



PRESS STATEMENT

24 November 2015

Funding boost is very welcome but significant challenges remain across NHS

Responding to the settlement for the NHS outlined in tomorrow's Comprehensive Spending Review, Chris Hopson, chief executive, NHS Providers, said:

"The government's commitment to £10 billion in extra money for the NHS over the lifetime of this parliament is very welcome. It is also good news that the NHS will receive more of this money in 2016/17 as the Department of Health and NHS England requested. Given the significant pressures on public expenditure and the difficult choices the Government had to make in the spending review, this is a good settlement for the NHS.

"However there are still substantial challenges that the NHS must meet and that this funding must cover. These include meeting the demands of an older population, transforming NHS services, closing the public health gap, absorbing the impact of social care cuts, returning the provider sector to surplus and managing the changes to National Insurance contributions on NHS pensions.

"Our members – NHS trusts and foundation trusts – will want to see how this settlement translates into their detailed budgets but they will, of course, welcome any extra money. There are also important details still to come including how the rest of the Department of Health budget has been treated, and what extra commitments the NHS is now expected to meet at what cost.

"We must also put the settlement in its full context. Every year demand and cost rise in the NHS by 4% but this settlement only increases NHS funding by an average of 1.75% per year, less than half the historic average annual increase in NHS funding of 3.6%. The share of our national wealth spent on health - GDP per head – will also decline further. So, in 2015, the NHS is still in the middle of the longest and deepest financial squeeze in its history."

Ends

Notes to editors

[Watch our animation](#) to find out more about who we are, who we represent, and what we do for our members.

About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has more than 90% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
- Follow NHS Providers on twitter @NHSPROVIDERS and Chris Hopson, chief executive, @ChrisCEOHopson

- A full list of NHS Providers' press releases can be viewed in the news section of our homepage www.nhsproviders.org
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