



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 21 December 2010

Subject: Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS – update

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 a further update around the Government's overall vision for the future of the NHS – initially presented in the White Paper, '*Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS*' – by introducing some additional inputs around what is currently understood of the proposals and likely implications.
- 1.2 It also introduces '*Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England*', the most recent consultation paper published by the Government, which details proposed changes to the delivery of public health across England.

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 supporting consultation papers setting out more specific and detailed proposals. With an October 2010 closing date for responses on the proposals, the government response to these various consultations has not yet been published.
- 2.2 Nonetheless, in October 2010, the following consultations were also published as part of the Government's overall vision for the NHS and delivery of health care reform:
 - *An information revolution: a consultation on proposals (18 October 2010)* – one of a series of consultation documents published subsequently to the White Paper *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*. It is part of the Government's

agenda to create a revolution for patients - "putting patients first" - giving people more information and control and greater choice about their care. The information revolution is about transforming the way information is accessed, collected, analysed and used by the NHS and adult social care services so that people are at the heart of such services: Consultation closing date – 14 January 2011.

- *Greater choice and control: consultation on proposals (18 October 2010)* – the Government's White Paper, *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS* sets out proposals which envisage a presumption of greater choice and control over care and treatment, choice of treatment and healthcare provider becoming the reality in the vast majority of NHS-funded services by no later than 2013/14. This paper explains the proposals in more detail and seeks the views of patients, the wider public, healthcare professionals and the NHS: Consultation closing date – 14 January 2011.

2.3 The Board was first made aware of the NHS change and reform proposals at its meeting in July 2010 – which were subsequently considered in more detail at the Board's September meeting. The outcome of this discussion resulted in the submission of a consultation response on the proposals, which particularly focused on the issues outlined in the local democratic legitimacy in health consultation paper.

3.0 Liberating the NHS proposals and implications.

3.1 Since the initial publication of the Government's vision for NHS reform, the Board has continued to seek opinion of a range of interested parties around how the proposed changes could impact on the local health economy and delivery of services. This has included:

- NHS Leeds;
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust;
- Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust;
- Leeds City Council, Adult Social Services Directorate;
- Leeds Local Medical Committee;
- Leeds GP consortia representatives.

3.2 As the Government's vision for NHS reform continues to be developed, it should be highlighted that a further White Paper – *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England* – was published on 30 November 2010. This expands on the Government's previously outlined proposals around public health responsibilities.

3.3 A briefing note on the Public Health White Paper is attached at Appendix 1 for the Board's information. It should be noted that arrangements are being made for the Joint Director of Public Health to attend the January 2011 Board meeting, to outline and discuss the proposals in more detail.

3.4 Nonetheless, in order to help the Board maintain a broad overview of the Government's proposals and the likely implications for the Council, the following stakeholders have been invited to attend the Board:

- Councillor Lucinda Yeadon – Executive Board Member for Adult Health and Social Care;
- The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE).

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to:

4.1.1 Consider and note the details presented in this report and those discussed at the meeting; and,

4.1.2 Identify any specific matters that require further scrutiny and/or are to be included on the Board's future work programme.

5.0 Background Documents

- Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS – July 2010
- Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England – 30 November 2010