



# NHS North Central London Adult NHS Continuing Healthcare Policy

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#### Introduction

- What is NHS Continuing Healthcare?
- Who is Continuing Healthcare for?
- Continuing healthcare in NHS North Central London
- NHS North Central London policy





### What is Continuing Healthcare?

"a package of continuing care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS"

- The complex nature of Continuing Healthcare means that there is likely to be limited choice of safe and affordable packages of care
- Eligibility is set out in a National Framework





# Who is Continuing Healthcare for?

- The people who are eligible for Continuing Healthcare can have a range of complex health needs:
  - Physical frailty and mental health problems
  - Severe physical frailty
  - Mental health problems, both with and without behavioural difficulties
  - People who need ongoing, high level care until the end of their lives





# Continuing healthcare in North Central London

- NCL investment in 2011/12 is £91.7m
- Nationally there has been an exponential increase in expenditure
- NCL is managing a significant financial challenge

PCT	Budget
Barnet	£24,641,973
Camden	£17,880,279
Enfield	£19,355,867
Haringey	£19,293,192
Islington	£10,577,798
Total	£91,729,109





#### Developing an NHS NCL policy

- PCTs have responsibility to
  - 1. promote a comprehensive health service
  - 2. not to exceed financial allocations
- The NHS NCL policy will enable PCTs to take account of patient choice, but in the context of these two responsibilities
- NHS NCL also has an opportunity to ensure a consistent approach across 5 PCT areas





#### **NHS NCL policy**

- Individuals will, wherever possible, be offered a choice of care packages
- The policy provides a framework beneath which local protocols are being developed
- Choice is balanced with the most effective, fair and sustainable use of finite resources
- There is no set upper limit on expenditure
- The expectation is that placements will not be agreed where costs exceed 10% over the most cost-effective
- If the care package is not the most cost-effective the PCT will consider individual circumstances





### People Currently Receiving Continuing Healthcare

- Regular reviews should be carried out involving the appropriate multidisciplinary professionals
- Some people will need more frequent reviews
- All reviews will be undertaken within the new policy
- Patients, with their families and carers, will be involved in and consulted on all decisions about their care and treatment
- Where transitions between services are necessary these will be as smooth as possible

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#### **Summary**

- The number of people eligible for Continuing Healthcare under the national framework will continue to grow
- No impact on eligibility or creating pressures for Local Authorities
- Transparent framework that informs patients and carers of how choice is managed in relation to resources
- People who need Continuing Healthcare will continue to receive the medical care, and the comfort and dignity, they deserve