

BMJ



The BMJ Commission on the Future of the NHS



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BMJ Commission for the future of the NHS

2024

***Calls for the declaration of a national health and
care emergency and an urgent reset of the NHS***

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1. Founding Principles
2. Funding
3. Workforce
4. Social Determinants
5. Sustainability
6. Health and equity – to come
7. One health and Care system - to come

Some Cross-cutting themes

- Patient/citizen/community perspective
- Health equity
- Tackle Racial inequity
- Sustainability/ climate change
- Technology/digital
- Political decision making and prioritisation.
- Funding
- Education
- Research
- Wider health determinants

Our Founding Principles Bevan

- 1948 Bevan...*make healthcare easier and more effective by pooling its resources...from a regular taxation.*
- Free at the point of care

Since:

- More expensive
- Expectations higher
- Aging population
- Workforce shortages , Staff burnout
- Poor environment
- Moral distress of not being able to provide adequately for their patients

1. Founding principles

Calls on all parts of society : to help improve health, care, and wellbeing and, in effect, relaunch the NHS with the active participation of the whole of society.

- A commitment to the NHS and its **founding principles** and engaging all parts of society in a renewed vision and plan for health, care, and wellbeing
- Creating a **cross-government and cross-sector strategy for health, care, and wellbeing**
- Developing **better ways to connect** patients, the public, and community groups with the NHS, particularly at local level
- Giving immediate **priority to tackling inequalities** in access and outcomes, with particular attention on the disadvantage and racism suffered by ethnic groups both as patients and staff of the NHS
- Establishing an **Office for NHS Policy and Budgetary Responsibility** for independent and expert assessment of NHS plans and policies,
- Providing some **additional funding to support early improvements** and commissioning a review of future sustainability

3. Workforce

- Make **workforce stewardship** a key priority
- Improve **workplace conditions** through a collaboratively designed framework of standards, design, and investment
- Improve **workforce planning** through a comprehensive consultation and evaluation on workforce design and planning, an independent review, and full implementation of the parliamentary recommendations on clinical academics

4. Social determinants

- Form a **cross-party task force accountable for public health**
- **Re-establish Public Health England** and restore the public health grant to 2015-16 levels
- Build and maintain a **workforce environment in the NHS** that supports action on the social determinants of health and that is conducive to protecting and enhancing the health of staff, as well as patients
- Implement **policies to tackle poverty** so that individuals and families can lead healthy lives
- Invest in **suitable housing**
- **Prioritise children and young people, give every child the best start in life**

5. Sustainability

- Develop and invest in **data, metrics, and research** that drive NHS sustainability and integrate climate risk
- Implement **transparent, accountable national adaptation strategies**
- Implement **sustainable interventions across infrastructure, technology, transport, food, and waste**
- Educate, embed, and **build networks for sustainability** through the NHS workforce
- Promote nature and **action on the environmental determinants of health**
- Ensure decisive and **visionary NHS leadership, governance, and investment**

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2. Funding .. Gillian et al

- Continue funding the NHS primarily **through taxation**
- Establish an **independent Office for NHS Policy and Budgetary Responsibility** for England to provide unbiased, robust reports on health and healthcare
- Create a **five year strategic plan for the NHS**, with a detailed five year financial settlement and a provisional settlement over five to 10 years
- Provide an **immediate cash injection to start to recover a £32bn shortfall** in funding over the decade to 2020 and to help to tackle the current NHS crisis, especially the surgery backlog and access to primary care