

LONDON OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY GROUP
Notes of Participants meeting on The Health and Social Care Bill held on
25 February 2011

The following consist of the main issues/comments members raised at the above meeting.

Health Watch

Access to information

The government has proposed changes and is implementing them before the country has heard about them. We need to have a say in the changes.

The government is not listening to the people. People are not being informed or consulted. We need to have a role in this. We do not know why the changes are necessary.

The taxpayers are funding the cost of the changes and so have a right to information.

Elected MPs and councillors have not informed us of the government's plans nor spoken on our behalf.

We need details of the composition of the new Health Watch.

Power is being given to professionals and managers who are highly paid and do not need free health and social care.

Health Watch

Health Watch needs to be democratic, independent, accountable and representative.

Health Watch should have legal rights to access the monitoring of hospitals and care homes.

Health Watch should have powers with regard to action about complaints and its relationship with local authorities.

The role of health Watch in relation to advocacy, self assessment should be made clear.

Money for Health Watch should be ring-fenced.

Representation

Membership of Health Watch should include councillors, lay people and experts in paediatrics, gerontology, mental health and disabilities and representative organisations.

The voluntary sector and volunteers should be involved at all stages.

Councils should filter the workings of Health Watch to their communities and educate people in raising their concerns.

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