



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

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To all MPs and Peers

Dear Colleague,

Introduction of the Health and Care Bill

Today we have introduced our Health and Care Bill. This Bill legislates for the proposals set out in our White Paper ‘Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all’ which we brought forward earlier this year.

Delivering on the NHS’s own proposals for reform in its Long Term Plan and making permanent some of the innovations we have seen in the system as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, these reforms are vital to help our NHS build back better from the pandemic. The Bill captures learning from the response to the pandemic and the vaccine rollout, as well as bringing forward a range of measures to level-up health outcomes across the country, enabling people to live longer and healthier lives.

This is a Bill designed with - and for - the NHS and its partners, including those in local government. It draws on the insights and experiences of health and care organisations and the people working in them in recent years. As the Chief Executive of NHS England himself said, this Bill “will support our health and care services to be more integrated and innovative so the NHS can thrive in the decades to come.”

Now, more than ever, we need more integrated and joined up services where staff working in the NHS, in social care, and in prevention services can work together to provide wraparound support and care for individuals as never before.

So, the Bill includes a wide range of measures designed to:

- **Deliver a range of targeted measures to support people at all stages of life**, including through improvements to the social care system, enhanced patient safety and measures to address health inequalities - from oral health, to obesity, to cancer outcomes.
- **Promote local collaboration**, ensuring every part of England is covered by an Integrated Care System. This will remove the silos that exist within the NHS, while supporting the NHS, Local Authorities and wider system partners to join up healthcare, social care and public health services;

- **Strip out needless bureaucracy**, including by improving the arrangement of healthcare services, allowing staff to get on with their jobs and provide the best possible treatment and care for their local populations;
- **Improve accountability and enhance public confidence**, including by ensuring NHS England is fully accountable to Parliament and the public while ensuring the continued clinical and day-to-day operational independence of the NHS; and

Along with other changes to the system, our proposals around Integrated Care Systems will give local people, local clinicians and NHS organisations more control over the way health and care services are delivered. However, in a democracy, the public and Parliament, rightly, expect to be able to hold to account the decision makers who oversee the health system and the performance of the NHS. Importantly, individual clinical decisions are explicitly exempt from the scope of the powers for the Secretary of State.

The health and care system has faced incredible pressures over the past 18 months, and our health and care staff have worked day and night to care for people up and down the country. Those in the system are now telling us they are ready to implement these reforms and that there should be no delay.

When people in the NHS and across the system are working so hard for us, it is right that we in Parliament should give them the legislative support that they need and have asked for.

I and my ministerial team are grateful for the time and insights already shared by colleagues across both Houses on our White Paper in a number of helpful discussions. We will ensure that we continue engagement with colleagues during passage to allow for further discussion of this legislative package.

Yours ever,



RT HON SAJID JAVID MP