



Finance Current Awareness Bulletin

October 2022

Centre for Health and the Public Interest

[The bet against the NHS - how likely is a two-tier healthcare system in the UK?](#)

This briefing unpacks the background and policy landscape creating increased concerns for the health care system in the UK. It explains how for-profit health care provision has grown in the past two decades, the role of the government in creating an environment that encouraged this growth, and the effect this has on patients and the way we access treatment based on ability to pay rather than level of need.

Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

[The four-day week: Employer perspectives](#)

The movement towards a shorter working week has gathered momentum due to a number of companies taking part in four-day week trials in the UK and abroad. This report addresses the knowledge gap in employer perspectives with a view to inform organisations and policy-makers of the challenges and opportunities that come with adopting a shorter working week. The report also draws on data from the Labour Force Survey to understand the current pattern of working hours of people in the UK.

The Health Foundation

[The cost of caring: poverty and deprivation among residential care workers in the UK](#)

Analysis reveals that staff working in care homes are far more likely to live in poverty and deprivation than the average UK worker. Even before the cost-of-living crisis hit, one in five residential care workers in the UK was living in poverty. The Health Foundation states the government should prioritise improving pay in a fully funded, comprehensive workforce plan for social care in England and that broader policy to tackle poverty is also vital, including on housing and social security.

Healthcare Financial Management Association

[Accounting for digital technologies - looking at the detail](#)

Accounting for innovative digital technologies is complex because it is not always clear whether the NHS body is purchasing an asset that, in accounting terms, is capital expenditure or a service that is revenue or a mixture of the two. This briefing includes a series of questions intended to help determine the appropriate accounting treatment. It also sets out the role of NHS finance teams and NHS management and their auditors in reaching a conclusion about the accounting treatment.



Library and Knowledge Services

[Establishing a radiology capacity and demand model to improve value and efficiency](#)

This case study outlines how Mid and South Essex hospitals NHS Trust radiology departments addressed the challenges of large reporting backlogs, high outsourcing costs and associated clinical risks by implementing a capacity and demand model. The trust is forecasting a £250,000 recurring annual saving against £725,000 upfront investment. The case study concludes with 'top tips' that are not radiology specific and could be translated to clinical transformation projects.

[Multi-year plans: embedding system-level productivity and efficiency](#)

This autumn, it is expected that NHS England will issue planning guidance that will require ICBs and their systems to develop a longer-term plan, covering the period 2023/24 to 2027/28. The impact of the pandemic on waiting times and the need to recover elective activity and tackle waiting lists can appear to overshadow other aspects of care and recovery. The plans developed by organisations in the coming months must not only tackle the immediate need for recovery but also address the longer-term strategy. This briefing draws on work carried out by Grant Thornton and supplements it with learning from the HFMA's members.

House of Commons Library

[Health and Social Care Levy \(Repeal\) Bill 2022-23](#)

The Health and Social Care Levy Act 2021 established the Health and Social Care Levy, introduced to raise funds for health and social care for a three-year period from 2022/23 to 2024/25/. These funds started being raised through an increase in the rates of National Insurance from 6 April 2022 of 1.25 percentage points. Alongside the repeal proposal, the Treasury has stated that "funding for health and social services will be maintained at the same level as if the Levy was in place."

The King's Fund

[Capital investment in the NHS](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care's capital budget is used for research and development and long-term investments in building and maintaining NHS land, facilities and equipment such as MRI or CT scanners.

[Interoperability is more than technology: the role of culture and leadership in joined-up care](#)

Digital technologies can enable better collaboration between health and care partners, but what's needed to progress interoperability in an integrated care system? This King's Fund report looks at the role of relationships and technology, and considers the wider enablers needed to truly join up services.

[NHS Trusts in deficit](#)

The NHS and the wider Department of Health and Social Care routinely balance their budgets and remain within their annual spending limits. But this masks the serious financial pressures many individual organisations within the NHS have reported over recent years.



[Poor NHS buildings means poor NHS care](#)

Siva Anandaciva has been writing about the poor condition of some NHS buildings and equipment for nearly a decade. Over this time the cost of tackling the problems with NHS buildings and equipment has more than doubled from £4 billion in 2011/12 to over £10 billion in 2021/22. And nearly one-fifth of the repair bill is now for equipment and buildings that are in such a sorry state they present potentially catastrophic risks to patient care.

Reform

[Reimagining health: a framing paper](#)

Reform's new programme of work on 'Reimagining Health' seeks to explore how to transform our approach to health. It will consider how we can move from a treatment-oriented model to one geared towards health creation, the changes necessary in healthcare to facilitate this, and how to build a fair and sustainable approach to funding. This framing paper sets out the case for change and identifies areas Reform wishes to explore in its research programme.

NHS England

[Operating framework for NHS England](#)

Research

[Categorising high-cost high-need children and young people](#)

Archives of Disease in Childhood, 2022, 107(4), p. 346-50.

Retrospective observational study using data from the Clinical Practice Research Database linked to Hospital Episode Statistics in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. The study explores the characteristics of high-cost high-need children and young people (CYP) (0–24 years) in England and indicates the importance of further understanding and anticipating of trends in CYP health spending to optimise care, reduce costs and inform new models of care.



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