Dr Wollaston
Sent by email:
HEALTHCOM@parliament.uk

Dear Dr Wollaston,

Patient Information Sharing

At the Health Select Committee hearing on 10th October, The work of NHS England and NHS Improvement, in response to questions from Dr Williams we committed to provide further information on patient information sharing.

NHS England’s approach is set out in the Digital Child Health Strategy, Healthy Children: Transforming Child Health Information, published in November 2016. The overall aim of the strategy is to improve and enable the use of information across health and care communities to support service delivery, as well as remove barriers to information sharing, perceived and real, through effective and proactive information governance/data protection engagement with and between commissioners, providers and suppliers.

To support this, the Digital Child Health Team are reviewing data and its associated flows from creation through to destruction to ensure that there are mechanisms in place to honour citizen’s individual rights, and that all data flows are lawful, secure and future proofed for changes in legislation, for example the UK Data Protection Bill. We will subsequently be publishing guidance that will come from this work to support and clarify when, where and how data should be shared across health and care systems.

In collaboration with NHS Digital, Public Health England and the Professional Records Standards Body we continue to work to improve Child Health Information Services. NHS England is responsible for commissioning £1.2bn public health services for the population of England, such as NHS screening services, immunisation services, and sexual assault referral centres. This figure includes Child Health Information Services (CHIS). The deliverables and funding are agreed as part of the annual S7a PH Functions Agreement. The aim of CHIS are to ensure that each child in England has an active care record, supporting delivery of, as a minimum, screening, immunisation and the healthy child programme services.

Health and high quality care for all, now and for future generations
CHIS are required to be interoperable with a large number of other NHS IT systems including Patient Demographic Service (PDS), NHS Numbers for babies (NN4B), GP Practice systems, maternity services and community health systems. In October 2017, along with our Arm’s Length Body Partners, we published the standards for sharing key child health information across professionals working in health, social care and education. These standards provide the foundation for a newly interoperable child health information service across England. This service will support the capture, to a common and consistent standard, of information confirming that key events in the delivery of The Healthy Child Programme have taken place.

The new system will allow for the collation of real time data from the different services providing a child’s early year’s care at local level. This will help ensure that all involved in the care of children, including parents and carers, can have access to a common set of information to enable appropriate treatment of children. It will also highlight where key interventions such as immunisations have not been received so that follow-up care can be arranged.

The national and local components of this system, called ‘Events Management Services’, are currently in early testing due to conclude in March 2018 with progress to scale following that.

You may also be interested to note that we have recently announced the NHS will set up two to five regional Digital Innovation Hubs, each covering regions of 3-5 million people, that are intended to drive improved outcomes from research. This follows on from recommendations made by Sir John Bell’s Life Sciences Industrial Strategy, which called for their creation to rapidly enable researchers to engage with a meaningful information dataset.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Will Smart
Chief Information Officer for Health and Social Care
Dear Dr Wollaston

During the Health Select Committee on 10 October 2010 Dr Lisa Cameron MP asked the below question, and I have been asked to respond on behalf of NHS England:

**Question from Dr Cameron:** As a follow-up to that, there are very specific clinical training courses that staff can go on for autism diagnosis. Do we have an understanding of how many clinicians are trained in that diagnostic process, where they are across the NHS, and if there are gaps in numbers?

Responsibility for training sits across a range of organisations including employers, professional bodies including the Royal Colleges and Health Education England.

From 1st April 2018 the Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS) will start collecting data on the number of individuals diagnosed with Autism from NHS providers as well as private and voluntary sector organisations across England. This will provide Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), education providers and national bodies with vital prevalence data which can be used to inform service design and improvement, including training needs.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms, implemented following the Children and Families Act 2014, require local areas to have clear processes for ensuring identification of children and young people who may have a special educational need or disability, which would include autism, and which then requires a multi-agency response to ensure appropriate assessment and provision to support children and young people to achieve their outcomes.

‘Building the Right Support’¹ (2015), jointly produced by NHS England, the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services set out a clear plan for developing community services and close inpatient facilities for people with a learning disability, autism or both and behaviours that challenge and or a mental health condition. In addition, in September 2017 NHS England published ‘Developing support and services for children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both’². This provides guidance for Transforming Care Partnerships (including their local partners Clinical Commissioning Groups and Local Authorities) in

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commissioning support and services for children and young people with learning disability, autism or both. It is co-branded with the LGA, illustrating a joined up approach to meeting the needs of these children and young people.

As I stated in evidence to the Committee on 21 November, NHS England is considering how the support and provision for people with autism can be further improved.

Yours Sincerely

Professor Tim Kendall
National Clinical Director for Mental Health
NHS England and NHS Improvement