

# Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS – Part 3

The government has written a **White Paper** called *Equity and excellence: liberating the NHS*. This was published on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

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.

In this summary of the White Paper we will be looking at how the government is planning to work with the NHS in the future.

## A new group to make decisions

The government says that it will set up a new group called the NHS commissioning board. This board will look at what kind of help people want from the people who run health services and will try to make sure that that help is given by choosing to put money into the kinds of services people say they would like.

## How the government and the NHS will work together

The White Paper makes it very clear how the government and the all the parts of the NHS will work together. It will also cut down the number of ways the government minister in charge of health could keep changing the way the NHS works. This will help people to be able to see how the NHS and government work and make the plans that the NHS has to help people less likely to be changed when they are working well.

## Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will be cut

With the NHS commissioning board putting money into services people want and local doctors (GPs) helping their patients to make choices about how they are looked after, organisations called Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) which currently make choices about local health services, will be cut to save money.

## Local councils will have more power

Local Councils will set up “health and wellbeing boards” to sell the benefits of people living healthily. Having these boards will let councils help local people by getting the people in charge of health and social care to work together better.



Local councils will work with local HeathWatch (formerly Local Involvement Networks - LINKs) to make sure that people's views about what kinds of local health care they want are listened to and acted on. Councils will then be able to talk to the NHS commissioning board about making sure local people get this help.

### What happens next?

This White Paper is the first of a number of papers that the new government is writing about how health care is going to change and get better. We wrote a summary of the first 3 of these consultation papers in the last edition of Connect update and this edition will include 2 more.

### What are we going to do?

This White Paper is very large and complicated. In this edition of the Connect Update, we have written about two of the most important parts of it, and we will write about other important parts in future issues. 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](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353)

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.

### Kings Fund paper

At the same time as the White Paper was written, The King's Fund – a nationwide health research organisation – wrote its own paper, called "Improving NHS productivity: More with the same, not more of the same".

This paper looks at the funding cuts that Sir Derek Wanless said would happen in a report he wrote in 2002, and says how it thinks the NHS could cope with less money.

The Kings Fund paper says that the NHS will need to:

- Do the same things as it does now but with less money. To do this it needs to get good value for money from the people it employs and the help that it "buys in"
- Cut the amount of days staff miss because of sickness and make them want to work harder by offering better chances for training and promotion. It also needs to stop too many people doing paperwork.



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- Stop doctors and nurses doing lots of different kinds of things in different places, and have them do things to the same standard of quality everywhere.
- Cut the amount of money spent on giving out drugs (12% of the whole NHS budget) by making sure only the right number and kinds of drugs are given to people.
- Make sure that people are not being taken to hospital all the time when they have long-term illnesses by looking after them better in their own homes
- Having different local health care organisations work together to get the best standards of health quality with good value for money

The Kings Fund warns that if the new coalition government change the way that the NHS works, the people in charge of hospitals will be so busy looking at these changes that they might not have time to do what is needed to get good value for money.

## Have Your Say

You can read the full White Paper by following the link below

[www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingthenhs](http://www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingthenhs)

You can tell the new government what you think about the ideas White Paper right now.

You can email: [nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

You can write to

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

You need to tell them what you think by **5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**