

# The NHS White Paper

## ‘Equity and Excellence – Liberating the NHS’

## The key aims of the Coalition Government for the NHS are to:

- Uphold the values and principles of the NHS
- Increase health spending in real terms in each year of this Parliament
- Develop an NHS which achieves results amongst the best in the world

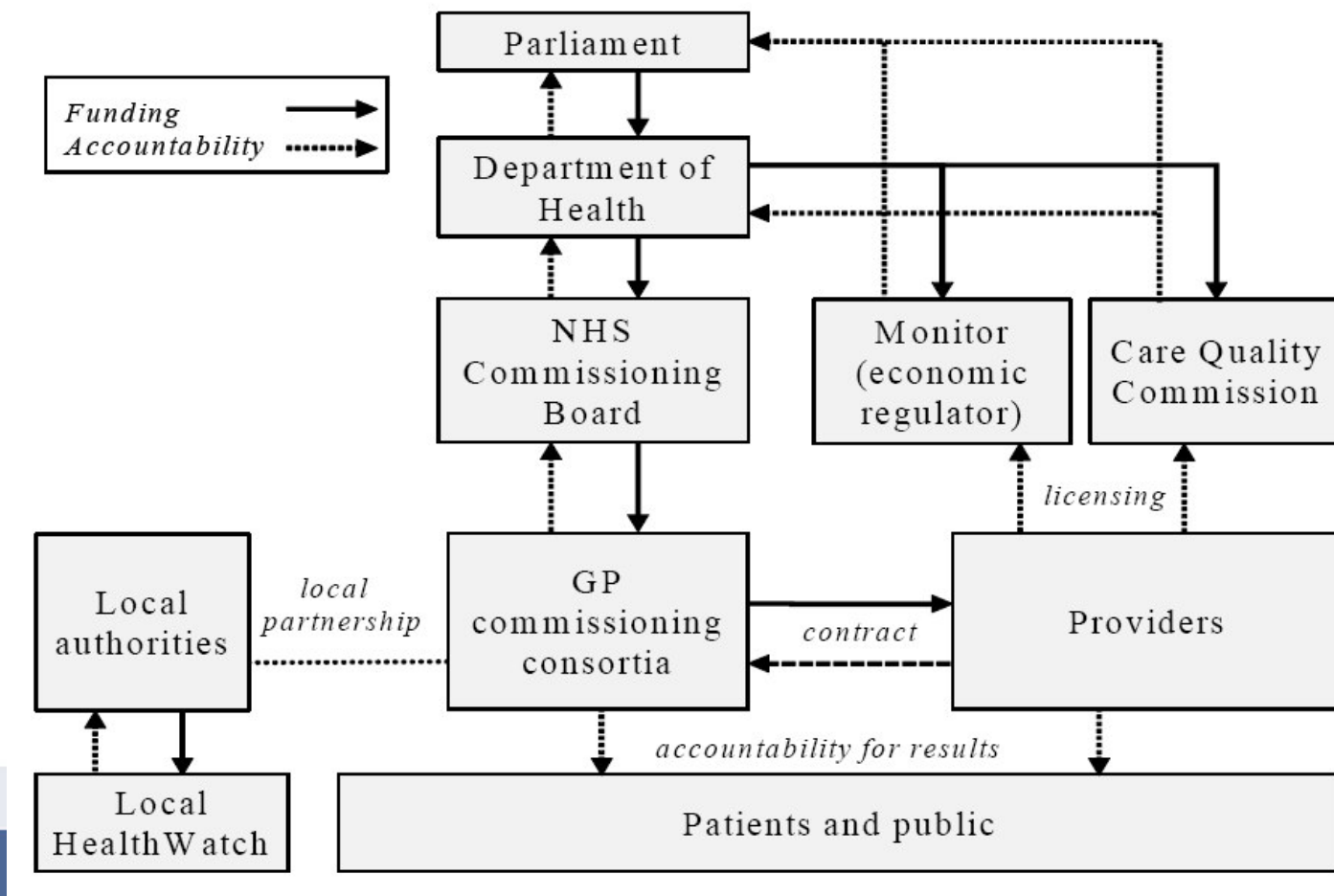
## Strategy for the NHS

The NHS White Paper's key strategy points are:

- Putting patients and public first
- Improving healthcare outcomes
- Autonomy, accountability and democratic legitimacy
- Cutting bureaucracy and improving efficiency

As part of the NHS Outcomes Framework, the current performance regime will be replaced with separate frameworks for outcomes that set direction for the NHS, public health and social care

# The newly proposed healthcare structure



## **GP commissioning consortia**

- GP commissioning will be introduced on a statutory basis
- Consortia will work with health professionals, local communities and local authorities to commission the majority of NHS services
- The NHS Commissioning Board will calculate budgets and allocate these to the consortia
- Each will appoint an accountable officer and the Commissioning Board will hold consortia to account

## NHS Commissioning Board

The Board will have five main functions:

- Providing national leadership on commissioning for quality improvement
- Promoting and extending public and patient involvement and choice
- Ensuring the development of GP commissioning consortia
- Commissioning certain services (e.g. Primary Care, national specialised services, maternity)
- Allocating and accounting for NHS resources

## **Secretary of State**

The key NHS-related functions of the SoS will include:

- Setting a formal mandate for the NHS Commissioning Board
- Holding the NHS Commissioning Board to account
- Arbitration which arises between the NHS and LA
- The legislative and policy framework
- Accountability annually to Parliament

## **Local Authorities**

As well as taking on the function of joining up the commissioning of local NHS Services, social care and health improvement, LAs will be responsible for:

- Promoting integration and partnership working
- Leading joint strategic needs assessments
- Building partnerships for service changes and priorities

These functions will replace the current Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HoSCs)



## Providers

- Providers will be given greater autonomy
- Will form part of plans for “the largest and most vibrant social enterprise sector in the world”
- Within three years, all NHS Trusts will come under the foundation trust regime
- Consultation will take place on increasing foundation trust freedoms

## Regulators

- Care Quality Commission (CQC) – The CQC will be strengthened for its focus on safety and quality of providers
- HealthWatch (National and Local)
- NICE
- NHS Commissioning Board
- Monitor – Will work with the CQC and be turned into the economic regulator of the health and social care sectors with three key functions:
  - Promoting competition
  - Price regulation
  - Supporting continuity of services

## **Key actions for Southampton:**

- We must not lose sight of our current strategy to improve quality and efficiency
- Ensuring we have robust commissioning arrangements
- Progressing the provider delivery vehicle –through a NHS FT by April 2011
- Developing strong relationships with GPs and the GP consortium arrangements
- Developing the Health and Well Being Strategic Board
- Developing the HealthWatch arrangements locally
- Modifying and developing the scrutiny arrangements
- Preparations for the transfer of Public Health responsibilities

**The consultation on how to  
implement the changes is  
taking place until  
5 October 2010  
when all comments need to  
be sent to the DH**