

POLICY BRIEF

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

13 July 2022



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant recent announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators.

GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

[The data strategy: a blueprint for the evolution of a trustworthy data system?](#)

The National Data Guardian sets out the conditions that must be satisfied before our health and care data ecosystem can reach full maturity in terms of its trustworthiness to patients and professionals alike.

1. legal compliance
2. strong privacy protections
3. a commitment to transparency
4. establishing and demonstrating public benefit
5. ensuring appropriate mechanisms for choice
6. sharing power with the public

[Better mental health support for people in crisis](#)

A £150 million investment over the next three years will bolster NHS mental health services, better support people in crisis outside of A&E and enhance patient safety in mental health units.

The government has also published its draft Mental Health Bill today (27 June 2022) setting out wide-ranging reform to the Mental Health Act to ensure greater choice and autonomy for patients in a mental health crisis. They will also aim to tackle the racial disparities in mental health services, better meet the needs of people with a learning disability and autistic people and ensure appropriate care for people with serious mental illness within the criminal justice system.

The draft bill is now subject to pre-legislative scrutiny where a parliamentary select committee will examine the draft in detail before the government publishes a final version.

[Health and social care review: leadership for a collaborative and inclusive future](#)

An independent review of health and adult social care leadership, led by General Sir Gordon Messenger and Dame Linda Pollard has been published. The review focused on the best ways to strengthen leadership and management across health and with its key interfaces with adult social care in England. Following extensive stakeholder engagement, the review has now completed making 7 recommendations. These recommendations have been accepted by the government and publication of the report will be followed by a plan committing to implementing the recommendations.

[Senior ministers and civil servants endorse the Menopause Workplace Pledge](#)

The Civil Service has become the biggest organisation to sign the Menopause Workplace Pledge, committing to recognise the impact of menopause and actively support women who are affected. Plans to level up women's health will be set out in the government-led Women's Health Strategy for England shortly. The government will appoint a Women's Health Ambassador to raise the profile of women's health, increase awareness about taboo topics and support the government in implementing the strategy.

Increased funding for nursing in care homes

The weekly rate paid to care homes for NHS funded nursing care has risen by 11.5% from £187.60 to £209.19 for 2022-23 and will be backdated to 01 April 2022.

Chief Social Worker for Adults publishes annual report

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Chief Social Worker (CSW) for Adults, Lyn Romeo, have published the annual CSW report. It highlights key achievements of the past year and sets out objectives for the sector as it looks ahead to 2022/23.

Grant fund launched to support women's reproductive wellbeing in the workplace

Applications are open for funding grants of between £200,000 and £600,000 for the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector who specialise in women's wellbeing services. The funding will ensure women experiencing reproductive issues – such as the menopause or pregnancy loss - are better supported to remain in, or return to the workplace throughout their careers.