

APPENDIX 1. Summary on Health and Care Act 2022
(National Government, [‘Health and Care Bill granted Royal Assent in milestone for healthcare recovery and reform’](#), 28 April 2022)

The act introduces measures to tackle the COVID-19 backlogs and rebuild health and social care services from the pandemic, backed by £36 billion over the next 3 years through the [Health and Care Levy](#). It will also contain measures to tackle health disparities and create safer, more joined-up services that will put the health and care system on a more sustainable footing.

The Health and Care Act builds on the proposals for legislative change set out by NHS England in its [Long Term Plan](#), while also incorporating valuable lessons learnt from the pandemic to benefit both staff and patients. It marks an important step in the government’s ambitious health and care agenda, setting up systems and structures to reform how health and adult social care work together, tackle long waiting lists built up during the pandemic, and address some of the long-term challenges faced by the country including a growing and ageing population, chronic conditions and inequalities in health outcomes.

The [health and social care integration white paper](#) published in February will build on the act to ensure people receive the right care for them in the right place at the right time. It follows the [People at the Heart of Care white paper](#) which set out a 10 year vision for social care funded through the Health and Care Levy, and the COVID-19 Backlog Recovery Plan outlining NHS targets to tackle waiting lists. Dedicated plans to tackle health disparities are set to be published in due course.

The act also introduces measures that will:

- level-up health disparities in oral health and obesity through making it simpler to fluoride to water in more areas across England, and regulating unhealthy food and drink advertising
- make services safer by establishing the Health Services Safety Investigations Body, an independent public body which will investigate incidents that have implications for patient safety and help improve systems and practices
- crack down on the use of goods and services in the NHS tainted by modern slavery and human trafficking with a view to ensuring that the NHS is not buying or using goods or services produced by or involving any kind of slave labour
- ensure our health and social care workforce have the right skills and knowledge to provide informed care to autistic people and people with a learning disability by making specialised training mandatory by law
- support victims of abuse and respond to recent child safeguarding tragedies by committing to looking at information sharing in relation to the safeguarding of children, and requiring Integrated Care Boards to set out any proposed steps to address the particular needs of victims of abuse
- safeguarding women and girls by banning the harmful practices of virginity testing and hymenoplasty
- introduce regulation of non-surgical cosmetic procedures and improve the way we regulate medical professions

- address the barriers to joined-up working, by supporting data sharing between health and social care and removing barriers in the hospital discharge process, reducing unnecessary delays for patients
- remove needless bureaucracy in the system, allowing staff to get on with their jobs providing the best possible treatment and care for their local populations. It also ensures that the NHS is fully accountable to parliament and the public, while maintaining the NHS's clinical and day-to-day operational independence
- explicitly set out the parity of mental health and physical health and ensure transparency around the spending allocated to mental health support
- support the government's ambitious adult social care reforms, by creating the right framework for assuring, funding and sharing data on social care, to enable individuals to maintain their independence for longer

Kathy McLean, integrated care board (ICB) Chair Designate Nottinghamshire said:

'The Health and Care Bill is a key moment for health and social care services across the country. In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire we are proud to be part of one of the biggest and most exciting changes the NHS has seen in recent times that firmly puts collaboration at the heart of delivering joined up care.'

'We welcome the bill which supports our focus to tackle health inequalities and ensure better ways for people to access health and care services. By building on lessons learnt during the pandemic we will support our staff to make the impactful changes needed set out in the Long Term Plan. This bill ensures we can work together as a system to rebuild from the pandemic and tackle backlogs all while supporting each other for the benefit of our public.'