



Ebulletin 156 – September 2020

1. Health for Care - A Call for Social Care Reform in England

NAPC Chairman Minesh Patel, Member of the Health for Care coalition, co-signed a letter which calls on the government and parliamentarians to fix social care 'once and for all'.

In union with the #FixSocialCare campaign, the Health for Care coalition recently addressed a letter to the Prime Minister on the need for social care reform in England. The letter highlights the need for long-term funding settlement to stabilise the market, extended provision to support more people in the community, and integrated social care and healthcare services.

The pandemic has shown the first-hand unacceptable pressures experience by those working in the care sector and with a potential second wave of COVID-19, the letter is asking the Prime Minister to set out a timetable for reform which will address the immediate crisis and result in comprehensive legislative proposals to place the sector on sustainable footing.

[Read the full letter here](#)

2. Response received from Matt Hancock, re Shielding

A letter about Shielding concerns ([the full version of which can be read here](#)) was sent to Matt Hancock from our President, Dr Patricia Wilkie. In summary, the letter said:

- Can you assure us that shielded patients will be involved about the future of shielding and if not why not?
- Will you consider retaining shielding for the extremely vulnerable perhaps in a reduced format?
- Can you share with us the scientific evidence on which the decision to cease shielding was based?"

A response has now been received on 03 Sept 2020, shown below:

Dear Dr Wilkie,

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 July to Matt Hancock about shielding. I have been asked to reply and I apologise for the delayed response.

I understand the concerns you hold as President of the National Association for Patient Participation about the future of shielding.

I have relayed your questions to the Department's Shielding Policy Team, which has provided the following response.

1. *Can you assure us that shielded patients will be involved in discussions about the future of shielding?*

The Government has worked in collaboration with charities and patient groups as shielding advice has developed. Charities and patient groups have valuable insight into how Government advice is affecting people on the ground and engaging with them is a vital part of policy development. The Government is always looking at how it can improve the way it communicates any changes to shielding advice and

guidance, and it is proactively engaging with stakeholders. If you would like find out more about how to engage with the Government on this issue please contact DHSCExternalAffairs@dhsc.gov.uk.

2. Can you inform us of the scientific evidence on which the decision to cease shielding is based?

All decisions on shielding guidance have been led by the Chief Medical Officer and based on clinical advice. On 10 June, the scientific evidence suggested there was a significantly reduced prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and that disease rates in the community were at pre-lockdown rates or lower. In addition, the test, track and trace programme had been launched, including within schools, and robust measures were in place to manage potential areas of higher risk. To those who were shielding, this meant that the chance of catching COVID-19, if the updated advice was followed, was very low.

The Government also considered the recognised clinical risks to mental and physical wellbeing from limited social and physical interaction, that might result while shielding advice is in place.

3. Will you consider retaining shielding for the extremely vulnerable, perhaps in a reduced format?

Shielding advice has currently been paused nationally due to the low level of prevalence of COVID-19 in the community. This means that the advice for the clinically extremely vulnerable has been brought in line with that of the general population. However, the shielded patient list is being maintained throughout this pause. If incidences of transmission increase, this will allow the Government to rapidly step up support again should this be needed. Shielding continues to be advised in some areas subject to local lockdown restrictions. The Government will continue to listen to its medical advisers on the level of clinical risk the virus presents to different groups of people at different points in time.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Aymee Smith
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries
Department of Health and Social Care

If anyone would like to comment on this issue, please email admin@napp.org.uk

3. Get involved in Self Care Week (16-22 Nov)

During these uncertain times, it is crucial that we do all we can for ourselves, our families, our patients and our colleagues to live as healthily as we can to keep up our resolve and to be able to cope with whatever new challenge comes our way.

Which is why the Self Care Forum, a charity aiming to further the reach of self care, is encouraging anyone with an audience to participate in this year's Self Care Week (16 – 22 November).

The theme, Live Self Care for Life, is particularly apt given the pandemic and the initiative is ideal to help people to not only protect themselves and others against a second wave, but as a reminder to take better care of their health and well-being more generally.

The aim of Self Care Week is to:

- Remind and reignite people's enthusiasm for social distancing, wearing masks, and improving their immunity through vitamin D supplements and by quitting smoking;
- Spread communications around nutrition and exercise given the link between coronavirus and obesity;

- Find ways to protect our mental well-being given everything we have been through as a nation this year.

To find out more, the Self Care Forum has developed a [series of resources](#) such as its 8-point plan, best practice and case studies which are all free to download from its [website](#).

For more information, please contact selfcare@selfcareforum.org.

4. National news roundup

Some of the items below will already be subject to further development and change. We have included the date and time of these that these items were published (since our last eBulletin) for your interest. We encourage you to keep yourselves up to date as well, by visiting the government website at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

10:43am, 1 September 2020

[Thousands to benefit from soups and shakes diet](#)

From today thousands of people will be able to access NHS soup and shake weight-loss plans to tackle type 2 diabetes.

10:25am, 28 August 2020

[‘Your NHS needs you’ call attracts thousands more student nurses](#)

UCAS figures show that there are 4,360 more nursing students placed onto courses in England this year than at the same point in 2019 – a 22% increase. In total 24,330 students have been placed, compared to 19,970 last year.

12:02pm, 28 August 2020

[Flu vaccination plans](#)

PCC and the NHS Confederation’s PCN Network are collecting examples of how PCNs are planning to manage vaccination programmes.

10:19am, 27 August 2020

[More GP practices and community pharmacies go live with electronic notifications for urgent supply of medicines](#)

NHS Digital is rolling out electronic notifications which inform GPs when one of their patients receives an urgent supply of medicine from a community pharmacy.

10:28am, 27 August 2020

[Commissioning responsibility - Who Pays?](#)

This revised Who Pays? guidance sets out a framework, for the NHS in England, to establish which NHS organisation has responsibility for commissioning an individual’s care and which has responsibility for paying for that care.

11:01am, 26 August 2020

[Understanding the legal implications of being a practice partner](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement made a commitment in the update to the GP contract agreement to support registered health care professionals to become practice partners.

11:20am, 25 August 2020

[Video consultations – new resources](#)

To support primary care in delivering video consultations, two new resources have been published.

12:09pm, 24 August 2020

[Funding to help people return home from hospital](#)

People needing additional follow-on care after being discharged from hospital will be supported by a £588 million fund to cover adult social care or the immediate costs of care in their own home.

12:19pm, 24 August 2020

[Community pharmacy integral to PCNs](#)

This article by Julia Sutton-McGough reflects on previous work with community pharmacy leaders who described different experiences when trying to join PCN discussions.

12:22pm, 24 August 2020

[Registering patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate](#)

GPs have a contractual obligation to support with registering patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate and are asked to ensure that processes are in place to support this.

10:44am, 21 August 2020

[Prevalence data for 21 common conditions](#)

Figures showing the recorded prevalence of 21 conditions, including asthma, hypertension, dementia, diabetes, and depression have been published by NHS Digital.

10:48am, 21 August 2020

[NHS nurse numbers continue to rise](#)

The number of nurses in the NHS in England increased by 13,840 compared with the previous year, and the number of doctors has risen by 9,306.

10:04am, 19 August 2020

[Babies in lockdown: listening to parents to build back better](#)

This report from Best Beginnings, together with Home-Start UK and the Parent-Infant Foundation, reveals the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 and subsequent measures on those pregnant, giving birth or at home with a baby or toddler.

13:27pm, 18 August 2020

[Reviewing children and young people on the shielded patients list](#)

Most children and young people considered clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) can be removed from the shielded patients list following consultation with their specialist clinician or GP.

10:30am, 17 August 2020

[Chemo doorstep drops help to keep cancer patients safe](#)

Thousands of patients with cancer have had chemotherapy delivered to their doors so that they can more safely receive treatment during the coronavirus pandemic.

10:50am, 14 August 2020

[Implementing the 2020/21 GP contract changes](#)

Following the changes to the general medical services (GMS) contract for 2020/21, this document sets out the approach to the funding changes that NHS England will apply to personal medical services (PMS) and alternative provider medical services (APMS) contracts.

11:03am, 13 August 2020

[Covid-19: guidance for supported living](#)

This guidance sets out key messages to assist with planning and preparation in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic so that local procedures can be put in place to minimise risk and provide the best possible support to people in supported living settings.

11:07am, 13 August 2020

[How might Covid-19 affect the number of GPs available to see patients in England?](#)

This research reveals that one in three GPs who singlehandedly manage a GP practice are at high risk of death from Covid-19.

11:36am, 13 August 2020

[Standard operating procedure \(SOP\) for general practice in the context of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

NHS England has updated the standard operating procedures for general practice.

12:17pm, 13 August 2020

[A patient experience and view - Derek Mitchell PhD](#)

Following his retirement from the Health Service due to illness, Derek Mitchell has continued to work in healthcare to give a voice to the people on the receiving end of care.

12:20pm, 13 August 2020

[Young Persons Advisory Group North England](#)

YPAGne is a group based at the RVI in Newcastle upon Tyne. The aim of the group is to increase the input and influence of young people in the development of clinical and public health research

10:14am, 12 August 2020

[Expanding the primary care workforce](#)

This letter published by NHS England sets out plans to expand the primary care workforce in 2020/21.

11:21am, 11 August 2020

[Funding to prepare the NHS for winter](#)

NHS trusts across the country have been allocated a share of £300 million to upgrade their facilities ahead of winter.

11:18am, 10 August 2020

[Expanded flu programme](#)

The second annual flu letter gives more details about this year's expanded flu Programme.

11:16am, 10 August 2020

[Roll out of Electronic Prescription Service \(EPS\)](#)

NHS England are accelerating deployment of EPS Phase 4 which allows EPS to be used for patients without a pharmacy nomination.

11:14am, 10 August 2020

[Government plan for cycling and walking](#)

The plan published by the Department of Transport on 28 July 2020 has been widely covered in the media, including a reference to 'bikes on prescription' from GP practices.

11:10am, 10 August 2020

[New funding to double nursing apprentices and help deliver 50,000 more nurses](#)

Nursing careers in England will be made more accessible through a new government package worth up to £172 million, which will enable healthcare employers to take on up to 2,000 nursing degree apprentices every year over the next 4 years.