

The Health Transition

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Background

- Government White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS published on 12 July
 - *sets out the Government's vision for the NHS;*
- Regional Voices Consultation Events September 2010
 - *To consider issues and impacts for the voluntary and community sector, patients, service users and carers groups.*
- Consultation Responses October 2010
- Government Response to WP 15 December
- Government Health Bill January 2011

Patient Focus and Engagement

- Respondents generally liked the move towards a more patient focused NHS based on localised needs and provision, but the working mechanics of this lacks clarity particularly on how to engage seldom heard communities and individuals.

Comments include:

- Patients need to be given a voice on which services are commissioned for them
- GP Consortia and local statutory bodies need to involve communities in their decision-making
- Important to promote the role of social enterprises and charities can play in the NHS not only as providers but as navigators between services

HealthWatch

- Generally, respondents welcomed the move to HealthWatch but had significant concerns about the role of advocacy and the support needed to make the transition.

Comments include:

- Will HealthWatch will be adequately resourced?
- Concerns over volunteers providing advocacy or HealthWatch taking advocacy away from specialist groups
- Potential conflict of interest if HealthWatch funded by local authorities
- HealthWatch not a good name – needs to reflect social care too

Commissioning and Democratic Legitimacy

- Overall concern about the pace of change and the impact this would have on the VCS

Comments include:

- Need to educate those involved in consortia in the third sector
- There has been no piloting of GP consortia
- Will affect our resources as we will have to engage with more people
- Health and wellbeing boards should have representatives from both the third sector and patient representatives

Information

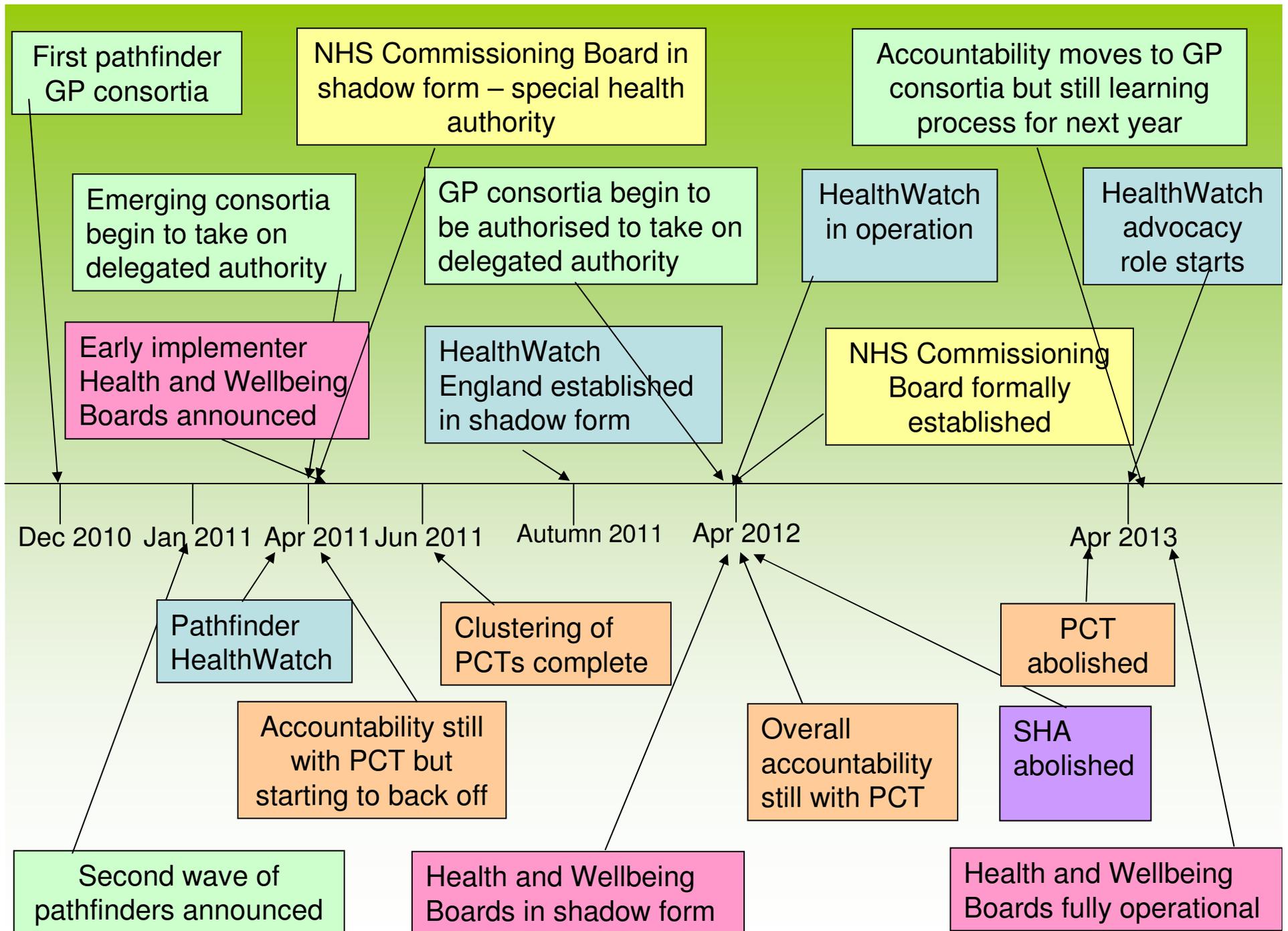
- The information revolution promised by the White Paper must not sideline the importance of personal interaction with the use of new and cheap technology that is pointless to those who cannot access or use it effectively for example people with learning disabilities and BME groups whose first language is not English.

Comments include:

- More face to face engagement needed including multiple methods of communication
- Patients need access to easy read information to enable them to make informed choice about services

What's happening now

- National GP consortia pathfinder event in January
- Work with Royal College of GPs
- Development of GP consortia commission
- Regional work with Strategic Health Authorities
- These events as a springboard with Public Health



Further Information

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