



Stockport Local Involvement Network

LINK Support Office

Labyrinth House

45 Middle Hillgate

Stockport

SK1 3DG

T: 0161 477 8479

E: links@pebbleenterprises.co.uk

www.stockportlink.co.uk

1st September 2011

Department of Health,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall,
London
SW1A 2NS

Dear Mr Andrew Lansley CBE MP

We, the Stockport LINK, have not lost our concern over the Health and Social Care Bill now before Parliament.

The changes incorporated after the NHS Future Forum Listening Exercise do not reflect our view that the Bill should be withdrawn in its entirety.

Furthermore, what worries us very significantly is that the Department of Health is acting as if the Bill is already enacted. Within the NHS organisations most directly due to be affected, key staff have left and are continuing to leave. In addition, instructions have been given to pursue policies that remain controversial.

We refer particularly to the question of choice which requires a resource to implement and a surplus of capacity to operate. In a time of financial cutbacks we feel this is not appropriate.

For example, we are very aware of the consultations arising around Extending the Choice of HealthCare Provider. Local PCTs are being directed under Department of Health guidance to work towards this change. This has come directly from the Bill, which has not reached its final stages.

I am sure you are aware of the concerns by the public around extending the choice of healthcare provider and we feel you are too enthusiastic in pushing the Bill forward with controversial changes such as these.

We ask you to understand the strength of view of the community that the LINK in Stockport represents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Leach
Chair of the Stockport Local Involvement Network (LINK)

CC: Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE, Chief Executive of the NHS in England
CC: Andrew Gwynne MP
CC: Mark Hunter MP
CC: Ann Coffey MP
CC: Andrew Stunell MP
CC: Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell, Chair of the Select Health Committee
CC: Dr. Evan Harris
CC: Baroness Shirley Williams
CC: Richard Popplewell, Chief Executive of NHS Stockport
CC: Mike Greenwood, Chairman of NHS Stockport
CC: BMA head office
CC: Councillor John Pantall, Executive Councillor (Adults and Health)
CC: Councillor Tom McGee, Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee