

SUMMARY REPORT

# Parliamentary Multidisciplinary and Multiprofessional Healthcare Forum: Shaping the Future of the NHS

Working Together: A Fresh and Collaborative  
Approach to the Healthcare Challenge

House of Commons, 28 October 2024

<b>Host:</b> Matt Turmaine, MP for Watford	<b>Event Sponsor:</b> Sigma Pharmaceuticals Plc
<b>Forum Lead and Chair:</b> Professor Mahendra G Patel, OBE, PhD, FRPharmS, Hon DHealth*	<b>Authors</b> Professor Mahendra G Patel, OBE, PhD, FRPharmS, Hon DHealth* Dr Paula Wray, PhD*



NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF  
**PRIMARY CARE**  
HEALTH SCIENCES



**Centre for  
Research Equity**  
through Pharmacy, Communities and Healthcare

\*Centre for Research Equity, Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences,  
University of Oxford.

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# INTRODUCTION

On October 28, 2024, the Centre for Research Equity at the University of Oxford convened a high-level, independent Parliamentary Multidisciplinary and Multiprofessional Healthcare Forum drawing leading voices from across healthcare professions, government, academia, and patient advocacy groups.

This diverse assembly of stakeholders with the depth and breadth of intelligence gathered from across the four nations of the UK is the first of its kind. It underscored a collective commitment to transforming the NHS and addressing persistent challenges within the UK's healthcare system through meaningful multidisciplinary and multiprofessional collaboration.

Whilst a more detailed report is attached, this summary consolidates the key discussions and actionable recommendations from the forum, focusing on three primary areas:

- Professional Leadership in Healthcare
- The Future of the NHS
- Prioritising Inclusive and Effective Research Across the UK

**The NHS 10-year plan is specific to England; however, the need for reform is recognised across health systems within the devolved nations.**

## **Aims of the Meeting**

1. To Foster Cross-Professional Collaboration
2. To Shape the Future of the NHS through Integrated Leadership
3. To Influence Policy and Practice
4. To Advance Inclusive and Impactful Research

## KEY OUTCOMES

### **Professional Leadership:**

To identify methods for enhancing cross-professional leadership and collaboration, recommendations were made for more frequent and structured inter-professional forums to share insights and coordinate leadership efforts across sectors and the UK's four nations.

### **Future of the NHS:**

To align on strategies for making the NHS more integrated, accessible, and patient-centred, participants advocated for the establishment of national cross-professional and cross-country platforms that allow for real-time knowledge-sharing and innovation dissemination, promoting community-based healthcare and unified digital services.

### **Inclusive and Effective Research:**

To ensure that clinical research reflects diverse populations and effectively addresses health disparities, proposals included all healthcare regulators to develop a National Inclusive Research Policy for their registrants.

# COMMITMENTS TO TAKE FORWARD

The forum concluded with several key commitments aimed at advancing the NHS's objectives:

- 1. Driving Professional Integration Across Royal Colleges and Leadership Bodies:**  
The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the Royal College of General Practitioners and the College of General Dentistry committed to fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and developing multidisciplinary leadership capabilities that support integrated high-quality patient care and strengthens healthcare delivery within communities.
- 2. Pledge to Surmount Professional Barriers:**  
NHS, government and professional leaders supporting as well as those attending the forum pledged to continue their efforts to dismantle silos between healthcare professions that hinder progress, ensuring a unified approach to patient care and healthcare delivery.
- 3. Policy for Inclusive Research:**  
Regulatory leaders from healthcare professions committed to working on frameworks that promote inclusivity in research.
- 4. Unified Prescribing Approach Across Professions:**  
Nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, and medical leaders agreed to build on existing multiprofessional collaboration to embed a shared approach to prescribing practice that reduces fragmentation and improve patient outcomes, maximising the benefits of prescribing across disciplines.
- 5. Addressing Racism in Healthcare:**  
Recognising that racism remains a significant issue, the forum committed to ongoing dialogues to address these challenges and promote inclusivity across the healthcare landscape.
- 6. Support NHS Reform Consultations**  
Leverage insights and outcomes from the forum to actively participate in NHS reform consultations. Ensure these contributions inform policy discussions and align with the government's NHS priorities, emphasising the critical role of social care leadership in delivering integrated health outcomes.
- 7. Establish a Sustainable Platform to Inform NHS Policy and Research**  
Develop a dedicated platform to provide ongoing and broad-based insights that will support the implementation and evolution of NHS reforms. This platform would serve as a valuable resource for aligning policy with current research and practice, enabling the development of informed strategies for long-term healthcare improvements.

## Next Steps

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The commitments made through the forum represent a collective determination to support NHS reforms and health systems within the devolved nations through professional integration, preventive care, and inclusivity.

## Conclusion

The Parliamentary Multidisciplinary and Multiprofessional Healthcare Forum provided a unique and impactful platform for leaders from across the UK to address pressing challenges in healthcare. The high level of engagement and dedication shown by attendees reflected a shared commitment to shaping a future NHS that is equitable, integrated, and patient focused.

As the NHS in England embarks on a ten-year plan for reform other UK countries consider the future of their health and social care services. The insights and recommendations presented in this report offer a roadmap for strengthening meaningful multiprofessional collaboration and harnessing the full potential of the healthcare workforce. The proposal to establish a shared intelligence and best-practice platform, where the UK's four nations and healthcare professions can collaborate, share insights, and drive change, represents a critical step forward. Such a platform could be a key mechanism for addressing common challenges and sharing innovative solutions that can be adapted across the UK.

The commitment of forum participants to work across disciplines and national boundaries speaks to the determination to build a resilient, patient-centred NHS. This report, grounded in the expert contributions of those present at the forum, provides actionable steps that can guide the NHS's reform journey and ensure that the system is equipped to meet the evolving needs of communities across the UK.

A full transcript of the forum's discussions is available upon request to support the report.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This forum was made possible thanks to the support of MP Matt Turmaine, who graciously hosted the event, and to Sigma Plc, whose sponsorship was invaluable.

We also thank all session chairs, speakers, panellists and attendees from across the four nations for their dedication and contributions, which helped to shape meaningful discussions and action points.

A full list of those acknowledged is included in the comprehensive report.