

Integrated Care Systems Update

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Guidance/Legislation/Policy/News

NHS England, [Guidance on developing the joint forward plan](#), “This guidance supports integrated care boards (ICBs) and their partner NHS trusts and foundation trusts to develop their first 5-year joint forward plans with system partners. This guidance sets out a flexible framework for joint forward plans to build on existing system and place strategies and plans, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. It also states specific statutory requirements that plans must meet.”

The King’s Fund, [The health policy year in review 2022](#), “Just when you thought things couldn’t get any stranger, 2022 happened. Here The King’s Fund Chief Analyst, Siva Anandaciva takes a look at what the 2022 health policy year had in store.”

National Data Guardian, [What do we mean by public benefit? Evaluating public benefit when health and adult social care data is used for purposes beyond individual care](#), “The National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care in England has published this guidance to help organisations carry out better public benefit evaluations when they are planning to use or allow access to data collected during the delivery of care for reasons other than care provision.”

Supporting High Quality Integrated Service

The King’s Fund, [Under pressure: what will 2023 hold for the health and care system](#), “It goes without saying that this is an exceptionally difficult time for many that work in, or rely on, health and care services in England. Does 2023 hold out hope of something better?”

NHS Confederation, [People, partnerships and place: how can ICSs turn the rhetoric into reality](#), “This project aimed to understand the perceptions and experiences of people working and leading health and care services on the risks to the current integrated care reforms.”

Reducing Inequalities

The Health Foundation, [Leave no one behind: the state of health and health inequalities in Scotland](#), “This report provides a picture of past and present health and inequalities to inform future efforts to improve both. It draws on perceptions of the barriers to progress from relevant stakeholders and concludes by considering how Scotland can build on strong policy intent to reduce stubbornly high inequalities and close the gap in health outcomes.”

NHS Business Services Authority, [Healthcare inequalities: access to NHS prescribing and exemption schemes in England](#), “This report examines overall prescribing, uptake of prescription exemption schemes and prescribing patterns in medications associated with the management of three of the ‘5’ focus areas of the Core20PLUS5 approach: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, and severe mental illness (SMI), in the Core20 target population versus the non-Core20 populations.”

NHS Race & Health Observatory, [Digital apps and reducing ethnic health inequalities: driving progress through digital, design, and organisational transformation](#), “This report focuses on the role digital can play in understanding and addressing ethnic health inequalities. Throughout the report, when talking about ‘digital’, it is referring to healthcare services that are delivered through online and mobile channels. ‘Digital’ is also referred to as an organisational strategy enabling how digital services are delivered.”

Workforce/Healthcare Workforce

NHS England, [Growing occupational health and wellbeing together: our roadmap for the future](#), “Growing occupational health and wellbeing together provides a strategic and long-term road map that enables us to fully realise the value that occupational health and wellbeing (OHWB) services and the multi-professional family of OHWB people bring to enabling the wellbeing of NHS people, which in turn leads to better patient care.”

Nuffield Trust, [Brexit, Covid and the UK’s reliance on international recruitment](#), “The Nuffield Trust’s recent report considered the impact of Brexit on health processes across three major areas, including staffing. In this guest blog, Professor James Buchan focuses on the largest health professional labour market, which is nurses, and argues that the UK must get smarter and safer in how it uses international recruitment.”

Elective Care Recovery

The King’s Fund, [Recovering elective waits inclusively: where to start?](#), “Can the NHS effectively combine the aims of clearing the elective backlog and tackling health inequalities? It’s a question that systems and providers have been faced with since NHS England requested that recovery in the wake of the pandemic is managed inclusively. Some may think these aims are at odds with one another, while others will champion their unification. In the first stage of a new research project about inclusive approaches to reducing backlog, The King’s Fund have been looking at what we can learn from NHS boards about how the issue is playing out.”

Mental Health Services

Mental Health Foundation, [Mental health and the cost-of-living crisis: another pandemic in the making?](#), “This policy briefing paper provides an overview of the current and likely effects of the so-called ‘Cost-of-Living Crisis’ on mental health. In this paper, the Foundation proposes policy recommendations for action to prevent and limit the severity of mental health problems in the context of this crisis. It concludes with suggestions for next steps.”

Urgent and Emergency/Community Care

Nuffield Trust, [Our urgent care system needs long-term rehabilitation to meet patients’ needs](#), “With the NHS under relentless pressure this winter and as records keep getting broken for all the wrong reasons, Helen Buckingham takes a closer look at why hospitals are so full, and emphasises the importance of supporting and helping the health service’s staff.”

House of Lords, [Emergency healthcare: a national emergency](#), “The state of emergency healthcare is a national emergency. It requires an emergency response from the Government. This action plan sets out how, in the short-term, the Government can address some immediate challenges, and in the long-term can begin developing a new model for emergency health services which are fit for purpose.”

Collaborative Working

NHS Confederation, [What our joint vision means for people and communities this winter](#), “Amid the most challenging winter for the social care and health system, national health and care partners explore what is needed to turn the tide.”

Digital Technology

NHS Digital, [Acute Data Alignment Programme \(ADAPT\)](#), “The Acute Data Alignment Programme (ADAT) is a joint programme between NHS Digital and the Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN) which is looking to adopt common standards for data collection and performance measures across both the NHS and private healthcare. This will ensure that relevant information is consistently recorded and available so it can be more easily analysed and compared.”

BMA, [Getting IT Right: the case for urgent investment in safe, modern technology and data sharing in the UK's health services](#), “This report seeks to identify and explore the areas that doctors feel need improvement in order to achieve digital transformation ambitions. These include infrastructure; interoperability of clinical information systems; user involvement in the design and implementation of digital transformation strategies; digital inclusion so that patients can access digital health services if they want to, and financial investment.”

Health Education England, [Harnessing digital technologies for workforce development, education and training: an overview](#), “This paper shines a light on how the Directorate of Innovations, Digital and Transformation is making a difference now, re-shaping the world of education, training and workforce redesign, putting in place the building blocks which will enable the system to solve its wicked problems. It is helping to build digital capability, maximising the benefits of new technologies, developing a culture of ‘digital first’”

Other Interesting Research

NHS Confederation, [Transforming lives, improving health outcomes: tackling the true cost of variations in uptake of innovative medicines](#), “Ensuring patients are able to access and benefit from innovate medicine – wherever they live in the UK. Joint NHS Confederation and ABPI report.”

The King's Fund, [Independent health care and the NHS](#), “This briefing sets out some of the trends in public and private spending on independent sector health care providers. It considers what factors may be driving these trends, looks at the impact this has on household spending among different groups, and considers some of the implications for the public and the NHS.”

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NHS OpenAthens- [Self-register](#) You will need your own NHS OpenAthens account to access databases and other online resources. Select your organisation. Your username will be generated after you submit the online registration form. Look out for an automated e-mail from ‘OpenAthens’ in your Inbox; click on the activation link to set your password.

This guide provides a selection of relevant resources and is not intended to be a comprehensive list. All websites have been evaluated and details are correct at the time of publications.

Details correct at time of going to print. Please note that resources are continuously updated.

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