



Department of Health & Social Care

DHSC Update to NHBST Public Board, 18 May 2026

NHS Reform Bill

The abolition of NHS England requires primary legislation, and as such is subject to the will of Parliament. DHSC is working with the Leader of the House and business managers to ensure an appropriate timetable is set out that enables us to work towards the two-year delivery timetable already announced. Until the Bill achieves Royal Assent and is commenced, DHSC and NHSE will continue to carry out their respective statutory functions. In the interim, teams will increasingly work more closely together under an interim joint leadership team.

DHSC transformation

There have been several senior appointments to the Joint DHSC-NHSE Executive Team (which has been in place since November 2025) since the previous NHBST Board.

Interim Second Permanent Secretary and Chief Operating Officer - Matthew Style

– Matt was previously Director General for System Development in the Department. Permanent recruitment for both roles will commence in due course.

Chief Digital, Data and Technology Officer - Rob Thompson – Rob was previously in a similar role at the Home Office and before that, in DWP and the private sector.

National Medical Director - Frankie Swords – Frankie will take up this post from June, coming from being the Executive Medical Director at NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB and NHS Suffolk and NorthEast Essex ICB.

Other changes to the NHSE Executive Team

Glen Burley and Meghana Pandit will act as Deputy Chief Executives to Jim Mackey, on a part time basis. Meghana will also return to her role as CEO of Oxford University hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Glen will continue in his role at The Foundation Group.

Mark Cubbon, who has led work on Planned Care alongside his Chief Executive role at Manchester Foundation Trust will return to his Trust in the summer. Mark played a pivotal role in the ISOU programme, as Co-Chair of the Trust Engagement sub-group and we wish him well as he returns to his “day job”.

Sarah-Jane Marsh will become COO for NHSE, leading the internal NHSE change programme.

Recruitment for the Director of Patient Experience is expected to close on 11 May (correct at time of drafting this report). This role will sit within the Chief Nursing Officer's directorate.

The consultation for the redesign options for NHSE regional teams is due to close on 18 May (correct at time of drafting this report).

Stem Cell Review

The stem cell review launched at the end of March following the appointment of the Chair; Professor John Forsythe. A press notice may be made in the next month to formalise the launch.

The review will be a comprehensive assessment of the systems in place to register and support the availability of unrelated donors for life saving stem cell transplant and cell therapies with a strong emphasis on equity of access, including patients with diverse ethnicities.

Initial meetings with key stakeholders have taken place, all of whom have positively engaged with the review. Wider engagement is underway, including patient and donor representation. An information collation meeting is planned for late June, with a first draft of a report scheduled for late autumn this year.

Tobacco and Vapes Bill

The **Tobacco and Vapes Bill** has received **Royal Assent** and became the Tobacco and Vapes Act from 29 April 2026.

The Act creates the UK's first smoke-free generation, making it illegal to sell tobacco to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009. Other measures will tackle youth vaping, strengthen smoke-free protections in certain public places, and stronger retail enforcement powers.

The new law is a central pillar of the 10 Year Health Plan, supporting the shift from sickness to prevention and helping people live longer, healthier lives.