

## General Election 2017

# Priorities for the new government: Putting people first

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### Areas for action

We need services which put people first, helping people to be partners in decisions about their health and care and making better use of the resources in communities and the voluntary sector. The new government must:

1. Deliver a new approach to health and care funding
2. Create a health and care system that gives people voice and control
3. Make health and care a priority in Brexit negotiations

## The challenges facing health and care

As a country we are rightly proud of our health and care services. But they are at risk. The next government must tackle the following problems:

- **Funding is inadequate to meet growing need** and services such as social care and prevention have seen funding cut. A failure to properly invest in our health and care services will damage health and wellbeing, access to services, and quality of care.
- **The way we provide care is outdated**, and often doesn't work for people with long term conditions despite the fact they account for 70% of NHS spending.
- **Services are designed around organisational and staff needs** more than around supporting people to manage their health.
- **People and communities have too little say** in how they are treated, and in how services are designed and provided.

# 1

## Deliver a new approach to health and care funding

- Increase health and care funding to a level that is sufficient to implement the NHS Constitution and the Care Act.
- Invest in primary care, community care, and the voluntary sector to help people to stay well, manage their health, and avoid unnecessary reliance on health and care services.
- Treat health and social care as a whole, recognising the NHS, social care, and public health are mutually dependent.
- Give greater priority to preventing ill health. Funding must meet the level of local need and not solely rely on a local authorities' ability to raise revenue.
- Adequately fund mental health services and enable new and integrated approaches to mental and physical health care.
- Fund equitable access to treatments, including those for rare conditions, with political accountability for any decisions to restrict access to treatments approved by NICE.
- Train and recruit a workforce that can meet the needs of people today, with special focus on community-based care.

## 2

### Create a health and care system that gives people voice and control

Care must be remodelled to meet the needs of health and care services' 'core customer' - people with long-term conditions:

- Help people to work with health professionals to set their own health goals, and plan their treatment and non-medical support.
- Ensure that care is integrated based on the definition [developed by National Voices](#).
- Ensure access to non-medical community support provided by voluntary and community groups that enables people to stay mentally and physically well.
- Hold services to account against [national outcomes measures](#) which focus on what most matters to people, not what matters to the system.

## 3

### Make health and care a priority in Brexit negotiations

- Protect the existing NHS and social care workforce and the ability to recruit qualified staff from the EU as needed in the future.
- Protect access to clinical trials, ensuring harmonisation with the new Clinical Trials Regulations.
- Protect cross border collaboration in research, particularly for rare diseases where this will be necessary to enable sufficient data to be available.
- Protect reciprocal rights to healthcare similar to those provided by the European Health Insurance Card, including support for people with long-term conditions requiring regular treatment.

## About National Voices

National Voices is the coalition of charities that stands for people being in control of their health and care. We work for a strong patient and citizen voice and services built around people. We stand up for voluntary organisations and their vital work for people's health and care. National Voices is an independent registered charity, number 1057711.

[www.nationalvoices.org.uk](http://www.nationalvoices.org.uk)

[@NVTweeting](https://twitter.com/NVTweeting)

## Contact

Sarah Hutchinson

Policy Advisor

[sarah.hutchinson@nationalvoices.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hutchinson@nationalvoices.org.uk)

[@SarahHutchDPhil](https://twitter.com/SarahHutchDPhil)