

**Draft joint letter in relation to Health Reforms.
Oldham and Bury Council Joint Health working group.**

Bury and Oldham Councils have been working co-operatively to establish a set of protocols in relation to the new Health Reforms.

Further to a joint meeting between Bury and Oldham on 31st January 2013, including Elected Members and lay representatives of both authorities the following issues and concerns were identified:

1. We would appreciate more information about GP accountability as there is currently no clarity about how GPs will be made accountable and who they will be accountable to.
2. Will there be a register of GP conflicts of interest in private companies and will this be compulsory?
3. Will treatment be rationed and will there still be a postcode lottery for some people, as there has been previously?
4. Who will providers be accountable to and how will their quality of provision be scrutinised?
5. It is acknowledged that local private providers contribute to the local economy. Will there be scrutiny of those providers to ensure that they not only provide excellent services, and checks made that they provide their staff with fair terms and conditions and a living wage.
6. What incentives are there for GPs to be involved in their local communities? Given that there is an expectation for the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector to deliver services, how will GPs be encouraged to engage with voluntary sector services providers in the neighbourhood in which they are based?
7. How will the public be represented on the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)?
8. There is still uncertainty about how Health Watch, Scrutiny and other agencies will work together. We would appreciate more clarity on how the department anticipates these bodies will work together.
9. What process will patients have to provide feedback about the services they receive? What will be the patient complaints process?

There is genuine concern of the Members, Officers and individuals involved that they do not have a clear understanding of how the new Health Reforms are intended to be implemented.

If this feeling is widespread beyond Oldham and Bury, then there is considerable cause for concern for the wider public. Clarity is required for all those are involved.

We therefore request that you take this up with the Secretary of State for Health and the relevant civil servants to resolve this situation.