

26 September 2019

The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Dear Secretary of State,

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN NHS BILL**

We write with unanimous support for a focused NHS Bill within the forthcoming Queen's Speech.

A highly targeted Bill, as recommended by NHS England and Improvement, will help remove barriers that make it hard for NHS organisations to collaborate with each other and their many local partners. This collaboration is essential if the ambitions to improve people's health and wellbeing set out in the NHS Long Term Plan are to be delivered.

There is strong agreement amongst the people and organisations we represent, across the health, local government and the voluntary and charitable sectors, about what the Bill should seek to achieve. There is no support for another damaging NHS reorganisation which we believe would distract from the important local work being undertaken to bring services together. The Bill should be tightly focused on the issue of care integration to foster collaboration within the sector, including removal of section 75 of the 2012 Act with its unnecessary procurement processes.

Less fragmentation across services and more collaboration will help deliver better care and support for patients and service users. None of us believe that legislation alone will achieve this goal – we need new behaviours and stronger relationships. But we all agree that rapid, targeted, legislative reform would remove some of the obstacles to collaborative working, allowing us to deliver person and community centred health and care that focusses on what matters to people.

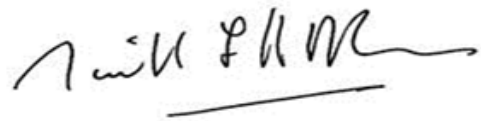
This Bill could set an historic precedent and shape future ways of working, with its development heavily influenced by NHS staff, patients and local leaders. The initial proposals have gone through an extended engagement process. The cross-party Health and Social Care Select Committee, through its inquiry and report, has helped to shape an emerging consensus. NHS England and NHS Improvement have subsequently adjusted and improved their proposals, which we welcome.

We ask that you, the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and NHS Improvement keep working closely work with us, our members and the communities they serve. In that way the Bill will command maximum support prior to its introduction.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Charlotte Augst  
Chief Executive, National Voices



Niall Dickson CBE  
Chief Executive, NHS Confederation



Sir Robert Francis QC  
Chair of Healthwatch England



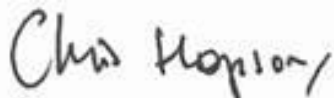
Dr Clare Gerada MBE  
Co-chair, NHS Assembly and GP, Southwark



Sara Gorton  
Head of Health, UNISON



Professor Sir Chris Ham CBE  
Co-chair, NHS Assembly and  
Chair, Coventry and Warwickshire STP



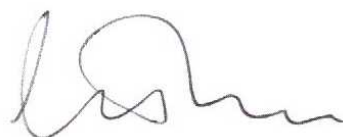
Chris Hopson  
Chief Executive, NHS Providers



Cllr Ian Hudspeth  
Chairman, Community Wellbeing Board  
Local Government Association



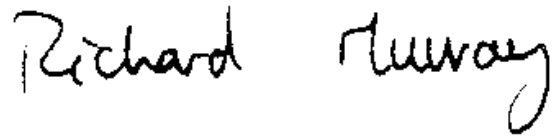
Dame Donna Kinnair  
Chief Executive and General Secretary,  
Royal College of Nursing



Professor Carrie MacEwen  
President, Academy of Medical Royal  
Colleges



Danny Mortimer  
Chief Executive, NHS Employers



Richard Murray  
Chief Executive, The King's Fund



Liam O'Toole  
Chair, The Richmond Group of Charities



Rachel Power  
Chief Executive, The Patients Association



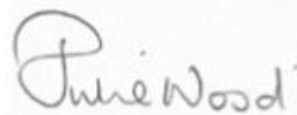
Andrew Ridley  
Chair, The Community Network



Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard  
Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners



Rob Webster  
Lead Chief Executive, West Yorkshire  
and Harrogate Integrated Care System



Julie Wood  
Chief Executive,  
NHS Clinical Commissioners