

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2021

**Question to Cllr McMahon
Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing**

By Cllr Pardesi

Question

Integrated Care Systems are shortly to be introduced with a more permissive NHS procurement regime. These new arrangements will hasten the increased fragmentation and privatisation of the NHS. What is the Council doing to alert the public of the implications of these changes?

Reply

The White Paper 'Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all' published in February 2021 sets out HM Government's proposals for legislation to reform the NHS. They include the establishment of Integrated Care System NHS bodies to replace Clinical Commissioning Groups. They also include removal of the procurement rules which apply to the NHS when arranging healthcare services by creating powers to remove the commissioning of these services from the scope of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, as well as repealing Section 75 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition Regulations 2013. This would enable the new Integrated Care System NHS bodies to determine providers for healthcare services in the best interests of patients, taxpayers, and the local population and use competitive tendering only where it adds value.