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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

31 March 2017

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Next steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View**

Firstly I wanted to say on behalf of all parliamentarians how grateful we were for the incredible dedication, skill and courage of our emergency services in the terrorist attack last week - and in particular mention the superb work by NHS paramedics and the hospital staff who cared for so many of those injured. As ever the NHS was there for us when we needed it.

Secondly I wanted to update you on broader developments in the NHS. As you know we are committed to making the NHS the safest and best healthcare service in the world. Today NHS England launched an update on its Five Year Forward View for the NHS which goes into a lot of detail as to the areas we expect to make the most progress.

As you will see from the plan much progress has already been made. In particular you may be interested to know the following for your own communications with constituents:

* In cancer, survival rates are now at a record high. We have overtaken France on cervical cancer survival rates and Germany for colorectal cancer survival rates. 100,000 people have been helped by the Cancer Drugs Fund, 130 more people are starting treatment for cancer every day than under Labour and 7,000 more people are alive today after successful treatment than would’ve been 3 years ago if survival rates had not improved.
* In mental health we have the biggest expansion in Europe, with over £1 billion of additional investment by 2020. We are already delivering 1,400 more mental health treatments every day and are the first country to introduce waiting times for first psychosis treatment and eating disorders.
* A&Es, despite huge pressure, are seeing 2,500 more people every day within four hours with over 1,500 more emergency care doctors since 2010 and 11,600 more doctors and 13,400 more nurses on our wards overall.
* Outpatient appointments are up by 25,000 every day, with 5,000 additional operations daily, and yet meanwhile MRSA rates have halved to the lowest in Europe, and patients say they have never been treated with more dignity and respect.
* Safer than ever, our hospitals have cut the number of patients suffering from venothrombous embolisms, reduced falls in care, are catching more urinary tract infections, and reduced pressure sores by 16% as a proportion of patients treated over the past 3 years.
* Heart attack and stroke deaths have fallen by one of the fastest rates in the OECD, with the number of heart attacks treated within 90 minutes nearly doubling over 10 years and ischaemic stroke survival rates now better than France.
* Weekend and evening access to GP appointments is now on offer to 17 million people, investment in general practice is increasing again and record numbers of GPs are in training.
* The independent inspectorate has unleashed transparency over variation in standards and 19 of the 31 hospitals put into special measures post Mid Staffs have since come out, with 7 of those trusts achieving a CQC “Good” rating.
* Frontline NHS staff say their experience at work continues to improve, despite the pressures, with this year’s annual staff survey scores at a five year high, while more of the public say they get good healthcare in the UK than in France or Germany. Patient satisfaction scores are higher than all but 3 of the last 30 years.

Today NHS England has set out how the system will step up these improvements to fulfil the NHS’s own Five Year Forward View, which unlike Labour, this government backed. As the document states, the challenges ahead remain stark – the ageing population, an increased focus on quality, restrained funding and new high cost treatments. Today’s publication sets out how, with the government’s backing, the NHS will meet these challenges and transform care. Key priorities include:

* Returning A&E performance – following a Budget which included £2 billion for social care and £100 million for improving streaming in emergency departments, the NHS will implement new urgent and emergency care models, enhance NHS111, and increase clinical advice to care homes to deliver a return to 95% target performance in 2018.
* Better access to GPs – the most common interaction patients have must be made easier and this will be enabled by ensuring 5,000 more doctors working in general practice, better use of technology, enabling practices to work together, and closer working by GPs with other staff like community nurses, mental health therapists and pharmacists, so that by March 2019 every patient will benefit from extended access to GP appointments at evenings and weekends.
* New cancer standard – we will improve survival so that 5,000 more people a year survive cancer, through steps like widening screening for bowel and cervical cancer, a new standard to give patients a definitive diagnosis within 28 days, additional endoscopists, expanded diagnostic capacity to catch cancers earlier and the largest radiotherapy upgrade programme in 15 years to ensure modern radiotherapy treatment right across the country.
* Delivering parity for mental health – including by ensuring 200,000 more people will get help for common mental health conditions, faster access to new digital therapies, 20 new specialist perinatal mental health teams, 150-180 new CAMHS Tier 4 specialist inpatient beds to reduce travel distances, 81 24-hr mental health teams in A&E, and additional capacity to care for children and young people in the community.
* Safety – our continued drive to secure world-class standards will include new models of maternity care to help halve rates of death and injury, new measures to prevent healthcare acquired infections by a further 50%, a new Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch to transform investigations and learning from mistakes, a campaign to reduce medication errors and new arrangements to ensure trusts learn from deaths.
* Increasing workforce supply – to ensure the NHS has the staff it needs we’ll grow medical school places by 25%, deliver 5,000 more doctors working in general practice, offer new on-the-job routes into nursing, grow new roles such as nursing associates and physician associates, expand mental health staffing and take action to support the health and wellbeing of NHS staff across the system.
* Driving efficiencies – because every pound wasted is a pound which cannot be spent on delivering care improvements like those above, the NHS will step up efforts to drive value by releasing £350 million through better procurement of supplies, build on the £700 million saved from the agency staff bill this year, save £130m by streamlining pathology, imaging and corporate hospital services and dispose of £2 billion of surplus estates assets, and ensure we recover up to £500 million from overseas patients who aren’t entitled to free NHS care.

I am happy to supply you with further information about changes in your own constituency if it would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP**

**Secretary of State for Health**