

2017 General Election

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Statement

5 May 2017

The NHS and social care system across the UK is under pressure as never before. Changing demographics, rising demand and unprecedented financial pressures are leading to unparalleled strains on the system and its staff. The current model is not delivering for the population and is not sustainable.

Medical Royal Colleges and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges have publicly stated:

- No change and improvement will be effective without a valued and enabled workforce
- 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
- The NHS and Social Care systems need more resources.

The single biggest challenge facing any Government in relation to healthcare policy is therefore to determine how the UK can deliver a sustainable publicly funded health and care system for the foreseeable future that meets the needs of all the population. This means seeking a cross-party approach to find long term solutions.

We believe major change is required in the ways that:

- We think about health
- Professionals interact and make decisions with patients
- Professionals behave and are trained
- How we provide care for people in a way and in the places they need it
- Real focus of the prevention of ill health wherever possible
- As a nation we provide sufficient resources for health and care.

We call on political parties in the forthcoming election to commit to:

- Provide increased funding for the NHS and social care to ensure delivery of a sustainable system for the foreseeable future that meets the needs of all the population.
- Support change that maintains and improves the quality of care and standard of services
- Fully involve the public in the development and change of services and patients in shared decision making in regard to their own care
- Ensure the health and care workforce is properly valued and enabled to lead change and improvement.



We pledge to work with the next Government to implement these commitments by

- Engaging constructively in the development and delivery of change
- Providing advice, ideas and workable solutions for the health and social care systems
- Encouraging the active participation of doctors in change and leadership of improvement at a local level.