

Lessons from on-going developments in England

It is possible that some areas opting for more powers will not choose to take on responsibilities for commissioning and delivering health and social care, however a precedent has been set by Greater Manchester, which will be given full control of a £6bn budget for health and social care.

While there are clear advantages for closer working between health and social care services, the RCN would urge caution in the creation of any new legislative or regulatory arrangements, since both health and social care across England are currently undergoing one of the most vigorous periods of innovation and experimentation since the formation of the NHS in 1948.

The successes and learnings from the experiment in Greater Manchester, and the experiences of the ¹ Vanguard sites² piloting all provide valuable insight and learning which can and should be used to inform any new structural or regulatory proposals. Similarly, any effects resulting from the recent application of the new ³ must be given due consideration when deciding how best to secure equitable, safe, and cost-effective health and care services now and in the future.

October 2015

For further information please contact:

Stephanie McMeeken

Parliamentary Officer

Royal College of Nursing

020 7647 3629

stephanie.mcmeeken@rcn.org.uk