

NHS England's Delivery Plan

Academy Statement

31 March 2017

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges broadly welcomes today's announcement by NHS England which sets out its priorities in the years ahead. It is important we all acknowledge the improvements that are being made and that we are all realistic about the real challenges we are facing. Many of the suggestions are in line with the medical college's five core principles for improvement.*

While the document is disappointingly silent on funding, we do recognise that much can be done currently to improve care. But the changes and efficiencies that effective Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) can and should bring alongside improving the use of technology will not by themselves be enough to sustain the system in the long term. Additional resources are going to be required.

We also need to recognise that the clear statement of expecting STPs to become Accountable Care Organisations, combining health and social care with their own budgets over time, does represent a fundamental change in emphasis towards population based health and care. This is in line with what the Academy and Colleges have been arguing in terms of the integration of health and care services and could lead to profound change and benefit – although it will, of course, need to be properly resourced.

NOTE:

The Academy's five core principles for change are:

- The NHS and Social Care systems need more resources
- Whilst the NHS and its staff have been hugely successful we recognise there are many things that can be done differently, better and more efficiently
- Patients, carers and the public must be part of every stage of development and change
- Clinicians will need and want to take a leading role in change and improvement
- No change and improvement will be effective without a valued and enabled workforce.