

Short version of our plan for the National Health Service (NHS)



EasyRead version of:

Our Strategy for the NHS: an executive summary
From: 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'



The Government believes the National Health Service (NHS) should mean everyone can get good, free healthcare.



We will spend more money on health each year that we are in Government.



We want our Health Service to be one of the best in the world.



We have written this plan to explain how we could do this. This is the EasyRead version of the plan.



These are our plans. We want your views on how best to take them forward.

We also want to know what people think about certain questions, which we ask later in the document.

Thinking about what is important to people



The NHS will do the things that are important to patients.

We will give patients better information and more choice and control.



Patients will have:

- more say in decisions – ‘no decisions about me without me’



- information to make choices about their care



- more control over things that are written down about their health



- more choice about who helps them look after their health



- the chance to say what they think about hospitals and other people who give healthcare



- healthcare organisations that are honest when a mistake happens or something goes wrong



- organisations working together to give people care that is right for them and their carers



- a group called **HealthWatch England** to speak up for them.



We will check that this works well for everyone, whatever support they need for their health.

Making healthcare better

We want good quality healthcare to make sure people:



- live longer



- are more healthy



- are safer when they need treatment



- have better care and support.



We will do this by making sure:

- we check that the NHS does things to make people's health better



- people who work in health services know it is ok to speak up and share information to make sure patients are safe



- that the quality of a service is thought about when people plan, pay for and check health services



- we will change the way we pay companies for new medicines and help patients to get the medicines their doctors say they need





- we will involve patients in choosing how money is spent on their care



- healthcare comes from different organisations. They will be paid for making people healthier, not just how many people they see.

Giving healthcare services more control



The Government wants healthcare services to be right for the people who use them.



This means:

- services will listen to what local people are saying



- new laws will be passed to give the NHS more control over how it does things



- groups of local doctors will plan and buy services their patients need



- health, social care and the NHS will work together to make sure local people get the services they need



- the Government will leave the NHS to run health services.



An independent organisation called the **NHS Commissioning Board** will check they involve patients fairly and run things properly



- all NHS organisations will have more control over how they run services. This includes staff having more of a say



- we will give the Care Quality Commission (CQC) more power to check health and social care services



- we will make sure there is money to give everyone an equal chance of getting the services they need.

Making it easier to get things done



The NHS will have to use its money better. They will have to:

- save £20 billion by 2014 and use this money to give people better healthcare

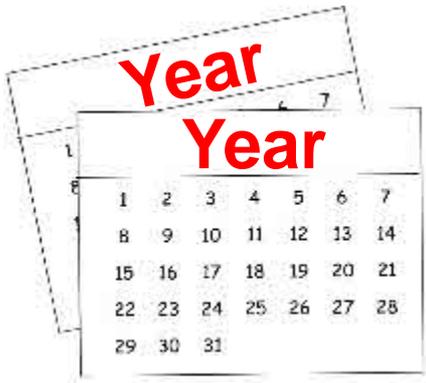


- spend less on managers and use this money to pay for more people like doctors and nurses



- cut down on the number of organisations that are involved in healthcare, so that more money is available to provide healthcare for patients.

Making it happen



This is a plan for making differences that will last a long time.



NHS



It will give the NHS clear ideas about how to run good quality services that people need.



We are planning lots of changes all through the NHS.



Parliament will need to agree new laws to make some of these things happen.

What do you think?



We want people to tell us what they think. Some of the questions we want answers to are:

NHS



How should the NHS decide on the most important things to work on?



How can health and social care services work better together to help people be healthier?



How could local doctors and social services work better together to make sure there are the right services?



To make services better local doctors and the new NHS board need to involve local people. What is the best way to do this?



HealthWatch is the new group who will speak up for patients. How can they work with local people to make sure the things people say are heard?



What can we do to make sure that these new plans treat everyone fairly?



Healthcare comes from different organisations. How can we make sure they all have the same chances to get work?



You can tell us what you think by sending your answers to these questions in an email to:

nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Or by posting a letter to:



**NHS White Paper Team,
Room 601,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall,
London
SW1A 2NS**



Please also tell us of other things you like about the Government's plans for the NHS, or things that you do not like about them.

Credits



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