



*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Labour to deliver 10-year plan for change and modernisation of the NHS

The next Labour Government will deliver a new 10-year plan for the NHS, including one of the biggest expansions of the NHS workforce in history, higher standards for patients, and a new model of care.

Labour will ensure fewer patients need to go to hospital, shifting resources to social care, GPs, care at home and mental health services, reducing the cost of hospital care in the long-term.

There are currently more patients waiting for treatment than ever in the history of the NHS. Heart attack and stroke victims wait an hour for an ambulance. Every month, tens of thousands of patients are spending entire days waiting in A&E. Hospitals are overwhelmed with patients who are fit to leave or wouldn't need to be there in the first place if they could access healthcare earlier.

Promising to be “the shop steward for patients”, Streeting pledged to introduce better choice and service, including face-to-face appointments and seeing the same doctor each appointment for those who want to. Labour will also make it easier to book appointments so that “the days of waiting on the phone at 8am to book an appointment with your GP will be over.”

Earlier this week, Shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, announced one of the biggest expansions of doctor and nurse numbers in the history of the NHS, committing Labour to:

- Doubling the number of medical school places to 15,000 a year
- Doubling the number of district nurses qualifying each year
- Training 5,000 new health visitors a year
- Creating 10,000 more nursing and midwifery clinical placements each year
- A long-term workforce plan for the NHS, with independent workforce projections, new career paths into the NHS, and new types of health and care professionals

Labour will pay for the expansion by reintroducing the 45p additional rate of income tax, paid by those earning more than £150,000 a year.

Wes Streeting MP, Labour's Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary, said:

"More doctors, more nurses, lower waiting times, higher standards for patients - that's the Labour pledge at the next general election.

"Alongside investment will come the change and modernisation that the public are crying out for.

"Voters won't accept pouring money into 20th century healthcare that isn't fit for the future.

"The next Labour Government will agree a 10-year plan with the NHS to shift the focus of healthcare out of the hospital and into the community."

Ends

Notes

1. There were 415,000 delayed discharges in August, when a patient is fit to leave hospital but cannot, often due to lack of care in the community.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/hospital-discharge-data/>

2. The latest figures show there are a record-high of 132,000 staff vacancies in the NHS

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-vacancies-survey/april-2015---june-2022-experimental-statistics>

3. There are 6.94 million patients waiting for NHS treatment, a record high. 378,000 have been waiting more than one year.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/rtt-waiting-times/rtt-data-2022-23/>

4. Ambulance response times for conditions like heart attacks and strokes were an hour on average in July.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/08/20220811-Statistical-Note-AQI.pdf>

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