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Modernising the NHS



Click [here](#) to take part in the listening exercise about the modernisation of our health and care system.

Visit www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare and have your say

How the listening exercise is working and how you can help modernise the NHS and care services.

Plus the latest on the future of the Stapleford Walk In Centre.

April 23rd 2011

This is the second edition of my email newsletter about the NHS. I am sending it to everyone who has emailed me about the NHS and the Health and Social Care Bill currently going through Parliament. I have had a large number of emails about the reforms. Personal emails will get a personal reply.

THE VIEW FROM THE OPPOSITION!

LABOUR Shadow Health Minister, John Healey wrote about the Bill in January 2011.

“The general aims of reform are sound – greater role for clinicians in commissioning care, more involvement of patients, less bureaucracy and

» Time to pause and to listen.

In the last few months there has been a great deal of comment on the Coalition Governments Health and Social Care Bill which is going through Parliament.

Many people have genuine concerns about the proposed modernisation of the NHS. Last week I met with a group of physiotherapists who live in the constituency and work at the QMC/City (NUH). They made some good and important points which I will represent and make sure are heard.

There is a natural break in the Bills progress through Parliament, and the Coalition has decided to use the

greater priority on improving health outcomes – and are common ground between patients, health professions and political parties."

And on the need to reform the NHS

"Many staff are disillusioned and disempowered by the top-down, target-driven approach that has dominated much of the last decade of health policy. Patients and the public are deeply concerned about proposed changes to local services, yet feel powerless to influence decisions."

LABOUR Shadow Health Minister, Liz Kendall HSJ, 15 November 2007, who also wrote in 2007.

"PCTs' ability to commission high-quality primary and community services must be transformed. Next week's commissioning framework from the Department of Health must spell out how this will be achieved, including how PCTs can draw on the private and voluntary sectors." *The Guardian, 28 November 2007*

time to pause, listen, reflect and improve our plans to strengthen the NHS. We want to listen and speak with the people who work on the front line of the NHS and with the public up and down the country, as we get the NHS in shape to meet the challenges ahead.

» **Let's have an honest debate**

There has been a considerable amount of mis-information and scare mongering put about. The NHS is not going to be privatised and broken up. There are no plans to introduce American style insurance schemes and no cuts to the NHS Budget.

The Coalition Government remains committed to an NHS paid for through taxation, free to everyone, based on their need not the ability to pay. If someone tells you otherwise, they are not being honest with you! But then we are in the run up to Borough Council elections and the referendum on our voting system, so maybe it's more a matter of election fever.

» **The cost of treatment is rising**

People today are living longer and for the first time ever there are more pensioners in the UK than children under 16. Of course it is great that we are living longer but an ageing population puts increased pressure on the NHS. In a changing Britain no change in the NHS is not an option. Medical science is developing at an extraordinary rate. Better, early intervention not only saves or improves lives it also saves on costs; but many of the excellent medical advances cost a huge amount of money. I want us to keep on investing in the latest drugs and equipment – that's why I am so proud that the Coalition will increase the amount of money going to the NHS (something Labour opposed). But all parties agree there is no bottomless pit of money (tax payers money) and that's why we need to modernise the NHS to make sure we can afford the very best treatment for everyone who needs it.



Managers and the private sector

[CLICK HERE TO READ A "MYTH BUSTER" - GET THE FACTS ABOUT THE NHS REFORMS](#)

NEWS

Stapleford Walk-in Centre Reprieve.

Working with the Labour MP for Ashfield, Gloria del Piero, we have persuaded Notts County Council to refer the decision by Notts PCT, to close the walk in centres in Stapleford and Kirby-in-Ashfield, to the Health Secretary.

The decisions will be examined by a committee who can decide to launch a six month enquiry and then make recommendations to the Secretary of State. In the meantime both walk-in-centres remain open. Gloria and I met with Notts PCT earlier this week to press the case for better access to GP's and practice nurses in both towns.

Hayward House

BBC East Midlands today reported the protest over the proposed changes at Hayward House at the City Hospital I watched and listened to the item. But I was surprised at the placards some protestors were holding. The PCT's plans have nothing to do with the Health and Social Care Bill (other than the Bill abolishes PCT's) and nothing to do with "spending cuts" as the Government is **increasing** the NHS budget. It is a pity that a good and valid campaign is in danger of being taken over by

The number of managers in the NHS doubled under the last Government, productivity in hospitals fell, and doctors, nurses and other health professionals were tied up in a bloated bureaucracy.

I think it is also very important to remember that the last Government introduced the private sector into the NHS on a scale we have never seen before, and then skewed the pricing system to the benefit of the private sector. By last year £1 in every £20 spent in the NHS went to either the private or voluntary sector (audited Primary Care Trust summarisation schedules 2006–07 to 2009–10, Department of Health).

» How we can make the Health and Social Care Bill better

The Bill will give GP's the power to commission services, give groups of nurses, midwives or other health professionals the power to come together and form co-ops to take over the running of their service – it will take power away from bureaucrats and give it back to the professionals. And it will enable choice for all of us who use the NHS.

But as I said at the beginning, it is a good idea to pause and consult again with health professionals and patients. I think there is a good argument for more transparency of the GP commissioning process and to make sure that all relevant health professionals (like physio's, nurses and midwives) are part and parcel of the GP commissioning process.

I will continue to keep you informed of how the listening exercise is progressing and will represent the views of health professionals at the highest level.

What I would ask you please to do, is to visit the Department of Health's web site ([click here](#)) and please take part in the consultation; please send me a copy of your submissions.

Thank you for contacting me and please keep in touch.

people with a political agenda.



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