




Healthcare Policy & Financing

Helen Buckingham

Director of Strategy at the Nuffield Trust



The English Health System – how it works and why it (sometimes) doesn't*

*with apologies to Ian Dunt

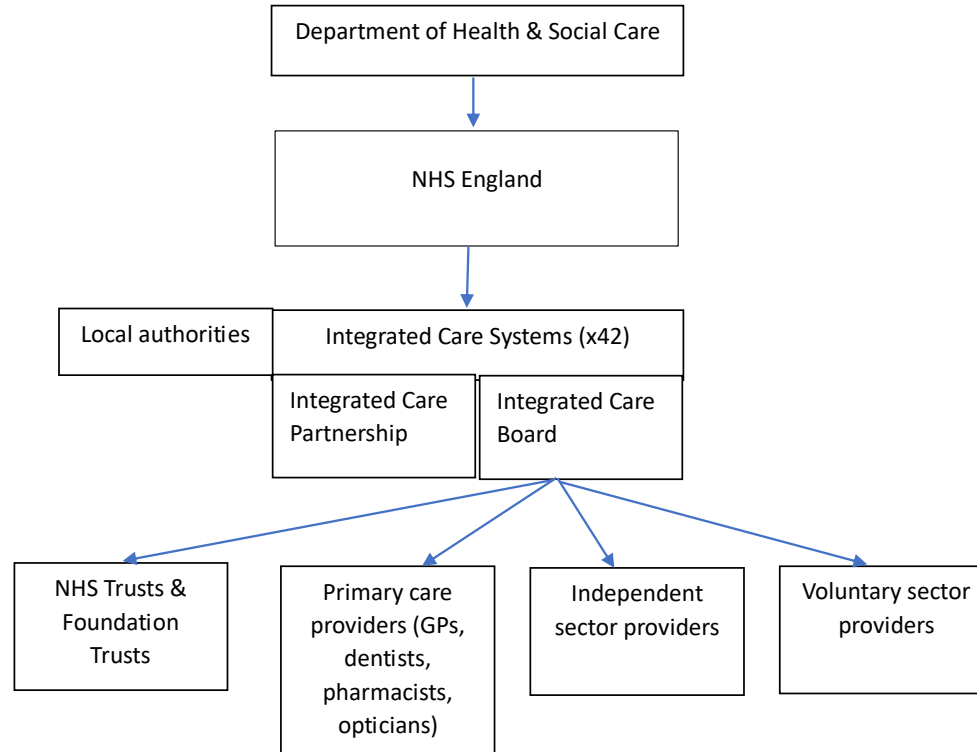
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What you need to understand

- Structure
- Priorities
- Current performance
- The money
- Big challenges
- Why there is still hope

The NHS in England (greatly simplified)



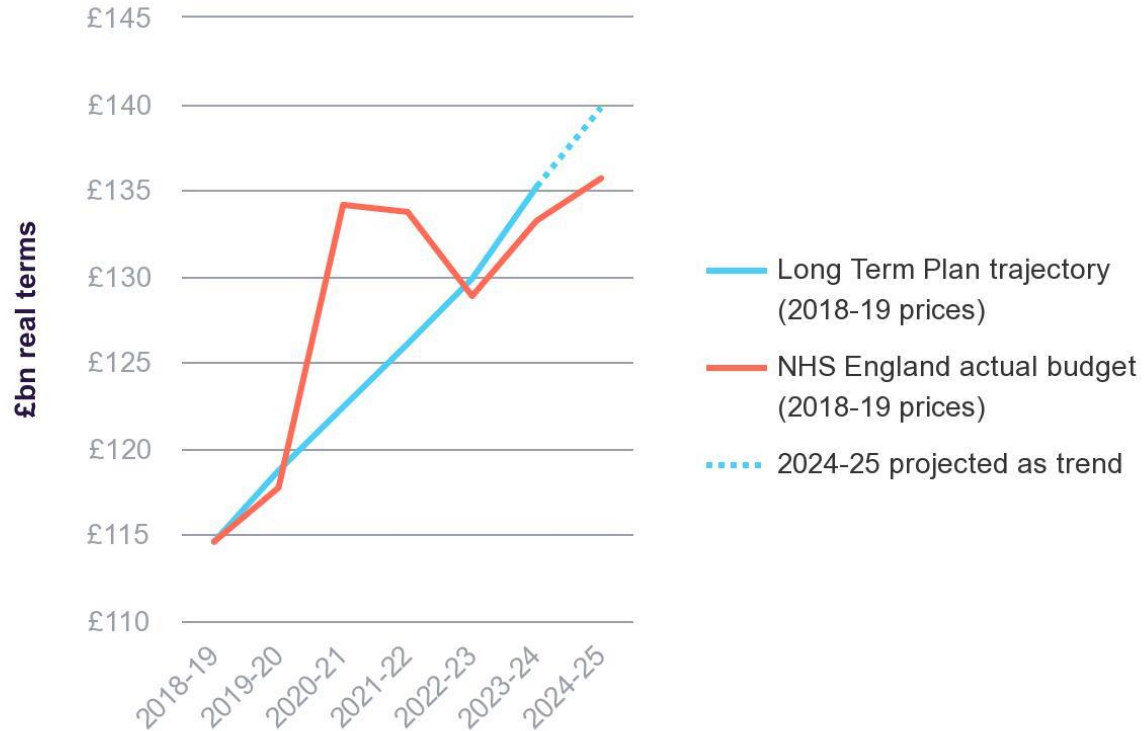
Priorities 2023/24

- Recovering core services and productivity
 - improve ambulance response and A&E waiting times
 - reduce elective long waits and cancer backlogs, and improve performance against the core diagnostic standard
 - make it easier for people to access primary care services
- Delivering the NHS Long Term Plan ambitions & transforming the NHS
 - Meeting the needs of people with MH and LD issues
 - Primary & secondary prevention
 - Workforce
 - Digital
- Local empowerment and accountability

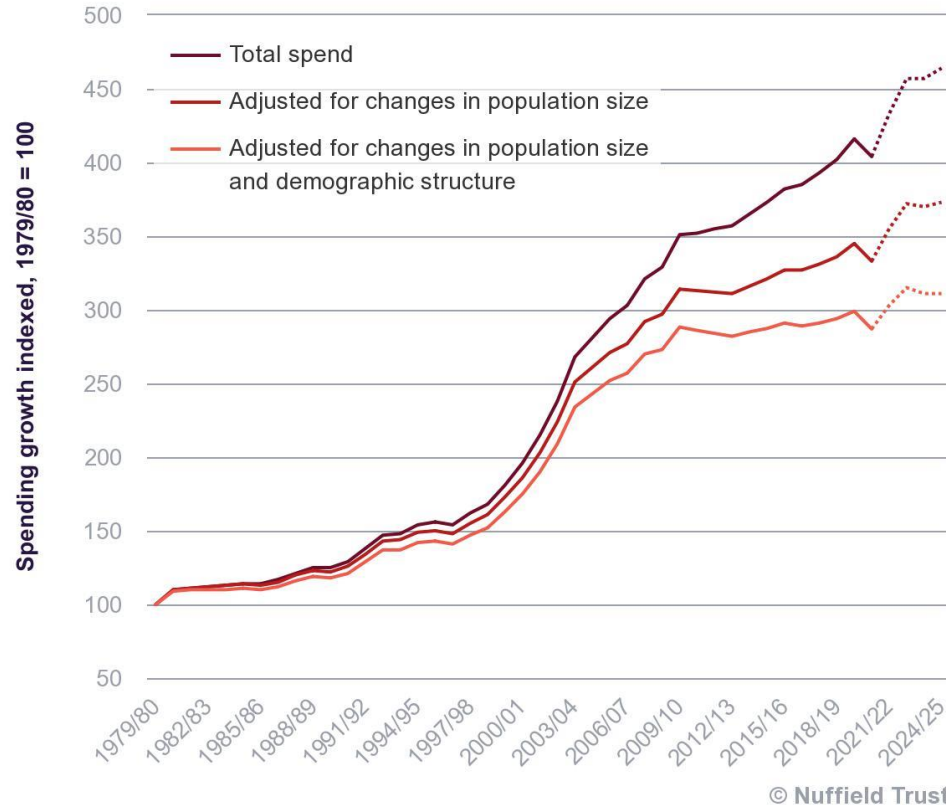
Current performance

- 7.75 million people on the waiting list to start elective care
- Over 109,000 people waiting over 65 weeks to start elective treatment
- 28% of people attending A&E spent more than four hours from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge.
- Almost 126,000 people waiting over 4 hours between a decision to admit a patient and them being admitted
- <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/qualitywatch/nhs-performance-summary>

The money – rhetoric vs reality



The money over time



Big Challenges

Workforce

- 1 Shortages
- 2 Burnout
- 3 Industrial relations

Infrastructure

- 1 Crumbling estate (literally)
- 2 Poor IT infrastructure
- 3 Failure to invest in equipment

Wider issues

- 1 State of overall economy
- 2 Failure to invest in social care
- 3 Impact of austerity on society
- 4 Past failure to address prevention
- 5 Racial and other inequalities

There is hope!

- Past history of improvement
- Highly committed and creative workforce
- Development of system leadership skills
- Growing understanding of community engagement
- Some political recognition of wider issues



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