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NHS Health and Care Trust


Ideas in Times of Austerity

Hazel Watson

Director of Nursing, Compliance,
Assurance, and Standards



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What is austerity?

- Austerity is when a national government reduces its spending to pay back creditors.
- In economics, **austerity** is a policy of deficit-cutting, lower spending, and a reduction in the amount of benefits and public services provided. Austerity policies are often used by governments to reduce their deficit spending while sometimes coupled with increases in taxes to pay back creditors to reduce debt.
- "Austerity" was named the word of the year by Merriam-Webster in 2010


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The challenge

"The NHS must plan for a decade of austerity" – HSJ June 2011

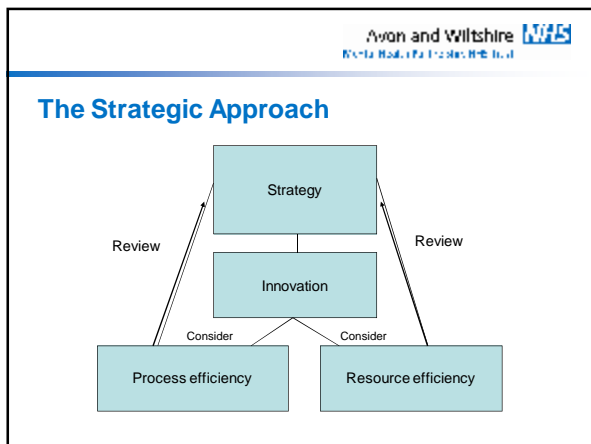
".....real budget freeze until beyond 2015" – John Appleby, Health Economist

".....further away from aspirations of Wanless Review" – Guardian August 2011

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When the going gets tough.....the tough get going.


- Partnership arrangements
- Sharing of Benchmarking information
- Sharing of Care Pathways
- Splitting tariff etc



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- ### Use every resource well
- Who's doing what?
 - Consultant professions?
 - Assessments?
 - Admin support?
 - How long is the chain?


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- ### What to do? – Good Nursing
- Making the improvements Service Users and Carers want doesn't cost money
- Feeling listened to
 - Views taken into account
 - Included in Care Planning
 - Care and support regularly reviewed
 - Promoting Recovery
 - 'Least Restrictive Environment'

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- ### What to do? – Good Management
- Getting it right saves money
- NHSLA costs and payments
 - Ombudsman Awards
 - Employment tribunal awards
 - Solicitors fees
 - Industrial cost of managing disputes, media, etc
- Avoidable costs

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Doing more by doing the same, and differently

- Keep the partnerships
- Keep taking positive risks
- Innovation – in thinking, in practice

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Very simply, innovation is about making things better. It's the process of turning good ideas into benefits – new treatments and services, improved clinical pathways or administration processes, or new pieces of equipment and technology that help us to work more efficiently and safely.

Innovation is problem solving, it's about improving what we do now. It starts when we meet a challenge in our day-to-day work and we set about trying to do something about it.