



Health service provision to rural communities

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Commission for
Rural Communities
Tackling rural disadvantage



Role of CRC

- Role - to provide well-informed, independent advice to government and ensure policies reflect real needs of people living and working in rural England, with particular focus on tackling disadvantage.

3 key functions:

Rural advocate:
voice for rural people, businesses and communities

Expert adviser:
giving evidence-based, objective advice to government and others

Independent watchdog:
monitoring and reporting on the delivery of policies nationally, regionally and locally

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Rural health issues

- Ageing rural population;
- Access to services;
- Hidden rural deprivation;
- Delivery challenges;
- Lack of flexibility in design & provision of services;
- Additional cost of providing services.

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Next stage – taking this forward

- Currently scoping priorities & CRC direction on rural health:
 - National - Department of Health, NHS executive
 - Regional – SHAs
 - Local level – PCTs, Local Authorities
 - Service users e.g. Major Life Events project

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Comments?

- Rural health issues;
- Things CRC should consider when scoping priorities in this area.