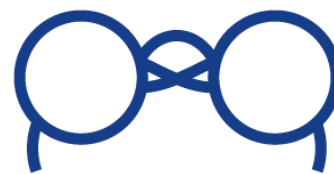


In focus

Healthy London Partnership



The Prime Minister's speech: £20 billion for the NHS

18 June 2018

On Monday 18 June, Prime Minister Theresa May made a major speech outlining the Government's multi-year spending plan for the NHS. The plan is to give the health service an extra £20bn by 2023, which No10 says works out at £394m a week.

Ms May began her speech by outlining that people know the NHS is there for them when they need it.

The Prime Minister says she wants to talk about how the NHS preserves the values of fairness embedded in it. It was the crowning achievement of the post-war Attlee government, she says.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister Theresa May outlined that care has improved. The number of staff recommending their service for their own family has never been higher. And it has been described as the best in the world.

However, the demands facing the NHS are growing. People are living longer, she says. More treatments are available. And problems like malnutrition, and loneliness, which is bad for health, are growing

In the past increases have been inconsistent, changing from one year to the next, she argued.

Ms May pledged that the government will do more than give the NHS a one-off increase.

On the issue where the money will come from, Ms May said that some of the money will come from no longer having to pay the annual subscription payment to the EU. That is the Brexit dividend, responding to criticism from the Labour Party.

Fueling the rumours of a tax increase to meet NHS finances she argued that taxpayers will also have to pay more. That being said, Ms May confirmed that government will keep to its fiscal responsibility rules, she says.

Referring to May says the government will also come forward with plans to put social care on a sustainable footing.

Alluding to efficiency savings, May argued that the government must get more efficiency from the NHS in return for the extra funding.

May accuses Labour of increasing NHS spending without patients getting all the benefit.

May called for the NHS must produce a plan to improve efficiency.

The Prime Minister argued that the 10-year plan for the NHS must involve a comprehensive plan for the workforce. The workforce needs to be more flexible, she says.

She says the government will increase the number of staff in areas where there are most pressures. It will see what can be done to encourage people back into frontline jobs. And the tier 2 rules restricting the hiring of foreign doctors are being abandoned with immediate effect.

That being said, Ms May said the NHS also has to reduce its reliance on doctors from countries where medical staff are in short supply.

Ms May concluded her speech by saying that the long-term plan for the NHS must include plans for mental health, which she says is a personal priority for her.

In the following Question and Answer, Ms May refused to back health secretary in saying medicinal cannabis laws must change.