

Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS

Summary - Part 2

Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS is a government **White Paper** that was published on 12th July by the new coalition Government.

A **White Paper** is something a Government writes letting people know what it's going to do before it takes those things to the Houses and Parliament and MPs vote them into law.

Here is some information about how the new government say that they will put people first in their plans to make the NHS better.

Helping people to choose

The government says that not enough people using the NHS are able to help the NHS to improve. It says that from now on there will be a new NHS **commissioning board** that will make sure patients and carers can work with doctors and nurses to make choices about how they are looked after.

A **commissioning board** is made up of people who make big decisions on services available to people living in different areas of the country. They might decide things like what services are available, who runs those services, what the services do for the people who use them and sometimes how much money services should get.

Giving people more information

To help people to make these choices, the government plans to make more information available about medical conditions, how they are treated and how to live healthier lives in a way that is easy for people to find and to understand. This will include an online service where people can talk to doctors about how they are feeling. But different organisations will be asked to

give information in other ways for people who cannot use a computer or who need things explaining to them in ways that they can understand better. An example might be if they have a learning disability or if they have difficulties communicating.

Doctors and nurses will also collect more information on how people feel about the health services they are getting in all sorts of different ways. This will include letting patients “mark” medical services on how well they were looked after.

Hospitals will also have to be more honest and tell people when things have gone wrong in the way they were looked after.

At the moment, hospitals write a report every year saying how well they are doing at looking after people with dignity and making them feel better. These reports are called **Quality Accounts**. The Government wants everyone who gives health care to write these from 2011. Bradford LINK has a **Health Care Quality Working Group** that checks these accounts to make sure they are fair. This working group will have a lot more accounts to look at so we will need to find ways of checking accounts more efficiently.

People will be able to decide who looks at their health records and can ask to look at any changes made to their own records. Researchers trying to improve people’s health will be able to look at health records if people say that they can, and there will be a quality system that these researchers can get which will show people that they can be trusted with personal information.

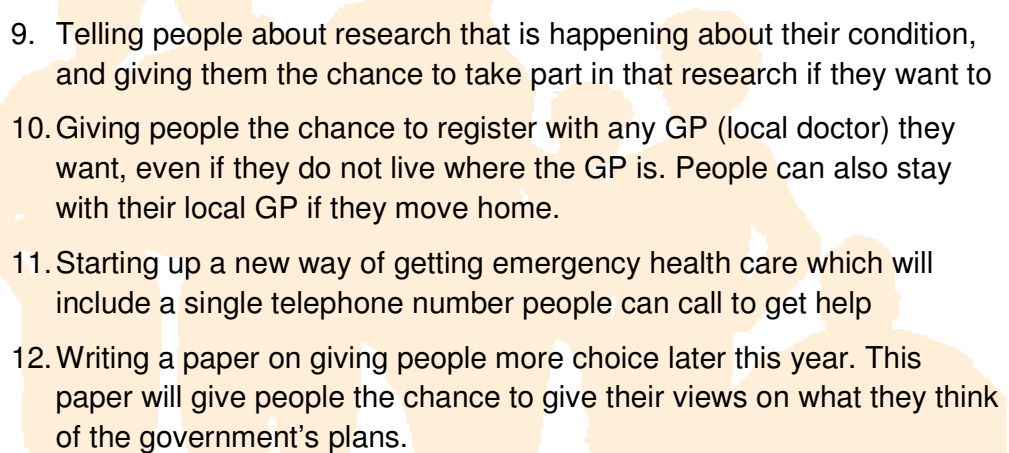
The government will be writing another paper in the autumn that will talk about how these new ways of giving people information will work. This paper will give people the chance to give their views on what they think of the government’s plans.

Giving people more choice

From now on, people will have more choice about how, when and where their health is looked after. But they will also be responsible for the choices they make and how they are looked after.

The government is planning on giving people more choice by:

1. Increasing the amount of places people can go for NHS health care
2. Assuming that everyone has the right to choose how they are looked after (except for emergency care)
3. Letting people going in for planned surgery choose who operates on them

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4. Giving pregnant women more choice on how and where they have their baby
 5. Letting people with mental health conditions have choice on how they are looked after
 6. Giving people choices of how they are checked for a medical condition (diagnosis) and what they want to do if it is found they have that condition
 7. Letting people with long-term conditions choose how they are looked after
 8. Giving people who are reaching the end of their lives choices of how to have a good death. Working with both the NHS and hospices to give these people the extra help they need
 9. Telling people about research that is happening about their condition, and giving them the chance to take part in that research if they want to
 10. Giving people the chance to register with any GP (local doctor) they want, even if they do not live where the GP is. People can also stay with their local GP if they move home.
 11. Starting up a new way of getting emergency health care which will include a single telephone number people can call to get help
 12. Writing a paper on giving people more choice later this year. This paper will give people the chance to give their views on what they think of the government's plans.

The previous government started giving people more choice. They did this by trying out a new system called personal health budgets. This system gives people money to spend on the kind of health care that they feel is best for them. The new government thinks these personal health budgets are a good thing and will continue trying out this system. In 2012 they will check to see how the system has worked. If it has worked well, they might give personal budgets to a lot more people.

What are we going to do?

This White Paper is very large and complicated. In this summary, we have written about two of the most important parts of it. We will write summaries of other important parts in the future.

Bradford LINK is going to have a meeting in October to talk about how the White Paper will change things for you and your health and social care needs. We will let you know more about this in a future issue of the Connect Update.

Also our **Health Care Quality Working Group** (which used to be called the Foundation Trust Work Group) met on the 27th July to talk about what the

White Paper will mean for people in Bradford and Airedale. We will tell you on their ideas in the edition of Connect Update.

Have Your Say

If you would like to read the whole of the White Paper for yourself, it is available by clicking on the following link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353

If you want to let the new Government know what they think about the White Paper right now, then you can do this by emailing to:

nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk or writing to:

NHS White Paper Team
Room 601, 6th Floor
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

You need to tell them what you think by **5th October 2010**

