



Association of Anaesthetists

Main question 1: What does good health devolution look like that builds a community's health and improves a community's health and social care services?	Please leave your name
Good healthcare devolution creates an agile system that is able to respond to local demands and meet the particular needs of a population while still accepting underpinning from the NHS strategy and framework. It allows funding to be directed towards local health priorities and local solutions to be developed. There should be an integrated, strategic approach that involves primary and secondary care, social care and public health that is rooted in evidence-based medicine and able to deliver high quality care. Patient representatives, the third sector and private providers all have a role to play in this.	Association response
Subsidiary questions part 1	Please leave your name
1a) In what ways does health devolution enable the building of healthier communities and promote the prevention of ill-health?	Please leave your name
Health devolution can ensure that local needs are prioritised by local stakeholders, resulting in increased ownership and outcomes for the benefit of healthier communities. It also allows for health inequalities in an area to be addressed and for health education to be directly targeted at different groups. Focused awareness campaigns within communities have a part to play in this.	Association Response
1b) In what ways does health devolution enable the marshalling of a wide range of services and partners across local authorities, the NHS, community and charity bodies, and the private sector to address the wider drivers of ill-health in local communities?	Please leave your name
As previously mentioned, it offers an opportunity for health inequalities in an area to be addressed and for health education to be directly targeted at different groups. Focused awareness campaigns within communities have a part to play in this. Working across a smaller population size allows more flexibility and quicker reactions to events.	Association response
1c) Are there any barriers to the potential benefits of health devolution being realised; and if so how could these be addressed?	Please leave your name
There are a number of barriers including centralised targets and demands from government; competing priorities; cost and lack of leadership. To overcome this, lines of responsibility need to be clearer and more flexibility should be introduced into the system. There is a risk that health devolution could result in a 'post-code lottery' – and this needs to be avoided.	Association Response
1d) How does health devolution affect the outcomes and experience of care for people with specific conditions such as cancer or mental illness, or specific population groups such as older people with conditions such as dementia?	Please leave your name
Health devolution has the potential to improve outcomes and experiences of the above mentioned groups, given it can lead to highly personalised and local delivery of services. However, there could also be losses of the benefits of centralisation, especially variance reduction and economies of scale.	Association Response



1e) To what extent does health devolution accelerate integration within the NHS and between health and social care services, and help make the NHS Long Term Plan a reality?	Please leave your name
It is unclear whether health devolution does have an effect in this area. Economy of scale could make this easier but the evidence for this isn't available yet.	Association Response
Main Question 2: How should the challenges of accountability, power and control between the NHS and local authorities be addressed in devolved and integrated systems?	Please leave your name
We believe that the decision makers should be clinical, and community/patient representatives should be also involved in setting devolved healthcare priorities. Agreed and clear governance processes along with mutual respect between central and local systems can help overcome challenges.	Association Response
Subsidiary questions part 2:	Please leave your name
2a) What is the relationship between central government, NHSE and devolved health areas? In what way is the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and NHSE held accountable for improving a community's health as well as NHS performance in devolved health and social care systems?	Please leave your name
The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care must retain overall accountability as the person who sets the agreed strategy and framework.	Association Response
2c) What is the nature of the relationships between local clinical leaders (health commissioners and providers) and civic (professional and elected) leaders? What decisions are each responsible for in a devolved and integrated system?	Please leave your name
Clinical leaders should be decision makers and follow advice from civic elected leaders, who should be decision implementers	Association Response
2d) How does health devolution affect policies to empower individuals to have more control over their health and social care services and outcomes?	Please leave your name
If carried out correctly, it could further empower members of communities to engage in health care prevention activity and screening if they see it is for the benefit of their local people.	Association Response



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2e) What impact does health devolution have on the charity sector, social enterprises and the independent sector as providers and partners in health and social care structures?	Please leave your name
These organisations should all be part of devolved health. Third sector and social enterprises are a useful barometer of success or failure and provide valuable insights into where needs may be.	Association Response