

Marxwilerstraße
80000 Redditch, West Midlands

Alexandra Hospital

Main Entrance
(and drop off point) ↑

Medical Unit ↑

Accident & Emergency ↑

GP Out of Hours service ↑

Marxwilerstraße Surgery
Centre ↑

P Parking for visitors →

♿ Parking for disabled people
visitors →

Deliveries ↑



Long-Term Plan for the Delivery of Health & Social Care

Rachel Maclean

Working hard for Redditch & the Villages

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Foreword from **Rachel Maclean MP**

My Long-Term Plan for the Delivery of Health and Social Care seeks to build on the progress we've made since I was first elected in 2017 and to look to the bright future ahead for our health and social care services which we all rely on.

That progress I talk about is **more doctors and nurses working for our Acute Trust, more investment in the Alexandra Hospital, new hospital services and record amounts of funding for our NHS.**

Whilst we have made huge steps forward and secured the future of our hospital, there is still more to do – and my **Long-Term Plan** will set out the journey we need to embark on to ensure you are receiving the first-class health and social care you deserve.

The NHS has been a large presence in my life. I'm the proud daughter of an NHS GP. And, like you, I use the NHS. It has always been there for me and my family, just as it has been and continues to be for you and your family.

I have given birth in an NHS hospital, raised four children and had my fair share of visits to NHS GPs, clinics, and hospitals over the years. Now I'm a grandmother and I continue to want the best for my family.

From speaking to you on the doorstep and from reading your emails, I know you want the best for your family too. And as your MP it's my job to listen, to represent you and to fight for the best health and social care services.

I have a clear **Long-Term Plan** to ensure you receive the first-class health and social care services you deserve.

This includes my continued commitment to **fight to return a maternity and children's service to the Alex.** Although I don't get to make the decisions about which services are provided at our hospital, I will continue to fight to get local NHS bosses to return these services. I believe I've demonstrated I'm capable of doing so having secured the return of the Garden Suite chemotherapy service to the Alex.

And there's more. I want to see **more investment in the Alex, a further recruitment of doctors and nurses, improved access to GP, mental health and dental services.**

This is all achievable, and my **Long-Term Plan** will deliver results.



Rachel Maclean MP
Member of Parliament for Redditch & the Villages





**Return of the Garden Suite
Chemotherapy Service**



Multi-million-pound investment in new operating theatres



State-of-the-art robot-assisted surgery



Investment in the Alexandra Hospital Since 2017



More doctors and nurses working for the Acute Trust



£3.9 million expansion of endoscopy services



A brand-new Breast Imaging Unit has opened



**I will continue to
secure more
investment in the
Alexandra Hospital**





Fighting to return a maternity service to the Alexandra Hospital

We're all aware of the history of the removal of maternity services from the Alex and their centralisation to Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

My **Long-Term Plan** focuses on how I will fight to return a maternity service and not on how and why we find ourselves in this position.

As set out in my **report into returning a maternity service to the Alexandra Hospital**, my plan is to secure a midwife-led birthing unit where the vast majority of women can give birth.

There are examples across the country of Acute Trusts, which serve similar population sizes to that of Worcestershire's, where maternity services are provided at more than one hospital. This is the case in Gloucestershire where women can birth at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Cheltenham General Hospital and at the Stroud maternity unit.

Midwife-led birthing units are designed to encourage women with uncomplicated pregnancies to consider giving birth outside of hospital settings such as in midwifery units.

On the journey to returning this service, I will work with local health bosses to explore what other services for women can be provided at the Alex.

I believe, as Redditch is a growing town, a midwife-led birthing unit at the Alex is achievable and this is what my **Long-Term Plan** will seek to achieve.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ
MY REPORT INTO RETURNING
A MATERNITY SERVICE**





Fighting to return a children's service to the Alexandra Hospital

When their child is ill or injured, every parent wants their local hospital to be able to treat their son or daughter, that's why I believe the Alex should once again provide a dedicated paediatric ward.

In my **report into returning a children's service to the Alex**, I set out how we need a hospital where children can be treated, especially as Redditch continues to grow.

We need an **A&E which can treat children**, as well as a dedicated **24/7 inpatient paediatric ward**.

There are examples across England where Acute Trusts provide children's services at more than one of their hospitals. The strongest example is North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust.

North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (NWAFT) has shown us that it is possible to provide children's services at more than one hospital, and this is especially pertinent given NWAFT, and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust serve similar population sizes.

On the journey to returning this service, I will work with local health bosses to explore what other non-emergency services for children can be provided at the Alex.

This is a clear commitment in my **Long-Term Plan for the Delivery of Health and Social Care**, and I won't stop fighting until it has been delivered.



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ
MY REPORT INTO RETURNING
A CHILDREN'S SERVICE**



Expanding state-of-the-art robot-assisted surgery at the Alex

When I was first elected, I was told that, despite the Rory the Robot campaign, we would not see robot-assisted surgery at the Alex. How wrong they were.

State-of-the-art surgery is now being performed at the Alex, with robot-assisted prostate surgery for men with prostate cancer being the first procedure offered.

Robotic-assisted Radical Prostatectomy can offer equivalent or better outcomes, less pain, shorter stays in hospital and quicker recovery for patients

One of the growing numbers of operating theatres was upgraded and refurbished to make way for the surgical robot.

However, **I believe we can be more ambitious than just one robot** and I will work with local health bosses to **expand this service** at our hospital.





Seeing your GP

As the first point of contact when you fall ill or have an accident, it is essential that we get Primary care right. Knowing you will be able to get an GP appointment when you want one in the format you want it is critical to people having confidence in the system as a whole.

I have consistently advocated at every level for better GP services in Redditch. Whether this be lobbying the Health Secretary directly, or meeting with local health bosses and local GPs to put your concerns to them, I have always pushed for people to be able to get the treatment they need, when they need it.

I am grateful for our hard-working GPs, as with the rest of our NHS staff, and I understand the pressures they are facing. I will outline below how we plan to support this service in overcoming the challenges currently facing it, and how this approach will benefit GPs and patients alike in the medium to long term.

What's been done so far?	What more needs to be done?
 <p>More GPs now than when Rachel was first elected</p>	 <p>More funding for our GP services</p>  <p>More appointments</p>

Funding

Making sure the NHS has the right amount of funding is critical to the delivery of services. This is why the Government is committed to fully funding and supporting the NHS, and why investment across the NHS has **increased every year since 2010**.

The Government announced **£1.5 billion** in 2020 to create an additional 50 million general practice appointments by 2024.

The Government has outlined additional investment as part of its Primary Care Recovery Plan. This

will help address the capacity issue GP practices are experiencing and will provide faster care for patients. This includes:

- **£645 million** will be made available to enable pharmacists to provide treatment for common conditions.

- The equivalent of £35,000 per practice will be invested to provide better phone systems to make it easier to get through to GPs when making an appointment for the same day
- Cutting bureaucracy will save valuable GP time and will free up around £37,000 per practice



Recruiting and training more GPs

Recruitment and retention across the NHS is more important than any other challenge our health service faces. Without doctors, nurses, admin staff and all of the other professionals who make up our healthcare system, the whole machine grinds to a halt.

This is no different for GP practices, where the **Government is committed to increasing the numbers of doctors.**

On recruitment, the number of GP training places has increased, with 4,032 trainees accepting a place in 2022, compared to 2,671 in 2014.

In terms of retention, work is ongoing with NHS England, Health Education England and the profession to increase recruitment, address the reasons why doctors leave the profession and encourage them to return to practice.

The updated GP Contract Framework announced a number of new retention schemes

alongside continued support for existing schemes for the general practice workforce. In areas where there are GP vacancies, the Targeted Enhanced Recruitment Scheme provides a £20,000 salary supplement to attract GP trainees.

On top of this, the Government scrapped the lifetime allowance cap, which will encourage doctors over 50 to return to work. This addresses a key issue in the workforce and will incentivise medical professionals not to choose early retirement.

This work will build on the solid foundations we have laid in Redditch, with there being **13% more GPs working in our local NHS than when I was first elected.** Additionally, we find ourselves in a healthy position when we compare ourselves to the rest of England in terms of the average number of GPs, with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB having 66 and the nationwide average is 58 (as of March 2023)

Appointments

The Government has made it a key priority that every patient who needs an appointment should be able to see their GP within two weeks. Every patient who has urgent needs should be able to see their GP on the same day. The Government is investing at least £1.5 billion to create an additional 50 million GP appointments by 2024.

In January 2022 there were 25,555,604 GP appointments nationwide. By January 2023 this number had reached 29,442,876 – an increase of **15.2%**. Across our local NHS, this figure was 16.5%, with 66,976 more GP appointments in January 2023 than the previous year. This demonstrates we are heading in the right direction in terms of capacity, allowing people to get vital time with their GP.

The pandemic caused massive disruption to face-to-face appointments, and I was frequently contacted by constituents explaining the challenges this caused. I've met with local health bosses and GPs to put these concerns to them directly.

I am glad to see more people being able to get appointments face-to-face, but I also understand that having to physically go to a GP surgery is not convenient for

everyone. We have seen a vast improvement in the number of face-to-face appointments on offer in our area, as recently as February 2023 69.9% of people were able to see their doctor face to face and 26.6% had an appointment by telephone. This compares to 51.6% having telephone appointments and only 47.5% face to face in February 2021.

As set out in Our Plan for Patients, the Government will make it easier to contact GP practices by telephone for appointments and advice through an additional 31,000 phone lines. On top of this, the measures being brought in as part of the Primary Care Recovery plan will make it significantly easier to contact your GP and not get caught in the '8am rush'.

While I recognise there are still challenges we need to overcome, what the above demonstrates is that our multi-pronged approach of directing funding in the right places, recruiting new GPs and holding onto the experienced professionals we already have is resulting in tangible benefits when it comes to the number of appointments GP practices are able to offer. **I am determined to build on this progress and make it easier for my constituents to be able to get a GP appointment at the time and setting they wish.**



Access to mental health services

What's been achieved so far?

The Government is continuously taking steps to improve access to mental health and support services.

As part of the five-year funding offer agreed in 2019, mental health services will receive an additional **£2.3 billion** a year in real terms by 2023-24. This will enable further service expansion and faster access to community and crisis mental health services for both adults and particularly children and young people.

To support this, the Government aims to grow the mental health workforce by an additional 27,000 staff by 2023/24.

We're seeing investment in local mental health services. In 2023, **£1.5 million** in Government funding was secured for local mental health crisis team and crisis line staff facilities.

My Long-Term Plan for the Delivery of Health and Social Care seeks to ensure local mental health services continue to improve by:

- **Continuing to secure more investment in local mental health services**
- **Supporting the recruitment of more mental health care professionals**
- **Bringing together local charities, community groups and the local NHS to link-up resources and to build better working**



Seeing a dentist

I know residents have experienced difficulties in obtaining an appointment or treatment for dental care.

My **Long-Term Plan for the Delivery of Healthcare and Social Care** seeks to improve access to NHS dental services. I will do this by:



Supporting the recruitment of more dentists



Support making the NHS dental contract more attractive to dental practices

At a Government level, improving access to NHS dentistry is a key priority.

Reforms will be introduced which will allow the best performing dental practices to see more patients and ensure better use of other dental professionals such as therapists, hygienists, and nurses. Changes will also see dentists rewarded more fairly for complex care.

Over the course of this **Long-Term Plan**, I want NHS dentistry services to be available to all my constituents who need it.





Tackling the Covid backlogs

The Covid-19 pandemic put enormous, unprecedented pressure on our NHS, and services across the board have undoubtedly faced massive disruption, with long waiting lists following in its wake.

I know the impact Covid backlogs are having on families in Redditch and the Villages, with every family knowing someone who has had their treatment delayed.

We must be honest with ourselves that these issues cannot be solved overnight. The pandemic was a once in a generation event and it was inevitable, we would continue to feel its effects for some time.

The most effective remedy in this case, then, is a strong plan for the short, medium, and long term and a Government which has a track record of supporting the NHS.

The Conservatives have overseen the NHS for most of its existence and has consistently acted to make sure that the NHS has the resources it needs. We are currently providing **record funding for the NHS**, with investment **increasing every year since 2010**.

I will set out below how we will continue to make sure the NHS has what it needs to tackle these backlogs which bring misery to the lives of so many.

What are the plans moving forward?

In 2022, the Government set out its plan for recovering elective care, setting out our commitment to eliminate long waits for treatment.

By 2025, no one should be waiting more than a year for elective care in the NHS and waiting times for referral to treatment for cancer care should **return to pre-pandemic levels**. Having met its target that no one should be waiting longer than two years, **the NHS aims to eliminate waits of over 65 weeks by March 2024**.

I will hold local health bosses to account

I am confident that, with our strong record of delivery up to this point, as well as the immediate and longer-term measures we have set out, we can make an important difference in reducing waiting times over the coming years. **I will continue to hold our local NHS Acute Trust to account on these backlog targets so that people are able to access treatment when they need it.**



Recruiting more doctors and nurses

NHS staff are the foundation on which our healthcare system is built. Whether this be doctors, nurses, porters, or any of the other professionals that make up our National Health Service, they all make an invaluable contribution to meeting our health needs and I applaud their dedication.

For this reason, it is imperative we have effective workforce planning across all professions within the NHS. To meet the complex and varied health needs of our local population, we must have the right personnel.

What's been achieved so far?



There are now **more doctors and nurses working at the Alex than when Rachel was first elected.**

What more needs to be done?



We need to recruit more doctors and nurses to support the return of services to the Alex.

What's the plan to recruit more healthcare staff?

Most important to the Government's approach in the medium and long-term is making sure we can get the staff we need to fill current vacancies and encourage those who are already there to stay.

Significant work has been undertaken to retain the staff we already have. In 2022, the Government published Our Plan for Patients. As part of this strategy, a commitment was made to change elements of the NHS pension scheme to help retain doctors, nurses and other senior NHS staff, to increase capacity.

I will also persist with my support of the Three Counties Medical School where doctors will be trained in Worcestershire for the first time. By training doctors locally, it is my hope more are encouraged to stay here and work in our hospitals, **facilitating the return of further services to the Alex.**

The Government has published a Long-Term Workforce Plan to deal with the immediate and medium to long-term issues affecting recruitment and retention in the NHS, and I will work with local health bosses and the Government to ensure this Plan helps us to achieve our goal of returning a maternity and children's service to the Alex.



The social care you need

My mum is living with dementia, and like many of you I have had to navigate the social care system.

Based on my own personal experience and having heard the stories of residents who have faced tough challenges and difficult decisions when it comes to the care of our friends and loved ones, I recognise the social care system could be working better both for those who use it and for those caring for others.

That's why, since I was first elected in 2017, I have made improving social care a top priority. And we've made significant progress since I made that commitment, but there is still more to do.

What's been achieved so far?

The Government's Adult Social Care Reform White Paper in 2021 set out a ten-year vision for care that puts people and families at its heart. Its core principles are to ensure that everyone has choice, control and support to live independent lives; that everyone can access outstanding personalised care and support and that social care is fair and accessible for everyone. The White Paper is part of wider social care plans, backed by **£5.4 billion**, which for the first time **provides a limit to the cost of care for everyone in the adult social care system**, and **significantly increases state support**.

What more needs to be done?

Whilst we've taken important steps on the journey to reforming social care, and ensuring we give more people the dignified care that we all want for our loved ones, there is still more to do.

My Long-Term Plan for the Delivery for the Health and Social Care commits to supporting further legislation to support social care reform and further investment in the system on top of the billions of pounds the Government has already invested in social care.

There must also be a renewed focus on **supporting discharge from hospital into the community, bolstering the social care workforce**, and **to free up hospital beds for patients who need them**.

I'm committed to achieving these outcomes to ensure you and your loved ones receive the care you deserve.



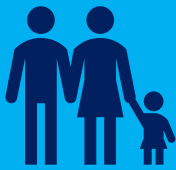
Fight to secure the return of a maternity service



Tackle the Covid backlogs



Expand state-of-the-art robot-assisted surgery



Fight to secure the return of a children's service



Improve adult social care



Support the recruitment of more doctors and nurses

My promises to you



The Alex to become an 'outstanding' hospital



Improve access to GP services



Secure more investment in mental health services



Improve access to NHS dental services



**Long-Term
Plan** for the
**Delivery of
Health &
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Rachel Maclean

Working hard for Redditch & the Villages

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