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Press release: reference 2002/0167



Monday 1st April 2002
DEVOLUTION DAY FOR THE NHS
Half a century of centralised healthcare is drawing to close - Milburn

Today is the first day of the new National Health Service. The NHS has been restructured to deliver more resources to the front line, greater transparency in spending, better delivery of healthcare for patients and improved value for money for the taxpayer, Health Secretary Alan Milburn said today.

The most substantial ever overhaul of the structure of the NHS, decentralising power and removing numerous tiers of administration, has occurred over the last 12 months.

As a result, from today 302 Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) covering all parts of England will control health care locally, with performance and standards monitored by 28 new strategic Health Authorities. The new structure replaces the NHS Executive, eight Regional Offices of the Department of Health, 99 Health Authorities and 481 primary care groups.

Rather than health service funding being distributed through layers of bureaucracy, PCTs will receive their funding directly from the Department of Health. Resources for health care will therefore pass directly from Whitehall to PCTs at the NHS front line for the first time in the history of the NHS.

In 1997 GP fundholders controlled just 15 per cent of the NHS budget. Today family doctors and nurses in PCTs control around 50 per cent of the £53.5 billion NHS budget. By 2004 75 per cent of the NHS budget will be controlled by PCTs.

The old health authorities covered areas with an average population of around 530,000 people. From today, PCTs cover areas with populations of around 170,000 people. The old regional offices, which used to monitor performance and standards, covered areas of around 6.36 million people. The new strategic health authorities will cover areas of around 1.8 million people. This emphasis on shifting power and resources closer to local people is part of the Government's drive to decentralise and devolve power in the NHS down to local communities rather than holding it at the centre.

PCTs are run by GPs, nurses and other health and social care workers and representatives of patients and the community who will be responsible for securing and delivering health and social care and tackling health inequalities locally, including:

- acute and specialised NHS services for patients - either by providing it themselves or commissioning another organisations such as an NHS hospitals or the private sector
- access to GPs and dentists
- mental health services
- NHS Walk- in Centres
- local NHS Direct services
- emergency ambulances
- patient transport services
- population screening programmes.

Not only will PCTs secure health services, many will also run community hospitals and community health services, employ a wide range of staff and own property.

They will take on much of the work previously carried out by health authorities but because they cover a smaller geographical population with much closer community links they can better determine and meet the health needs of local people. PCTs will help to ensure the extra money going in to the NHS will mean more NHS patients treated more quickly to a higher standard.

Mr Milburn said today that alongside greater devolution of powers and resources to the NHS frontline must come greater transparency and openness about how much services cost and what taxpayers get from the health service.

Mr Milburn said:

"Today marks a watershed for the NHS. The NHS Plan set out an ambitious vision for a service designed around the patient - a service of high quality and national standards which is fast, convenient and uses modern methods to provide care where and when it is needed. To deliver this we need the most fundamental shift in power and resources from the centre to the front line.

"There has never been a more radical restructuring of the way decisions are made and finances flow in the history of the NHS. The internal market gave power to only a fraction of doctors. Today's reforms mean for the first time the resources, responsibility and power are no longer going to be held in Whitehall but in local communities at the NHS front line. Half a century of centralised health care in our country is drawing to a close.

"The NHS can't be run from Whitehall. Just as local schools have greater power and control, so local health services have to have greater power and control as well. This is a defining moment in the Government's reform programme for the health service, ensuring greater investment is matched by greater control at the front line.

"In 1997 GP fundholders controlled just 15 per cent of the NHS budget. Today family doctors and nurses in PCTs control around 50 per cent of the £53.5 billion NHS budget. Within two years they will control 75 per cent of NHS spending.

"With this responsibility must come greater transparency. Public services only command public confidence if the public can see how their money is spent. PCTs decide what is best for their patients, so it is important that patients can see that they are getting value for money.

"Last week the NHS Modernisation Board agreed to explore the idea of a 'contract' between the NHS and local communities. Under this, PCTs will set out where the money goes at a local level, put forward their specific proposals for spending in the future, and detail what the money will deliver.

"We need to open up the NHS accounts to public scrutiny. The public who finance the health service have the right to know where the cash has gone. I will be asking PCTs to ensure that in every local area the public have a greater knowledge and understanding of how their money is spent, more involvement in decisions about priorities and can see for themselves that the NHS spends taxpayers money wisely and well."

Dr Beverly Malone, General Secretary of the Royal College of Nurses, said:

"We are glad to see more resources and responsibilities devolved to frontline nurses and doctors. These changes should bring greater local accountability and more collaboration with communities. Nurses have played a leading role in Primary Care Groups and Primary Care Trusts to date. It is important that nurses continue to contribute to decision-making at all levels in the new Strategic Health Authorities and in Primary Care Trusts."

Delyth Morgan, chief executive of Breakthrough Breast Cancer, said:

"For the public it is very important to see that new investment is bringing results so greater transparency and more accountability will be very welcome. But the challenge now is to get PCTs and cancer experts work together effectively to deliver the real improvement local people want to see."

David Haslam, chairman of council of the Royal College of General Practitioners and a GP in Huntingdon said:

"Conceptually, the closer things are to the front line the better. The idea of devolving delivery as much as possible is a good one, although central responsibility for ensuring standards are kept up remains. I am hopeful about the blending and closer working with social services. Inevitably, I have a few concerns about the readiness of local organisations for this change."

Notes to Editors

1. The main roles of PCTs are:

- To improve the health of the community.
- Develop primary and community health services.
- Commission hospital care for their local population.

2. Prior to 1 April 2002 there were 164 PCTs. Today an additional 138 have been established, bringing the total up to 302.

3. Not only is the Government decentralising the structure of the NHS but also reducing central control. The Department of Health issues instructions to the NHS through HSCs from Whitehall. In 1996 there were 298 circulars issued. In 2001 this was reduced to 26, and so far in 2002 there have been five.

4. The introduction of PCTs has been phased in over the past two years, as they have replaced the old-style Primary Care Groups:

		wave 1	wave 2	wave 3	wave 4	wave 5
	April 1999	April 2000	October 2000	April 2001	October 2001	Apr-02
No of PCTs	0	17	40	164	164	302

5. Attached is a list of all 302 PCTs in the 28 new health authority areas:

HA	PCT	Operational From
Birmingham & Black Country HA	Eastern Birmingham PCT	01/04/2002
	South Birmingham PCT	01/04/2002
	North Birmingham PCT	01/04/2002
	Heart of Birmingham PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2002
	Dudley South PCT	01/04/2002
	Dudley Beacon & Castle PCT	01/04/2002
	Oldbury & Smethwick PCT	01/04/2002
	Rowley, Regis & Tipton PCT	01/04/2002
	Wednesbury & West Bromwich PCT	01/04/2002
	Solihull PCT	01/04/2001
	Walsall PCT	01/04/2002
	Wolverhampton City PCT	01/04/2002
	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire & Worcester HA	Coventry PCT
Herefordshire PCT		01/10/2000
North & East Warwickshire PCT		01/04/2002
Wyre Forest PCT		01/04/2001
Rugby PCT		01/04/2002
South Warwickshire PCT		01/04/2002
Wyre Forest PCT		01/04/2001
Redditch & Bromsgrove PCT		01/04/2002
South Worcestershire PCT		01/04/2002
Staffordshire & Shropshire HA	South Stoke PCT	01/04/2001
	North Stoke PCT	01/10/2000
	Staffordshire Moorlands PCT	01/04/2002

	Newcastle under Lyme PCT	01/04/2002
	Shropshire Country PCT	01/04/2002
	Telford & Wrekin PCT	01/04/2002
	Burntwood, Lichfield & Tamworth PCT	01/04/2001
	Cannock Chase PCT	01/04/2002
	East Staffs PCT	01/04/2002
	South Western Staffordshire PCT	01/04/2002
South Yorkshire HA	Doncaster Central PCT	01/10/2000
	Doncaster East PCT	01/04/2001
	Doncaster West PCT	01/04/2001
	North Sheffield PCT	01/04/2001
	Sheffield West PCT	01/04/2001
	Sheffield South West PCT	01/04/2001
	South East Sheffield PCT	01/04/2001
	Barnsley PCT	01/04/2002
	Rotherham PCT	01/04/2002
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland HA	Eastern Leicester PCT	01/04/2001
	Leicester City West PCT	01/04/2001
	Melton, Rutland & Harborough PCT	01/04/2001
	South Leicestershire PCT	01/04/2002
	Hinckley & Bosworth PCT	01/04/2002
	Charnwood & North West Leicester PCT	01/04/2002
	Northampton PCT	01/04/2002
	Northamptonshire Heartlands PCT	01/04/2002
Trent HA	West Lincolnshire PCT	01/04/2001

	Lincolnshire South West PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2001
	North Lincolnshire PCT	01/04/2001
	North East Lincolnshire PCT	01/04/2000
	East Lincolnshire PCT	01/04/2002
	N E Derbyshire PCT	01/04/2001
	Chesterfield PCT	01/04/2001
	High Peak & Dales PCT	01/04/2002
	Ashfield PCT	01/04/2001
	Bassetlaw PCT	01/04/2001
	Newark & Sherwood PCT	01/04/2000
	Mansfield District PCT	01/04/2000
	Rushcliffe PCT	01/04/2001
	Broxtowe & Hucknall PCT	01/04/2001
	Nottingham City PCT	01/04/2001
	Gedling PCT	01/04/2001
	Central Derby PCT	01/04/2000
	Greater Derby PCT	01/04/2001
	Erewash PCT	01/04/2001
	Amber Valley PCT	01/04/2001
	Derbyshire Dales & South Derbyshire PCT	01/04/2002
North East London HA	Barking & Dagenham PCT	01/04/2001
	Havering PCT	01/04/2001
	City & Hackney PCT	01/04/2001
	Newham PCT	01/04/2001
	Tower Hamlets PCT	01/04/2001
	Chingford, Wanstead & Woodford PCT	01/04/2001

	Redbridge PCT	01/04/2001
	Walthamstowe, Leyton & Leytonstone PCT	01/04/2001
North Central London HA	Barnet PCT	01/04/2001
	Enfield PCT	01/04/2001
	Haringey PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2001
	Camden PCT	01/04/2002
	Islington PCT	01/04/2002
South East London HA	Bexley PCT	01/10/2000
	Greenwich PCT	01/04/2001
	Bromley PCT	01/04/2001
	Lambeth PCT	01/04/2002
	Southwark PCT	01/04/2002
	Lewisham PCT	01/04/2002
South West London HA	Kingston PCT	01/04/2001
	Richmond & Twickenham PCT	01/04/2001
	Sutton & Merton PCT	01/04/2000
	Wandsworth PCT	01/04/2002
	Croydon PCT	01/04/2002
North West London HA	Ealing PCT	01/04/2002
	Hounslow PCT	01/04/2002
	Hammersmith & Fulham PCT	01/04/2002
	Hillingdon PCT	01/04/2000
	Brent PCT	01/04/2002
	Harrow PCT	01/04/2002
	Westminster PCT	01/04/2002
	Kensington & Chelsea PCT	01/04/2002
West Yorkshire HA	Airedale PCT	01/10/2000

	Bradford City PCT (Teaching status)	01/10/2000
	Bradford South & West PCT	01/10/2000
	North Bradford PCT	01/10/2000
	Eastern Wakefield PCT	01/04/2001
	Wakefield West PCT	01/04/2001
	East Leeds PCT	01/04/2002
	Leeds North East PCT	01/04/2002
	Leeds North West PCT	01/04/2002
	South Leeds PCT	01/04/2002
	Leeds West PCT	01/04/2002
	Calderdale PCT	01/04/2002
	North Kirklees PCT	01/04/2002
	Huddersfield Central PCT	01/04/2002
	South Huddersfield PCT	01/04/2002
North & East Yorkshire HA	East Yorkshire PCT	01/04/2001
	Eastern Hull PCT	01/04/2001
	West Hull PCT	01/04/2001
	Yorkshire Wolds & Coast PCT	01/04/2001
	Selby and York PCT	01/04/2001
	Hambleton & Richmondshire PCT	01/04/2002
	Craven, Harrogate & Rural District PCT	01/04/2002
	Scarborough, Whitby & Ryedale PCT	01/04/2002
Northumberland Tyne & Wear HA	Newcastle PCT	01/04/2001
	North Tyneside PCT	01/04/2001
	Sunderland Teaching PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2002

	Gateshead PCT	01/04/2002
	South Tyneside PCT	01/04/2002
Cumbria & Lancashire HA	Carlisle & District PCT	01/04/2001
	Eden Valley PCT	01/04/2001
	West Cumbria PCT	01/04/2001
County Durham & Tees HA	North Tees PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2001
	Middlesborough PCT	01/04/2002
	Langbaugh PCT	01/04/2002
	Durham Dales PCT	01/04/2002
	Darlington PCT	01/04/2002
	Derwentside PCT	01/04/2002
	Durham & Chester-le-Street PCT	01/04/2002
	Easington PCT	01/04/2002
	Sedgefield PCT	01/04/2002
	Hartlepool PCT	01/04/2001
Hampshire of Isle of Wight HA	Isle of Wight PCT	01/04/2001
	East Hampshire PCT	01/04/2001
	Portsmouth City PCT	01/04/2001
	North Hampshire PCT	01/04/2001
	Mid Hampshire PCT	01/04/2001
	New Forest PCT	01/04/2001
	Southampton City PCT	01/04/2001
	Fareham & Gosport PCT	01/04/2002
	Blackwater Valley & Hart PCT	01/04/2002
	Eastleigh & Test Valley PCT	01/04/2002

	Daventry & South Northamptonshire PCT	01/04/2002
Thames Valley HA	Newbury & Community PCT	01/04/2001
	Reading PCT	01/04/2001
	Slough PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2001
	Wokingham PCT	01/04/2001
	Windsor, Ascot & Maidenhead PCT	01/04/2002
	Bracknell Forest PCT	01/04/2002
	Cherwell Vale PCT	01/04/2001
	Oxford City PCT	01/04/2001
	SE Oxfordshire PCT	01/04/2001
	South West Oxfordshire PCT	01/04/2001
	N E Oxfordshire PCT	01/04/2001
	Vale of Aylesbury PCT	01/04/2001
	Milton Keynes PCT	01/10/2000
	Wycombe PCT	01/04/2002
	Chiltern & South Buckinghamshire PCT	01/04/2002
Surrey & Sussex HA	Bexhill & Rother PCT	01/04/2001
	East Elmbridge & Mid Surrey PCT	01/04/2002
	East Surrey PCT	01/04/2002
	Hastings & St Leonards PCT	01/04/2001
	Mid Sussex PCT	01/04/2001
	Brighton & Hove City PCT	01/04/2002
	Eastbourne Downs PCT	01/04/2002
	Sussex Downs & Weald PCT	01/04/2002
	Guilford & Waverley PCT	01/04/2002
	North Surrey PCT	01/04/2002

	Woking Area PCT	01/04/2002
	Adur, Arun & Worthing PCT	01/04/2002
	Crawley PCT	01/04/2002
	Horsham & Chanctonbury PCT	01/04/2002
	Western Sussex PCT	01/04/2002
Kent HA	Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley PCT	01/10/2000
	Maidstone Weald PCT	01/04/2001
	South West Kent PCT	01/04/2001
	Ashford PCT	01/04/2002
	Canterbury & Coastal PCT	01/04/2002
	Shepway PCT	01/04/2002
	East Kent Coastal PCT	01/04/2002
	Medway PCT	01/04/2002
	Swale PCT	01/04/2002
Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire HA	South Gloucestershire PCT	01/04/2001
	Bath & North East Somerset PCT	01/04/2001
	Bristol North PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2002
	Bristol South & West PCT	01/04/2002
	North Somerset PCT	01/04/2002
South West Peninsula HA	West of Cornwall PCT	01/04/2001
	Central Cornwall PCT	01/04/2002
	North & East Cornwall PCT	01/04/2002
	North Devon PCT	01/04/2001
	Exeter PCT	01/04/2001
	East Devon PCT	01/04/2001
	Mid Devon PCT	01/04/2001

	Teignbridge PCT	01/04/2001
	Plymouth PCT	01/04/2001
	South Hams and West Devon PCT	01/10/2000
	Torbay PCT	01/10/2000
Dorset & Somerset HA	North Dorset PCT	01/10/2000
	Bournemouth PCT	01/10/2000
	South & East Dorset PCT	01/04/2001
	Poole PCT	01/04/2002
	South West Dorset PCT	01/04/2001
	Somerset Coast PCT	01/04/2001
	Mendip PCT	01/04/2001
	Taunton Deane PCT	01/04/2002
	South Somerset PCT	01/04/2002
Avon, Gloucestershire & Wiltshire HA	West Wiltshire PCT	01/04/2001
	South Wiltshire PCT	01/04/2001
	Swindon PCT	01/04/2002
	Kennet & North Wiltshire PCT	01/04/2002
	Cheltenham & Tweekesbury PCT	01/04/2002
	Cotswold & Vale PCT	01/04/2002
	West Gloucestershire PCT	01/04/2002
Greater Manchester HA	Heywood & Middleton PCT	01/04/2001
	Bury PCT	01/04/2002
	Rochdale PCT	01/04/2002
	Stockport PCT	01/04/2001
	Central Manchester PCT	01/10/2000
	North Manchester PCT	01/10/2000
	South Manchester PCT	01/04/2000

	Salford PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2001
	Trafford North PCT	01/04/2001
	Trafford South PCT	01/10/2000
	Bolton PCT	01/04/2002
	Ashton, Leigh & Wigan PCT	01/04/2002
	Oldham PCT	01/04/2002
	Tameside & Glossop PCT	01/04/2002
Cumbria & Lancashire HA	Hyndburn & Ribble Valley PCT	01/04/2002
	Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale PCT	01/04/2002
	Blackburn with Darwen PCT (Teaching status)	01/10/2000
	Morecambe Bay PCT	01/04/2001
	Chorley & South Ribble PCT	01/04/2001
	West Lancashire PCT	01/04/2001
Cheshire & Merseyside HA	Southport & Formby PCT	01/04/2001
	South Sefton PCT	01/04/2002
	Bebington & West Wirral PCT	01/04/2001
	Birkenhead & Wallasey PCT	01/04/2002
	South Liverpool PCT	01/04/2002
	Central Liverpool PCT	01/04/2002
	North Liverpool PCT	01/04/2002
	Preston PCT	01/04/2002
	Blackpool PCT	01/04/2002
	Flyde PCT	01/04/2002
	Halton PCT	01/04/2002
	Warrington PCT	01/04/2002
	St Helens PCT	01/04/2002

	Knowsley PCT	01/04/2002
	Ellesmere Port & Neston PCT	01/04/2002
	Cheshire West PCT	01/04/2002
	Central Cheshire PCT	01/04/2002
	Eastern Cheshire PCT	01/04/2002
Bedfordshire & Herfordshire HA	Luton PCT (Teaching status)	01/04/2001
	Bedford PCT	01/04/2001
	Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	01/04/2001
	Royston, Buntingford & Bishops Stortford PCT	01/04/2001
	St Albans & Harpenden PCT	01/04/2001
	Watford & Three Rivers PCT	01/04/2001
	Dacorum PCT	01/04/2001
	Hertsmere PCT	01/10/2000
	South East Hertfordshire PCT	01/04/2001
	N Herts & Stevenage PCT	01/04/2001
North Suffolk & Cambridgeshire HA	Welwyn & Hatfield PCT	01/04/2001
	East Cambridge & Fenland PCT	01/04/2002
	Huntingdonshire PCT	01/04/2001
	North Peterborough PCT	01/04/2000
	South Peterborough PCT	01/04/2000
	Cambridge City PCT	01/04/2002
	South Cambridgeshire PCT	01/04/2002
	Great Yarmouth PCT	01/04/2001
	Norwich PCT	01/04/2001
	West Norfolk PCT	01/10/2000
	Waveney PCT	01/04/2002

Essex HA	Maldon & South Chelmsford PCT	01/04/2001
	Colchester PCT	01/04/2001
	Harlow PCT	01/04/2001
	Uttlesford PCT	01/04/2001
	Epping Forest PCT	01/04/2000
	Tendring PCT	01/04/2000
	Chelmsford PCT	01/04/2002
	Billericay, Brentwood & Wickford PCT	01/04/2001
	Southend on Sea PCT	01/04/2000
	Thurrock PCT	01/04/2001
	Basildon PCT	01/04/2001
	Castle Point & Rochford PCT	01/04/2002
Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire HA	Southern Norfolk PCT	01/04/2002
	Broadland PCT	01/04/2002
	North Norfolk PCT	01/04/2002
	Ipswich PCT	01/04/2002
	Suffolk Coastal PCT	01/04/2002
	Central Suffolk PCT	01/04/2002
	Suffolk West PCT	01/04/2002