



Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP)

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2024 in London

Members present:

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

In attendance:

Richard Jeavons, IRP Chief Executive
IRP Secretariat

Apologies received:

Mark Cheetham
Ann Lloyd
Graham Jagger

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

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and no new interests were declared.
- 1.2 The minutes from the IRP meeting held on 10 September 2024 were formally approved.

2. Chair's update

- 2.1 Mark Cheetham had been appointed as a new clinical member of the IRP by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to serve a four year term from 1 November 2024.
- 2.2 Recruitment for four new members via a public appointments process led by the Department of Health and Social Care was expected in early 2025 to replace outgoing members whose terms are due to end in September 2025.
- 2.3 Members noted that three major NHS reconfiguration proposals remained with the Secretary of State for decision on whether to call them in for his own determination. These proposals related to the children's cancer centre for south London and the south east, Somerset stroke services and the Humber acute services review.
- 2.4 To date ministers had not commissioned the IRP for advice on any of the call in requests received. The Chair had written to the Secretary of State on 10 October 2024 to request a meeting to discuss policy priorities and objectives for the IRP, to which he awaited a response.
- 2.5 The IRP planned to submit an organisational response to the government's 10 Year Health Plan engagement by the closing date in early December 2024.
- 2.6 Members received and noted the 2025 business meeting schedule for the IRP.



3. Guest speaker: Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)

3.1 Professor Hawthorne attended the meeting supported by an RCGP official and presented to the IRP an overview of the models of care in general practice with reflections on the government's Health Mission aims to introduce neighbourhood health teams and shift more care from hospitals to the community.

3.2 Members discussed the current challenges facing general practice including workforce, estates and technology as well as how to better support people living in areas of deprivation with their health needs.

4. Department of Health and Social Care policy update: Jason Yiannikou, Director of System Oversight and Integration (Senior IRP Sponsor)

4.1 Members received a policy update from Jason Yiannikou on the government's health and care priorities and the development of the new 10 Year Health Plan.

4.2 The outstanding 'call in requests' for NHS reconfiguration proposals that had been sent to the Secretary of State for decision were discussed. Members suggested ways that the IRP may be able to better support ministers with their decision making on these issues.

5. Guest speakers: Mary Elford, Chair, and Matthew Winn, Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust

5.1 Members received a presentation with an overview of the community trust's service provision and models of care. The challenges of providing more care in the community in light of the government's Health Mission ambitions were discussed, including the need for better integration, data and technology.

5.2 The Chair thanked all those present and closed the meeting.