

Growing Older/Planning Ahead - Learning Disability & Autism Survey

Healthwatch Hartlepool and Healthwatch organisations across the Tees Valley are working together in partnership with the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) to deliver a local response to the national requirement to improve the planning process for when families may no longer be able to support their family member to stay at home.

We would like to know what the needs are of those with a learning disability, what would make the transition easier as those people get older, what has been the experience of health and social care services and help to ensure sufficient and adequate services are in place for those with more complex needs.

It is important that services know what this looks like and how it feels.

Visit the Healthwatch Hartlepool website to complete the survey;
www.healthwatchhartlepool.co.uk/



A Dementia Advisor will be at the Central Hub every Tuesday 10 - 12noon, offering advice and support. We are still taking appointments if anyone wishes to come to The bridge for advice.
Please call 01429 - 868587

Unhappy with your NHS treatment or care?

NHS Advocacy is now provided by **People First**, supporting individuals making a complaint against the NHS.

Independent NHS Complaints Advocacy supports people to raise their concerns and complaints about NHS care and treatment. Call our helpline for information, guidance and support. **9am - 5pm Monday to Friday. Tel:03003 - 038037**

For further information please visit;
wearepeoplefirst.co.uk/advocacy/nhs-advocacy/

A member of the Healthwatch Hartlepool team will be in the **Central Hub every Wednesday from 10am till 12 noon**. If you have a question or query or want to talk about an experience of using any Health and social care service, why not pop along for a friendly chat.

For guidance and support on anything related to Covid - 19, please visit the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



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NEWS UPDATE

July 2023

NHS workforce plan

Thousands of doctors, nurses, dentists and other healthcare staff will be trained in England every year as part of the first ever Long Term Workforce Plan published by the NHS and backed by the Government.

The NHS plan makes welcome commitments to significantly expanding training places for doctors and nurses. In line with our past recommendations, it also commits to investing in flexibility for staff roles and further investment in non-GP roles in primary care, including through an additional 15,000 staff members to be recruited through the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme.

However, even if the plan delivers on its commitments around training places, we will not see this translate to a growth in the workforce until the end of the decade.

Better retention of existing staff will be crucial in the coming year, yet the plan contains very few concrete commitments which could lead to that.

The plan was commissioned and accepted by the Government, which has backed the plan with over £2.4 billion to fund additional education and training places over five years on top of existing funding commitments. However, it is still not clear how it will fund this investment.

Responding, **Healthwatch England CEO Louise Ansari said:**

"People will welcome the long-awaited Government commitment to training more doctors and nurses. All too often, we hear stories of people whose care is delayed, cancelled, or postponed, putting many in danger, due to severe staffing gaps across health and care services.

The much-needed funding and resource for the NHS workforce will be essential to underpin NHS recovery in the longer term. It is also positive to see the plan invest in technology to support innovative training methods and freeing up capacity for clinical staff. As the plan acknowledges, training additional staff will take time. To address the challenges facing health and care services here and now, the NHS should continue to invest in training admin staff and care navigators to improve patient experience.

We welcome the commitment to review the plan every two years and urge the government to ensure that this process includes an assessment of whether patients feel their access to care is improving."

We were one of the many organisations that called for the workforce plan in various speaking engagements and in our advice to the Department of Health and Social Care on the NHS mandate.



IN THIS TOGETHER

Helping a family member or friend who struggles with their mental health?

We know it can be challenging at times. Come along for a chat with real people who understand and just like you, live it day to day.

LET US SUPPORT YOU WHILST YOU SUPPORT OTHERS

First Monday of every month from 1pm*
Community Hub Central | 124 York Road

Hartlepool | TS26 9DE

No booking required

**Excluding bank holidays*

For further information contact Hartlepool Support Hub

01429 272905 | helping@hartlepool.gov.uk | Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 5pm or Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

Or visit Community Hub Central or Community Hub South | Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm



NHS doubles gambling clinics as referrals soar

Seven new gambling addiction clinics will open this summer as NHS services face record demand.

New figures reveal that around 1,400 patients were referred for help last year, an increase of more than a third on the previous 12 months and up by almost four fifths compared to two years ago.

The seven new clinics are in Milton Keynes, Thurrock, Bristol, Derby, Liverpool, Blackpool, and Sheffield.

There are already eight gambling harms clinics open in London, Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester, Southampton, Stoke-on-Trent, and Telford, as well as an additional national clinic, which treats both gambling and gaming addiction in children and young people, in London. The NHS plans to treat up to 3,000 patients a year across the 15 clinics, fulfilling the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) commitment six months ahead of schedule.

NHS chief executive, Amanda Pritchard, said: "Ahead of the NHS's 75th birthday on Wednesday, this expansion shows the NHS once again adapting to the new healthcare needs that have emerged over the last 75 years.

"In 1948 when the NHS was founded, you had to go to a bookies to place a bet, but now people can gamble on their phone at the touch of a button and everyone, young and old, is bombarded with adverts encouraging them to take part.

"Record numbers of people are coming to the NHS for help to treat their gambling addiction, a cruel disease which has the power to destroy people's lives, with referrals up by more than a third compared to last year.

"As it has done since 1948, the NHS is responding at speed and rolling out seven new gambling harms clinics across England, so that even more people can be supported by the NHS in their time of need."

Around 138,000 people could be problem gambling according to Gambling Commission figures, with around a further 1.3 million people engaging in either moderate or low-risk gambling – although other research estimates that this figure could be higher.

One patient who received help from the Northern Gambling Harms Service, said: "Gambling addiction took over my life to the extent I was suicidal and relationships with my family and friends had broken down. Engaging with NHS services has helped me get control of my life back and I'm rebuilding trust with my family and friends, once again having happy and healthy relationships with people close to me."

NHS mental health director Claire Murdoch said: "Addiction is a cruel disease that can take over and ruin lives, whether it be destroying finances or ruining relationships, but the NHS is here to help, so if you or someone you know is struggling with gambling addiction please come forward.

"Although progress has been made on clamping down on this billion-pound industry with the Government's White Paper, I hope further action can be taken to protect our young people and future generations from being bombarded by gambling advertisement while watching sport."

Public Health Minister Neil O' Brien, said: "These new clinics will bring vital support to more parts of the country, so thousands more people can get the help they need. We have taken firm action to tackle gambling-related harms through our White Paper, which includes our commitment to introduce a statutory levy so gambling companies pay their fair share towards the costs of treatment services."