

The Impact Of Political Devolution on Health Policy – A Perspective from Scotland

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Kevin Woods
University of Glasgow
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Political Devolution and Health: Information Sources

- The Nuffield Project and the Constitution Unit
- www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk
- www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit

Constitutional change in the UK

- Political Devolution
 - Asymmetric: differences between Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland
 - Regional government in England?
- European Convention on Human Rights
- House of Lords

Powers and Funding

- Everything devolved unless specifically reserved to the UK Parliament
- Very few health issues reserved
- Funding devolved administrations
 - The Barnett Formula
 - Tax varying powers

Expectations of Political Devolution

- Rapid results
- Innovation at the periphery
- A new style of politics

New Labour Policy 1997 – 1999

- Public health
- Partnership
- Integration
- Fairness
- Responsiveness
- Quality

YEAR 1: Changing the Making of Policy

- Partnership
- Scrutiny
- Inter-government relations

Partnership

- Partnership with a purpose
- Joined-up Government
- Variations on a theme

Scrutiny

- The impact of Parliament
- The Health and Community Care Committee
- The Petitions Committee

Inter-Government Relations

- Memorandum of Understanding and Concordats
- Joint Ministerial Committees
- ‘In bed with an elephant’

Year 2: Changing Policy Direction

- The Health Plans
- Governance
- Long term care of the elderly
- Prescription charges
- Public - Private Partnerships

Year 2: Distinctive Policy Directions

In Scotland

- *Public Health

- *Governance of NHS: The Scottish Health Plan

- *Long term care of the elderly

The Scottish Health Plan

- ‘Our National Health: A plan for action, A plan for change’
- The governance of NHSScotland
- Partnership or centralisation?
- The place of primary care?

Distinctive Policy Directions

*In England.

Governance of the NHS ...decentralisation?

Public – private partnerships

*In Wales

Governance of the NHS

Prescription charges

*In Northern Ireland ...plans on hold

*Innovation in the Core?

The Future

- A National Health Service or national health services?

Change Factors

- More constitutional reform
- Political alignment
- The identity of the NHS
- The European Union
- Resources

Health Policy Since Devolution: Summary

- A period of extraordinary change but can we see and feel a difference?
- The power of inertia – ‘the NHS is constantly preparing for change, but nothing changes’
- Is the ‘tanker’ turning?
- The need for learning