

21st Century NHS and social care: Delivering integration

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In 2015 people will be living longer, more people will be living with long-term conditions; chronic disease and experiencing mental health problems. As a result, the NHS will be increasingly addressing complex problems for which its traditional structures will be ill-suited. Our core health needs will still be met by three separate delivery systems where our physical health, mental health and social care needs are treated separately.

Labour believes that the future health system needs to be better integrated to deliver a 'whole-person care' approach. Labour wants to know how we can best ensure that integration is firmly placed at the heart of the health system and how services can be better shaped around the person. Preventative interventions play a significant role in ensuring better health outcomes. Labour believes that a range of stakeholders should have responsibilities for ensuring better health. We also want to ensure that the

health and care workforce are valued and supported, and have access to good quality training.

DELIVERING INTEGRATION

The next Labour Government has committed to repealing David Cameron's Health and Social Care Act and ensuring that better integration is at the heart of the NHS. To deliver this integration aim, all options must be considered - including the better integration of the planning and delivery of health and social care. Labour will work with patients, care professionals and staff to explore the options and find a consensus.

Labour has argued that services need to be better shaped around the person which we believe will achieve better health outcomes

WE WANT TO KNOW HOW BEST WE CAN:

- Better integrate physical health, mental health and social care
- Prioritise prevention and intervention
- Tackle health inequalities
- Provide more personalised integrated care
- Give patients and communities a stronger voice

SOCIAL CARE

Delivering a whole-person approach that better integrates social, mental and physical health means that Labour will need to transform the care and support systems for older and disabled people. In 2015, one of the biggest challenges facing Britain will be reforming the system of social care so it is fit and fair to serve our aging population. Transforming social care and the support for their families and carers is a top priority for Labour, and that requires changes to the way care is funded. While funding is an important issue, it is important that a future care service focuses on early intervention and prevention and helps tackle health inequalities.

WE WANT TO KNOW HOW BEST WE CAN:

- Provide more care in people's homes and communities
- Support dignity and choice for older people
- Reform the system of social care funding
- Ensure that a care system focuses on prevention and early intervention

POLICY CHALLENGES

1. How do we best ensure that better integration is firmly placed at the heart of the health service?
2. What does better integration look like?
3. How do we repair the damage done to the NHS by David Cameron's top-down reorganisation of the NHS?
4. How do we ensure that a health and social care governance structure delivers a better integrated and accountable service?
5. How should a future social care system be funded?

6. How should more integrated care be provided in people's homes and communities?
7. How can we make sure that users and families are essential partners in care?
8. How can health and other inequalities be reduced? What could a better integrated and preventative health service look like?
9. How can professional education and training work alongside the appropriate regulation of professional practitioners to contribute to a better integrated health service?

SUGGESTED FURTHER READING:

Speech on mental health to the Royal College of Psychiatrists - Ed Miliband

<http://www.labour.org.uk/speech-on-mental-health-to-the-royal-college-of-psychiatrists>

The King's Fund, Integrated care: What is it? Does it work? What does it mean for the NHS?

http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field_publication_file/integrated-care-summary-chris-ham-sep11.pdf

Andy Burnham's speech to Labour Party Annual Conference 2012

<http://www.labour.org.uk/andy-burnhams-speech-to-labour-party-annual-conference-2012,2012-10-03>

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS

This challenge paper is designed to start discussion on one of the key policy challenges facing us as we look forward to the next General Election. Please go to yourbritain.org.uk to make a submission and let us know what you think.