



NHS Newsweek 16/07/10

Government launches reform of NHS financing and structure

The government has set out its plans to reform the NHS over the next four years in a new White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. Its aims are to devolve power from Whitehall to patients and professionals and move the focus of healthcare management to quality of care. The White Paper outlines major changes in both funding and structure of the NHS. The government wants to reduce NHS management costs by 45% over four years — in NHS funding and regulation, not GP practices and acute trusts — by dismantling primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, and supposedly reducing layers of bureaucracy. A new NHS Commissioning Board will be set up to fund and oversee the GP consortia. The health improvement functions of PCTs will be transferred to local authorities under "health and wellbeing boards" or within existing partnerships, to join social care, health improvement and commissioning of NHS services. In secondary care, the foundation trust model will be streamlined and become the model for all NHS hospitals. This will also apply to all providers of commissioned care. By 2013 all NHS hospital trusts will have to become foundation trusts, which means regulation by Monitor and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Monitor becomes just a financial regulator. The government also says that it wants to simplify the reporting of large numbers of data returns to the Department of Health.

Source of Extract: bjhcim.co.uk/news

Lansley: 'no job left for PCTs'

Primary care trusts will be abolished, health secretary Andrew Lansley has announced in his white paper for NHS reform. The paper says PCTs will be abolished "from 2013" because they will no longer have a role. Most commissioning will be done by GP-led consortia. The rest will be done by a new NHS commissioning board.

Source of Extract: HSJ

Pro-market agenda drives NHS reforms

On Monday the government unveiled a radical, pro-market agenda in healthcare with proposals to encourage hospitals to increase private income and give GPs responsibility for "buying" medical services. Health services will be judged by results, and failing hospitals will be allowed to go bust. GPs will be handed much of the multimillion-pound budget handled by primary care trusts (PCTs), which will be abolished along with strategic health authorities. Unions said the proposals, set out by the health secretary, Andrew Lansley, were an "untested, expensive exercise in political dogma".

Source of Extract: The Guardian

Councils gain wider role in health shake up

Councils are set to gain wide-ranging powers as part of the coalition government's shake up of the National Health Service. Under the plans in the White Paper. Consortia of GPs, accountable to an NHS Commissioning Board, will take on the responsibility of commissioning most health services from PCTs, while councils will assume the trusts' public health functions and lead the integration of health and social care at the local level. Councils will seek to join up services through new local health and wellbeing boards and, with a national public health service, will jointly appoint directors of local public health. Local authorities will be responsible for: Promoting integration and partnership working between the NHS, social care, public health and other local services and strategies, Leading joint strategic needs assessments, and promoting collaboration on local commissioning plans, Building partnerships for service changes and priorities. There will be an escalation process to the NHS Commissioning Board and the Secretary of State, which retain accountability for NHS commissioning decisions.

Source of Extract: Localgov.co.uk

Leeds heart centre review is 'not a cost-cutting exercise'

review which threatens the future of a children's heart surgery unit in Leeds is "not a cost-cutting exercise", a minister has declared. Health minister Simon Burns said the review into 11 centres in England, including the unit in ward 10 at **Leeds General Infirmary**, aims to ensure that paediatric heart surgeons are delivering the "highest standards of care." NHS experts think it would be better to have fewer, bigger centres as surgeons would then do more procedures and maintain their skills.

Source of Extract: Yorkshire Evening Post

Doctors eager for major NHS Peterborough changes

Eager doctors in Peterborough are preparing to take on the huge challenge of running the city's health services. Just 24 hours after the Government unveiled its historic White Paper on the NHS, pledging to abolish Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), city GPs are already plotting the future of Peterborough's healthcare. Dr Koneru Prasad, of Westwood Clinic, thinks "around 90 per cent" of GP practices in Peterborough are behind plans to give doctors more power and will meet to discuss the creation of a consortium to control local health spending. This consortium would take on responsibilities, including funding GP surgeries, prescriptions and paying for patient services provided by hospitals and mental health trusts, currently held by crisis-hit **NHS Peterborough** from April 2013. Dr Prasad said the Government's plans would save millions in bureaucracy and give patients a better say in how services are run. Representatives from around 30 of the city's NHS GP practices are due to meet in the next few weeks to discuss how to take the proposed consortium forward.

Source of Extract: Evening Telegraph Peterborough

NHS job losses 'inevitable' say bosses

Health bosses last night warned job losses were "inevitable" after it was announced NHS Oxfordshire would be axed. The trust employs 2,200 people, of whom 330 in management and administration are most at risk. Last night **NHS Oxfordshire** spokesman Ronan O'Connor said: "We are working closely with the GPs and other partners across Oxfordshire to understand the impact of these changes. "While some job losses are inevitable it is far too early to talk about the number as we have only had the White Paper for 48 hours."

Source of Extract: Witney Gazette

Departing NHS London chair hits out at Lansley

The NHS London chair who resigned in protest at the government's reconfiguration policy has formally stepped down, leaving the strategic health authority struggling to maintain a functioning board. Sir Richard Sykes, the former GlaxoSmith-Kline chief executive, attended his final board meeting last week. He and four other non-executive directors quit after the health secretary put on hold the capital's service change programme, Healthcare for London.

Source of Extract: HSJ

NHS reforms are attacked by Labour councillors in York

Sweeping Government plans to reform healthcare funding in the UK has prompted Labour councillors in York to table an emergency motion against the changes. This week's full meeting of City of York Council will see members of the Labour group oppose what they see as the privatisation of the NHS, by calling on the council's chief executive to write to the Health Secretary, Andrew Lansley, opposing the reforms. Labour group leader Coun James Alexander said: "The coalition Government clearly has plans to begin the privatisation of healthcare and strategic health commissioning, and it will come as no surprise that Labour will fight this tooth and nail.

Source of Extract: York Times

White paper: DH unit will force foundation trust move

All NHS provider trusts will be regulated by Monitor from April 2013, the white paper says. It says all trusts should become – or become part of – a foundation by the end of 2013-14 but, regardless of this aim, all trusts will pass to Monitor control from April 2013, when strategic health authorities will also be abolished. A unit in the Department of Health will be created to "drive progress and oversee SHAs' responsibilities in relation to providers", says the white paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. Where trusts and SHAs fail to come up with "credible plans" or trusts are unsustainable, the DH will use existing but unused powers to break them up or force takeovers.

Source of Extract: HSJ

Big NHS shake up backed by East of England

ONE of the biggest shake-ups in the history of the National Health Service – which will have a significant impact on patients in Uttlesford – is being backed by **NHS East of England**. The move will lead to the abolition of all primary care trusts, including NHS West Essex which has responsibility for Uttlesford. Hospitals, such as Saffron Walden Community Hospital, will be moved outside of the NHS and will become separate social enterprises. NHS East of England spokesperson said: "We welcome the publication of the Government's White Paper, Liberating the NHS today. "This is a challenging agenda, but we are ready for it and look forward to helping deliver it."

Source of Extract |: Dunmow Broadcast Recorder

NHS - council merger on the cards in Barking and Dagenham

NHS Barking and Dagenham could soon be merging its management team with the council's to save cash and improve services. The cabinet agreed to endorse the move, which would see senior level posts across the PCT and the local authority combined, including at chief executive level. Decision-making power would then be shared between the two organisations, a report put before cabinet members said. As well as an integrated leadership, it is hoped certain departments, such as finance, HR and IT, can also be merged into one. This would reduce management costs and lead to "greater effectiveness and efficiency", according to the report.

Source of Extract: Barking & Dagenham Post

NHS sets £1.7bn aside for reform

The NHS in England has set aside nearly £1.7bn this year for reorganisation - more than seven times what it aims to save on management. The fund - held back from the front line - will help pave the way for GPs to take over budgets from managers. NHS boss Sir David Nicholson said it was there to kick-start the process.

Source of Extract: BBC News