

# Hazel Nuts

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At least Lord Hunt has had the grace to have second thoughts about the abolition of Community Health Councils in England: last Autumn, he made it clear in the House of Lords, that he was profoundly unhappy with the CPPIH as it had developed.

Others more closely involved in the abolition of CHCs in England, appear wholly unrepentant. The egregious Hazel Blears, now Minister of State in the Home Office, continues to cite the new system for patient and public involvement in England, as a model that should be followed elsewhere in the public sector.

Even more perversely, as you report elsewhere, Alan Milburn appears to be proposing to extend the disastrous reliance of the CPPIH on voluntary organisations to provide services (from which stem many of the problems Patients' Forums have experienced) across the whole of the NHS.

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