

Knowledge for Healthcare Board Meeting

Meeting Date	26 th March 2018
Report Title	NHS Library and Knowledge Services in England Funding Policy
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FOI Status	Public

Report Summary	<p>Knowledge for Healthcare's ambition is to ensure that NHS bodies and staff can equitably access the expertise and resources offered by healthcare librarians and knowledge specialists, so that they can use the right knowledge and evidence to achieve excellent healthcare and health improvement.</p> <p>This proposed policy on NHS library and knowledge services funding sets out HEE's commitments to enable equitable access.</p>
Purpose (tick one only)	<p>Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>To Note <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Decision <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Recommendation	The Board is asked to approve the Policy.

Strategic Objective Links	<p>Library and knowledge services support excellent education and training so that the healthcare workforce and learners can deliver the very best care to patients. The library and knowledge service workforce supports the priorities defined in the 2017/18 Mandate. Working with partners to produce knowledge solutions that can be embedded into practice and research, library and knowledge services enable NHS staff and learners to adopt best evidence and do the right things right, first time - supporting the workforce with the right values, skills, and competencies.</p> <p>By sharing knowledge, research evidence and best practice, library and knowledge services support the workforce to provide high quality and value for money services - from pregnancy through to adulthood and end-of-life, to deliver integrated care across a range of acute, mental health community and primary care settings, meeting the needs of patients, carers, families and the public.</p>
Identified risks and risk management actions	<p>The risk is that some NHS bodies and some staff are not able to access the services and resources they require to deliver 21st century healthcare.</p> <p>Achieving a universal commitment to matched funding will require significant engagement with NHS Trusts and partner organisations.</p>
Resource implications	The proposed library and knowledge services tariff is cost neutral to HEE.
Support to NHS Constitution	This work underpins the NHS Constitution commitments to quality of care and improving lives as well as working together for patients.
Legal implications including equality and diversity assessment	The Secretary of State has a duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to ensure "the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research".

NHS Library and Knowledge Services in England Funding Policy

1. Introduction

Under the *Health and Social Care Act 2012*, the Secretary of State for Health has a duty, to ensure “the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research”¹

Health Education England published *Knowledge for Healthcare: a Development Framework for NHS Library and Knowledge Services in England* in December 2014.² This sets out a clear vision:

NHS bodies, their staff, learners, patients and the public use the right knowledge and evidence, at the right time, in the right place, enabling high quality decision-making, learning, research and innovation to achieve excellent healthcare and health improvement.

Health Education England has system-wide responsibility for education and development of the NHS workforce, and is the steward for NHS-funded library and knowledge services in England. Under the terms of the *NHS Library and Knowledge Services in England Policy*, Health Education England is committed to³:

- Enabling all NHS workforce members to freely access library and knowledge services so that they can use the right knowledge and evidence to achieve excellent healthcare and health improvement.
- Developing NHS librarians and knowledge specialists to use their expertise to mobilise evidence obtained from research and organisational knowledge to underpin decision-making in the NHS in England.
- Developing NHS library and knowledge services into a coherent national service that is proactive and focussed on the knowledge needs of the NHS and its workforce.

The contribution of healthcare library and knowledge services to education, lifelong learning, research and evidence-based practice is widely valued, supplying the evidence base to the service to make decisions on treatment options, patient care and safety, and commissioning.

¹ Health and Social Care Act 2012

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/pdfs/ukpga_20120007_en.pdf

² Health Education England (2014) *Knowledge for Healthcare: A Development Framework for NHS Library and Knowledge Services in England*.

http://kfh.libraryservices.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Knowledge_for_healthcare_a_development_framework_2014.pdf

³ Health Education England (2017) *NHS Library and Knowledge Services in England Policy*.

<https://hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NHS%20Library%20and%20Knowledge%20Services%20in%20England%20Policy.pdf>

2. Rationale

In 2016 Health Education England commissioned a review into the funding arrangements for library and knowledge services across the NHS in England. The work highlighted the inequity of current funding for library and knowledge services between providers.

Subsequent analysis revealed that since the absorption of library and knowledge services funding into placement tariffs it has become increasingly difficult for Trusts to distinguish different funding streams. The report recommended that HEE develop a national funding model that ensures: value for money, equity of funding and equitable access to library and knowledge services by trainees and all NHS staff.

To this end, and in accordance with HEE's policy on NHS library and knowledge services in England³ and the principles of the NHS Constitution⁴, HEE has agreed the following policy.

3. Policy Statement

To ensure that all NHS bodies and staff can equitably access the expertise and resources offered by healthcare librarians and knowledge specialists, so that they can use the right knowledge and evidence to achieve excellent healthcare and health improvement, Health Education England is committed to:

- Ensuring HEE funding for library and knowledge services from tariffs is aligned to these services, providing it to organisations as a discrete, dedicated library and knowledge services tariff.
- Establishing a formula based on workforce and trainee numbers to allocate funding on an equitable basis across England.
- Advocating the principle that all healthcare organisations that receive placement tariffs will match this funding⁵ to support evidence based practice to underpin the business of the organisation.
- HEE will advise NHS organisations that do not receive placement tariffs (including across primary care, integrated care and commissioning) on the appropriate level of funding to purchase knowledge services to ensure their staff can use the right knowledge and evidence to achieve excellent healthcare and health improvement.
- Advocating the principle that all research proposals in the NHS incorporate the necessary funding to meet the additional costs of expert knowledge services to underpin their design and delivery.
- Promoting greater collaboration between library and knowledge services to deliver greater efficiency and effectiveness.

⁴ The NHS Constitution

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>

⁵ This should be in addition to the overheads for the Library and Knowledge Services premises where applicable

4. Implementation

In the future:

- A percentage of tariff funding provided to NHS organisations will be reassigned from tariffs and designated as a new library and knowledge services tariff.
- This tariff will be distributed to providers based on the combined total of workforce and trainee numbers.
- There is an expectation that NHS organisations at least match this funding ensuring that evidence underpins clinical and business decision making.
- This tariff will be implemented from April 2019 with a transition plan over three years.

The Health Education England Regional Library and Knowledge Service Leads are the first point of contact for advice on shaping a service to meet the needs of each organisation:

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March 2018