

Council: Tuesday, 14 September 2010

Administration Policy Item: Councillor Helena Hart

Coalition Proposals for Health

The Coalition Government's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" proposes some of the most radical and far reaching changes to the way that Health Services are planned and delivered in the UK.

Based upon and protecting the core principles of the NHS of being free at the point of use and available to everyone based on need, not ability to pay, the White Paper proposes a real transfer of choice and control to Patients and Health Professionals, with General Practitioners taking the lead in commissioning patient care.

It is envisaged that the London Borough of Barnet will play a key role in supporting and liaising between the different groups and will also have the right to object to any proposed re-structuring of local Hospitals.

The White Paper also proposes far greater influence and powers for Local Authorities, such as the London Borough of Barnet, who will take a lead in Public Health. The responsibilities for local health improvement will also transfer from Primary Care Trusts to Local Authorities and there will be an additional White Paper later in the year devoted to Public Health.

All the proposals contained in the White Paper will, of course, be subject to extensive consultation before they are implemented.

As part of this, Council requests Cabinet to:-

- Respond carefully to the Consultation, ensuring the new relationship represents the best possible outcome for Barnet residents
- Liaise closely with the Secretary of State for Health, in ensuring the proposals are implemented as effectively as possible.
- Continue the Future Shape programme as it already involves much closer cooperation between LBB and NHS Barnet.
- Build upon LBB's track record of supporting and working with local healthcare providers and GPs to improve local healthcare for local people.