



What has changed in the NHS?

This leaflet will let you know about the changes to the NHS and what this means for people with a learning disability.

Why is it changing?

Last year the government created the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

This act said that some parts of the NHS were not good enough.

Money was being wasted.

GP's didn't have very much power.

Patients needed more choice.

Health services needed to be run better.

These parts of the NHS needed to change.



Commissioning

The new commissioning group for the NHS is called NHS England.

Commissioning means making a plan and then making the plan happen.

NHS England will look after NHS money.

They will choose what health services people in England get.

The way commissioning works will mean that there are enough health services for everyone.

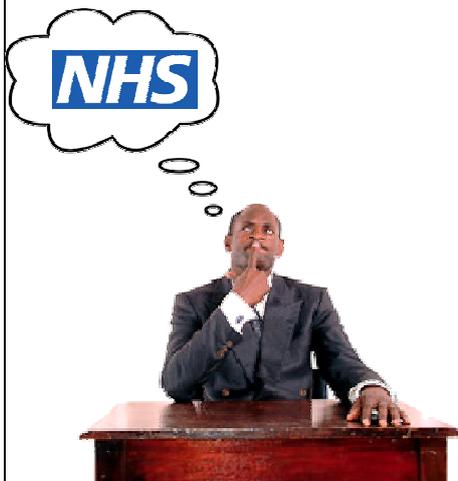
This includes people with a learning disability.

Groups called Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and local area teams will choose what services people get in their area.

Local area teams will choose services like –

- GPs
- Dentists
- Pharmacies
- Opticians.





CCGs will be run by GPs.

They will choose services like –

- Emergency Care services like A&E.
- Community health like community nursing.
- Planned hospital care like operations
- Rehab care like physiotherapy
- Mental health and learning disability services.

CCGs should work closely with local councils and other people who work in healthcare.

CCGs should involve patients, carers and the public.

The act says that healthcare services can be provided by the NHS, a private company or a charity.

This will mean that health services will improve and that patients have more choice.



Checking health services are working well

The Act says that NHS services need to be checked to make sure they are working well. Two of the groups that will be part of checking that the NHS is working well are called **Healthwatch** and **Health and Wellbeing boards**.



These groups have to make sure that people with learning disabilities are involved with planning health and social care.

This will make sure that there are better health and social care services for people with learning disabilities.

If they are not working well you can speak out about them.

You can speak out if you are not happy with the care that you get from the NHS too.



Mencap has made an Easy Read leaflet which can give you more information.

The Leaflet is called **NHS Complaints - What to do if you are not happy with your care**.



More choice

The NHS wants patients to choose where they go to be cared for and who cares for them.

This will make sure that patients are getting the care that is best for them, their parents and carers.

On the NHS website you can look up health care services and see what other people think about them. This can help you choose where you would like to go.

You can also say what you think about them.

This will help the services work better.



More Information

If you would like more information please contact the campaigns and policy team at Mencap.

You can call us on 020 7696 6952

or email campaigns@mencap.org.uk

or write to Mencap, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT