



PRESS RELEASE

23 May 2016

Getting specialised services commissioning right at local level through real partnerships

Responding to today's [report](#) of the Specialised Services Commission, Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers and commission member, said;

“Each year frontline providers of specialised services are facing increasing demands for their services and increasing costs of introducing new NICE-approved medicines and devices. Without a new approach to commissioning and paying for these services, the financial and operational pressures on NHS providers will simply not be sustainable.

“That is why this report from the Specialised Services Commission is particularly timely and helpful, following the recent National Audit Office report that highlighted the lack of a national strategy for specialised commissioning. We strongly welcome this new report's recommendations on working towards a deeper understanding on the costs of delivery services, tackling the broken payment model for specialised services that has seen financial risk passed from commissioners to providers, and developing a national strategy that takes better account of which services should be designed and commissioned nationally, regionally in networks, and locally in communities.

“Provider engagement will be crucial in making new approaches to designing and delivering services more effective. It is only through genuine partnership working between NHS England, local commissioners and providers that we can reduce variation, increase efficiency and most importantly improve the health outcomes for patients living with the most complex and rare conditions.”

Ends

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 95% 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
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