



The voice of NHS leadership

Analysis: NHS performance statistics up to and including December 2016

This briefing provides an overview of the key findings from the latest set of NHS performance data and some relevant points of comparison.

Headlines include:

- A&E attendances in the first nine months of 2016/17 are 4 per cent higher in major (type 1) units and 3.8 per cent higher overall compared to same period in 2015/16.
- Emergency admissions via type 1 A&Es are up 4 per cent between April and December 2016, compared to April to December 2015.
- Trolley waits are 65 per cent higher to date in 2016/17 compared to the same period in 2015/16. There were more trolley waits longer than 12 hours in the third quarter of 2016/17 alone than the whole of any previous year.
- The proportion of delayed days that are deemed to be the responsibility of social care organisations has increased from 26.2 to 33.9 per cent between April and December 2013 and April and December 2016.
- The proportions of patients both seen within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer and that commenced cancer treatment within one month of the decision to treat were the highest for the whole of 2016 in December.
- The number of patients on the waiting list has fallen to its lowest level since June, but the proportion patients waiting less than 18 weeks fell below 90 per cent for the first time in nearly six years.
- While it fell to its lowest proportion since June, the new early intervention in psychosis waiting time continues to be met comfortably, at 74.4 per cent, compared to the 50 per cent threshold.
- The number of people waiting more than six weeks for a diagnostic test is 19.5 per cent lower than December 2015.

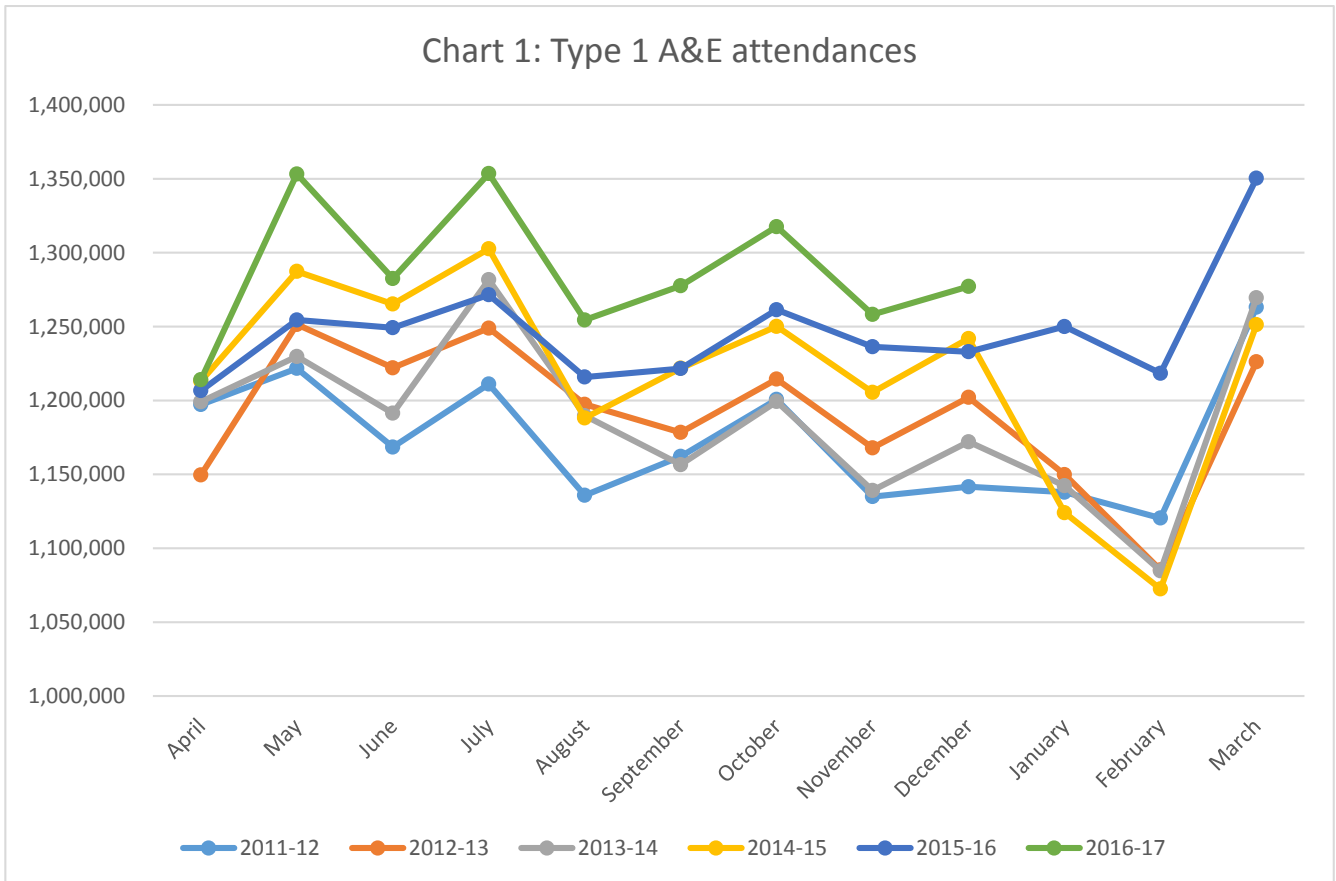
A&E attendances

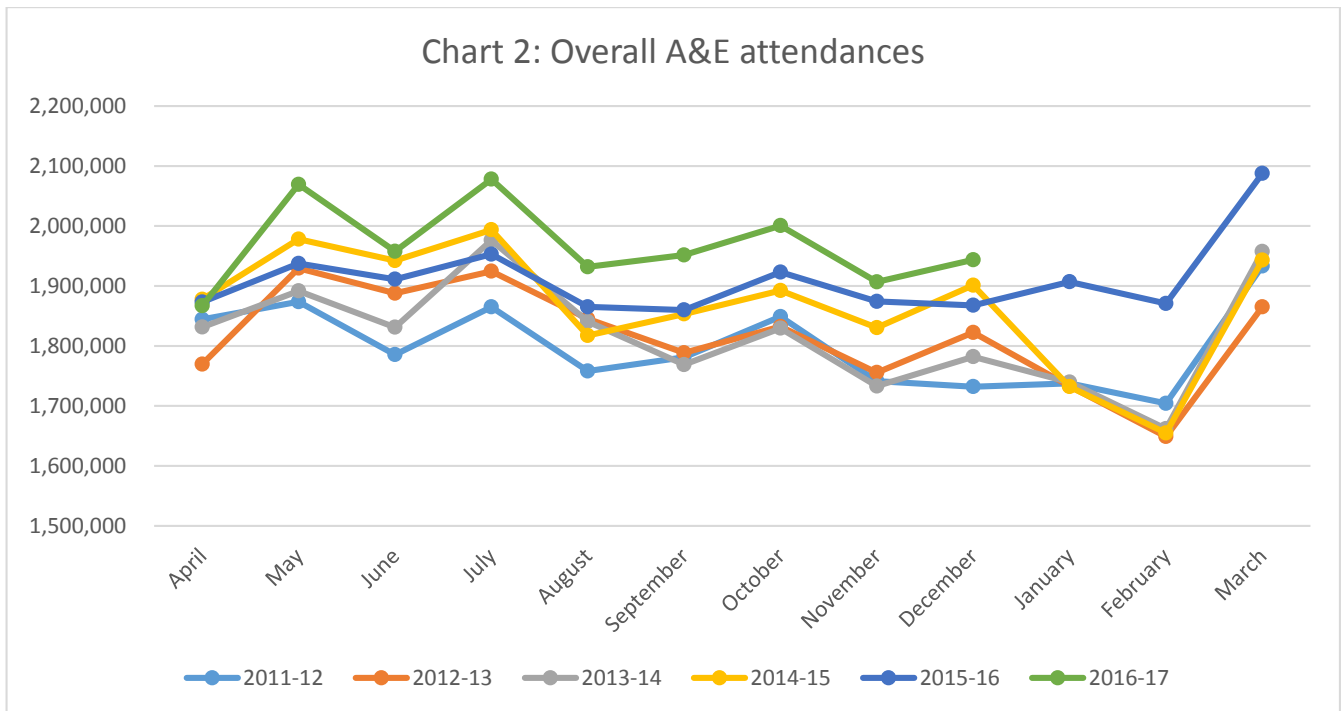
Attendances in both major (type 1) A&E units and overall are continuing to follow seasonal patterns when compared to previous years, however we are continuing to see record highs. In the first nine months of 2016/17, type 1 attendances (11.588m) are 3.93 per cent higher than the same period in 2015/16 (11.150m) and up 9.59 per cent on the same period in 2011/12 (10.574m).

Attendances across all types of A&E services (17.706m) are 3.76 per cent higher in 2016/17 to date compared to the same period in 2015/16 (17.065m) and 9.10 per cent more than the same point of 2011/12 (16.230m).

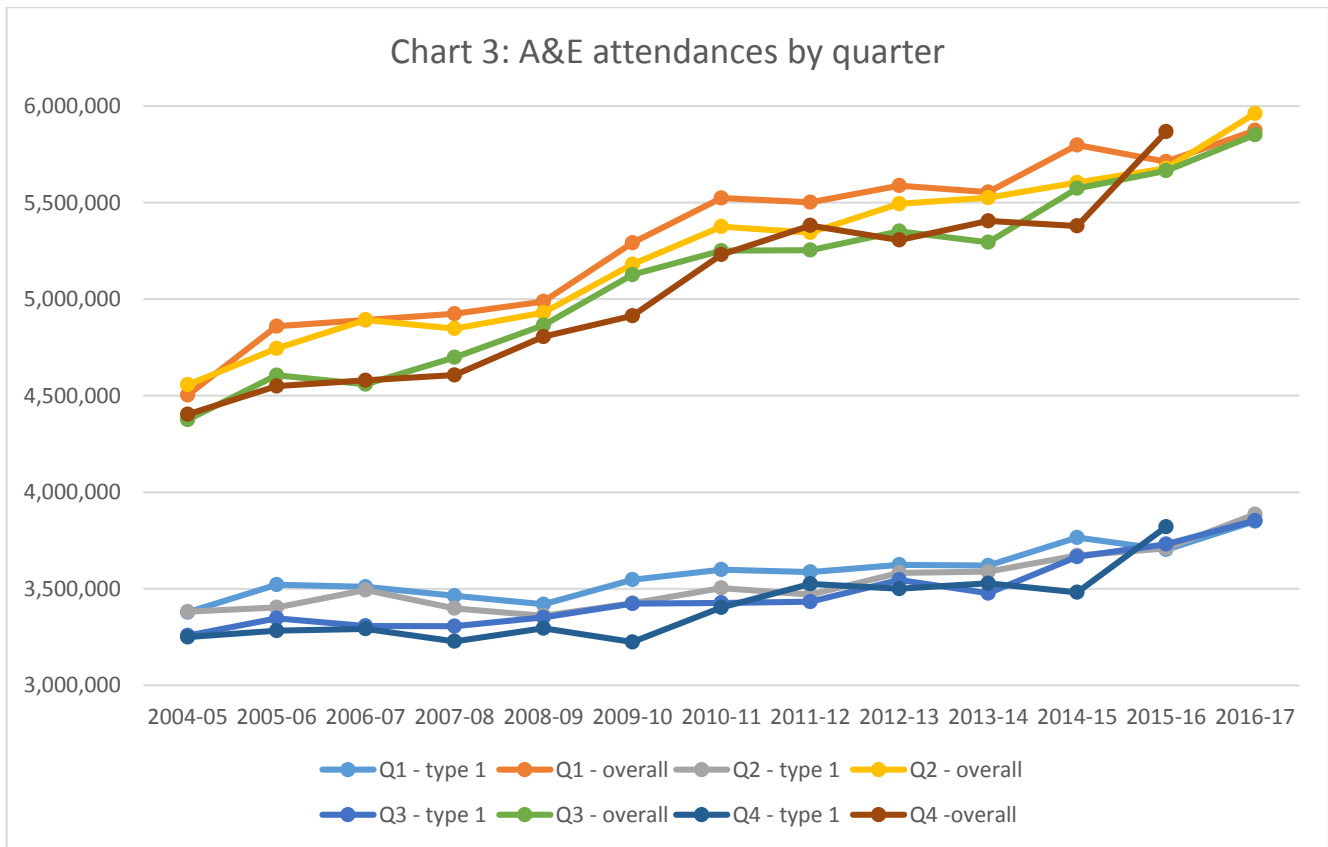
Charts 1 and 2 provide an updated perspective on the year to date and comparison points. 2015-16 was the exception among previous years in that attendances continued to climb into

January and we can expect that to be replicated in January of this year when the official data is finalised in March.





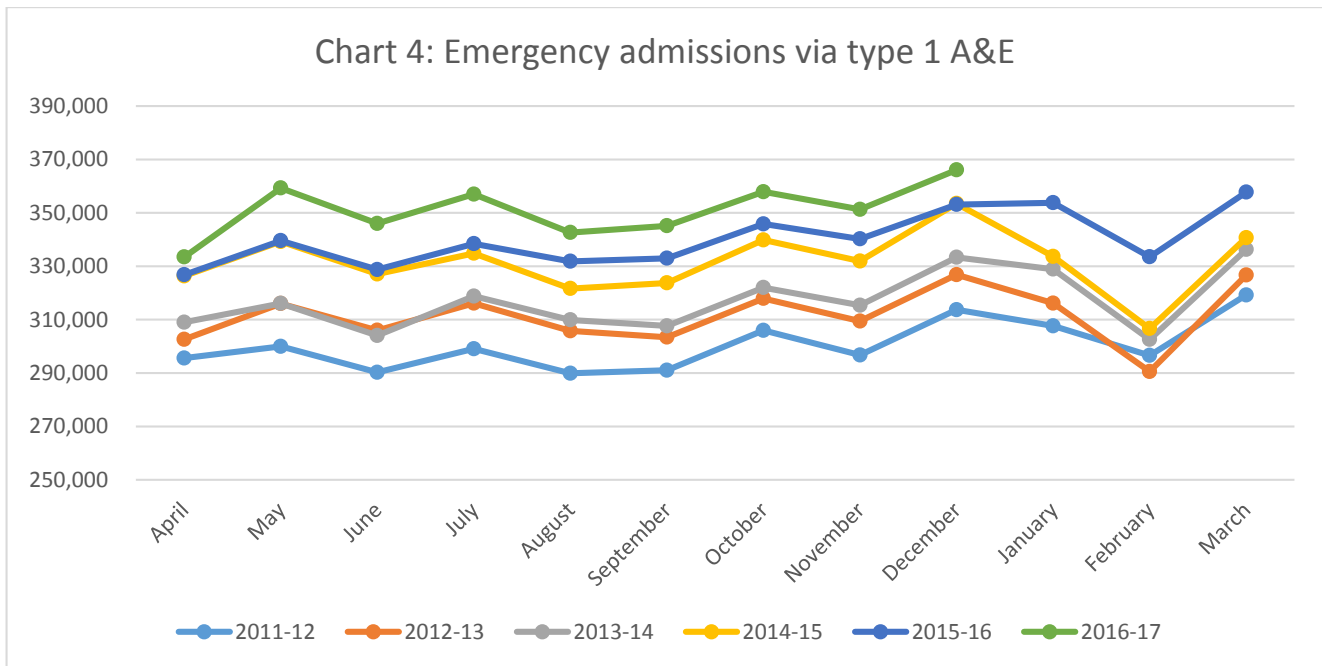
Quarterly attendance data over a longer timeframe illustrates the growing demand for the minor A&E units (types 2 and 3). The third quarter of 2016/17 generated the lowest number of A&E attendances in the year so far (5.851m), but this was still 3.3 per cent higher than the same quarter in 2015/16 (5.665m). In the past ten years, the number of attendances in quarter four was higher than quarter three on only four occasions, although two of those were in the last three years alone.



Emergency admissions, via type 1 A&E

The situation here is similar to above, as illustrated in chart 4 below. Emergency admissions via type 1 A&E units have amounted to 3.159m in the period to December, 3.99 per cent up on the same months in 2015/16 (3.038m) and 17.77 per cent up on the same months in 2011/12 (2.682m).

Chart 4: Emergency admissions via type 1 A&E

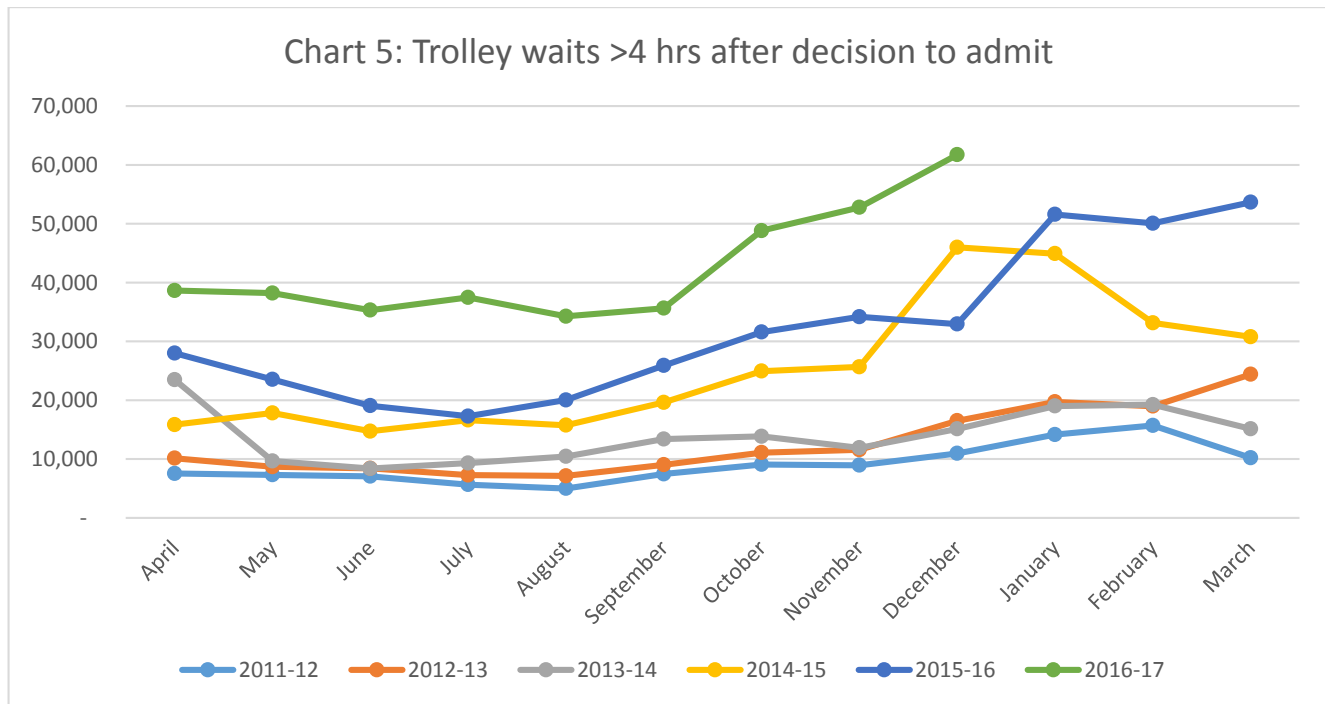


Trolley waits

There has been a substantial rise in ‘trolley waits’, with 382,796 patients having waited in excess of four hours between decision to admit and actual admission in the first nine months of 2016/17, 64.67 per cent more than the corresponding period last year.

In December 2016 there were 61,727 ‘trolley waits’, 16.98 per cent more than the previous month and almost double the number in December 2015 (32,939).

Moreover in the third quarter of 2016/17 alone, there have been more cases where a patient had a trolley wait longer than 12 hours (1,257) than were recorded for any whole year in the past (1,245 such cases in 2014-15).



Delayed transfers of care (DToC)

In December, the number of patients subject to a delayed transfer at midnight on the last Thursday of the month actually fell to its lowest number since June (6,121), at 6,191. This was a decline of 9.29 per cent on the previous month.

Meanwhile delayed days rose slightly compared to November, by just 0.83 per cent to 195,680. This figure does remain below the level recorded for both September and October. The number of delayed days for which the NHS was deemed to be responsible declined for the third consecutive month, at 109,699, to reach its lowest point since July (108,792). However the number of delayed days for which social care organisations were deemed to be responsible reached a new peak in December, at 70,217. This was 4.06 per cent higher than November and 41.41 per cent more than just the same month in 2015.

There have now been a total of 1.669m delayed days in 2016/17 to date compared to 1.053m in the same period in 2013/14. Social care organisations have been responsible for a growing proportion of DTOCs, with the percentage rising from 26.17 per cent between April to December 2013 to 33.89 per cent between April to November 2016.

Chart 6: Delayed days by responsible organisation
April - December 2016

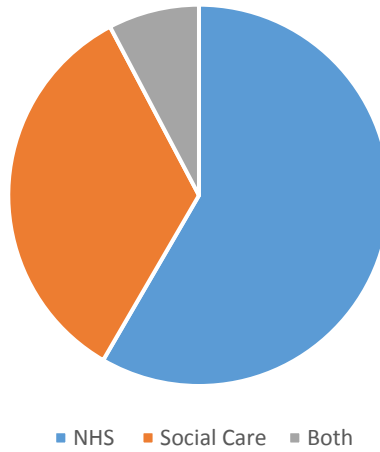
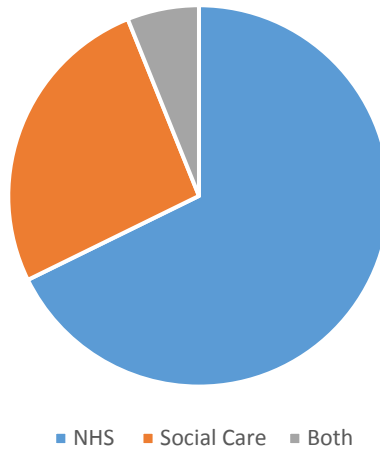


Chart 7: Delayed days by responsible organisation
April - December 2013



Cancer waiting times

- The proportion of patients seen by a consultant within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer was 95.5 per cent in December 2016, the highest percentage since February 2015 (95.6 per cent). Moreover performance on this measure in the third quarter of 2016/17 (95.1 per cent) was the best since the corresponding quarter of 2013/14 (95.6 per cent)
- 97.9 per cent of cancer patients in December received their first treatment within one month of the decision being made to treat. This was down very slightly on the corresponding month in 2015 (98.0 per cent), but was the highest proportion achieved throughout 2016.
- 83.0 per cent received their first cancer treatment within two months of GP referral in December, which remains below the 85 per cent operational standard. When considering performance across quarters, the operational standard was last attained in Q3 in 2013/14 (85.6 per cent).

Ambulance indicators

- 66.4 per cent of Red 1 and 58.8 per cent of Red 2 calls received a response within 8 minutes in December. 87.7 per cent of Category A calls overall received a response within 19 minutes. In each case these proportions were the lowest for 2016/17 to date.
- 10.8 per cent of emergency calls were resolved through telephone advice or 'hear and treat' in December, the highest percentage attained in the current financial year.
- 434,444 transported incidents were recorded by ambulance trusts in December, 6.39 per cent more than the previous month.
- In September, 28.7 per cent of those suffering from an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest who had resuscitation either continued or commenced by ambulance services achieved spontaneous circulation on their arrival at hospital. In the first six months of 2016-17, performance on this measure stands at 29.0 per cent, compared to the current annual peak of 27.8 per cent achieved in 2015/16.

Referral to treatment: the waiting list

- The number of patients on the waiting list has fallen to its lowest level since June, with the total decreasing to 3.658m in December.
- Only 89.70 per cent had been waiting less than 18 weeks, the first time the proportion had fallen below 90 per cent since March 2011 (89.45 per cent). The 92 per cent threshold has now been breached for ten straight months.
- The number of patients waiting longer than 52 weeks fell very slightly, from 1,236 in November to 1,228 in December.
- Median waits have now reached 7.2 weeks, compared to 6.7 weeks in December 2015 and 6.5 in December 2014.

Other key points of waiting time data

- 74.4 per cent of service users with their first episode of psychosis commenced treatment within two weeks of referral in December 2016. This was the lowest proportion since June (73.3 per cent), but remains well above the 50 per cent threshold. The number of service users waiting in excess of twelve weeks reached a new low, at just ten cases.
- After having fallen to a near-three year low in November, the number of patients waiting in excess of 6 weeks for a diagnostic test increased to 14,093 in December. This was the highest number since April (15,700), but remains below the level of December 2015 by 19.50 per cent (17,507)

Source for all data: [NHS England](#), February 2017

Related resources

- [A workforce fit for the future: Working together to improve the delivery of urgent and emergency care](#)
- [Analysis: NHS performance statistics up to and including November 2016](#)
- [Growing old together: Sharing new ways to support older people](#)
- [Key facts and trends in acute care](#)
- [Rip off the sticking plaster now: Enabling the local implementation of sustainable urgent and emergency care models in 2015/16](#)
- [Ripping off the sticking plaster: Whole-system solutions for urgent and emergency care](#)

For further information on any of the issues covered in this briefing please contact Sam Hunt, knowledge and research manager, at Sam.hunt@nhsconfed.org