



**STRONG LEADERSHIP
A CLEAR ECONOMIC PLAN
A BRIGHTER, MORE SECURE FUTURE**

Protecting and improving our National Health Service

Our commitment to you:

Our National Health Service must be there for you throughout your life. We will:

- **continue to increase spending on the NHS, supported by a strong economy, so the NHS stays free for you to use**
- **spend at least an additional £8 billion by 2020 over and above inflation to fund and support the NHS's own action plan for the next five years**
- **ensure you can see a GP and receive the hospital care you need, 7 days a week by 2020, with a guarantee that everyone over 75 will get a same-day appointment if they need one**
- **integrate health and social care, through our Better Care Fund**
- **lead the world in fighting cancer and finding a cure for dementia**

The NHS is vitally important to all of us. Founded on the principle that no one should ever have to worry about their ability to pay for their healthcare, it is a profound expression of our values as a nation.

Patients, doctors and nurses are the experts on how to improve people's health. So we have given greater power and accountability to the frontline than any other government. We cleared out bureaucracy, generating savings which we have invested in care for patients. Instead of chasing managerial targets, we have focused on outcomes and performance. And we have given patients more power by providing them with more information.

Under Labour, micro-management from Whitehall clogged-up the system. A cover-up culture developed, where doctors and nurses were scared to speak out about the appalling standards of care at hospitals in places such as Stafford and Morecambe Bay. By the time Labour left office, our cancer survival rates lagged far behind those of other countries, and more than 18,000 patients had been waiting for over a year to start their treatment.

We are building an NHS that is more efficient, more effective and more accountable

We are putting things right. We protected the NHS budget. Our doctors and nurses are now doing over a million more operations each year than in 2010. Our Cancer Drugs Fund has given more than 60,000 people access to life-saving drugs. We have doubled funding for dementia research. Hospital infections have halved. An independent think tank, the Commonwealth Fund, has found that under the Conservatives the NHS has become the best healthcare system of any major country. And patients are reporting the highest levels of satisfaction for years. The NHS is performing well in the face of increasing demand, with fewer patients waiting longer than the 18, 26 and 52 week targets than in May 2010. We have slashed the number of people who wait over a year for the treatment they need, from over 18,000 to under 500.

Despite this progress, our NHS faces major challenges. An ageing population will place more pressure on health and social care, and life-saving but expensive new drugs will push up costs. And for years it's been too hard to access the NHS out of hours, even though sudden illness and events which you and your family cannot plan for do not respect normal working hours. We will rise to these challenges. By building a strong economy, we will be able to increase spending in real terms every year. With a future Conservative Government, you will have a truly 7-day NHS, at the frontier of science, offering you new drugs and treatments, safeguarded for years to come.

Our plan of action:

We will deliver a strong NHS through a strong economy

We are set to increase health spending by more than £7 billion above and beyond inflation in the five years since 2010. And we will continue spend more on the NHS, in real terms, every year. The NHS is more efficient now than it has ever been. We will implement the NHS's own plan to improve health care even further – the Five Year Forward View. Because of our long-term economic plan, we are able to commit to increasing NHS spending in England in real terms by a minimum of £8 billion over the next five years. Combined with the efficiencies that the NHS Forward View sets out, this will provide the funding necessary to implement this plan in full.

We are prioritising resources to frontline services – with 9,500 more doctors and 6,900 more nurses

We will make the NHS more convenient for you

We want England to be the first nation in the world to provide a truly 7 day NHS. Already millions more people can see a GP 7 days a week, from 8am-8pm, but by 2020 we want this for everyone. We will now go further, with hospitals properly staffed, so that the quality of care is the same every day of the week. We will restore your right to access a specific, named GP – something that Labour abolished. We will ensure that your family doctor appointments and repeat prescriptions are routinely available online, wherever you live. And we will guarantee same-day GP appointments for all over 75s who need them.

We will offer you the safest and most compassionate care in the world

We will ensure that English hospitals and GP surgeries are the safest in the world, places where you are treated with dignity and respect. We will continue to eliminate mixed-sex wards and hospital infections. We will ensure

We have increased the NHS budget above inflation every year

that the NHS is accountable when mistakes are made, and implement the recommendations of the independent review into the Stafford Hospital scandal. We will ensure that the independent Care Quality Commission rates all hospitals, care homes and GP surgeries. We introduced expert Chief Inspectors to promote excellence and root out poor care, and we will continue to back them. We are deeply proud of our NHS staff, who are the best in the world. Over the last five years, we have hired thousands more doctors and nurses. We will continue to ensure that we have enough doctors, nurses and other staff to meet patients' needs, and consider how best to recognise and reward high performance.

We will help you make informed choices about your healthcare

We will improve standards in all areas of care. In 2013 we introduced the friends and family test so you could provide feedback on the care and treatment you received; we aim to increase the proportion of people who rate their experience as 'excellent' or 'very good'. We will boost transparency even further, ensuring you can access full information about the safety record of your hospital and other NHS or independent providers, and give patients greater choice over where and how they receive care. We will give you full access to your own electronic health records, while retaining your right to opt-out of your records being shared electronically.

We will support you and your family to stay healthy

We are helping people to stay healthy by ending the open display of tobacco in shops, introducing plain-packaged cigarettes and funding local authority public health budgets. We will take action to reduce childhood obesity and continue to promote clear food information. We will support people struggling with addictions and undertake a review into how

People deserve patient-centred healthcare not more bureaucracy

best to support those suffering from long-term yet treatable conditions, such as drug or alcohol addiction, or obesity, back in to work. We will be the first country to implement a national, evidence-based diabetes prevention programme. And we will invest more in primary care, to help prevent health problems before they start.

We will ensure you receive the best healthcare

We will speed up your access to new medicines by implementing the findings of our Innovative Medicines and Medical Technology Review. We will increase the use of cost-effective new medicines and technologies, and encourage large-scale trials of innovative technologies and health services. Antibiotic resistance is a major health risk so we will continue to lead the global fight against it, taking forward the recommendations of the independent review launched by the Prime Minister, David Cameron. And we will support our long-term economic plan by fostering research, innovation and jobs in the life science industry.

We will help if you or your loved ones are affected by cancer

Cancer survival rates are improving, and are now the best they have ever been. We will continue to invest in our life-saving Cancer Drugs Fund. We will work with the NHS, charities and patient groups to deliver the new strategy recommended by NHS England's cancer taskforce. This will improve survival rates and save thousands of lives through enhanced prevention, earlier detection and diagnosis, and better treatment and care. We will continue to support research to improve the diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases and cancers, including through

Over 60,000 people have benefited from the Cancer Drugs Fund

decoding 100,000 whole genomes. This will help scientists and doctors understand diseases better, and design more effective, personalised treatments.

We will continue to take your mental health as seriously as your physical health

We have legislated to ensure that mental and physical health conditions are given equal priority. We will now go further, ensuring that there are therapists in every part of the country providing treatment for those who need it. We are increasing funding for mental health care. We will enforce the new access and waiting time standards for people experiencing mental ill-health, including children and young people. Building on our success in training thousands of nurses and midwives to become health visitors, we will ensure that women have access to mental health support during and after pregnancy, while strengthening the health visiting programme for new mothers.

We will ensure that people can grow old in comfort and dignity

We have led the world on fighting dementia, and will deliver our strategy – the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020 – making sure that everyone diagnosed with the condition gets a meaningful care plan to support them and their family. We will increase support for full-time unpaid carers. We will guarantee that you will not have to sell your home to fund your residential social care. Too many people spend their last days in hospital when they would prefer to die closer to home; we will support commissioners to combine better health and social care services for the terminally ill so that more people are able to die in a place of their choice. We will continue to integrate the health and social care systems, joining-up services between homes, clinics and hospitals, including through piloting new approaches like the pooling of around £6 billion of health and social care funding in Greater Manchester and the £5.3 billion Better Care Fund.