

Report to Stoke-on-Trent Learning Disability Partnership Board



FEBRUARY 2011						
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14 February 2011

Information about the new Health and Social Care Bill

1. What is the report about?

The report talks about the new Health and Social Care Bill.

The Government have put their ideas about the NHS into a new bill.

People in the Houses of Parliament will discuss and scrutinise the Bill before it becomes law.

The report sets out some of the key points of the new Bill.

This report was written by

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The Government's Health and Social Care Bill was announced on 19 January 2011.

The bill contains many proposals. Some of the key ones are:

- GPs across England are to take over commissioning the healthcare for their patients. GPs in a set area will form a group, which is called a consortium. The GP groups will have control over a total budget of £80bn (which is four fifths of the total NHS budget) to pay for people's healthcare.
- All 150 primary care trusts (PCTs) and 10 strategic health authorities (SHAs) will be abolished by 2013.
- A new independent body called Healthwatch will be set up to look into complaints and examine the performance of local health provider. Healthwatch will take over from Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).
- Local Authorities will be responsible for public health. Public Health England will be created to improve public health and reduce inequalities of care between rich and poor. Councils will be required to appoint a local director of public health.
- Councils will be responsible for the joint strategic needs assessments and will make sure there is a joint health and well being strategy for their area. These plans will set local health priorities and will supporting commissioning in their area.
- Councils will be required to establish Health and Well Being Boards. The Boards will be statutory bodies (the law says it has to set up) and will bring together

key NHS, public health, and social care leaders in each local authority area to work in partnership.

- Council Health Overview and Scrutiny committees will have more power to scrutinise local health services. They will be able to ask any NHS funded health care provider to attend meetings or provide information about their services.
- All English hospitals will become foundation trust hospitals which will give them more freedom to boost their income by treating a proportion of private patients.