Prevention and the NHS Long-Term Plan

The Prevention Green Paper

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Background – In July 2018, the new Secretary of State set out 3 early priorities

1 – Workforce
   • Focused around staff morale

2 – Technology
   • Focused on getting basics right, to enjoy benefits of technology, digital and data
   • Published ‘tech vision’ in October
   • In February 2019, created NHSX

3 – Prevention
   • In November, published 'Prevention is better than Cure', our vision for Prevention:
Prevention Vision: Chapter 1 – The case for change

• There has been progress in helping people live longer lives, but too many of these years are spent in poor health.

• Health inequalities persist across the country, and have in some cases worsened.

• This is not inevitable. Our environment, our behaviours and the health and social care services that we use combine to create our ‘health status’

• Hence our vision for greater focus on prevention to keep people well and independent for longer.

• We want people to see their health as an asset to be nurtured rather than a problem to be solved
Chapter 2 – We need to stop problems from arising in the first place...

*Health behaviours*, the evidence is clear we should be prioritising:

- Eating healthily, staying active *(obesity)*
- Not smoking
- Not overusing alcohol, or taking drugs
- Taking good care of our mental health

Our environment, the evidence is less clear, but priorities are likely to include:

- Early years and childhood
- The homes and communities we live in
- The air we breathe
- The jobs we do and our income
- Our friendships and other relationships.

Chapter 3 – helping people live well, if they have existing conditions

The health and social care system should put prevention at the heart of everything it does

Next Steps: Green Paper in 2019 to set out proposals in greater detail.
We have set the same challenge as in the Ageing Society Grand Challenge

“Ensure that people can enjoy at least five extra healthy, independent years of life by 2035, while narrowing the gap between the experience of the richest and poorest”
Why are we pursuing five more years of healthy life?

- **Individuals**
  - The ethical case: what people want, and it allows them to continue doing the things important to them;

- **Communities**
  - the place case: building healthy and safe communities in the places people live and work;

- **The economy**
  - the economic case: essential for a productive and engaged workforce;

- **Public services**
  - the public services case: reduce pressure on the NHS, welfare benefits, social care and other public services.
We have agreed the **scope** and **challenge** for the Green Paper

The Green Paper will focus on...

- the ‘five more years’ aim set out in the vision document
- reducing inequalities (socio-economic status)
- mental and physical health
- policy actions by central Government, and their impact on the choices people make, and their environment or circumstances
- targeting actions across Government departments
- issues in a cross-cutting way, as they are experienced by people

Our challenge:

“How can we promote healthy behaviours, healthy environments and the right services to deliver the ambition that by 2035 we will enjoy five more years of healthy, independent life whilst closing the gap between richest and poorest?”

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Prevention Vision

NHS Long-Term Plan

Related government publications, e.g. DWP Green Paper, industrial strategy, clean air strategy

Spending Review 2019 and Prevention Green Paper
We are identifying potential areas for action

We’ve draw on the best available evidence on conditions, risk factors and interventions to understand the opportunities for improving health.
Where we are now

- Set out the scope of the Green Paper and the challenge it will address – there will be different levels of ‘green-ness’
- We’ve identified the range of outcomes it could achieve and potential areas for action.
- We are now developing the content with ministers
- There are likely to be a number of high level approaches that frame the Green Paper:
  - Valuing health as an asset
  - Smarter services – prevention to become “predictive, proactive and personalised
  - Making healthy choices easier (levelling the playing field; acknowledging the ‘headwinds’ that people face in trying to be healthy
  - Laying the foundations for better health – eg a good start in life; environmental risks; valuing health in all policy-making