

**REPORT FOR: HEALTH SCRUTINY
SUB- COMMITTEE**

Date: 7 December 2010

Subject: NHS Health White Paper Response

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director
Partnership Development and
Performance

**Scrutiny Lead
Member area:** Councillor Ann Gate, Policy Lead
Member – Health and Social Care

Councillor Vina Mithani, Performance
Lead Member – Health and Social
Care

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Harrow Council NHS Health White
Paper Response

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Enclosed in this report is the council's response to the NHS Health White paper. Also enclosed is a brief on the three additional consultation documents that have recently been published.

Recommendations:

Councillors are recommended to:

- I. Note the councils response to the NHS Health White Paper
- II. Note the details of the additional consultation documents.

Section 2 – Report

This report details the council's response to the NHS Health White paper and five accompanying consultation documents. Also outlined are the details of the additional three consultation documents that are currently out for consultation.

Background

At the Health sub-committee meeting on 2 September, the committee considered initial comments and responses to the Health White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' and the five accompanying consultation documents.

In order to ensure that the council submitted a robust response to the White Paper, a workshop was organised on 24 September where Overview and Scrutiny committee councillors, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Well Being, council officers and representatives of key partners came together to look at the consultation documents in more detail. The results of these discussions helped to inform the final response (attached in appendix A).

Liberating the NHS – Additional consultations

The NHS has published three new consultation documents accompanying the White Paper, these include:

An Information Revolution: a consultation on proposals

The consultation document 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 health and adult social care services. The Government's vision is for an information revolution in which people have the information they need to stay healthy, to take decisions about and exercise more control of their care, and to make the right choices for themselves and their families. This includes an accurate record of their care, available to them electronically.

The consultation details the plans to transform the way information is collected, analysed and used by the NHS and adult social care services will be critical to achieving the information revolution. This Government is committed to:

- patients and service users to be in clear control of their care with accessible information
- patients and service users being active participants in their care;
- to information which is based on the patient or service user consultation and on good clinical and professional practice;
- meeting the needs of individuals and local communities rather than top down information collection
- building a culture of openness, transparency and comparability rather than a culture where information is difficult to compare

- a range of organisations being able to offer service information to a variety of audiences and for systems to connect and join up across organisations

Closing date: 14 January 2011

Greater choice and control - A consultation on proposals

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 consultation explains the proposals in more detail and seeks the views of patients, the wider public, healthcare professionals and the NHS.

This consultation is separate but related to the consultation document described above 'Liberating the NHS: An information revolution'. *Liberating the NHS* sets out a number of specific choice commitments around extending choice of provider and treatment in planned hospital care and, more specifically, in maternity, mental health, end of life care and long term conditions. The consultation explores in more detail what extending choice could mean and how it could work in practice, using case studies to show what choice could look like. It also asks whether the proposed choices are the ones that people would want. The views of people are sought on how to make shared healthcare decisions a reality '*no decision about me without me*'.

Closing date: 14 January 2011

The NHS Constitution and Whistleblowing - A paper for consultation

This consultation document seeks views on proposals amending the NHS Constitution to:

- Insert an expectation that NHS staff will raise concerns about safety, malpractice or wrong doing at work which may affect patients, the public, other staff or the organisation itself as early as possible;
- Insert a NHS pledge to support all staff in raising concerns about safety, malpractice or wrong doing at work, responding to and where necessary investigating the concerns raised; and
- Highlight in the NHS Constitution the existing staff legal right to raise concerns about safety, malpractice or other wrongdoing without suffering any detriment

Closing date: 14 January 2011

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Performance Issues

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There are no specific environmental implications associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are no specific risk management implications associated with this report.

Corporate Priorities

The contents of this report relate to the following draft corporate priorities:

- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need
- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Fola Irikefe, Scrutiny Officer, 0208 420 9389

Background Papers: Harrow Council response to Health White Paper