

### Priorities for the next financial year

NHS England sets out three key focus areas for 2024/25

**Recovering core services**

**Supporting the workforce**

**Improving productivity**

Which are underpinned by...

“Maintaining focus on **quality and safety of services**, particularly **maternity and neonatal services**, and **reduce inequalities in line with Core20PLUS5**”

“Improving **ambulance response and A&E waiting times** by supporting **admission avoidance and hospital discharge**”

“Improving **access to mental health services** so that more people of all ages receive the treatment they need”

“Making it easier to **access community and primary care services**, particularly **general practice and dentistry**”

“**Reducing elective long waits** and **improve performance** against core **cancer and diagnostic standards**”

“Improving **staff experience, retention and attendance**”

### National objectives for 2024/25

12 objectives will form the basis for how NHS England assess its performance, alongside local priorities agreed by ICSs

#### Quality and patient safety

- Implement the **Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF)**

#### Urgent and emergency care

- **Improve A&E wait times** with a minimum of **78% of patients seen within 4 hours** in March 2025
- **Improve category 2 ambulance response time to average 30mins** across 2024/25

#### Primary and community services

- **Reduce long waits** in community services
- **Improve access to primary care**, support practices to ensure **appointments within 2 weeks** and **urgent assessment same day or next day**

#### Elective care

- **Eliminate 65 week waits by September 2024** at the latest
- Deliver **system specific activity targets**, consistent with national value weighted activity target of **107%**
- **Increase proportion of first appointments or procedures** in outpatients to **46%** across 2024/25
- Improve **patient experience of choice**

#### Cancer care

- Improve performance against **62-day standards to 70%** by March 2025
- Improve performance against **28-day Faster Diagnosis Standards to 77%** by March 2025
- Increase stage 1 and 2 cancer diagnosis to achieve **75% early diagnosis** ambition by 2028

#### Diagnostics

- Increase proportion of **diagnostic tests within 6 weeks to 95%** by March 2025

#### Maternity, neonatal and women’s health

- Continue implementation of the **Three-year delivery plan**
- Make progress towards **national safety ambition** and **increase fill rates** against funded establishment for maternity and neonatal services
- Establish and develop **at least 1 women’s health hub in every ICB** by December 2024

#### Mental health

- **Improve flow** and work towards **eliminating inappropriate out of area placements**
- Increase those **accessing transformed models of adult community, perinatal, and children and young people’s mental health**
- Increase **completed treatments for anxiety and depression** in adults via NHS Talking Therapies with at least **67% achieving improvements** and **48% recovery**
- Deliver a **full annual physical health check** in **at least 60% people with severe mental illness** by March 2025
- Increase **dementia diagnosis rate to 66.7%** by March 2025

#### People with a learning disability and autistic people

- Deliver **annual health checks in 75%** of those aged 14+ and **on the GP learning disability register**
- **No more than 30 adults** with LD or autism **per 1 million population** (or 12-15 for under 18s) **receiving inpatient mental health care**

#### Prevention and health inequalities

- Achieve **80% of those with hypertension to be treated** by March 2025
- Provide **lipid lowering therapy treatment for 65% of people** with CVD risk score of greater than 20% by March 2025
- Increase children and young people’s **vaccination uptake**
- Address **health inequalities** and deliver on the **Core20PLUS5 approach**

#### Workforce

- Systematic implementation of the **People Promise retention interventions**
- Increase **choice and flexibility in rotas**, **reduce duplicative inductions** and **payroll errors**
- Provide **placements and apprenticeships** to meet the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan

#### Use of resources

- Deliver a **balanced net system financial position** for 2024/25
- **Reduce agency spend** to a **maximum of 3.2%** of the total pay bill across 2024/25

### Planning for the future



**Improving health and joined up care:** Systems to work together to build on their initial Joint Forward Plan (JFP), set out steps to address the most significant causes of morbidity and premature mortality, and improve service co-ordination



**The NHS Long Term Workforce Plan:** Systems to set out their workforce plan in the JFP, describe how to deliver the skill mix required to meet population needs over the next 5 years



**Modernising the infrastructure:** Systems to work together to develop infrastructure strategies by July 2024 for modern, sustainable infrastructure that deliver high-quality care and the net zero commitment



**Harnessing data, digital and technology:** Systems to continue supporting the levelling up of provider digital maturity across all sectors, focusing on deploying and upgrading electronic patient records, championing the NHS App and engage with the rollout of the Federated Data Platform

### Funding and planning assumptions

- **Updated revenue allocations for 2024/25 has been issued with 1% increase in base growth** to reflect additional pressures since the allocations were published in January 2023
- ICBs will continue to receive **Service Development Funding** allocations to support the delivery of national objectives set out in the guidance
- The published baseline ICB capital allocations to 2024/25 remain the foundation of capital planning for future years
- The **finance incentive element will operate in broadly the same way as the 2023/24 scheme** with up to **£150 million capital available**
- Capital allocations will be **topped up with £150 million nationally**, in line with the incentive scheme for **providers with a Type 1 A&E department**

**ICBs and their partner trusts are asked to work with their local authorities and other system partners to further develop their JFP to address the priorities set out in the 2024/25 guidance by 30 June 2024**