

The **BIG** PICTURE

National messaging to share with local stakeholders

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This briefing aims to support trusts in building relationships with local stakeholders, including local MPs, by providing a national policy overview of key issues.

We will update this every quarter, each time focusing on three high priority topics within the national conversation. In this edition we focus on:

- the national picture with regard to Q3 finances
- the results of our recent survey into pressures on mental health services
- the need to secure a sustainable social care system.

We hope this will complement trust communications on local developments with groups such as staff, patients and service users, the voluntary sector, MPs and councillors.

We hope that trusts can supplement this material with their own examples, or use this as a basis for their own briefing in support of their engagement with local stakeholders.

2018/19 Q3 finances and performance

- There are 100,500 vacancies across trusts (11% vacancy rate) including nearly 40,000 nurses and 9,000 doctors.
- 134 trusts were in deficit at the end of quarter 3 2018/19, and the provider sector deficit at the end of the year is expected to be around £917million (this includes the provider sustainability funding that hasn't been allocated and other one-off payments).
- Demand for emergency care is higher than ever. Nationally, there has been a 6% increase in emergency admissions since last year and over winter, ambulance arrivals rose to an all time high.
- In March 2019, 86.6% of people were seen within the 95% four-hour A&E standard, and only 15 trusts with a major A&E department met the standard. This follows the most pressured month ever for the NHS, when performance against the standard was at a record low of 85%.
- Despite the fall in performance against the A&E target, the NHS saw an additional 141,391 people within four hours in March than the same month last year – demand is simply outstripping capacity.
- Demand for mental health, community and specialist services is also increasing. As a result of increased activity and a limited number of inpatient mental health beds, 675 people were treated outside their local area in January 2019.

These figures show that trusts are doing all they can to deliver timely, high quality care. But it is also clear that there is a significant gap between the resources available and the current demand for services.

Mental health services

Addressing the care deficit

NHS Providers' recent survey of mental health trust leaders found significant unmet need for a number of mental health conditions, as well as commissioning decisions resulting in services being cut or reduced. Demand for services is outstripping supply and socio-economic factors are contributing to this.

In implementing the NHS long term plan, both mental health trusts and the national bodies need to address the following priorities:

- **recognition of sustained increases in demand**, and a continued focus on reducing the number of out of area placements and addressing inpatient capacity problems
- **meeting providers' capital investment needs** so that urgent improvements can be made to estates
- **promoting careers in mental health** and retaining the current financial incentives to recruit mental health professionals
- **continuing the progress already made on data collection and data quality** to give a better understanding of mental health activity, access and outcomes that can then enable better commissioning of services.

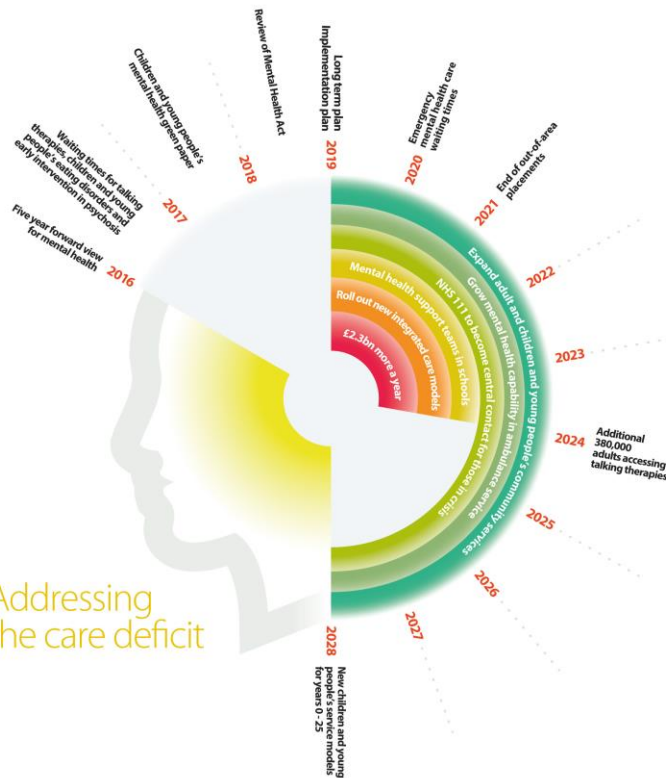
Mental health services

Addressing the care deficit

Socio-economic drivers of demand



Addressing the care deficit



Mental health leaders told us

73%

said they are worried they do not currently have the right numbers and skills of staff

88%

agreed that pressures in the wider system have a knock-on effect and increase demand for mental health services

69%

said they are worried about maintaining the current quality of services over the next two years

58%

said that demand for community services is increasing

92%

said changes to benefits/universal credit are increasing demand

48%

said that demand for mental health services increases over the winter

Social care and the NHS

Two sides of the same coin

NHS Providers is one of 15 health organisations that have come together as part of Health for Care, a coalition led by the NHS Confederation, to call on the government to create a sustainable social care system.

A 2018 report commissioned by the NHS Confederation, and undertaken by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Health Foundation, calculated that social care funding would need to increase by 3.9% a year to meet the needs of an ageing population and an increasing number of younger adults living with disabilities.

The impact on the public of cuts to local authority funding has been profound. There are around 1.4 million older people who are not able to access the support they need and demand for care is likely to increase in the coming years. There are 850,000 people with dementia in the UK, with this figure expected to increase to more than 1 million by 2025. Up to 58% of people over 60 are living with at least one long-term condition such as diabetes, arthritis or hypertension, and the number of people with co-morbidities has been rising by 8% a year.

Without addressing the social care challenge, we risk devaluing the recent funding settlement for the NHS and undermining the ability of health services to meet the ambitions of the NHS long term plan. Adult social care services are facing a funding gap of £3.6bn by 2025. There is a growing workforce gap due to low pay, working conditions and lack of job security.

We therefore need:

- eligibility based on need, widened to ensure those with unmet or under-met need have access to appropriate care and support
- a transparent public debate on funding for social care, underpinned by a bold new vision and proposals to secure, long-term, funding to enable the social care system to operate effectively and deliver the personalised support people need and deserve.

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We'd love to hear your feedback on this briefing.
If there are any topics you'd like covered, or if another
format would be more helpful, please let us know.

Please share any feedback you have with Kerry Racher,
public affairs advisor, at kerry.racher@nhsproviders.org