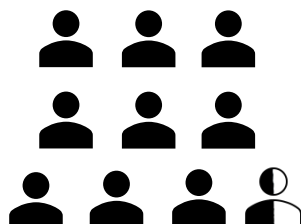
- Waits for cancer **diagnosis** and treatment should be shorter



- **Diagnosis** is where a doctor or expert finds an illness or condition by looking at the signs and symptoms a person has



- Eight out of ten patients who are tested for cancer should receive their results within 28 days



- More than nine out of ten patients who are diagnosed with cancer should start treatment within 31 days after diagnosis



- More than eight out of ten patients with cancer should be treated within 62 days from first seeing a doctor

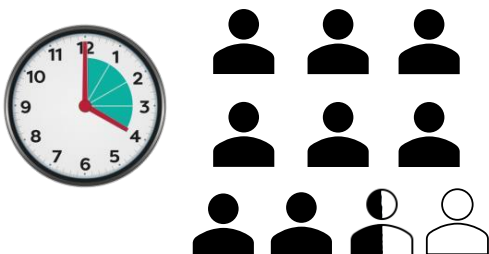
Emergency care



By the end of March 2029:



- Accident and emergency waiting times should be shorter



- More than eight out of ten patients should be seen in accident and emergency within 4 hours



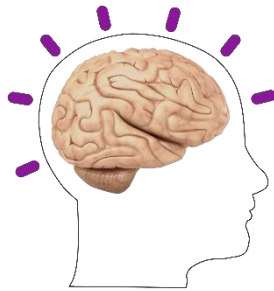
- The number of patients waiting more than 12 hours should be lower than the year before



- Ambulance response times should also get better



- Ambulances should respond to **category 2 calls** in 18 minutes



A **category 2 call** is an emergency ambulance call for serious conditions such as:

- Strokes



- Difficulty breathing



- Chest pain



This will help people get care faster

Primary and community care



By the end of March 2029:



- Access to primary care should be better. This means patients will have a better experience when they need to see a doctor (GP)



- Making sure nine out of ten urgent patients are seen on the same day



- There should be 700,000 more urgent dental appointments available for people who need them



- Eight out of ten community health service appointments should be within 18 weeks of the person being referred to the service



- **Integrated care boards** should make it easier for people to use pharmacies for care and medicines

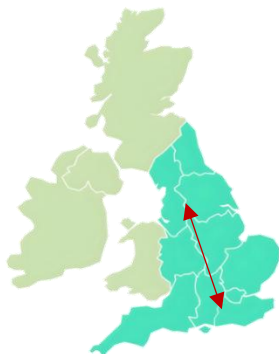


An **integrated care board** is the organisation that helps plan and manage health services in a local area.

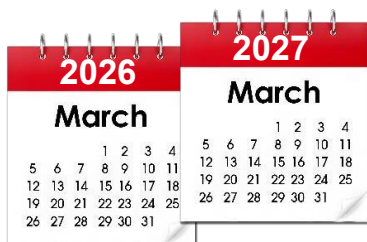
Mental health



Mental health crisis care should be better. The time people stay in mental health hospitals should be shorter.



People should not have to travel long distances to receive hospital care when they need it.



In 2026 and 2027, **all integrated care boards** and mental health providers must:



- increase mental health support teams in schools and colleges so that between seven and eight out of ten schools have mental health support teams



- and that all schools have mental health support teams by the end of March 2029



- write a plan for how to set up mental health emergency departments inside or close to A&E departments by the end of March 2029



- Use the money to support:
 - **NHS Talking Therapies** to have more appointments for people when needed



- people who are not being active because they are unwell through **individual placement support (IPS)**



NHS Talking Therapies help adults with anxiety and depression.



Individual placement support (IPS) helps people with severe mental illness find and keep jobs.



- Lower the number of people who are sent out of their local area to stay in a mental health hospital by March 2027



- Lower the long waits for children and young people to get help from community mental health services



- Lower how long people stay in adult acute mental health hospitals



- Make sure mental health staff take training on how to understand and support people who are feeling suicidal

Learning disability, autism and ADHD



People with a learning disability and autistic people often suffer **health inequalities**



And can also be sent to mental health hospitals for a long time



Health inequalities are differences in the care that people get and the chance that they have to lead healthy lives.



Health inequalities can be differences in:

- health, for example, how long someone can live



- how people can access care



- the quality of care people get



To improve people's health and access to good care in 2026 and 2027 all integrated care boards and providers should:



- lower the very longest lengths of stay in mental health hospitals



- lower the number of people with a learning disability and autistic people in a mental health hospital by one out of ten every year



- lower the long waits for autism and ADHD assessments



- improve the quality of autism and ADHD assessments by developing new guidance

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)



The government will share new plans for children and young people with SEND in the next year



Integrated care boards should carry on doing their legal duties to make sure children and young people with SEND get the support they need



The full version of the medium term planning framework can be found here: [NHS England » Medium Term Planning Framework – delivering change together 2026/27 to 2028/29](#)