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## HANSARD - 10 January 2012

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**Annette Brooke** (*Mid Dorset and North Poole, Liberal Democrat*)

To ask the **Secretary of State for Health** what assessment he has made of the performance of early implementer (a) Health and Wellbeing Boards and (b) Local HealthWatch organisations in encouraging (i) children and young people and (ii) people with mental health problems to contribute to shaping local **NHS** services.

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**Paul Burstow** (*Minister of State (Care Services), Health; Sutton and Cheam, Liberal Democrat*)

Health and Wellbeing Boards will increase the influence of local people in shaping services, so that local services can better meet local needs. They will have a duty to involve local people in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and joint Health and Wellbeing strategy. **HealthWatch** organisations must be inclusive and fully representative of all those in the communities they serve, including the interests of children and young people and those with mental health problems.

It is for Health and Wellbeing Boards and HealthWatch organisations to establish their own local arrangements to meet these expectations and to engage effectively with local people. We are working with early implementer health and wellbeing boards through a **National Learning Network**, and with HealthWatch pathfinders, to support them as they establish how best to do this.

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**Alex Cunningham** (*Stockton North, Labour*)

Does the **Health Secretary** agree with the **Prime Minister** that our nurses need greater supervision by patients' groups on the ward to ensure that they are doing their jobs correctly, or does he recognise the tremendous job that they and their professional clinical managers are doing despite the huge cuts that the **Health Secretary** has forced on their numbers?

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**Andrew Lansley** (*Secretary of State, Health; South Cambridgeshire, Conservative*)

I do indeed agree with the **Prime Minister**, but I would not characterise what he said in the way that the hon. Gentleman does. I was very interested to see a number of letters in **The Times** just this morning that highlighted that in the past, under patient and public involvement forums and community health councils, there was a direct public interest in seeing what happened in hospitals and in inspection. Through the **Health and Social Care Bill** and the establishment of **HealthWatch**, we will enable the public — representatives of patients — to be involved directly in assessing the quality of the environment in which patients are looked after. They will not supervise nurses. Nurses will be responsible for the experience and care of patients, but the public have a right to be participants in inspection --