



## PRESS STATEMENT

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### **NHS still in the dark over how much mental health spending reaches service users**

Commenting on the publication of the National Audit Office (NAO) report [Mental health services: preparations for improving access](#), Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy at NHS Providers, said:

“We welcome this excellent report from the NAO, which shines a light on how much still isn't known about the levels of investment in mental health and the extent to which money actually reaches service users. Investment in data gathering, and a commitment to greater transparency is critical if we are going to be successful in tracking funding, where the current information available is very limited. This only hampers making the case for spending on mental health.

“The report highlights some progress on the important but relatively narrow issue of access and waiting times - although there is clearly more to be done. However it also reveals that the broader challenge of fragmentation of services between mental and physical health remains. It is essential that a parity of esteem uplift is embedded so that it is delivered from the point of admission onwards.

“Against the back drop of the recent Mental Health Taskforce Report, it is critical that the points made in this report are taken on board and that the Department of Health and NHS England provides the costings to illustrate how the recommendations of the Task Force and other mental health initiatives are to be delivered. Finally, we are delighted to congratulate Claire Murdoch on her appointment as NHS National Mental Health Director; Claire's frontline experience will be crucial to driving this implementation.”

**Ends**

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About NHS Providers**

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has 94% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
- Follow NHS Providers on twitter @NHSPROVIDERS and Chris Hopson, chief executive, @ChrisCEOHopson
- A full list of NHS Providers' press releases can be viewed in the news section of our homepage [www.nhsproviders.org](http://www.nhsproviders.org)
- Contact Caroline Bernard, head of communications, 07938 524 366