

**Public Q from Linda Miller**

I am sure the members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are aware of the level of public concern about ACOs:

- the Judicial Review challenging their legality <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/jr4nhs-round3/>, which has the support of Professor Stephen Hawking who said: "I am concerned that accountable care organisations are an attack on the fundamental principles of the NHS".
- the concern within the Conservative Party with the chair of the Health Select Committee, Sarah Wollaston, asking Jeremy Hunt to take note of public concern and pause the introduction of ACOs.
- and the policy of both the Labour Party and the Green Party to oppose the introduction of ACOs.

*ACOs will be non-NHS bodies which will hold the contract for allocating resources for health and adult social care provision for the population in each area.*

*They can include private companies which will make money and can introduce charging. They will be allowed to sub-contract services. Each ACO will be able to decide on the boundary of what care is free and what has to be paid for. They will be given multi-billion pound budgets in contracts that may last 10 or 15 years.*

*ACOs will have control over the allocation of NHS money – but their accountability for spending it and their obligations to the public will be under commercial contract not statutes.*

*ACOs will fundamentally change the NHS and are being brought in without parliamentary scrutiny or public debate.*

**I would like to ask the members of this Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee if they agree the Council should:**

- **Pause the process of Brighton and Hove being part of any Accountable Care System or Organisation (or possibly re-named Integrated Care System),**
- **Conduct an Impact Assessment of the proposed cuts and changes to services,**
- **Publish the results and hold a Public Consultation.**

## **Public Question from Valerie Mainstone**

"Last Summer, a deputation of breast feeding mothers presented a petition against the cutting of a breast feeding support worker post in Hangleton and North Portslade. This was the Ward sixth from bottom in the 'league table' of breastfeeding in Wards across the city. The cut went ahead, and I understand that a Peer Support Group has consequently closed, for lack of professional supervision. Can the HOSC confirm the loss of this Peer Support Group, and say where Hangleton and North Portslade now stands in the 'league table' for breastfeeding per Ward?"