

Proposed amendments to Your Britain for consideration 7th June 2014

Health and Care

Page 3

H1 Line 40 insert "Austerity at the same time as cutting the welfare state kills people. We need to invest more in the NHS which is effectively suffering a cut, not a freeze. Renegotiate PFIs where necessary – we cannot any longer allow corporations to hold the NHS to ransom. 90% of NHS work happens in the community which needs more investment, not only to offer a better service but to be able, where appropriate, to offer services that would otherwise have been delivered in hospitals. We make no assumption that community care is always cheaper than hospital care, but it may be in some places for some services.

H2 Page 4 line 7 Delete second paragraph and replace with:-

"Labour will restore the duty of the Secretary of State to deliver a comprehensive, universal NHS and will give the Secretary of State the power to give directions to any part of the NHS."

H3 Insert "Under Labour there will be no more top-down re-organisation of the NHS during the next Parliament".

H4 line 12 Delete first sentence of the third paragraph and replace with:-

"Labour will deliver an NHS that values and promotes collaboration and cooperation. Labour will remove any legal or other barriers which prevent or deter cooperation including any which seek to require NHS services to be competitively tendered. Labour will replace the system of procurement through commissioning with a system where publicly funded care services are planned and decisions about services and funding are made through open and transparent democratically accountable processes."

H5 add " The NHS will no longer have either an internal nor external market. It will no longer pretend that FTs are free-standing competitive corporations. The duty of the SoS to ensure a comprehensive NHS will be restored. The NHS will be the preferred provider. The private sector will only be allowed to offer patient services if the NHS cannot improve or they can show genuine innovation. "

H6 Line 30 delete sentence beginning "Instead, we need..." Insert "The health service must ensure collective and individual accountability throughout. NHS services must be responsive, working closely with local authorities, to needs and wants of the populations they serve, as part of a long term dialogue. All care must be delivered with as much participation in shared decision-making as the patient wishes at the time. In particular, all planning functions must be democratically accountable. We will ensure the engagement of patients and family / carers in the care process as co-producers of health outcomes and the provision of good information to patients to enable them to be actively engaged. Values of known importance to patients such as dignity and respect should be fully demonstrated in every service provided for each patient. This should be informed by widely available and meaningful information about the performance of and outcomes from health care services.

It is essential that the NHS should retain the confidence of the taxpayer and its users. Transparent, accessible and independently validated comparative performance data should be used to indicate the effectiveness of the NHS. This will describe its effectiveness at two levels, national and local.

Nationally, UK comparative performance in terms of health inputs, care processes and patient outcomes (both patient and clinician reported) will be used to ensure the NHS matches the performance of the best European systems. The average length of life both attained and forecast at national and sub national levels, the number of life years lost, and the quality of life in key respects (especially for the last decade of life) will inform these measures. The independence of the public health function is important; the Chief Medical Officer will be required to submit an annual report directly to Parliament charting progress in these areas.

Locally NHS services – both directly provided and franchised – will be compared and reported on a number of key indicators. These will include:

- Timeliness of access for diagnostic, elective, and emergency care at primary and secondary locations
- Clinical quality of care in terms of outcomes and adherence to evidence based treatment protocols
- Patient experience of the whole care process and the extent of “co-production”
- Utilisation of human, financial, estate and consumable resources
- The efficacy of local peer review mechanisms

Local authorities have a key role to play in holding local health care services to account for their performance.”

H 6 Line 24 delete “Making hospitals and”

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H7 Line 25 insert ” The financial and other incentives within the NHS will promote cooperation between health sectors and between health and local authorities. Intelligent targets will remain where appropriate. ”

H8 “Integration

- Health and Social Care, either through pooling budgets or through better communication and information flows.
- Services around the patient, ensuring shared information, shared services and shared decision-making
- Primary and secondary care, through a new incentive structure and shared services
- Mental and physical health, should be working within the secondary sector and within community care.

The third sector often plays a crucial role in providing services through supporting people to live at home, and providing advocacy and rehabilitation services. NHS agencies and commissioned providers will therefore be expected to play their part in ensuring that every locality has a thriving third sector.

H9 Line 41 insert ” They will therefore be expected to take an active part in neighbourhood partnerships with residents alongside other public services. ”

H10 Page 6 Line 12 insert “One of the most effective tools for integration of care is to enable all providers to use a common electronic record, over which the patient controls access.”

H11 Line 32 insert " We will therefore ensure support to enable all bona fide local resident groups with a health interest to sit round the table with decision makers. "

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H12 Line 3 insert " So we will direct all health agencies and commissioned services to support and assist carers' groups and other groups dedicated to supporting older people in their own communities. "

H13 Line 20 insert: " The NHS will ensure that clinicians and patients share decisions to the extent the patient wants to. This will require incentives, training and technical interventions such as online access to records and Decision Aids, as well as strengthening Healthwatch and making it more independent. "

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H14 Line 6 insert " (In addition to strengthening Healthwatch) we will require health agencies and providers to support and work with the local community and voluntary sector as a whole, since all the issues that they deal with have an impact on health. We will ensure there is less insistence on inspection and more on listening to staff and patients. Whistleblowers will be protected. Staff/patient ratios will be adequate for safe care. On the job pastoral and mutual support to help staff deal with the emotional burden of their work – and to encourage compassion and care."

H15 line 18 In Section entitled – The future of social care.

After second paragraph add:-

"Labour believes that it is time to accept that social care should be placed on the same basis as health care; free at the point of need. The case for all care being free is the same as the original case for free health care. Labour will work towards delivering on the aspiration of free care building on the Care Bill provisions which extend social free care to some."

line 39 in Section entitled – Ensuring a fair care system

H16 Delete last sentence of fourth paragraph and add:-

"Labour will deliver a 10 Year Plan for a Modern Care System after consulting widely and seeking to establish a wide consensus. Within the first year Labour will publish its proposals for the long term funding of a modern Care System."

Page 9

H17 Line 21 insert " We will therefore ensure that health providers give practical support and encouragement to carers' groups, for example offering them free meeting space in local hospitals. "

Page 10

H18 Line 1 insert " We will therefore direct health commissioners and providers to work closely both with other services and with local residents, to maximise the health benefits of the full spectrum of social issues, for example by ensuring that front line workers participate actively in cross-issue neighbourhood partnerships such as those described in 'People and Services Partnerships' "

H19 Line 15 insert "We will make healthy choices easier by ensuring that the financial incentives and taxation system supports affordable healthy products such as fresh fruit and vegetables while making unhealthy products high in fat, salt and sugar better regulated and relatively more

expensive. We will tax alcohol progressively by unit of alcohol, introduce minimum unit pricing and encourage low alcohol products. We will reduce the hours during which supermarkets are permitted to sell alcohol and make it more difficult to buy dangerous quantities of alcohol following the successful example of reducing damage caused by paracetamol poisoning.”

H20 Line 33 insert “We will progressively raise the age below which it is unlawful to supply tobacco to young people. We will bring forward proposals to reform the law on misuse of drugs to balance the penalties against the harm done by different drugs including alcohol and tobacco.”

H21 “We will take forward the programme of fluoridation of the water supply to reduce the damage to children’s teeth”

H22 line 37 add after “people”: “and at least one in 10 children”

H23 line 38 add: “The state of the nation’s mental health is at its worst ebb since 1997. As evidenced by increasing morbidity and a worsening suicide rate, this is in part due to the recession, but also due to the coalition’s response and the savage cuts to public services. These cuts disproportionately affect the most vulnerable. A clear focus on enhanced well being and the promotion of mental health within schools, workplaces and in general hospitals is needed to reduce the economic and social burden of ill health, particularly to prevent depression in the elderly and their carers and families.”

H24 Line 47 after “new right to ” insert “equitable, effective, evidence-based, treatments including”

H25 Line 50 add: “Mental health services will be scrutinised to ensure that they comply fully with the provisions of the Equalities Act”

Page 11

H26 line 5 add: “Early identification and intervention, both in terms of symptomatology and age are crucial if we are to reduce psychopathology overall in society. Development of robust perinatal mental health services and increased funding of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) will be a key part of our strategy for the prevention of long term mental illness.”

H27 add “Taking part in any community activity is another vital way of protecting and improving mental health, which is another reason why health providers will be directed to support the growth of local voluntary and community groups as a whole, cooperating with the other services which have a mutual interest in this, as described in the paper on stronger, safer communities. For all these reasons we will ensure that health agencies play an active part in deploying community development, with the clear objective of strengthening the constructive role of the community and voluntary sector in relation to health. ”

H28 add “Mental health staff must not separate themselves from general health services, as human illness takes no such account. Mental health services need to return to the easy clinical contact with all medical specialities, and this can be assisted by the removal of the commercial barriers that started the present separation and future reintegration of mental health into general medical services.”

H29 Line 14 add “families” before “workplaces”

H30 Line 17 add “social care, ”

Stability and Prosperity

Page 4

S1 line 8 insert “We want to see a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few and where the rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe. This will not happen in an unhealthy society where wealth is primarily inherited and the benefits of economic growth go to those who are already rich. Reducing economic inequality will be a central concern of the Labour Government”

Page 5

S2 Insert at line 44 after ‘future success.’ “Key to building an economy which creates sustainable economic growth in every region of the country will be supporting micro, small and medium sized businesses. A growing sector that has the potential to increase employment opportunities at the same time as demonstrating that there is a more ethical model of doing business is the social enterprise, co-operative and not-for-profit economy. These models have also proved themselves to be remarkably effective and resilient.”

Page 7

S3 Insert at line 45: “Widening access to the UK Payments system to allow a greater number of financial services providers – including credit unions – to provide current accounts will increase competition in the market and offer a better deal for consumers.”

Page 8

S4 Line 17 insert: “As the major banks have closed branches on our high streets the payday lenders have moved in. More than 1 million people take out payday loans every year totalling almost £2bn. One Nation Labour will cap the overall cost of credit to prevent these high cost lenders from charging the most exorbitant rates. We will also introduce a new levy on payday lenders and use the resources to support the expansion of credit unions. With the right support credit unions can play a growing role in the provision of financial services – as they do in other developed countries including in Ireland and Canada. Key to supporting this growth would be increasing the number of employers who offer payroll deduction of savings and loan repayments. A Labour Government will look to public sector employers to lead the way.”

S5 Line 31 insert “We will use a new tax on wealth to finance the NHS and social care system”

Page 10

S6 Line 22 insert “We will rebalance the social security system to offer more support to pregnant women, parents and children in the early years.”

Work and Business

Page 3

W1 Line 45 Insert : “One Nation Labour will build an economy which creates sustainable economic growth in every region of the country. We know that key to this will be supporting micro, small and medium sized businesses. A growing sector that has the potential to increase employment opportunities at the same time as demonstrating that there is a more ethical model of doing business is the social enterprise, co-operative and not-for-profit economy.”

Page 6

W2 line 25 insert: “Employees of all grades with higher levels of control over their work (in terms of content, pacing of tasks, decision-making, etc.) have better health. Low control at work is associated with higher rates of heart disease, musculoskeletal pain, mental ill health and mortality – even when other risk factors (such as smoking) are accounted for. Interventions to improve control at work (for example rotating tasks, flexible working, employee participation in making company decisions, employee ownership/shares) have been found to improve health – with no detrimental effects on productivity. We will introduce measures to ensure that firms are involving employees in the business so that job control is increased. In other European countries, such as Germany, “worker’s councils” are common place in businesses and they could be introduced here.”

Page 7

W3 Line 12 delete “ratio of” insert “hourly”.

W4 Line 14 insert “Companies and public bodies will be obliged to publish details of the hourly rates of pay of all employees, showing the number employed on each rate”.

W5 Line 40 insert “In contrast One Nation Labour recognises the value of genuine employee ownership. Companies where employees own a significant stake in the company they work for now account for combined annual turnover in excess of £25 billion, more than 2% of GDP and growing. Evidence shows that employee owned businesses are more resilient and more successful than other more traditional models. One Nation Labour will support the growing employee owned sector but will never couple this with slashing employment rights. Which we believe is contradictory and counterproductive.”

W6 line 45 add at end “Disability harassment is a particular problem for disabled people at work, and we will legislate to outlaw bullying and harassment in the workplace, introduce a Dignity at Work Act, and reinstate the third party harassment aspects of the Equality Act 2010 to protect people who are harassed by members of the public while at work.

Labour will introduce:

A statutory right to disability leave to challenge abuse of sickness absence to get rid of disabled workers; extension of the employment provisions of the Equality Act 2010 to protect volunteers to assist disabled people gain experience; restoration of the third party harassment and multiple identity provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and the power of tribunals to make recommendations in order to require employers to change their policies; a review of the operation of the Equality Act 2010 with a view to strengthening it to prevent employer avoidance; a strengthened public sector equality duty and its extension to cover all employers; enshrine the status and rights of workplace equalities representatives in law; a further significant increase in funding for Access to Work and far greater publicity of its availability, to be combined with a programme of promotion to employers and broadening the criteria of what it can fund. Programmes for disabled people are working to a one-size-fits-all approach to disability. A flexible approach is needed individually tailored to the needs of the disabled person.”

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W7 line 6 add at end “Labour will ensure there is a non means tested benefit to meet the additional costs faced by disabled people, and place them on a level playing field with non disabled people. Disabled people and organisations representing disabled people will have a role in the process of assessment for the benefit and in evaluating the assessment process. There should be a disabled person on each tribunal considering appeals where award of the benefit has been refused. Atos

should not be given any right to carry out the assessment, and should be removed from the existing contract to carry out assessments for the personal independence payment without compensation. The assessment must be accessible, fair and transparent, carried out by NHS workers, must use evidence obtained from GPs, consultants and other healthcare professionals, use existing assessment data held for people's entitlement to disability living allowance where held, entitle a recipient of DLA automatically to PIP and be carried out once to result in a lifetime award unless the impact of a condition worsens. There should be no cap on the budget for the benefit, so that all disabled people who meet the criteria receive the benefit. Savings from introducing a universal set of assessment criteria to standardise and eliminate continuous and often conflicting assessments and from carrying out once-in-a-lifetime assessments must be reinvested in personal independence payment or in a replacement for PIP."

W8 delete lines 34-37, insert The majority of disabled people who are able to work want to do so. There are a number of disabled people whose impairments militate against them carrying out paid employment. This must be recognised. A new test is needed to replace the Work Capability Assessment. This should be based on the social model of disability. It needs to ensure that only suitably qualified persons carry out the assessments. It needs to be able to reflect fluctuating conditions, especially but not only mental health, and other "invisible" impairments. It must also respect evidence from GPs, consultants and other healthcare professionals. The replacement for the work capability assessment should be designed in collaboration with representatives of disabled people's organisations, and disabled people.

W9 Line 37 insert "Demonising people on benefits has a detrimental effect on mental health and well-being, and emerging evidence shows that the governments "reforms" have negative consequences in relation to increasing suicide, self-harm and depression, for the existing population of people with mental illness but also possibly for the general population previously not having mental health problems. The evidence also suggests that the reforms are having a negative impact on people in that they are reluctant to be discharged from mental health services, fearing that this will negatively impact on work capacity assessments."

[Living Standards and Sustainability](#)

Page 3

L1 Line 42 Delete "includes" insert "prioritises"

L2 Insert new heading "Transport and health "

Insert "Traffic accidents are higher in more disadvantaged and urban areas (particularly amongst children and outside schools) – perhaps due to the higher volume of traffic in such areas, and are the leading cause of death in children over 5. There is a strong evidence base that shows that reducing traffic speeds from 30mph to 20mph results in a reduction in accidents. We will encourage widespread introduction of 20 mph limits in urban areas to encourage the reclaiming of our streets by pedestrians.

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 will be extended to England. Every local authority will be required to publish details of expenditure on transport measures divided between walking, cycling, public transport and motor vehicles. We will rebalance the transport budget so that 10% is spent consistently over the length of the parliament on the needs of pedestrians and cyclists with the aim of building networks of segregated cycle tracks in every major city. We will remove VAT from bicycles.

We will take urgent steps to reduce the air pollution caused by road traffic, and in particular by diesel engines. We will reconsider the taxation of vehicles and motor fuel in the light of the evidence of damage to health caused by particulates.

We will reduce the level of alcohol which is permitted for motorists”

Page 4

L3 Line 15 add “Free bus passes should be extended to unemployed and workless people to enhance employability and job search. New ways of enhancing mobility for disadvantaged people and developing community transport, especially in rural areas, will be explored.”

Page 6

L4 Line 30 Delete “Encouraging safer cycling” and following 2 paragraphs.

Page 10

L5 Line 35 insert “Central government should provide funds to local authorities to ensure that public transport is continued to be made available in rural areas to connect communities with services.”

L6 Line 50

“The decline in rural services has been well documented. Rural co-operatives, such as community-owned shops, post-offices and pubs, and other social enterprises can be the only viable alternative for communities looking to retain or re-introduce a service in areas of market failure. However, it is still a real challenge for communities to mobilise quickly enough when a local service is under threat and the current rules mean that communities will find a wide range of barriers, including legislative, planning and financial barriers, when wanting to save vital services. One Nation Labour will change the balance of power so that communities have the ‘right to try’ to put together a community run model which can keep services open.”

Page 11

L7 Line 19 delete “Issues around public health and diet are addressed in the Health and Care Final Year Policy Consultation”. Insert “Healthy food is not an issue for the NHS, except that the NHS bears the costs arising from the consumption of unhealthy food. It is the responsibility of the government to protect the health of the population and to defend it from those who make a profit from selling unhealthy food and drink whether the damage is immediately apparent or more insidious. We will remove the VAT exemption from sugar, which has no nutritional value. We will ensure that the quantity of sugar, salt and fat in manufactured food is easily apparent to customers wherever it is sold. We will ban the use of trans fats in food products (as has been done in Denmark) – and push for the ban to be extended throughout the EU.”

[Stronger, Safer Communities](#)

Page 4

C1 line 16 insert “Labour will tackle the problem of under-occupation by taxing empty property and removing the tax incentives which encourage investment in property for rent”.

Page 5

C2 Line 3 insert “Inequality in the UK is mediated by housing. While many have no adequate home others have several homes, all steadily appreciating in value because of scarcity. Rich people are

increasingly and unhealthily segregated from the poor in gated communities. Selection for the best schools is conducted by estate agents.”

C3 Line 7 Delete sentence beginning “As a last resort...” Insert “We will introduce a tax on land”

C4 Line 33 Delete paragraph beginning “Labour believes that...” Insert “Labour will alter the law to give private tenants more protection from eviction, exploitation and unjustified rent increases. Landlords who benefit from the provision of Housing Benefit will be expected to bring their properties up to reasonable standards.”

Page 6

C5 Insert at line 22

“Tenant Voice

Labour recognises the importance of tenants and leaseholders having a stake and a voice in their housing – whether their homes are owned or managed by local authorities, housing associations or arms-length management organisations (ALMOs). Rochdale Borough Housing and Phoenix Community Housing in Lewisham are examples of real tenant empowerment.”

C6 Line 30 insert “Returning Public Health to Local Authorities is a logical step which we support, but it needs to be accompanied by a development of more powers for local authorities to protect the health of their communities. We will change the law to make it clear that public health should be taken into account in all planning and licensing decisions and to ensure that public authorities at all levels must undertake Health Impact Assessments of their decisions.”

Page 7

C7 Line 10 insert “ The NHS will harness community building/development approaches, ensuring that local communities work with statutory agencies to set the agenda for change that meets their needs. This, within a national framework of entitlements set by government. ”

C8 Line 32 Insert “We will review the complex and ineffective mechanisms for involving local communities in the running of the NHS”.

Education and Children

Page 7

E1 Line 21 insert “Good health education should be strengthened as part of the curriculum, with parents and families encouraged to participate.”

E2 Line 41 insert “Schools will be incentivised to ensure that all pupils who are able to do walk or cycle to school.”

Page 9

E3 Line 21 insert “The health care sector relies heavily upon publicly funded research and upon publicly supported students. In terms of research, Labour should operate a strategic health research programme concentrating upon selected areas where the UK has good existing infrastructure. ”

E4 Line 42 insert “Research for UNICEF has shown that children in the UK feel trapped in a “materialistic culture” and don’t have enough time with their families. The UK is in 16th position – below Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Portugal – in a league table of child well-being in the world’s richest countries. We will ensure that the well being of children and particularly the provision of

public facilities for children and young people will be a high priority. New standards for children's play facilities will be developed."

Page 10

E5 Line 4 insert "In 2013 the UK had worse rates than nearly every other western European nation for early neonatal deaths, due to risky behaviours during pregnancy especially smoking, which is more common among women who are socially disadvantaged. We will ensure that sufficient support from midwives and health visitors is available for women and babies to tackle the appalling level of death among young children. We will increase benefit rates for pregnant women so that they can afford a healthy diet."

E6 Line 36 insert "All children are vulnerable and schools need to do much more to promote both physical and mental health. Every school must have a school nurse."

Better Politics

Page 4.

P1 line 24 insert. "People who have more control over their own lives and work are healthier. Taking part in any community activity is a vital way of protecting and improving mental health. Health providers will be directed to support the growth of local voluntary and community groups as a whole, cooperating with the other services which have a mutual interest in this, as described in the paper on stronger, safer communities. We will ensure that health agencies play an active part in deploying community development, with the clear objective of strengthening the constructive role of the community and voluntary sector in relation to health. There needs to be a shift so that we look at the most disadvantaged people regaining a sense of hope control and optimism over their lives, working on the strengths, (assets), of people, their families and the communities in which they live – this will impact positively on mental health and well-being and is evidence based from the recovery framework that is gaining credence in mental health

P2 line 43 insert "The third sector often plays a crucial role in providing services through supporting people to live at home, and providing advocacy and rehabilitation services. Local Authorities, NHS agencies and commissioned service providers will therefore be expected to play their part in ensuring that every locality has a thriving third sector"

P3 line 47 insert "We will reform tendering processes to ensure that the voices of local people are much more strongly heard and corporate greed and dishonesty are penalised"

Page 5

P4 line 10 Delete "Our aim is that for the first time"

Page 6

P5 line 41 insert "Electoral registers will not be made available for marketing or debt collection purposes"

Page 7

P6 line 38 delete from "After all .." to the end of the paragraph. Insert "Decisions about the running of local NHS services will be made by elected local authorities"

Page 8

P7 line 46 insert new section "Age"... "We will ensure that there is parity of treatment in health and social care services in respect of both youth and age. This implies

- equal access to effective, safe care
- equal efforts to improve the quality of care
- the allocation of resources on a basis commensurate with need
- equal status within healthcare education and practice
- equally high aspirations for service users
- equal status to the measurement of health outcomes"

Page 9

P8 Line 23 add "People with mental health problems have been particularly hard hit by changes to benefit assessment processes"

P9 Line 34 add " Poverty, isolation, social injustice and discrimination generate and exacerbate mental ill-health. More effort needs to be taken to build stronger communities, limit the loneliness many people are experiencing and reduce economic inequality. Taking part in any community activity is a vital way of protecting and improving mental health. Health providers will be required to support the growth of local voluntary and community groups as a whole, cooperating with the other services which have a mutual interest in this, as described in the paper on stronger, safer communities. For all these reasons we will ensure that health agencies play an active part in deploying community development, with the clear objective of strengthening the constructive role of the community and voluntary sector in relation to health."

P10 Line 40 Insert "Disabled people are forced to undergo an array of tests and assessments to determine qualification for benefits, services and credits. Labour will introduce a universal set of criteria to standardise and eliminate continuous and often conflicting assessments. Such a scheme will be administered by the NHS and will include qualification for ESA, PIP, Access to Work, tax credits, council care and support packages, Blue Badges, Freedom Passes, Taxi cards etc. There should be a once-only test leading to a lifetime award unless the impact of a condition worsens."

Page 10

P10 line 4 insert "It is unacceptable that black people are stopped and searched more than seven times more than white people"

[Britain's Global Role](#)

Page 5

G1 Delete last paragraph

G2 Line 39 insert "Challenges to high levels of health status can increasingly arise from factors external to the UK. These include the ongoing need to control or contain contagious diseases now more easily transported around the world, and the need to reduce the number of "failed states" that give rise to increasing numbers of refugees forced to seek safety in other countries – including the UK. Labour should see part of its foreign and aid policy in the light of the contribution it can make to protecting the health status of the UK."

Page 7

G3 Line 31 insert:" Labour should ensure that:

- the likely health impact upon service personnel and their families of any conflict is taken into account when considering the use of military force and the nature of that use
- the post conflict care of servicemen and their families is planned for and fully resourced from the defence budget
- the NHS is fully prepared- at all levels – to recognise the signs of ill health arising from military service and to provide an adequate response.