



From Alex Boys, Deputy CEO.

As you may have seen the Government recently published its response to the Hewitt Review and the Health and Social Care Committee's report on the autonomy and accountability of integrated care systems. We are pleased to see recognition of prevention as being a continuing priority, but it's disappointing there is still a lack of practical action identified to make this a reality.

The rejection of the recommendation to increase the proportion of spending on prevention to 1% per year is particularly disappointing. As NAVCA members too often tell us, they are frustrated by limited opportunities to turn the hard work done to set up local alliances and the mechanisms for working as part of the VCSE's structures, into real, tangible action. This, and the continued lack of clarity as to what should be considered as "prevention" is only likely to see these frustrations remain.

Conor and I attended NHS Confederation Expo in Manchester 14-15 June, where we heard from the Health and Care Secretary, Steve Barclay, and Confed's CEO, Matthew Taylor. They took very different approaches. [Matthew's](#) speech chimed with the position we hear from our members and colleagues in local government – that to address poor health outcomes and growing health inequalities, work on prevention and the wider determinants of health needs to be prioritised, embedded in all areas of government policy and cannot be seen as something the NHS will – or can – fix alone. In contrast, [Steve Barclay's speech](#) focused on the role technology will play in addressing demand on the NHS.

Both spoke about the opportunities devolving more power from the centre and into ICSs will bring, and there was a commitment to continue this from the Secretary of State. We are clearly seeing the impact of this move from a large central control in the changes that appear to be taking place within NHS England. We will continue to engage with them as we start to see more clearly what the changes mean for their work with the VCSE sector. For instance, we hope to have Emma Easton, NHS England's Voluntary Partnerships team, attend our Health & Wellbeing Forum in September.

We will continue to work with our members and partners across sectors, to influence NHS England and the DHSC to ensure the VCSE's voice is at the centre of prevention-focused work, and the sector is seen as critical to the work that needs to be done.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-action-to-strengthen-local-care-systems>

Government response to the Health and Social Care Committee's report and the Hewitt Review:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-hscc-report-and-the-hewitt-review-on-integrated-care-systems>