

## **Initial ADCS Summary Briefing on the New NHS 10-Year Plan, July 2025**

In July 2025, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced the [\*NHS 10-Year Plan: Fit for the Future\*](#), outlining this government's key plans to reform and fix the NHS. In the Prime Minister's statement, he said: *"The NHS is at a turning point in its history... we need to reform the NHS to make it fit for the future."*

The plan is based around three key principles: *"hospital to community, analogue to digital, sickness to prevention."*

These principles underpin the following main announcements:

- **NHS App**

- The creation of an all-encompassing NHS app that allows patients to access information, medical records, guidance and support, book appointments and manage the health of one's children, or those they care for
- The app will consolidate patient records and data, allowing practitioners better access to a patient's medical history
- The app will be powered by AI and aims to lessen the administrative burden on providers.

- **Neighbourhood Health Centres**

- The plan aims to create Neighbourhood Health Services that are holistic and patient-centred
- Build up the Neighbourhood Health Centres over a 3-to-4-year timeline
- The plan stated *"The Neighbourhood Health Service will embody our new preventative principle that care should happen as locally as it can: digitally by default, in a patient's home if possible, in a Neighbourhood Health Centre when needed, in a hospital if necessary."*

- **Genomic Project**

- A generational study of 100,000 newborn babies that sequences their DNA at birth to study potential health problems throughout life
- The eventual aim is to make this testing a universal offer to all.

- **A Focus on Prevention**

- New legislation and restrictions on advertising for vapes, tobacco, junk food, and high-cafeine drinks
- Expansion of free school meals and updates to school food standards
- Expansion of access to weight loss medication

- Introduction of mandatory healthy food sales reporting for all large companies in the food sector.
- **Structural Changes to the NHS**
  - Amalgamation of NHS England into the Department of Health and Social Care
  - Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to become strategic commissioners of local healthcare services
  - Reform of the NHS Foundation Trust model, with more freedoms to retain surpluses and reinvest
  - The creation of *Integrated Health Organisations (IHOs)* by 2027, which will hold the whole health budget for a defined local population.

## **Children and Young People**

While there was no dedicated section on children, there was a broader narrative that health should be seen as a holistic, lifelong responsibility, beginning with early practices and routines. This is reinforced by the emphasis on prevention, particularly through legislative changes concerning unhealthy consumer goods. Families are also central to the Neighbourhood Health Services. Specifically, the plan includes the expansion of *Start for Life* and Family Hubs to all local areas, prioritising those with the poorest health outcomes.

Some distinctive plans for children's healthcare:

- Expansion of *Start for Life* and *family hubs* to all local areas
- Neighbourhood Health Services to work with family hubs, schools, nurseries and colleges to offer support to children, young people and their families
- Health services to play a greater role in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and safeguarding: *"health services will also do more to play their part in child safeguarding"*
- Health and DfE to work together to implement a single unique identifier for every child – this will be the NHS number.

For SEND and safeguarding, the plan sets out a clearer role for health services as key partners Neighbourhood Health Services to work with children and young people, including those with SEND:

- Core to early intervention is the need for diagnosis for children and young people with SEND
- Schools White Paper in the autumn to detail the joined-up approach to SEND reform

- *“Reforms will focus on ensuring allied health professionals, such as speech and language or occupational therapists, who are vital for supporting children and young people with SEND, are more effectively deployed, spending time supporting children not on bureaucracy and admin.”*

## **Mental Health**

Mental health is identified as a top priority within the 10-year plan, with a range of measures designed to address the growing mental health crisis across the country. The plan acknowledges the disproportionate impact on children.

Key proposals include:

- Transform mental health services into 24/7 Neighbourhood Care Models
  - Aim to improve assertive outreach care and treatment to ensure 100% national coverage
- Virtual therapists providing 24/7 support for mild to moderate needs
- Remote monitoring to support those with severe mental health needs
- Increase capacity for urgent mental health care with dedicated Mental Health Emergency Departments (MHEDs)
  - Fast, same-day access to specialist support
- £120 million funding for 85 dedicated MHEDs
- National rollout of mental health support teams in schools
  - One million more young people to benefit from this within the next year
  - Full national coverage of teams by 2029
- Working with schools, colleges and universities to better meet children and young people's mental health needs
- Inclusion of health practitioners in child protection teams in the *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill*
- Embedded support for children and young people's mental health in new *Young Futures* hubs
- Recruitment of 8,500 mental health staff to reduce waits for adults, children and young people
- *“Will work with local authorities to ensure that children with the most complex mental health needs in residential care get the treatment and support they need to avoid even more expensive hospital admissions and repeated emergency department visits.”*