

What do NHS managers really think?



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nhsManagers.net are the publishers of a unique, discontinuous e-news letter that is mailed, directly, to the in-trays of over 11,000 health service managers across England, Scotland and Wales, at least six times a month.

It features NHS news, guidance and discussion topics and features regular polling and surveys of manager's personal thinking and attitudes.

This snap-shot survey looks at what managers think of the Coalition Policy to give Local Government more say in the makeup of PCT Boards.



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THE QUESTION

It is a good idea that Local Government can choose the make-up of PCT Boards.



It appears there is almost no support for the Coalition Policy to give LA's more say in the make-up of PCT Boards.

Indeed, from the very critical comments posted by participants in the survey, local government Members are not held in very high regard and it seems fair to deduce relationships are nowhere near as good as they could be.

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YOUR COMMENTS

- they're (LAs) are all fighting with PCT for jobs and money being spent on project management. Over complicated, no understanding of real issues and we are losing services. Documents contain blurb on costings etc., with no mention of patient care. We are losing our community hospitals to DGH. Bad news all round really. Perhaps it will improve, we certainly hope so. Give us the money and we will do the job.
- We have been here before; LG involvement used to paralyse the old health authorities which is why all Secretaries of State (Conservative and Labour) have kept local politics out of health.
- I agree that local government should have some say in PCT board membership, but not wholly so. This is no doubt the beginning of the road back to community health care (and primary?) into local authority ownership.....?!?!
- Elected local authority members are constantly concerned about spinning up the perception of their own performance so they can get re-elected. They will simply fiddle with PCT board nominations for their own selfish ends.
- Worst idea for decades. I remember last time there were local politicians on health boards and it was miserable. You had to spend most of your time managing local politics rather than healthcare.
- The DH is the political wing of the NHS. The NHS should be managed within the DH's policy, not be interfered with by local politicians.
- HA & LA Partnerships remain underdeveloped despite repeated initiatives. Closer work will help get better value from the taxpayer's pound: e.g. emergency duty, out of hours services are run separately, duplicating costs and diluting benefit. Despite loads of overlap in mental ill health, child-care, the elderly care and vulnerable adults & hospitals. LA Exec's frequently don't understand, trust or respect HA's

and vice versa. Attitude change follows behaviour change; it's not the other way around.

- Barking...
- More jobs for the boys?
- It's a mistake to see more local (political) accountability as greater connection with local people and 'Big Society', as the same thing as involvement of local people in decision-making and service design. But, it's not wrong in itself if it helps commit LAs to the radical changes necessary to make radical savings.... (NB I say IF!)
- How do we know this proposed change will benefit the NHS - what measure will be used to say this has worked?
- This is a recipe for disaster. We all know that LG will go with the political flavour of the month and somehow patient services will suffer even more
- It's too tough for most elected councillors
- In Wales where LA representatives have been part of LHBs (now HBs) for a number of years, it has only made decision making far slower and cumbersome. Elected LA representatives can be well meaning, but at the end of the day they want to be in the spotlight - and get re-elected! Keep politicians out of the administration of the health service please!
- The majority of people elected to local government are white men who are retired and comfortably off; hardly representative of the population they serve and, as in our Conservative local authority, not interested in helping the disadvantaged if it means they come within sight of the better off.
- It will empower local communities. Difficulty will be in political view and whether it becomes counterproductive due to political make-up of LA. I previously worked in LG for many years and one of the "partners" who never turned up to meetings was the PCT. With joined up government, assuming it continues to be joined, many of the aspirations set and agreed locally can only be achieved if all parties sign up and actively work toward local targets. The LA may now have more power to achieve this!

- PCTs will probably be drastically downgraded anyway as the local PBC consortia are given real money and commissioning powers. Effectively these new PCGs will be becoming small Primary Care Trusts, here we go again..... Or was it called Fundholding!
- We have a decrepit, ex-workhouse that has failed Fire Certificate requirements for years that should be closed. The PCT have twice had a plan for an integrated health centre. Whilst I doubt their ability to actually solve the problems and we're likely to get a part solution that fails to achieve the efficiencies of a properly integrated model, the usual suspects, local councillors &etc don't want to lose beds. There are just 9 left and replacements are being purchased elsewhere.

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