

NHS Update – August 2010
Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS

The Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley, has published a new NHS White Paper, 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS', setting out the coalition Government's vision for the NHS. The White Paper is the first step towards the Government's ambition for the NHS to achieve health outcomes and quality health services that are among the best in the world.

The White Paper sets out proposals for the NHS to become a truly world-class service: a service that is easy to access, treats people as individuals and offers care that is safe and of the highest quality.

This vision puts patients at the heart of everything that the NHS does. This means giving them more choice and the information they need to be able to exercise that choice. It also means putting GPs in charge of local commissioning decisions and setting providers of health services free from top-down targets.

In order to achieve its vision for the NHS, the Government has proposed changes to the way the NHS is organised. It plans to create an independent National Commissioning Board for the NHS. The Board will allocate money to local GP consortia for them to use to commission local health services. Local authorities will take on responsibility for public health and health improvement, currently held by primary care trusts.

As a result of these changes, the Government expect PCTs to cease to exist from 2013 in light of the successful establishment of GP consortia. It is also planned that strategic health authorities will no longer exist from 2012/13. In the meantime, these organisations will have important roles to play in supporting the NHS through a period of change.

For NHS Wiltshire, this means getting ready to ensure we have a safe and effective transfer of responsibilities to GP consortia and Wiltshire Council. It also means making sure that we maintain our focus on securing safe and effective services that deliver value for money and which are as good as they can be.

A number of more detailed, supporting documents have been and will continue to be issued in the following weeks as part of the White Paper consultation process. Details are set out below about how you can forward your comments for the consultation.

Document Title and Link	Deadline
The Centre for Public Scrutiny Equity and Excellence – NHS White Paper Summary http://www.cfps.org.uk/userfiles/file/Equality%20and%20Excellence%20-%20Summary%20of%20key%20themes%20for%20councillors.doc	N/A
Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/LiberatingtheNHS/index.htm	Comments by 5 October
Increasing democratic legitimacy in health http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_117721.pdf	11 October

Commissioning for patients http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_117705.pdf	11 October
Transparency in outcomes: a framework for the NHS http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_117583	11 October

Wiltshire Community Health Services

The White Paper also makes it clear that the Government's commitment to separating NHS provider functions from the commissioning part of Primary Care Trusts is unchanged. The commitment stands that by 1 April 2011, Primary Care Trusts will have divested themselves of directly-provided services. This has a direct implication for the Wiltshire-wide, individual services currently provided by Wiltshire Community Health Services, as well as the clinical and nursing staff employed by Wiltshire Community Health Services.

As a consequence, the Board of NHS Wiltshire agreed at its Board Meeting on 21 July 2010 to put in place appropriate commissioning arrangements to transfer Wiltshire Community Health Services to other NHS organisations. In order to preserve the strengths of the services, the plan is that the transfer will happen in 'clusters'.

- Cluster 1: Maternity – managed transfer to a NHS Trust capable of securing on-going employment for front-line staff on NHS pay and conditions. The resultant contract will have a 3-year term.
- Cluster 2: Children – managed transfer to a NHS Trust for a period of two years with the strategic intent of maintaining the integrated working with Wiltshire Council.
- Cluster 3: Miscellaneous – The PCT will pursue the transfer of each of these services via the appropriate contractual arrangements, as outlined in the option appraisal.
- Cluster 4: Adult Services – managed transfer to an NHS organisation capable of securing on-going employment for front-line staff on NHS pay and conditions. The resultant contract will have a 3-year term.

Expressions of interest will be received from other NHS provider organisations, including Great Western Hospital, Royal United Hospital, Bath and Salisbury Foundation Trust. In considering the proposals from these organisations, NHS Wiltshire will look at how they propose to continue delivering the high-quality clinical services which WCHS staff currently provide and to build on the successes of these services. This is likely to result in the transfer of frontline clinical staff into the relevant NHS organisations.

Reduction in management costs

The Coalition Government has asked for a 45% national decrease in NHS management costs by the end of 2013, linking to new models of working and shifts in commissioning responsibilities. NHS Wiltshire is therefore reviewing corporate teams and structures across HR, finance, IM&T, PALS and Communications teams, reducing the number of posts in each area. Redundancies will be made by 31 March 2011.

Stakeholder Assembly - Delivering Value for Patients

Nationally, the NHS is looking at ways to deliver more efficient ways of working in the future. In Wiltshire, we are working on more than 50 projects, led by local clinicians and PCT staff, to deliver savings which can be re-invested in front-line services to manage the increasing

demand from our ageing population, new technologies and new medicines. The projects were shared with stakeholders, including colleagues from the voluntary sector, patients groups, Wiltshire Involvement Network and Wiltshire Council at our Stakeholders Assembly at the end of June. The feedback we received supports the work we are doing and the Board of NHS Wiltshire has agreed thirteen priority projects which will be the focus of work over the next six months so that we start to deliver savings from the beginning of 2011/12.

The next Board meeting will be held on **29 September 2010, venue to be confirmed.**

Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or upon request from Stacey Saunders, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733839, email: stacey.saunders@wiltshire.nhs.uk). For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please contact Jo Howes, Community Engagement Manager, 01380 733929 or jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs