

The fundamentals of NHS Governance: Opening remarks

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The 21st Century Public Sector Context

- An environment characterised by unprecedented turbulence and profound uncertainty
- Escalating demand - dramatically constraining resource



“What we’re experiencing is not simply the acceleration of the pace of change, but the acceleration of acceleration itself. In other words, change growing at an exponential rate”

Kurzweil 2006

The 21st Century Public Sector Context

- From governance of and for safe maintenance of the 'status quo'
 - In the face of constant structural turbulence
- to governance for and of profound reform & transformation
 - Commissioning
 - Organisation
 - The care system



The 21st Century Public Sector Context

- Aligned regulation
 - Whole system thinking
- Outcome focussed quality
- Managed competition in a constraining market
 - Synergy
 - Alliance
 - Evidenced value
- 360 degree principle, not rule based, governance
- “*Salus populi summa lex esto*” [Marcus Tullius Cicero 57 BC](#)



The 21st Century Public Sector Context

- A transformed paradigm of NHS Governance
 - *“The problems that we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking that created them”* Einstein 1932 AD
- Future focus
 - 60:40
- Clarity, scrutiny, transparency & probity
- Risk sensitivity
 - Politically aware, not obsessed
- Informed judgement
 - *“The application of collective wisdom to uncertainty”* Stanton 2008