

CAMBUSLANG & RUTHERGLEN  
PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM

RESPONSE TO  
LOCAL HEALTHCARE BILL CONSULTATION

We restricted our discussions to a few points in the Discussion Paper.

Question 3

We would welcome the appointment of more lay members to NHS Boards. These members should be able to represent a wide range of interests, such as specific user and patient groups.

There should also be appointment of a lay member representative of each Public Partnership Forum of a Community Health (and Care) Partnership. The selection and election of these representatives would be from within the membership of each PPF. This would simplify the election process as we consider that the interest in "public" elections would be very low.

We do not agree with the proposal to directly elect members of the Boards. If an election with public candidates was held the interest would be very low. Because of the apathy of the public for local government and Parliamentary elections, even with high publicity, we thought that the number of people voting at a public election for a NHS election would not justify the expense, both of the NHS and the candidates. We also thought that candidates who put themselves forward for election would be "political activists" and may be supported (indirectly) by a political party.

The selection of candidates should be made from a pool of people who wish to serve on the NHS Board and the selection should be representative of geographical and health related interest. Candidates would require to obtain a number of proposers but their selection would be made by central committee to ensure a balance between different patient interests.

There should remain the power for the Government to appoint members from business and elsewhere who have the relevant skills to run a multi department business.

The number of Local Authority members should remain as at present otherwise the size of the Boards would become cumbersome and dilute their executive function.

Question 17

The existing categories of appointed board members should be kept. Provision should be made for representation from Public Partnership Forums in the lay members group.

Question 18

Local authority Councillors should continue be appointed as stakeholders as local councils provide a range of complimentary and partnership services with the NHS,