The Bigger Picture
- the context for nursing and nurse leaders

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Objectives for this presentation

- Understanding the context for Govt policy
- Looking at reform proposals and RCN response
- Considering if changes are possible
- Explaining the RCN’s key lobbying messages
- Looking at other areas inc Frontline First
- Your thoughts and comments
Understanding the context for NHS Reform and the Health Bill

- Deficit – £950bn
- Coalition agreement
- White Paper and Bill
- Significant concerns
- NHS must make £20bn in efficiency savings by 2014 – 4% each year
- Many organisations now oppose the Bill but Govt presses on
NHS Reform

- Clinical Commissioning
- Creation of National Commissioning Board
- Abolition of PCTs/SHAs
- All NHS Trusts to become FTs
- Patient focus and shared decision-making
- Decentralisation and localism

RCN responded in detail with significant concerns

RCN 18 assurances – set out clear vision for addressing our concerns
At Congress members backed overwhelmingly a vote of no confidence in Andrew Lansley’s management of the proposed health reforms in England.
Update on recent events

- Bill published
- The ‘pause’
- Listening exercises
- Future Forum
- PM responds to Future Forum
- Re-committed Bill
- House of Commons debate and vote
- House of Lords
- PM summit
Opposing the Bill

- As a result of the meeting of Council in January 2011, the **RCN has now taken the position of opposing the Health and Social Care Bill** and has called for it to be withdrawn.
- The RCN has highlighted that many serious concerns expressed by members have not been addressed during the parliamentary process, listening exercise or political engagement.
- RCN has also stated that the reform proposals will not deliver on the principles originally set out by the Government.
- **Very limited progress** against 18 assurances
Areas where progress has been made

- Clinical commissioning groups
- Mandated nursing involvement on CCGs and NCB
- Monitor to no longer promote competition but now to support delivery of integrated services
- Some safeguards to prevent cherry-picking services
- No absolute deadline for abolishing NHS trusts
- Doctors, nurses etc to join ‘clinical senates’
- Commissioning groups more transparent
But many concerns remain…

- Risk, complexity and fragmentation
- Distraction from achieving £20bn savings
- Huge changes already taking place ‘on the ground’
- Competition and role of Monitor
- Failure regime
- Private patient income cap
- Health inequalities
- Significant pay, workforce and pensions concern
What will the future NHS look like?

- Parliament
- Department of Health
- NHS Commissioning Board
- Monitor (economic regulator)
- Care Quality Commission
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Providers
- Patients and Public
- Local Authorities
- Local Health Watch
- Local partnership
- Funding
- Accountability
- Contract
- Licensing
- Accountability for results
Perspectives on those who oppose the NHS Reform vision - Cartoon from the Guardian – 20.1.12
How are the RCN lobbying on this area?

The RCN has and is still using many methods to lobby on reforms:

- Briefings for parliamentarians
- Meetings with key civil servants
- Lobbying MPs/peers
- Wide range of RCN mentions in debates, PMQs
- RCN evidence to Parliamentary Committees
- Joint letters with other organisations
- Media work including TV, local/national/trade press
Are further changes possible?

- RCN now opposes Bill
- We will continue to talk to Government
- Health Select Committee report
- Most stakeholders opposing the Bill
- Intense media attention
- Lib dem peers amendments
- Deadline of 20th March
In a time when large efficiencies are being made in the NHS, Frontline First empowers nursing staff to speak out against the cuts that impact on patient care, expose where they see waste and highlight innovations and new ideas.
Key findings

- Total number of NHS jobs currently at risk in UK ~ 56,000 (November 2011)
- Analysis of 41 trusts in England:
  - 48.6 % of job cuts are clinical
  - 8.3 % of registered nursing jobs at risk
Ministers deny claims of cutting clinical jobs in NHS
Royal College of Nursing attacked by ministers for saying 56,000 staff face the axe under coalition programme

Daniel Boffey
The Observer, Sunday 20 November 2011
Article history

A patient is taken to the operating theatre in the recently opened Birmingham Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 7 February, 2011. Photograph: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images

The main nursing union was embroiled in a furious row with ministers last night after claiming that 56,000 doctors, nurses, midwives and other NHS staff have lost or are due to lose their jobs, despite David Cameron's pledge to protect front line health workers from the brunt of the cuts.
Behind the headlines…

- Trusts trying to save money by:
  - using “natural wastage” and vacancy freezes
  - Downbanding
  - terminating employment of staff over the age of 65
  - the erosion of terms and conditions

The information we are provided through Frontline First is critical!
Key issue: concern over safe staffing levels

- Clear evidence that patient safety falls where nurses are responsible for too many patients.
- RCN called for mandated staffing ratios of registered to non-registered nursing staff and a safe staffing level benchmark to define how many patients a registered nurse should take responsibility for.
- House of Lords discussed proposed amendment to the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 by Baroness Audrey Emerton.
- Amendment withdrawn but promoted significant and important discussion with Ministers and senior DH officials
What will the future bring?

How could you not see it? It’s right there on the Notice Board.....!
Future challenges

- Nursing Forum review of care standards
- Francis Inquiry report publication (April/May?)
- Care Quality Commission and NMC to have new leaders
- Changes to public health
- Meeting demand (ageing/LT conditions)
- New technologies
- Public expectations
How do you fit ..?

- Our messages need to be based on your views and experiences
- Need local information
- Reality check and feedback on our work
- Your ideas for resources and tools
Thank you!

See the RCN Policy Unit website for more…www.rcn.org.uk/policy

What are your views?
The bigger picture: What will the context for nursing look like by 2014?...

◆ A wide range of providers?
◆ Shift to community?
◆ Mergers, integrations and reconfigurations?
◆ Less District General Hospitals?
◆ Personalised budgets?
◆ Social enterprises (Hinchinbrooke)?