

Making an impact

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We continue to support members to respond to the challenges facing the health and care system, and to advocate on your behalf for the changes you need.

Here are just some of our key areas of impact so far this year.



Engaging with the new government

In the lead up to the election we engaged with political parties and prospective parliamentary candidates, publishing a manifesto representing members' view. We also published a number of influential reports to inform our engagement with the new government's wider mission approach, including one with BCG on economic inactivity. Post-election we've met regularly with the health secretary, other ministers at DHSC, the Cabinet Office and the new chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee to influence on behalf of our members.

NHS finances

We played a lead role in lobbying for a new financial settlement for the NHS at the time of the October Budget and helping secure the 4.7 per cent real terms revenue increase for this year, 3.3 per cent next year and the extra capital funding announced. We also developed practical options for government on ways to raise capital funding.



Shifting from analogue to digital

In supporting the government's aim to shift the NHS from an analogue to a digital system, we worked with Ethical Consulting to publish a report setting out how the Frontline Digitisation project can be better rolled out. We've continued to emphasise the need for increased capital funding to achieve this shift, echoing this as one of the key calls of Lord Darzi's independent investigation into NHS performance.

Shifting from hospital to community

To influence one of the government's key shifts, we published a report outlining the steps that need to be taken to create new, more effective and sustainable solutions for neighbourhood health. We engaged Minister Stephen Kinnock on our proposals and held joint events with The King's Fund at Labour and Conservative Party conferences on making the Neighbourhood Health Service a reality.



Shifting from treatment to prevention

In September we concluded two key projects focused on enabling the government's third intended shift for the NHS, from treatment to a prevention, looking into the economic value in return on investment for key preventative interventions and setting out how the government can create the conditions for ICSs to shift to a truly prevention approach.

Women's health

Our research project on women's health economics reflected the views of hundreds of experts by experience, making a clear case for investment in women's health as a key plank of the government's growth mission. The project concluded with a parliamentary launch of the research findings, which were welcomed by many leading stakeholders in both the women's and health sectors.



Our networks

Through our networks we continue to represent our members, influencing change in the areas you tell us matter most.

Our support programmes ensure you are empowered to be the best leaders you can be.

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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- Over 300 members of the Health and Care Women Leaders Network attended an event with Professor Bola Owolabi, gaining insight and education on women's health inequalities.
- The BME Leadership Network published the Excellence Through Equality report, supporting NHS Confederation members to move towards equality for their workforce and service users through highlighting good anti-racist leadership practice and examining the evidence base that supports anti-racism as a quality improvement tool.
- Over 270 chairs and leads of LGBTQ+ networks are being supported to connect and discuss shared challenges through the Health and Care Network of LGBTQ+ Networks. The Health and Care LGBTQ+ Leaders Network facilitated a pilot training programme from the University of York, supporting LGBTQ+ staff network chairs to enhance their leadership approach to purpose, impact and integrity.

ICS Network

- The ICS Network has worked with system leaders to develop proposals on how to raise additional capital funding to improve investment in ICSs' estate, equipment and digital tools. We also published proposals for reforming NHS payment mechanisms, to help ICSs move their resources towards preventative care.
- We listened to our members' concerns on the future direction of regulation and performance management and facilitated engagement with the Dash Review of the CQC. Our stocktake of progress one year on from the government response to the Hewitt review set out what needs to happen to support continued progress.
- Our evidence-based report on the progress of ICSs demonstrated that ICS leaders are positive about the progress their local systems are making against their four purposes but also revealed key barriers to moving to a prevention-based approach, including financial constraints and short-term targets.

Primary Care Network

- We met with the government and senior health care officials to support a shift to a 'Neighbourhood Health Service' and launched a new partnership with Local Trust to promote and test community-led approaches to health and wellbeing in some of England's most deprived neighbourhoods.
- In partnership with KMPG, we published a report on the development of primary care provider collaboratives, their future ambitions and recommendations to support their development. It was informed by 20 leaders in collaboratives and two roundtables with wider partners including ICB directors of primary care.
- We engaged with key officials within DHSC and NHS England post-election, providing briefings on specific topics including GPs in the ARRS, collective action and neighbourhood health centres. Our input influenced changes to the ARRS, and recommendations for future contract changes have been put forward on behalf of our members.

Our networks

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Acute Network

- Our work on the causes of increased waiting times in A&E and the benefit and net financial gain of increasing investment in out-of-hospital care, was cited in Lord Darzi's independent investigation into the NHS, leading to it becoming one of the government's three key shifts for reform.
- We partnered with CF to analyse the nature and extent of the elective backlog, showing that doing more activity without changing the way that we work will not solve the problem of ever-increasing demand. The report and our recommendations were publicly welcomed by health secretary Wes Streeting, influencing the government's two other shifts towards digitisation and prevention.
- Our Interface Improvement Programme, delivered with the Primary Care Network, has supported 11 teams to understand, develop, implement and sustain solutions to the challenges of working at the interface of primary and secondary care within their areas.

Community Network

- We pushed for the government to commit to providing more care closer to home and enable local health systems to proportionately increase investment into primary care and community-based services, mental health and social care. We also engaged with government and NHS England to influence on issues such as neighbourhood health and children and young people's services.
- In collaboration with NHS Providers, Celebrating Community Services week again united the community services sector and raised national awareness to the wider health and care sector of the importance of community services and how they are central to the future of the health service.
- We have drawn attention to the workforce challenges faced by community providers while also highlighting how they are finding innovative solutions that need to be empowered by policymakers.

Mental Health Network

- Our submission to Lord Darzi's independent review, prepared in partnership with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, was referenced several times in his final report, highlighting the serious physical health inequalities experienced by people with serious mental illness, as well as the condition of mental health estates and the impact this has on patients.
- We worked with NHS England to improve the consistency of definitions around out-of-area placements, which are relevant to both our NHS and independent sector members. We also published an explainer briefing on the role of independent providers in NHS mental health and learning disabilities sector.
- Following our sustained lobbying, the new government included reforming the Mental Health Act in its first King's Speech.