



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 21 September 2010

Subject: Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS – White Paper

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide details of the new Government's overall vision for the future of the NHS via its White Paper, '*Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*' – which sets out key proposals for change and reform. This paper also seeks to introduce a range of inputs from local stakeholders around the proposals and likely implications.

2.0 Background

2.1 In early July 2010, the new Government published its overall vision for the future of the NHS via its White Paper, '*Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*' – which set out key proposals for change and reform. In mid-July 2010, under the umbrella of the White Paper the Government also published a suite of consultation papers setting out more specific and detailed proposals. The current consultation documents are:

- Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS – White Paper (executive summary attached at Appendix 1);
- Transparency in outcomes – a framework for the NHS (executive summary attached at Appendix 2);
- Local democratic legitimacy in health (full consultation document attached at Appendix 3);
- Commissioning for patients (executive summary attached at Appendix 4);
- Regulating healthcare providers (executive summary attached at Appendix 5).

2.2 Full copies of each consultation document are available on request, or can be accessed via the Department of Health (DH) at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353

2.3 In addition, the Government's vision for the NHS and the associated actions have been set out in a draft Structural Reform Plan (SRP). This document (attached at Appendix 6) provides a useful summary of priorities, associated actions and key milestones.

3.0 Liberating the NHS – proposals and implications.

3.1 The Board was first made aware of the NHS change and reform proposals at its previous meeting on 27 July 2010. At that stage, the Board agreed to establish a working group to consider the proposals in more detail (in particular those concerned with local democratic legitimacy in health) and consider drafting a consultation response. To date, that working group has not met.

3.2 Nonetheless, this report and its appendices provide a range of information for members of the Scrutiny Board (Health) to consider in detail. Furthermore, a range of local stakeholder organisations have been invited to attend the meeting to outline their views on the proposals and the associated implications.

3.3 In the short-term, the information provided in this report may assist the Board in drafting a consultation response. In the longer-term, it may also help the Board identify and maintain an overview of any specific matters associated with local implementation of the proposals.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to consider the details presented in this report and:

4.1.1 Confirm the Board's intention regarding the submission of a consultation response on the proposals set out in this report, and identify any specific matters to be included (if appropriate);

4.2 Consider and identify any specific matters associated with local implementation of the proposals to be included in the Board's future work programme.

5.0 Background Documents

None