

SHEFFIELD LOCAL MEDICAL COMMITTEE

NEWSFLASH

WHITE PAPER

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE:

LIBERATING THE NHS

You will doubtless be aware of the publication of and the publicity surrounding the Government's white paper *Equity and Excellence – Liberating the NHS*.

The following documents can be downloaded from the Department of Health (DH) website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117353

- White Paper: Equity and excellence liberating the NHS;
- Analytical strategy for the White Paper and associated documents;
- Initial equality impact assessment;
- Secretary of State's statement to the House of Commons, 12 July 2010;
- Press release, 12 July 2010;
- Draft Structural Reform Plan.

The ramifications of this are highly significant for us all. Like most strategic proposals, we are awaiting further guidance to be published about the mechanism of this reform, and in particular issues that will most concern us, such as the devolution of practice budgets and how this might work.

The BMA's Health Policy and Economic Research Unit (HPERU) has produced a useful briefing note, which summarises the headline issues. A copy of the briefing note can be downloaded from the BMA website at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/hperuwhitepapersummaryjuly2010_links_tcm41-198671.pdf

It will be of the utmost importance to engage at practice level with the commissioning agenda, and most particularly with consortia and consortia clinical leads.

From an LMC perspective, we are keen that we provide you with accurate information about developments and that these inform the debate rather than various speculations about the consequences of the white paper. We will keep practices up-to-date with developments, guidance, further related publications etc via the LMC newsletter, website and newsflashes as appropriate.

In the meantime, as ever, we would welcome your thoughts and concerns to inform us in our discussions with NHS Sheffield and consortia.

14 July 2010
