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**The Health Devolution Commission Final Report 2022 and Meeting 6/12/2022**

The self-declared King of the North, Andy Burnham, used to oppose giving local areas more control over NHS services, once claiming this could be a “further break-up of the idea of a National Health Service”.

Since leaving Westminster, the Greater Manchester mayor has become an enthusiastic advocate for more devolution, [**including as co-chair of a commission looking at the issue.**](https://go2.wilmingtonplc.com/OTM2LUZSWi03MTkAAAGIj0w_xJQYAkkn22yIlBAxhVKilrw3JSshqA5XVtt6SMfhnwQNCOgcRXZBvX7kSpOeO1oT7wE%3D)

The commission, which includes cross-party former health ministers, has called for a cull of targets and for more local flexibility for ICSs – a sentiment in line with Patricia Hewitt’s ongoing review.

Speaking at the launch event, Northamptonshire Integrated Care System chair Naomi Eisenstadt – who had a long career outside the NHS advising governments on inequality – suggested this should go further.

Ms Eisenstadt said: “I think we haven’t paid enough attention to the incentives in career structures of managers within the health service, because the problem is their next promotion is based on what NHS England thinks of them, not what I think of them.”

And one senior councillor, David Fothergill, had a controversial take on how to measure ICSs’ success: “It will be when they fully understand they are accountable to their local population and not to the regional NHS structures.”