



Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP)

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2024 online

Members present:

Sir Norman Williams, Chair
Simon Brake
Tansi Harper
Graham Jagger
Rajesh Khanna
Ann Lloyd
Angela McNab
Luke March
Rohan Sivanandan
David Stout
Elaine Strachan-Hall
Miles Wagstaff
Suzy Walton
Andrea Young

In attendance:

Richard Jeavons, IRP Chief Executive
IRP Secretariat
Grayling public relations representative

Apologies:

Tony Schapira

1. Welcome, declarations of interest and minutes of the previous meeting

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming new IRP member, Ann Lloyd, who had recently been appointed to serve a four year term as a managerial member.
- 1.2 Member David Stout declared that he was in the process of being appointed as an NHS non-executive director (NED), still to be confirmed.

David Stout later notified the IRP Secretariat on 19 July that he had been formally appointed as a NED for West London NHS Trust from 22 July 2024 and the IRP's register of interests was updated.

- 1.3 The minutes from the IRP meeting held on 14 May 2024 were formally approved.

2. NHS adult mental health services

- 2.1 Members received a presentation on adult mental health from guest speaker, Dr Sarah Hughes, the Chief Executive of Mind, a national mental health charity.
- 2.2 Topics discussed included policies on the Mental Health Act, the NHS Long Term Plan and the Mental Health Investment Standard. Inpatient care was raised as a significant concern, including out of area placements and the poor condition of the estates of mental health hospitals. Further discussion took place on the challenges for adult mental health services, such as the waiting lists for treatment, workforce shortages, and inequalities in life expectancy for those with severe mental illness.
- 2.3 The Chair thanked Dr Hughes for an informative conversation with the Panel. Dr Hughes stated that Mind would be happy to share their views on NHS proposals for mental health reconfigurations to support the Panel's work if needed.

3. Chair's update

- 3.1 The Panel noted that Wes Streeting MP had been appointed as the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, supported by Karin Smyth MP as the Minister of State for Health with responsibility for NHS reconfiguration policy. Members also received a written briefing on the latest parliamentary business timetable.
- 3.2 It was noted that several requests received by the previous government for the Secretary of State to intervene in local NHS reconfigurations using their call in powers introduced via the Health and Care Act 2022 still remained outstanding. These 'call in requests' related to the NHS proposals for stroke services in Somerset and the children's cancer centre for London and the south east, among others. It was expected that the new ministers will consider these matters in due course.
- 3.3 The Chair explained that the Panel's vacancy for a clinical member is ongoing and the new ministers will be asked to consider the candidates found appointable and make a decision on this appointment in the coming months. In addition, four Panel members are due to end their terms in 2025 and the Department of Health and Social Care will seek permission from ministers to run a public appointments recruitment campaign to appoint new IRP members next year.
- 3.4 The Chair met with the previous Minister of State, Andrew Stephenson, on 20 May (prior to the general election being called) as part of normal business to discuss the role of the IRP and the current themes in local NHS reconfigurations.
- 3.5 The Chief Executive of NHS England, Amanda Pritchard, requested to meet with the IRP Chair for a general discussion on the work of the IRP. The meeting took place on 7 June with NHS England's Chief Operating Officer, Dame Emily Lawson, and the IRP's Chief Executive, Richard Jeavons, also in attendance.
- 3.6 The Chair thanked all those present and closed the meeting.