

15 June 2011

STATEMENT ON NHS FUTURE FORUM REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE BILL

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust has welcomed the Coalition Government's decision to allow a greater role for specialist clinicians and patients and more investment in training. The decision came following the publication of the NHS Future Forum's report and recommendations on the Health & Social Care Bill.

In his covering letter to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Health Secretary, Prof Steve Field, who chaired the Future Forum, cited CF as a great example of the positive impact the breadth of the NHS can have, with more and better treatments and increased life expectancy.

Matthew Reed, Chief Executive of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust said:

"Steve Field is right to use cystic fibrosis (CF) as a great example of the improvements in patient care and treatment in his preface to the Future Forum report. It is true that, thanks to these improvements, people with CF are living longer than ever before but we must ensure that changes in commissioning and management of services do not turn back the clock."

The jewel in the crown of the Government's initial plans – to devolve 80 per cent of funding and service commissioning to GPs – has been significantly altered. Following the Future Forum's recommendations, there is no longer a 2013 deadline for GPs to take charge of commissioning. Perhaps more important for the CF community, though, is the expansion of commissioning groups beyond GPs to include at least one nurse and one specialist doctor. In addition, these commissioning groups will be advised on single areas of care, such as CF, by specialist clinicians.

The mantra of 'no decision about me without me' was given a great deal of weight by the Future Forum and, as a result, patient groups will be watching the development of greater patient and public involvement in the development and delivery of services closely. With so many voices clamouring to be heard, it is vital that the CF community is ready, willing and able, with the CF Trust's support, to get involved.

Matthew Reed concluded:

“With the Bill being reintroduced to the House of Commons shortly, we have the opportunity to shape it further and to ensure that CF services are properly resourced and supported. We will be working closely with MPs to ensure that future care is not jeopardised by any changes to the system.”

ENDS

For all media enquiries, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

- The Cystic Fibrosis Trust is the UK’s only national charity dealing with all aspects of Cystic Fibrosis (CF). It funds research to treat and cure CF and aims to ensure appropriate clinical care and support for people with Cystic Fibrosis.
- Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is one of the UK’s most common life-threatening inherited diseases. Cystic Fibrosis is caused by a single defective gene. As a result, the internal organs, especially the lungs and digestive system, become clogged with thick sticky mucus resulting in chronic infections and inflammation in the lungs and difficulty digesting food.
- Each week five babies are born with Cystic Fibrosis and two young people die – 90% from lung damage. Only half of those living with Cystic Fibrosis are likely to live past their late 30s, although improvements in treatments mean a baby born today is expected to live even longer.
- Further information can be found on our website www.cftrust.org.uk. Help and advice for those affected by Cystic Fibrosis is available through our Helpline on 0300 373 1000. For further information, media should contact Gemma Matthews on 0208 290 7912 or email gmatthews@cftrust.org.uk

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