

Department for Health



Jeremy Hunt
Secretary of State
for Health



Alistair Burt
Minister of State for
Health



Ben Gummer
Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State



Jane Ellison
Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State for
Public Health



David Prior
Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State for
Quality

Whitehouse Analysis

The 'continuity cabinet' extends to the Department of Health where Jeremy Hunt remains in post and will continue to promote the need to drive up standards and quality of care, looking to identify best practice and shine a light on poor performance. The direction of the health service will be driven by NHS England's Five Year Forward View, with a focus on how best to integrate services outside of hospital settings. This latter point is crucial to designing a service more attuned to patients' needs but significant incentives will need to be in place for hospitals to give up on vital income generated through their acute work, and to encourage more trainees into a reformed general practice.

Despite the Conservatives having pledged an extra £8bn a year for the NHS by 2020, the short term priority for the Government must be how to fund a service facing deficits of £2 billion. 'Prop up' payments that have been used to plug provider deficits in the past are anything but a long-term solution, with quality improvements put in place following the Mid Staffs scandal having proved tough financially for providers. Within this, the Treasury will play a central role and further devolution of full NHS budgets could be seen as a remedy to local financial players, with Chancellor George Osborne open to further city based devolution of health and social care following the deal with Manchester last year.



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