



The NHS England Long Term Plan: what it means for speech & language therapy

Appendix H

CHAPTER 6 – Taxpayers' investment will be used to maximum effect

Headlines – what is relevant to our members?

- The Prime Minister's pledge of June 2018 that NHS England's revenue funding would grow by an average of 3.4% in real terms a year over the next five years delivering a real terms increase of £20.5 billion by 2023/24 is highlighted. (P100 6.1)
- The Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) framework will be reformed for both Clinical Commissioning Group-commissioned and specialised services. (P101 6.8)
- It pledges that the NHS will achieve cash-releasing productivity growth of at least 1.1% per year. (P103)
- A new approach called Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) will combine with other clinically-led programmes such as NHS RightCare and an increased investment in Quality Improvement (QI) to accelerate work to end unjustified clinical practice variation. (P104 6.16)
- The Plan talks about improving the availability and deployment of the clinical workforce to ensure the right clinicians are available to patients at all times, further reducing bank and agency costs. (P104 6.17)
- It states the NHS will improve efficiency in community health services, mental health and primary care. (P105 6.17)
- The Plan promises to remedy the situation where research shows some interventions are not clinically effective or only effective when they are performed in specific circumstances. (P107 6.17)
- It pledges to improve patient safety to reduce patient harm and the substantial costs associated with it through a new ten-year national strategy, to be published in 2019. (P107 6.17)
- Reducing unwarranted variation will be a core responsibility of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). We expect all ICSs, supported by our national programmes, to bring together clinicians and managers to implement appropriately standardised evidence-based pathways. (P108 6.19)

Implications – what does this mean for speech and language therapy?

- Given the opportunities for the profession identified above, SLTs have an important role to play in helping to deliver maximum effect for NHS spending. Key to this will be demonstrating how SLTs help to improve efficiency, generate cost savings for the health economy, and reduce the risk of health costs escalating because people's communication and/or swallowing needs have not been identified and appropriately supported.

RESOURCES

- The NHS Long Term Plan is accessible via: <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>
- The RCSLT analysis of the plan (Feb 2019) is accessible via: <https://bit.ly/2RTUoGr>
- The RCSLT response to the plan (Jan 2019) is accessible via: <https://bit.ly/2DKI7AI>
- The RCSLT consultation response (Sept 2018) is accessible via:
<https://bit.ly/2C4dcgm>

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