

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS

Implications of NHS White Paper - A Briefing Paper

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Implications of NHS White Paper for Members – A briefing paper

Overview

This briefing paper seeks to guide Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) Members through the recently published NHS White Paper and explores potential impact on the social housing sector in the North. It also serves as a launch point for emerging NHC services around health, social care and housing and provides a timetable for future developments.

Why?

Health inequalities are prevalent across the Northern regions, **life expectancy is at least 2 year less than the national average**, rates of disability or life limiting illness are significantly higher than other parts of the country. Furthermore, when you consider the wider social determinants of health inequality which suggest that those in **the poorest regions have a life expectancy of 7 years less** than richest neighbourhoods and that the **costs** associated with **health inequality run in excess of £73billion per year**, it is absolutely imperative that the social housing sector not only understands the proposed structural, funding and outcome expectations being sculpted for the NHS but works collectively to ensure the North is supported by the proposed policy and not further disadvantaged.

What Next?

The White Paper is one of a series of documents being published by the Government detailing its proposals for the health and social care sectors. The NHC will seek an active dialogue with all parts of government to ensure our voice is heard.

Your Opportunities with the NHC

We are committed to campaigning to reduce health inequalities in the North.

We will be holding a **Reducing Health Inequalities Locally** network meeting on the 14th September 2010 (venue tbc). This is a new free network and we would encourage anyone interested in this agenda to register an interest in attending – to do so please contact Charlotte Harrison, Director of Policy & Practice on the details below.

Contact

For further information on NHC services on this issue, or to contribute to this debate please contact Charlotte Harrison, Director of Policy and Practice;

charlotte.harrison@northern-consortium.org.uk or 0191 566 1000.



Previous Northern Housing Consortium Publications

- Fair Society, Healthy Lives, Marmot Review, Impact on the Housing Sector
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, A Review of Northern Approaches
- Putting People First, National Dementia Strategy Briefing
- Inclusive Design
- Age Friendly Communities: People & Places 2020
- Living Well with Dementia, Considerations for Housing Providers
- Enabling Environments, feedback on the draft standards
- New Horizons, Towards a Shared Vision for Mental Health

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS

The Coalition Government has produced a White Paper setting out radical proposals for the NHS and wider implications on health prevention and social care. The White Paper sets the foundation for a Health Bill to progress to Parliament in autumn 2010.

The White Paper details the Government's Strategy for the NHS, which will remain a comprehensive service, free at the point of use. The Coalition have focused their strategy around the following principles

- Localism
- Patient focus
- Outcomes not targets
- Reduction of inequalities in care
- Clearer accountability
- Working more effectively across boundaries
- More efficient and dynamic
- More sustainable footing – free from frequent political intervention.

The scale of the changes proposed is significant and will have an impact on NHC Members – and particularly, many of the communities you work with.

NHC Viewpoint

If the strategy is properly resourced we see potential opportunities for enhanced integration across the housing, health and social care spectrum - but we very much welcome your input into shaping our response.

The proposals in detail.....

Change of Focus – Prevention and Inequality

The White Paper fundamentally changes the role of the Department of Health (DoH) – its focus on the NHS will be reduced and will operate at a more strategic level. Instead the DoH will focus on;

“Improving public health, tackling health inequalities and reforming adult social care”

This strategic shift will be supported via the publishing of a White Paper for Public Health later this year which will lead to the creation of a new Public Health Service which will integrate and streamline existing health improvement and public health bodies.

Primary Care Trust (PCT) responsibilities will transfer to Local Authorities who will employ the Director of Public Health (jointly with the new Public Health Service (PHS)). The PHS will benefit from a ring fenced public health budget and Directors of Public Health will be responsible for health improvement funds allocated according to population need – within which will be a formula to ensure a “health premium” will be directed at those localities with greatest health inequalities.

NHC Viewpoint

We welcome the focus on prevention and health inequality reduction as this is an area that **impacts significantly on the North**. Furthermore, many NHC Members are actively involved in prevention campaigns and we will strongly argue for a formal role for housing in setting local agendas and priorities.

We welcome the enhanced role for Local Authorities in leading prevention strategies – the Marmot review highlighted that the role of Local Authorities has become unclear as there has been an **artificial separation of health from other major policy areas**. If the proposals in the White Paper can bridge this separation – underpinned of course by an **effective resourcing strategy** we strongly welcome this focus.

Our experience is that NHC Members report patchy involvement in supporting health strategies – if this focus on local areas can realign activity and maximise the impact of our joint endeavours we are confident NHC Members are **keen to be part of the debate**.

Questions

1. **What should go into the formula for determining the allocation of PHS resources?**
2. **How can we better demonstrate the role of housing in successful reduction of health inequalities – what is our USP?**
3. **Are there particular health issues your communities face that are not currently addressed – dementia, mental health, healthy eating, teenage pregnancy, early years deaths...?**
4. **What could the NHC do to support you in this activity?**

Future of Social Care

DoH will continue to have a vital role in setting adult social care policy, with a vision for social care – based on principles of personalisation, independence and responsibility – will be published later in this year.

A funding review will be commissioned and it is expected to report within one year. The funding review will consider both voluntary insurance scheme and a partnership scheme. A key component will involve the consolidation of the law underpinning adult social care – and the Government will work with the Law Commission to achieve this – with a view of a White Paper in 2011.

NHC View Point

We would urge the Government not to let this timetable slip. **Long term health care costs are set to rise by 300% by 2051.** It is inconceivable that we do not have a long term funding solution to this problem within the next 36 months.

NHC Questions

- **Have you quantified your long term care costs at a locality level?**
- **What service gaps are you able to identify?**
- **What resource gaps are you facing?**

Patient and Public Voice – HealthWatch England

The Government proposes to strengthen the collective voice of patients and will create – via the Health Bill – HealthWatch England – a new independent consumer champion within the Care Quality Commission (a regulator/inspector which will have a strengthened role). The possible parallel of consequences for National Tenant Voice (NTV) and Tenant Services Authority (TSA) is an interesting debate for the housing sector which we will explore with the Government.

HealthWatch England will operate within a local infrastructure and Local Authorities will be commission HealthWatch England services. This new consumer voice will seek to engage communities and it may be that NHC Members should consider how well they could or should engage within local HealthWatch England structures.

Incentives for quality improvement

The White Paper sets out its proposal to review payment by results strategies – in particular interest for the housing sector will be a commitment to;

“Implement in 2011/12 further incentives to reduce avoidable readmissions and encourage more joined up working between hospitals and social care for services following discharge”

NHC Viewpoint

We welcome the proposal to incentivise the reduction of avoidable readmissions and will work with DoH and CLG to ensure that housing based services are considered in the shaping of incentivisation – including for example, **reablement services, assistive technology, adaptations, and mental health floating support services.**

We would welcome input from NHC Members on **evaluation models** to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of these services.

NHC Questions

- Do you operate an effective reablement service – how is this evaluated and funded?
- From a LA point of view what reablement gaps are you aware of?
- How widespread is the take up of Assistive technology - particularly the move to telehealth?
- How sustainable is Assistive technology funding?
- What would you like to see the NHS/PHS doing about adaptation services?
- How effective are mental health services?

Localism and the role of GP's

“Equity and Excellence” sets out a new, significantly enhanced role for GPs in the commissioning of local services. Under the localism agenda, the Government is keen to shift decision making as close as possible to individual patients and communities and feels that consortia of GPs offer an ideal platform on which to deliver this locally specific service promise.

GP commissioning is likely to move to a statutory footing and consortia of GP practices (with other health care agencies) will commission the vast majority of NHS services (via the new **NHS Commissioning Board**) for their locality.

The NHS Commissioning Board (accountable and responsible for the allocation of NHS funding) will allocate practice level budgets to GP consortia. GP consortia will have a;

“Duty to promote equalities and to work in partnership with local authorities, for instance in relation to health and adult social care, early years services, public health, safeguarding , and the wellbeing of populations.”

The White Paper sets out a timeframe for the creation of GP consortia which sees them taking full financial responsibility from April 2013.

NHC Request: Can you help?

We would be very keen to hear from Members who have effective and positive practice examples of working with GP practices.

We would welcome a debate with NHC Membership to shape an “offer” we can jointly deliver to GPs to assist them in understanding and accessing the role and remit of social housing providers.

Local Democratic Legitimacy – the LA role

Earlier in this briefing we indicated an enhanced role for Local Authorities – their new duties specifically are;

- 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 partnership for **service change and priorities**

Local Authorities will be required to establish Health and Wellbeing boards with responsibility for joining up commissioning across NHS, social care and health improvement.

NHC Viewpoint

On the face of it these appear to be sensible proposals – Local Authorities should be the best placed agency to identify needs, deliver integration and shape prioritisation.

However –we ask the following questions:

- **What happens within two tier authorities?**
- **Should we lobby to ensure housing sector is a required partner of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)?**
- **What resource requirements does the LA need to fulfil this function**
- **Where in LA's will this function sit – and crucially what is its interface with adult social care and housing?**
- **What remit with the Health and Wellbeing boards be given (or can they shape) – to ensure the wider social determinants of health inequality are accounted for within their activity?**

Outcomes Framework

The White Paper proposes a move away from targets to a focus on outcomes. Whilst this is to be welcomed, and indeed it is one that the social housing sector is also working towards, we do have concerns about the realism of this aspiration.

The time lag inherent in tackling health inequalities or moving towards a preventative agenda is considerable – we would urge the Government (and the new proposed bodies) to have strength of character in allowing services, particularly those developed - and perhaps led at a community level (building the community prescription principles) to have time and resources to demonstrate a shift in outcomes. This is not an easy task and will take time, particularly where we are striving towards behavioural change. There are examples of how the long term impact of this health messages is effective – for example the “Five a Day” campaign but government should not underestimate the commitment required by all to deliver this step change in shaping, delivering and achieving.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The White Paper is seeking views by **5th October 2010**. The NHC will be hosting its first **Reducing Health Inequalities Locally - Network (RHIL-N)** on the **14th September 2010** and we will be tabling our draft response to the White Paper at this meeting. Please register your attendance via Charlotte Harrison (charlotte.harrison@northern-consortium.org.uk)

Our annual Housing, Health and Social Care Conference will be held on **22nd September 2010** and will provide another opportunity to voice your opinions on the White Paper and hear more about the Government’s proposals.

There will follow a number of further government consultation papers around this issue – a summary timetable is provided below:

July 2010	NHS outcomes framework
	Local Democratic legitimacy in health
Autumn 2010	Health Bill introduced
Late 2010	Public Health White Paper
End of 2010	Vision of adult social care
2011	White Paper on Social Care Reform
2011/12	GP Consortia established in shadow form
2012	NHS Outcomes Framework fully implemented
	Strategic Health Authorities abolished
2013	Primary Care Trust’s abolished



NHC Summary

This is indeed a radical shake up of NHS services. We will be seeking to campaign to ensure local authorities (and other agencies) are given appropriate powers and crucially resources to deliver this agenda. We welcome the focus on prevention, on the pressing need to reduce health inequalities and the alignment at a local level.

We hope that NHC Members continue to press hard to be involved in the creation and delivery of health strategy at a local level and would welcome views on how we can continue to support you in this approach.

To support us in responding to the White Paper, please send us your views to Charlotte Harrison, charlotte.harrison@northern-consortium.org.uk.

Don't forget.....

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| 14 th September 2010 | Reducing Health Inequalities Locally -Network (RHIL-N) |
| 22 nd September 2010 | Housing, Health & Social Care Conference |

Northern Housing Consortium Ltd

Webster's Ropery
Ropery Road
Deptford Terrace
Deptford
Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR4 6DJ

Tel: 0191 566 1000 Fax: 0191 566 1001

Website: www.northern-consortium.org.uk

Email: enquiries@northern-consortium.org.uk

