

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Involvement Network Update –

13 April 2026

Welcome to the NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire Involvement Network update

- [Share your NHS patient experiences – Have your say - NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB](#)
- [SEND reform: putting children and young people first – Consultation – Have your say – Department for Education](#)
- [Clinical policy for prescribing of masculinising and feminising hormones for children and adolescents who have gender incongruence or dysphoria – Consultation – Have your say – NHS England](#)
- [Applying the new nutrition profiling model \(NPM\) to advertising and promotions restrictions – Consultation – Have your say - Department of Health & Social Care](#)
- [Local health news and campaigns](#)
- [Additional engagement and information links](#)
- [Engagement team links](#)

Share your NHS patient experiences – Have your say - NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB

We think it is important that people can share their experiences of the NHS in their own words.

By sharing your experiences of the NHS, you can help health care professionals and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to understand what was good, what was bad and what would have made your experience better.

How to share your NHS experience - You can do this by completing our online form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PEXNHS>

[Top](#)

SEND reform: putting children and young people first – Consultation – Have your say – Department for Education

The government are consulting on proposals to reform the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system.

The consultation document explains the changes they plan to make and asks for comments from everyone with an interest.

The changes aim to improve help and support for children and young people with SEND across the [0 to 25 years system](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25) (long link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>)

They would like to hear from everyone who has an interest in the reforms including:

- children, young people and families
- teachers and leaders
- schools and trusts

The proposals may also be of interest to:

- early years providers
- post-16 providers
- local authorities
- experts and academic organisations
- representative groups

[Every child achieving and thriving](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving) outlines the reforms to the schools and SEND system in England (long link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving>).

They have also written shorter, simpler documents that [summarise the schools white paper and SEND consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-send-reforms-sheets) for parents and those working in the sector (long link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-send-reforms-sheets>).

Have your say - You can share your views in various ways:

- **Online form** - <https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-strategy-division/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-firs/consultation/intro/>
- **Email** - SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk
- **Post** - SENDAP Reform, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

Deadline – The consultation closes on **Monday, 18 May 2026**.

Further information – The full information about the survey and the consultation documents can be found here:

- <https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-strategy-division/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-firs/>
- Additionally, more information and accessible formats of the documents can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-first>

[Top](#)

Clinical policy for prescribing of masculinising and feminising hormones for children and adolescents who have gender incongruence or dysphoria – Consultation – Have your say - NHS England

NHS England commissions the specialised NHS Children and Young People's Gender Service, which sees children and young people up to 18 years. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on a revised clinical policy on masculinising and feminising (MAF) hormones for children and adolescents who have gender incongruence or dysphoria.

On the advice of NHS England's Patient and Public Voice Assurance Group for specialised commissioning, this public consultation runs from 9 March to 7 June 2026.

At the end of the consultation period, all feedback will be considered before the clinical policy is published.

NHS England recommends that people read the [consultation guide](#) alongside the other documents published as part of the consultation. While this consultation guide has been produced to summarise the proposals, the other documents provide additional detail.

Consultation guide: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/clinical-policy-prescribing-of-masculinising-and-feminising-hormones-for-children-and-adolescents-who-have-gender-incongruence-or-dysphoria-public-consultation-guide/>

Survey: You can provide your views to NHS England by completing the online survey here: <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/prescribing-masculinising-and-feminising-hormones/>

Deadline: The consultation closes on **Sunday, 7 June 2026**.

Further information and links to documents:

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/prescribing-masculinising-and-feminising-hormones/>

[Top](#)

Applying the new nutrition profiling model (NPM) to advertising and promotions restrictions – Consultation – Have your say - Department of Health & Social Care

The Department of Health & Social Care are wishing to seek the views on proposals to apply the new nutrition profiling model (NPM) to the existing advertising restrictions (UK wide) and promotions restrictions (England only) on 'less healthy' food and drink products.

They welcome input from all stakeholders on the scope, potential impacts and practicalities of these changes.

Participants are asked to read and review the full [consultation page](#) before completing this survey.

Consultation page and further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/applying-the-new-npm-to-advertising-and-promotions-restrictions>

Survey: You can provide your views to the Department of Health & Social Care by completing the online survey

here: <https://consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/applying-the-new-npm-to-advertising-and-promotions-restrictions>

Deadline: Please share your views by **Wednesday, 17 June 2026**.

[Top](#)

Local health news and campaigns

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire is reminding people who are sent bowel cancer testing kits to use and return them as part of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month.

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, and health bosses in the two counties are asking everyone who has been sent an NHS bowel cancer screening kit to complete the test. That's because when bowel cancer is caught early, people are nine times more likely to survive.

The test is simple to complete and can be done in the privacy of your own bathroom. Anyone aged 50 or over who lives in England and is registered with a GP practice will be sent a test in the post automatically, every two years.

So, the NHS is asking anyone who is sent a bowel cancer screening test to remember to complete it. Put it by the loo. Don't put it off. Your next poo could save your life.

The screening kits are sent to those most at risk- but it is important to remember that everyone should be vigilant for the signs of Bowel Cancer.

If you are bleeding from your bottom, have blood in your poo, or there's a notable change in the frequency of your bowel movements it could be a sign of bowel cancer. Other symptoms include losing weight or feeling tired a lot and not being sure why or feeling a pain in your tummy. If you are experiencing any of these, regardless of age, then seek medical help immediately.

Dr Will Taylor, Medical Director for NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire said: "Screening is one of the best ways to diagnose bowel cancer early, or in some cases prevent it from developing in the first place.

"The FIT kit offers eligible people a chance to quickly and safely complete a test for bowel cancer at home and ensure that more cases are detected earlier.

"I would urge everyone who is sent a kit to return their test as quickly as they can, because this can detect the early signs of bowel cancer and ensure that anyone affected can get treatment for the disease as soon as possible."

Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK, and more than 16,500 people die from it – more than 5 per day. The chances of surviving bowel cancer are much higher when it is found early."

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[Top](#)

Additional engagement & information links

Local:

- NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS: <https://www.hwics.org.uk/news/latest-news>
- NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB Board Meetings. Dates, meeting papers and information on how to view the meetings can be found here: <https://herefordshireandworcestershire.icb.nhs.uk/meetings>
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust: <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/news>
- Herefordshire General Practice <https://www.herefordshiregeneralpractice.co.uk/news>
- Vertis Health: <https://www.vertishealth.org.uk/>
- Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: <https://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/news-and-media/in-the-news>
- Wye Valley NHS Trust: <https://www.wyevalley.nhs.uk/news-events/trust-newsroom.aspx>

Newsletters:

- Worcestershire County Council's Voices United newsletters: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/send-local-offer/co-production-and-how-get-involved-send/voices-united-newsletters-send-co-production>

National:

- Government policies and consultations: <https://www.gov.uk/search/policy-papers-and-consultations?parent=department-of-health-and-social-care&order=updated-newest>
- NHS England, surveys and consultations: <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/>

[Top](#)

Engagement team links

- Current Engagement opportunities: <https://www.hwics.org.uk/get-involved>

[Top](#)

Best wishes,

The Engagement Team

The Engagement Team can be contacted by emailing: hw.engage@nhs.net
Please email if you wish to unsubscribe from this mailing list. NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB holds your details confidentially and will not share them with a third party. It is important for the ICB to ensure the details we hold are accurate, it is your responsibility to ensure that the details provided are accurate and that you keep us informed of any changes in the future. If there are any contact detail changes please notify us by using the email address above. For more information about HWIN, please see our policies:

<https://herefordshireandworcestershire.icb.nhs.uk/documents/policies/communication-involvement-and-engagement-policies>

www.hwics.org.uk