



# NHS PROVIDERS SIX-MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

September 2021

## OUR SIX INFLUENCING PRIORITIES

**Making a clear case for funding** | We highlighted the pressure trusts are under due to the costs of COVID-19, rising demand and the care backlog. We made a public intervention underpinned by a joint report, with NHS Confederation, on the cost pressures facing the service ahead of the three year revenue settlement. While the settlement fell below the £10 billion we argued for, we believe our work helped improve the outcome.

### 1 **A realistic ask dealing with COVID-19**

**Health and Care Bill concerns and amends** | We met with senior politicians and ministers to raise members' issues with the Health and Care Bill and worked closely with NHS England and NHS Improvement and Department of Health and Social Care in their stakeholder groups. We secured government commitments to amend the bill and will give evidence to the committee in September.

### 2 **Legislative change and political engagement**

**Funding levels for the NHS and social care** | We publicly highlighted trusts' concerns about the NHS budget for 2021/22. We wrote to the prime minister, chancellor of the exchequer and new secretary of state to successfully call for a rapid resolution on H2 finances. We have developed clear policy positions on financial arrangements set out in the Health and Care Bill. Saffron continues to represent trusts on the new hospital programme oversight board.

### 3 **Funding and reprioritisation**

**Addressing burnout and planning for the future** | We lobbied for an improved pay award, following the 1% proposal. Representations meant the government presented a 3% award, a minimum ask in our formal evidence. We made public interventions on the need for improved and fully funded workforce planning. This goal is a key part of influencing efforts around the Health and Care Bill.

### 4 **Workforce plan for the future**

**Integrated care systems and collaboration** | We worked closely with NHS England and NHS Improvement on guidance for integrated care systems and influenced key documents including the ICS design framework and model constitution. We raised member concerns over ICS boundaries securing some concessions from ministers. We are working with Care Quality Commission on their five year strategy.

### 5 **Local-central relationships**

**Highlighting sector specific challenges and needs** | We led a public intervention on children and young people's mental health services. The Community Network and partners lobbied to secure the continuation of discharge to assess funding in 21/22, launched a task and finish group to improve the transparency of long term plan funding flows and ran a survey on digital improvement. We published a report highlighting extreme operational pressures with Association of Ambulance Chief Executives. We progressed partnerships with primary colleagues, issuing a joint briefing of trusts and primary care working together to tackle care backlogs.

### 6 **Equity for mental health, ambulance, specialised and community services**

## INFLUENCE

**Representing member views** | We held 381 meetings with national stakeholders, decision-makers and partners. We **attended a stakeholder meeting with the new secretary of state**, and secured positions on key national groups including the New Hospital Programme oversight board. Our engagement with ministers, the health and social care committee, HM Treasury, NHS England and NHS Improvement on the legislation, the establishment of ICS and systems and the NHS spending settlement has intensified.

**381**  
meetings

**Consultations** | We represented members' views in **11 key consultations**, including responding to NHS England and NHS Improvement's plans for a new system oversight framework, Care Quality Commission's consultation on flexible and responsive regulation, and Department of Health and Social Care's white paper on reforming the Mental Health Act.

**11**  
key consultations

**Our influence recognised** | We maintain an **ongoing dialogue with ministers, shadow ministers and the chair of the health and social care committee**. We submitted written and provided oral evidence to the health and social care select committee's inquiry on children and young people's mental health and to the relevant committee on the Health and Care Bill.

**Parliamentary briefings**  
informing MPs

## VOICE

**Media** | We highlighted the ongoing pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic on the NHS and its impact on NHS waiting times. Our comments on COVID-19 vaccinations and lockdown restrictions **received widespread national media coverage**. We spoke out about the 1% pay rise for the NHS workforce and wider pressures on NHS funding. Our report on children and young people's mental health and comments on race equality in the NHS were covered extensively by the media.

**21,854**  
media mentions

**Commentary** | We placed prominent comment pieces on the COVID-19 vaccination programme and NHS funding in the Times Red Box and the Observer. We **secured a record number of comment pieces in trade media titles** including eight articles in the HSJ, six in the BMJ and pieces in Public Sector Focus and the National Health Executive. Our comment pieces cover topics ranging from COVID-19 restrictions, structural racism in the NHS and staff burnout to the backlog of care, mental health and the challenges facing the new health secretary.

**30**  
placed  
comment pieces

**Digital** | We have **23,443 Twitter followers**, a 6% increase since March, Chris Hopson's following has increased by 18% to 24,639, and our **LinkedIn** has increased by 13% to **5,923 followers**. We still see significant engagement with our COVID-19 resources, and our Annual Conference and Exhibition engagement is growing daily. **The Provider Podcast** is set to return this month on a fortnightly basis and has now received over 5,700 downloads, it's top episodes include our **interview with Amanda Pritchard**.

**23,443**  
@NHSProviders  
Twitter followers

## SUPPORT

**Member events** | We have delivered **170 events for 3,814 delegates**. This includes 106 development events, 16 network events, eight roundtables, two conferences, and 39 events across our extended offer programmes. The [Networks programme](#) held 16 virtual network meetings covering all sectors for 625 delegates. **95% of attendees rated these events as good or excellent**. We held a virtual Governance and Quality conference which attracted 541 delegates, and **eight virtual roundtables** with key figures from the healthcare sector.

**170**  
events

**Briefings, reports and surveys** | We produced **48 briefings and reports**, including our On the day briefing on the government's Health and Care Bill. We published a briefing on trusts operating in a rural environment, and our latest [Providers Deliver](#) publication focused on collaboration between providers. **To reflect operational pressures, we surveyed members less than usual**. However, we have conducted four surveys, including one on children and young people's mental health, and another on increases to the NHS's running costs as part of our lobbying work ahead of this autumn's comprehensive spending review.

**48**  
briefings and reports

**Board development programme** | Our [Board development programme](#) held 71 courses for a total of 916 delegates, with **97% of attendees rating these events as good or excellent**. We held in-house training for 37 NHS trusts and foundation trusts and delivered 20 bespoke whole board development sessions. **Over 49% of member trusts have engaged with the programme**.

**71**  
training courses

**Governor support** | Our [Governwell training programme](#) held **35 virtual courses** for a total of 483 NHS governors, 21 of which were bespoke training events for whole councils. **97% of attendees rated these events as good or excellent**. Our virtual Governor Focus conference was held over three days and attracted 485 NHS governors.

**35**  
virtual courses

**Digital Boards** | Our [Digital Boards programme](#) held six webinars and roundtables and delivered **bespoke board development sessions** to 19 NHS trust boards. 93% of board members rated these events as good or excellent. We published our [third leadership guide](#), produced **two board briefings** and had a **Digital Boards season** on [The Provider Podcast](#).

**6**  
digital board events

**New offers** | We recently launched **two new support programmes** on [Trust Wide Improvement](#) and [Provider Collaboration](#). These have included virtual peer learning workshops, blogs and the launch of action learning sets. We're now scoping a new programme to support boards to effectively identify and address race inequalities and structural racism.

**2**  
new offers

## EXCELLENT ORGANISATION

**Member participation** | We are delighted to have all **213 trusts and foundation trusts in voluntary membership for the third year running**. This allows us to continue to speak with authority and credibility on behalf of the NHS provider sector.

**100%**  
membership

**Member visits** | In the last six months **our director team has completed 21 virtual and face to face member visits** across the acute, ambulance, community and mental health sectors, and attended 13 regional virtual chairs and chief executive meetings.

**21**  
member visits

**Staff engagement** | Staff engagement remains high, and we have worked to provide support to staff during the challenges of the pandemic. We launched our **new co-created organisational values** and behaviours which are: respectful, inclusive, collaborative and effective. We are now working on embedding these values throughout the organisation.

**Co-produced**  
values

**Commercial strategy** | We have **significantly expanded our commercial partner offering**, bringing trusts thought leadership and insight from a growing range of commercial partners. Our **new NHS Providers Panel of top legal and advisory companies** offers members the opportunity to get fast, free, expert responses to the key questions your trusts are grappling with (to ask the panel a question just email [panel@nhsproviders.org](mailto:panel@nhsproviders.org)). Our year-round Connect Partner programme continues to grow and we have strong commercial partners for our Annual Conference in November.

**Commercial**  
partners to increase support and income

**About this report** | NHS Providers is committed to effectively supporting our members through the unprecedented financial, structural and reputational challenges you currently face. This six-monthly performance report has been produced to help you assess our performance and to highlight our priorities for the months ahead.

**Feedback** | **This is the seventeenth edition of our performance report. We would welcome your feedback.**

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