



# NHS PROVIDERS SIX-MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

September 2022

## OUR SIX INFLUENCING PRIORITIES

Through engagement with parliament and government, **we shaped the Health and Care Act 2022. We persuaded** the government to add safeguards to new reconfiguration powers, reducing the risk of political interference. We ensured that capital spending limits for foundation trusts will only be used in extreme circumstances. Our ongoing focus on the operational and financial ask for trusts **helped secure an additional £1.5bn allocation for systems** to alleviate inflationary cost pressures. Members' concerns about the new provider selection regime have been addressed in new draft guidance thanks to our interventions.

### 1 Strategic direction

**balancing reform with recovery**

Along with a coalition of more than 100 health and care organisations, we secured a commitment from the government to improve long term workforce planning. Our **recommendation for a package of support for leaders of challenged trusts was included in Sir Gordon Messenger's report on health and care leadership**, following our presentation to the team leading the review.

### 2 Workforce

**a credible multi-year plan and progress on inclusive leadership**

NHS England's national health inequalities team incorporated findings from our 'United against health inequalities' report in business planning for 2022/23. NHSE's elective recovery team agreed to update guidance on patient initiated follow up to address health inequalities in response to our advice. **NHSE has confirmed NHS Providers will play an important role** in supporting the mainstreaming of health inequalities throughout NHS priorities.

### 3 Health inequalities

**sustained action and intervention**

We continue to **raise awareness of ongoing system-wide pressures**. We support trusts to meet national targets through our interventions in the NHS Elective Care Recovery forum. **Several of our recommendations to the COVID-19 public inquiry were included** in the final terms of reference, including the impact on mental health, community and ambulance services and the need to consider how central decision making operated.

### 4 Operational pressures

**making the case for a realistic ask for trusts**

We **improved transparency in spending on mental health** through our support for amendments to the Health and Care Act. Additional funding has been allocated for mental health as part of the NHS's winter plan following our repeated representations to NHSE and the government. **Our Community Network reports highlighted workforce challenges** and the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's services. We have drawn attention to the **challenges facing the ambulance sector**, particularly around handover delays, through our work with AACE.

### 5 Equity

**for mental health, community, ambulance and specialised services**

We are working with DHSC to shape the implementation of the integration white paper to reflect members' views. We **secured changes to the Health and Wellbeing Board and ICP integrated care guidance**, and NHSE revised its ICB five year forward plan guidance in response to our interventions. We **fed into the national policymaking on provider collaboratives** via a briefing and roundtable with NHSE. We **launched Trusts in Systems, a programme of work** highlighting the contribution our members are making to ICSs. Our guide explaining the Health and Care Act 2022 has been used by over 1,000 members.

### 6 System working

**underpinned by constructive local-national relationships**

## INFLUENCE

**Representing member views** | We held **302 meetings** with national stakeholders, decision-makers and partners. We engaged intensively on the final stages of the **Health and Care Bill**, and have continued to represent members' views in the context of the establishment of integrated care systems, and the severe operational challenges trusts have been facing. We continue to sit on the **New Hospital Programme oversight board** and a range of consultation groups convened by national health leaders.

**302**  
meetings

**Consultations** | We represented members' views in **11 key consultations**, including on the **draft code of governance for providers**, CQC's approach to local oversight, and a parliamentary inquiry on ICSSs.

**11**  
key consultations

**Our influence recognised** | We maintain a **dialogue with a broad range of parliamentarians and special advisers**. We secured significant changes and important ministerial reassurances on provisions in the Health and Care Act 2022 and **our work was commended by the health minister in parliament**. We submitted wide-ranging evidence (both written and oral) to several committees and APPGs covering a broad number of inquiries including, the future of general practice, workforce and digital transformation, coronavirus, designing a public services workforce fit for the future, and meeting the short, medium and long-term needs for NHS infrastructure. **Our evidence is well received, and often quoted in the final report.**

**Parliamentary briefings**  
informing MPs

## VOICE

**Media** | We highlighted the **significant disruption caused by the recent spike in COVID-19 cases on the NHS' efforts to reduce the care backlog**. We maintained a focus on workforce, highlighting the government's failure to commit to a long-term fully funded plan for the NHS. We led calls for capital investment across the NHS through our media interventions on the maintenance backlog and New Hospitals Programme. Our concerns over the **heatwave and difficulties it caused for the NHS received extensive media coverage**, as did our warnings over operational pressures, handover delays and delayed discharges.

**6,021**  
media mentions

**Commentary** | We placed **prominent comment pieces on delayed discharges and handover delays, and on reducing waiting times in the Independent and Guardian**. We secured comment pieces in trade media titles including 11 articles in the HSJ, five in the BMJ and pieces in Public Sector Focus and the BMJ. Our comment pieces covered a wide range of topics on important issues to our members including **NHS reform, mental health, health inequalities, the New Hospital Programme, and the NHS staff pay award**.

**20**  
placed  
comment pieces

**Digital** | We now have nearly **26k Twitter followers**, a growth of 3%, and our LinkedIn following continues to build (over 7k with growth of 9.6%). We have also seen improved engagement overall. **The Provider Podcast has significantly grown with lifetime listens now over 12k**, and our special podcast series earlier in the year for Providers Deliver had listener numbers over 1k for just one episode.

**25.9k**  
@NHSProviders  
Twitter followers

## SUPPORT

**Member events** | We have delivered 188 events for 3,500 delegates. This includes 168 training and development events, 14 network events, **four roundtables**, and two conferences. The **networks programme** held 14 virtual meetings covering all sectors for 635 delegates. 92% of attendees rated these events as good or excellent. Our virtual governance conference was held over three days with 345 attendees.

**3,500**  
delegates

**Briefings, reports and surveys** | We produced 67 briefings and reports, including an on the day briefing about the new Patient Safety Incident Response Framework. We published a guide to the Health and Care Act, and a briefing on trusts' contributions to place-based partnerships. We conducted 10 surveys, including our annual regulation survey and another on the financial task facing trusts in 2022/23.

**67**  
briefings and  
reports

**Board development programme** | Our **Board development programme** has delivered 85 events for 1,144 delegates, held either face-to-face or virtually, and 97% of attendees would recommend these events. In addition, we have introduced three new training modules into the programme: NHS performance management for NEDs, working with governors, and the chair's role in developing an effective unitary board. Over 50% of member trusts have engaged with our board development programme so far this year.

**1,144**  
attendees

**Governor support** | The **GovernWell training programme** delivered 35 events, held either face-to-face or virtually, for over 360 NHS governors, 20 of which were **in-house training** events for whole councils. 97% of attendees rated these events as good or excellent. In addition, we held a staff governor discussion group, a virtual governor workshop for 135 attendees, and circulated two e-newsletters.

**35**  
governor  
training courses

**Digital boards** | Our **Digital Boards development programme** has held nine webinars and **peer learning events** and delivered **bespoke board development sessions** to 18 NHS trust boards. 98% of attendees would recommend these events. We also published our **fifth leadership guide** and produced **two briefings**.

**18**  
NHS trust boards

**Further support programmes** | Our support programmes on **Trust-Wide Improvement** and **Provider Collaboration** have delivered 19 virtual webinars, peer learning forums, and action learning sets for 267 delegates. 95% of attendees said they would recommend these events. The **Leading Integration Peer Support** programme continues to support system leadership and accelerate partnership ambitions.

**95%**  
recommendation rate

**New offers** | We have launched two new programmes; **Race Equality** supporting boards to effectively identify and challenge race inequality as a core part of the board's business, and **Health Inequalities** supporting members to embed a focus on equitable access to and outcomes from care alongside work to reduce waiting lists and transform services. We are also scoping a new ICS digital leadership support programme for ICS leaders and ICBs to lead digital transformation.

**3**  
new programmes

## EXCELLENT ORGANISATION

**Member participation** | We are delighted to have all 211 eligible trusts and foundation trusts in membership, **making 100% membership for the fourth year running**. This allows us to continue to speak with authority and credibility on behalf of the provider sector.

**100%**  
membership

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

**3**  
member visits

**Staff engagement** | Staff engagement remains high with last year's staff survey showing that **85% of staff would recommend NHS Providers as a place to work, and 88% are satisfied with the culture of the organisation**. The 2022 survey will be analysed shortly. We continue to focus on staff engagement and wellbeing. In particular, we have launched a wellbeing plan, our anti-racism statement has been agreed, and a race equality action plan is in development. We are also fully involving staff in our planned office move later this year, which will deliver increased flexibility in the way we work and ability to collaborate.

**85%**  
recommend NHS Providers  
as a place to work

**Commercial strategy** | We continue to shape and develop our commercial partner offering ensuring we share valuable insight from a range of commercial partners. This includes our **NHS Providers Panel of top legal and advisory companies** offering members **free, fast, expert responses** to key questions – [email your questions to the panel](#). Our year-round support of the Connect Partner programme continues along with a growing exhibition and sponsor offer at our November **Annual Conference and Exhibition**, which is once again face-to-face this year, great for networking and on-site learning.

**Shape and  
develop**  
our commercial  
partnerships

**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 nineteenth edition of our performance report. We would welcome your feedback.](#)

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