



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Preventable ill health: the time for action on prevention is now

Commenting on the new study from The Richmond Group of Charities, [Living longer, living well: How we can achieve the World Health Organization's '25 by 25' goals in the UK](#), Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy, NHS Providers, said:

"We strongly support the recommendations in today's report that focus on the benefits of putting prevention first. By focusing solely on the problems of today we are storing up even greater problems for the future. Preventable ill health costs individuals, costs the NHS and costs the economy.

"Preventing ill health where we can means helping to prevent suffering. We know that many diseases, including breast cancer and heart disease, have common lifestyle risk factors, and simple but effective measures can help individuals take control of their risk and manage existing conditions. We often speak about placing the patient at the centre of their own care; we need our public services to support people in making positive choices that will give them a greatly enhanced quality of life.

"The health service is facing significant and immediate financial and capacity pressures which make the case for action now even more urgent. In 2013 nearly 25% of all deaths in England and Wales were from causes that could be avoided through healthcare or wider public health interventions. It's a priority that is formally recognised by NHS England as part of the Five Year Forward View and is underpinned by the establishment of the NHS Prevention Board."

Ends

### Notes to editors

#### About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services. NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate. NHS Providers has 95% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
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