



HEALTH DEVOLUTION TO GO UNDER THE POLICY SPOTLIGHT AND BACK ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA AS INDEPENDENT AND CROSS-PARTY COMMISSION INCLUDING FIVE FORMER HEALTH MINISTERS, INCLUDING ANDY BURNHAM AND STEPHEN DORRELL, JOIN FORCES TO EXAMINE WHETHER HEALTH DEVOLUTION IS ONE SOLUTION TO EVER INCREASING DEMAND ON THE NHS

FOR USE AFTER 00.01 MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2020

The Health Devolution Commission is launched today [Monday 3rd February] to put health devolution under the policy spotlight and back on the political agenda. The independent, cross party Commission brings together former Labour and Conservative Secretary of States for Health, Andy Burnham and Stephen Dorrell, with three former Health Ministers including Norman Lamb, Alastair Burt and Phil Hope. They are joined by senior professional figures from the health, mental health, social care and public health sectors. (See full list of Commissioners below.)

Health devolution is happening in many ways and in many places in today's NHS, public health and social care sectors. Although Greater Manchester has been at the forefront of health devolution since its ground-breaking deal in 2015, there's also statutory devolution of public health to local authorities, the controlled devolution of health through local Integrated Care Systems, and the integration of social care with NHS services. This means increasingly local authority social care budgets are being 'pooled' with those of the NHS

The Commission believes that doing things centrally has led to problems with providing the services people need locally and in services meeting key national performance targets. Devolving decision-making about our health and social care services closer to the people who use them is a new model that should be looked at.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb, former Health Minister and Co-chair of the Commission, said:

"Our experience as Ministers in the Department of Health is that health services will always be running to keep up unless more profound action is taken to address the drivers of physical and mental ill-health such as poor housing, poor diet, poor air quality, social deprivation and unemployment. The habitual response of national politicians - to promise more money for the NHS - is welcome and necessary but it is not sufficient to ensure we have a financially sustainable health and social care system that meets the needs of a growing and ageing population. Against this changing policy landscape, the case for looking at how devolving health could allow for more joined up, long-term solutions is overwhelming."

The Commission is holding oral evidence sessions – including with Public Health England and Professor Michael Marmot - and is calling for written evidence (please go to [Healthdevolution.org.uk](https://www.healthdevolution.org.uk) for details on when and how to do this) on two fundamental and linked questions:

- What does good health devolution look like that builds a community's health and improves a community's health and social care services?
- How should the challenges of accountability, power and control between the NHS and local authorities be addressed in devolved and integrated systems?

Rt Hon Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester and Co-chair of the Commission, said:

"In Greater Manchester, we have been using the powers given to us under health devolution for nearly four years now. This has enabled NHS organisations, local authority social care and the voluntary and community sector to work more closely together, providing care that better meets the needs and wishes of local people. It has also enabled us to focus much more strongly on prevention including cutting smoking rates twice as quickly as the national average, improving access to children's mental health services and tackling physical activity three times faster than the national average. We've also made progress in dealing with other factors we know impact on people's health such as helping 4,500 people primarily out of work due to poor health back to work.

"However, we know that ours is only one way of approaching health devolution and that this is an area that would benefit from much more research, evidence and debate. That's why I'm very pleased to join with the other Commissioners to explore in detail whether a devolved approach focussed on improving the public's health, as well as integrating local services, can improve the quality of people's lives, reduce demand and ensure a financially sustainable and person-centred health and social care system."

The Commission believes health devolution 'slipped off' the last Government's agenda but that, post Brexit and with a Devolution White Paper promised, the tide may have turned and devolution is on the way back as a national priority. It aims to report in six months' time.

Editor's Notes

For more information contact Steve Barwick 07826 872375

The full list of Health Devolution Commissioners is as follows:

- Rt Hon Andy Burnham, former Secretary of State for Health and Mayor of Greater Manchester (Co-chair)
- Rt Hon Sir Norman Lamb, former Minister for Care and Support (Co-chair)
- Rt Hon Alistair Burt, Former Minister for Care and Support
- Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell, former Secretary of State for Health
- Phil Hope, former Minister of State for Care Services
- Sally Warren, Director of Policy, the King's Fund
- Dr Linda Patterson, former Medical Director of CHI and Vice President of RCP
- Liz Gaulton, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Coventry City Council
- Peter Hay, former President ADASS
- Sir David Behan, former CEX of CQC and Chair of HEE (advisory capacity)
- Michelle Mitchell, Chief Executive, Cancer Research UK (advisory capacity)
- Jon Restell, Chief Executive, Managers in Partnership (advisory capacity)
- Dick Sorabji, Deputy Chief Executive, London Councils (advisory capacity)
- Sophie Corlett/Karen Mellanby, Directors of External Relations/Networks and Communities respectively, Mind (advisory capacity)

The Health Devolution Commission is kindly supported by

