

“NHS Wales performance stable, despite growing demand” – Vaughan Gething

The vast majority of people waiting for NHS treatment continue to be seen within access and treatment targets, despite increasing demand for services across Wales, new statistics published today show.

Thursday 22 June 2017

The latest statistics show:

- 79.4% of immediately life-threatening ambulance calls received a response within 8 minutes in May 2017, above the 65% target, which means the target performance has been met above 70% for 13 consecutive months. The median response time for this category of calls has remained less than 5 minutes since August 2016. Around 50% of amber calls were responded to in around 14 minutes
- The target for non-urgent cancer performance in April 2017 was met for the first time since May 2016 – with 624 out of 635 people (98.3%) seen within 31 days, exceeding the 98% target. Urgent cancer performance remains at its highest since November 2014, with 502 people out of 562 seen within 62 days
- Referral to treatment performance has remained stable since early 2016. In April 2017, 86.7% of patient pathways had been waiting less than 26 weeks to start treatment, the best April performance since 2014
- The number of people experiencing delayed transfers of care from hospital in May 2017 remains close to record lows, despite the increasing demand for health and social care services
- The number of people waiting over 8 weeks for a diagnostic test in April 2017 is the second lowest since March 2011 and the lowest April figure since April 2010
- In May 2017, fewer patients spent 12 hours or more in an emergency care facility, from arrival until admission, transfer or discharge compared to May 2016
- Demand for NHS services is increasing across every single activity and performance measure monitored included in the monthly report.

Health Secretary, Vaughan Gething said:

“Our health and social care services continue to experience increasing demand – but despite that, the statistics released today show the vast majority of people continue to be seen within access and treatment targets.

“Recognising the ongoing growth in demand and costs of services, we’re investing more than ever before in health and social services.

“I want to thank NHS and social care staff for the tireless work they do to deliver first class services across the country. Together, we will continue to do everything we can to drive up performance so that every patient receives timely, quality care.”

News story: Customer research manager vacancy at the IPO

This post will support the work of customer insight in transforming services. Closing date for applications is 4 July 2017.

Purpose

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is transforming its services for our customers using modern technology. Our transformation portfolio includes a number of projects that are being delivered in accordance with the Government Digital Service project approach. The successful candidate will lead the User Research function within the wider IPO Customer Insight team.

Role and responsibilities

- lead and develop the IPO User Research function, investing in the team's capability, with a focus on continuous learning and improvement
- manage and lead customer research exercises, including usability testing to identify customer issues and areas for service improvement
- represent customer requirements in projects to build new online capability
- engage customers in the development of online services, tools and content
- make authoritative recommendations for courses of action within the context of professional practice

How to apply

Full details of this role and how to apply are available on the [Civil Service jobs website](#)

The closing date for applications is 4 July 2017.

For more information please email adminvacancies@ipo.gov.uk.

News story: Crime news: outstanding bill submissions for Crown Court work

Reminder letters are going out about the need to bill for Crown Court work for cases that finished more than 3 months ago.

We are sending out reminder letters to providers to send in bills for Crown Court cases that finished more than 3 months ago.

The letters are going to providers:

- about outstanding bills under the Litigators Graduated Fee Scheme (LGFS)
- where the instructed advocate has yet to submit a bill under the Advocates Graduated Fee Scheme (AGFS).

The help of providers is needed to forward letters to advocates about billing under AGFS. This is because we do not have contact details for advocates until they have submitted an AGFS bill.

Advocates are asked to give their support when letters are forwarded to them.

Why are you doing this now?

We've reviewed our services and are concerned that delays in submitting bills under LGFS and AGFS is affecting our service delivery.

Further information

Nil-Bill-CCMT@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk – for any questions about this process

News story: Defence Minister Focuses on Scottish business, skills, and innovation

The MOD spent £1.5 billion with Scottish businesses last year and supports 9,700 jobs across Scotland, with the Royal Navy's new Queen Elizabeth Carriers being built in Rosyth and new Offshore Patrol Vessels under construction in Govan and Scotstoun ahead of this summer's Type 26 Frigate steel cut.

Mrs Baldwin met Scottish SMEs at the Defence Suppliers Forum, held at defence company Leonardo's facility near Edinburgh. The Forum builds relationships between businesses and Government through face-to-face meetings and candid discussion.

Minister for Defence Procurement Harriett Baldwin said:

Scotland is on the front line defending the United Kingdom from growing threats on land, air, and sea; and the Government is listening to Scottish business and building skills to keep the UK safe, secure, and prosperous.

This is yet more evidence of our unquestionable commitment to defence and industry in Scotland, as our rising defence budget and £178bn equipment plan supports Scottish business, jobs, and skills far into the future.

Following the Forum, Mrs Baldwin recognised the winners of the Raytheon SME supply chain awards at the company's Glenrothes plant, where it employs over 600 engineers and technicians. Amongst the winners, were North Lanarkshire company, Link Cable Assemblies, who received the Enabling Business Growth Award.

Apprenticeships are a key element in creating a country where everyone has the chance to go as far as their talent and hard work will allow, regardless of background. 24 graduates and 24 apprentices joined Raytheon's programmes this year, some of whom Mrs Baldwin met to hear about the company's support for the Government's focus on skills through its science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) ambassador programmes. Over 50 Raytheon STEM Ambassadors visit schools to teach pupils about aerodynamics, autonomy, and control systems.

SMEs are at the heart of the MOD's Innovation Initiative. Backed by an £800 million fund, the Initiative encourages imagination, ingenuity and entrepreneurship. The goal is to work more effectively with businesses across the UK – and particularly with SMEs which might not normally think of themselves as Defence suppliers.

The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review committed to spending 25% of procurement money with SME suppliers by 2020. As part of this drive to support businesses, the MOD has launched a refreshed Supplier Portal and an improved Contracts platform linked to the Defence and Security Accelerator. The Accelerator was created to help businesses collaborate with Defence and develop new routes to market for their technology.

New advice to protect older people from abuse

Information and Guidance on Domestic Abuse: Safeguarding Older People in Wales was developed in partnership with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

The guidance offers practical advice to professionals to ensure that older people who are experiencing or have experienced abuse, have access to the best support and advice available.

It also aims to raise awareness of the issue and aid understanding of the complexities of working with older people who require care and support as a result of domestic abuse.

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children said:

"Some older victims experience abuse for twice as long as younger people before seeking help, and this cannot continue. It is not acceptable for older people to suffer alone without the help of exceptional support that can be provided to them by our specialist services.

"I'm committed to working closely with partners to protect victims of domestic abuse, and I'm pleased this guidance offers practical advice to help professionals to work effectively with older people.

"Since the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act came into force, we have built strong foundations to create a stronger, more resilient sector to support individuals and families who are either at risk, or are struggling with the consequences of abuse, and we will continue to do so."

Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, said:

"I am pleased to have worked in collaboration with the Welsh Government to produce this much needed guidance on protecting older people from domestic abuse.

"The guidance will assist front-line professionals working across health, social care and housing to better identify, and respond effectively to, domestic abuse against older people, which affects a significant number of people every year.

"The guidance will contribute to a greater understanding of the issues faced by older people when they are the victims of domestic abuse, which is essential to ensure that the right services and

support are available to them at such a traumatic time in their lives."