

Press Release: September 11<sup>th</sup> 2012

Currently embargoed

## **New 2020Health Chairman, Dame Helena Shovelton, promises to fight for patients' rights in the NHS**

Dame Helena Shovelton's appointment to the influential think-tank signifies a mutual commitment to finding solutions to the healthcare challenges of the twenty-first century, according to 2020Health CEO Julia Manning.

Commenting on her new role, Dame Helena said: "I am thrilled to join a think-tank that believes healthcare reform must be patient-focused. Putting the needs of patients first will be central to my Chairmanship at 2020Health."

Dame Helena was Chief Executive of the British Lung Foundation for over a decade, and is a former Chairman of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureau. She also served as Chairman of the Audit Commission, giving her unparalleled experience in monitoring the funding of public bodies, including the NHS.

Dame Helena continued: "Fighting for improved efficiency in healthcare services is a principle concern of mine. It is about more than improving the bottom line. It is about saving lives.

"I share 2020Health's mission of creating a more healthy society. Embracing new technology can go a long way towards achieving this goal, in part by revolutionising patient care."

Her appointment was welcomed by 2020Health CEO, Julia Manning: "Dame Helena is an experienced and passionate advocate for consumer rights. At a turbulent time for the NHS, she will provide an invaluable insight into the complexities of healthcare reform.

"She will also work with us on address major issues such as managing expectations and the growing healthcare requirements of an ageing population."

Dame Helena concluded: "I am not an ideologue. In the increasingly heated discussions surrounding healthcare reform, partisan bickering is not my game. Above all, I am a pragmatist interested in finding solutions."

ENDS



Technology • Business • Policy

83 Victoria Street, London SW1H OHW  
T 0203 1707 702 E [admin@2020health.org](mailto:admin@2020health.org)

#### Note to Editors

1. For interviews, comment or further information please contact either Andrew Collinson at Media Intelligence Partners on 07592 979054 / [Andrew@mippr.co](mailto:Andrew@mippr.co), or Julia Manning, 2020health Chief Executive, on 07973 312358 / [Julia@2020health.org](mailto:Julia@2020health.org)
2. 2020health.org is an independent, grass-roots Think Tank passionate about creating a healthy society. We identify issues and bring informed people together to create these solutions. Please visit [www.2020health.org](http://www.2020health.org) for more information and full publications.