

who's who in health

the
2010
conservative
intake

hanover

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Foreword



At the next general election the House of Commons may undergo its most radical change since 1945. An unexpected number of retiring MPs, coupled with a sizeable predicted swing to the Conservatives means well over a third of the new Parliament could be new MPs. Even if the Conservatives gain an overall majority of one, more than half their MPs will be new to Parliament. Change of this scale will have huge implications for business.

Much has been made of the “ones to watch” in this predicted new intake of MPs. This booklet highlights candidates with a healthcare interest, including unique information gained from them via a **hanover** survey of their opinions and priorities.

This booklet focuses on Conservative PPCs, some of whom will be certain of election as they are fighting seats with large majorities, or ones estimated to have had large notional majorities in 2005 with the new boundaries. Others will have a harder fight ahead, but with a national swing of 7%+ needed for the narrowest of Conservative majorities the party is working hard to win these seats. While we did not originally set out to look solely at the Conservatives, they can expect to form the bulk of the class of 2010, and of the candidates from other parties selected to date, few have a health specialism.

The candidates’ backgrounds range from scientist to investor, GP to PCT board member, policy advisor to aid worker and patient advocate. They have many common priorities and concerns: care of old people; prevention; improved access and decentralisation, to name but a few, but in how healthcare should be organised and funded there is a plurality of views.

Given the tough challenges health faces over the coming years the views and energy of this new intake will be critical.

Charles Lewington

Helen Grant

PPC for Maidstone and the Weald

Conservative
notional majority
of **12,922**



Helen inherits the seat from Rt Hon Anne Widdecombe who held the health brief in opposition under William Hague's leadership. She took an active role in the NHS as

a non-executive director of the Croydon NHS Primary Care Trust from January 2005 until 2007. Helen is also the founding member of the executive committee of the MASH campaign, which aims to save Maidstone's Hospital Services, and she regularly meets with the Chairmen of the Maidstone Hospital Trust Board and their overseeing Primary Care Trust board.

Her family background is rooted in healthcare. Her grandmother was a nursing sister, her father a doctor and orthopaedic surgeon, her mother a nurse and she has two sisters, one who is a doctor and the other a nurse.

She strongly believes in the importance of listening to patients, understanding them and the communities in which they live:

“If we are committed to delivering the highest quality of care and service we must know our customers.”

She wants to see widespread reform stretching from **“financing a world class commissioning service”** through to **“the public perception of the NHS. If we can improve the perception of the NHS then this would lead to a more motivated workforce.”**

Helen considers the NHS to be:

“A pearl of our society – universal health care free at the point of need. We must support it and protect it, but also improve it by making it more responsive to patients' needs.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teenage pregnancy• Smoking• Cancer screening• Childhood immunisation• Weight management	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospital Quality of Service: ★ Financial Management: ★★

Phillip Lee

PPC for Bracknell

Conservative
notional majority
of **12,036**



Phillip was selected by members of the local community as well as the Party membership at an “open primary” selection meeting, although Bracknell stopped short of

having a full a constituency-wide paper ballot. Phillip is expected to increase the majority, despite an anticipated backlash against the retiring Conservative incumbent’s expense claim abuses.

He studied at King’s College, London, Keble College, Oxford and St Mary’s Hospital Medical School at Imperial College in London. He now works as a part-time GP throughout the Thames Valley area. He has highlighted the lack of MPs and candidates with a science background and is expected to be a champion of research and science on the green benches.

He cancelled his BMA membership shortly after qualifying as a doctor as he felt they did not stand up for doctors’ or patients’ best interests, but has been complimentary about more recent BMA policy, such as their agreement with the Conservative’s call to create an independent health board. He has been critical of both nation devolution and the Barnett formula as causing unfairness in the provision of healthcare in Britain.

This will be the second general election he has fought having contested Blaenau Gwent in South Wales in 2005.

Phillip believes patients need to be involved in service design:

“Until local people take ownership of their own individual health and play an active role in determining the health services offered locally, the health of the nation as a whole will not improve.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing physical activity • Reducing teenage pregnancy • Fuel poverty and early age obesity 	<p>Royal Berkshire Hospital</p> <p>Quality of Service: ★★ ★</p> <p>Financial Management: ★ ★</p>

Daniel Poulter

PPC for Central Suffolk and Ipswich North

Conservative
notional majority
of **7,856**



A doctor, specialising in obstetrics, gynaecology and women's health, pipped 170 hopefuls to become the PPC for retiree Michael Lord's safe Conservative seat. Selected in an meeting open to

everyone living in the constituency, he pledged to resign his post immediately at the Princess Royal University Hospital, in Bromley, and to find health care work in Suffolk in the run-up to the General Election.

Daniel is a veteran campaigner both for the Conservatives and for local healthcare services. He has good connections to the Conservative health team, in particular Anne Milton MP, having run her polling day operation for the 2005 general election.

In addition to medicine, his legal background – he is a law graduate – and successful recreational debating track

record will ensure he is an effective advocate for the issues he cares about when he reaches the green benches.

During his career he has served on several service improvement committees concerned with care for older patients and promoting best practice in natural childbirth. He also has experience of health issues from a local government perspective as a local Councillor, being made Deputy Leader of Reigate & Banstead Council last year. In his spare time he has chosen to support organisations dealing with homelessness, mental illness and Women's Refuge. His interest in all three issues is likely to continue into his parliamentary career.

He states that:

“I would fight to cut NHS bureaucracy, and instead direct more money into frontline patient care: such as maternity services, A&E and cancer treatment.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inequalities• Child physical activity• Teenage pregnancy	<p>Ipswich hospital</p> <p>Quality of Service: ★★</p> <p>Financial Management: ★★★</p>

George Freeman

PPC for Mid Norfolk

Conservative
notional majority
of **7,793**



George will bring twelve years experience of biomedical research and healthcare venture capitalism to the green benches and is likely to be a leading prevention champion, wanting

investment in **“health awareness and responsibility earlier in life.”**

After a brief spell as Parliamentary Officer for the National Farmers Union and an early career in small business, George was appointed Director of venture capital firm Early Stage Ventures. As one of the founders of Merlin Biosciences in the 1990s, he was closely involved in the formation and funding of a number of well known UK biotech start-ups including Ark Therapeutics, Vectura, Microscience, Biovex, and Amedis Pharmaceuticals.

In 2003, he set up 4D Biomedical, a bio-medical ventures advisory business,

and now a leading specialist experimental medicine consultancy.

His work in the last three years has almost exclusively involved working with the UK’s leading biomedical research hospitals setting up new translational models of care to catalyse and draw on accelerated biomedical discovery.

He sees the major challenges healthcare providers face as:

“The ‘perfect storm’ of pressures, from continuing technological innovation creating ever more treatment possibilities, exploding patient demand accelerated by fundamental epidemiological and demographic drivers, the breakdown of the Big Pharma ‘one size fits all’ blockbuster discovery model, and new reimbursement regimes based on improved performance of increasingly targeted therapies.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inequalities across the county, especially early deaths from heart disease and stroke	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Quality of Service: ★★ Financial Management: ★★★

Sarah Wollaston

PPC for Totnes

Conservative
notional majority
of **1,620**



Selected via a high profile open primary, where all members of the electorate can vote, the Chagford GP and relative newcomer to the political arena beat established local

politicians to the Totnes candidacy. She is expected to continue the tradition of vocal GPs in the House and has already highlighted alcohol abuse as an issue of concern having witnessed the “**devastating effects of alcohol-related crime and binge-drinking**” as both a doctor and a victim examiner.

She took a BSc in pathology in 1983, a medical degree at Guy’s Hospital in 1986, and became a Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners in 1992. In addition to her work as a GP, Dr Wollaston has considerable expertise in medical education and training.

She has been a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2007 and has also taught medical students from Bristol and the Peninsula Medical Schools for the last ten years. She has worked as a GP trainer, has taught junior doctors at Exeter postgraduate centre, and is an examiner for the Royal College of General Practitioners. From 1996-2001 Dr Wollaston worked as a forensic medical examiner for the police.

During her selection campaign, she pledged:

“I would fight to maintain community hospitals and resist the slide towards impersonal, large scale medical provision. I feel the health service is under-represented in Parliament and hope to be in a position to influence future Conservative health policy.”

Local PCT priorities

- Smoking
- Obesity
- Misuse of alcohol
- STDs (especially in young people)

Local hospital performance rating

Totnes Country Hospital

Quality of Service: ★★

Financial Management: ★★★

Maggie Throup

PPC for Solihull

Conservative
notional majority
of **124**



A qualified healthcare scientist and Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Maggie is expected to take Solihull from the Lib Dems.

She should benefit from favourable boundary changes and a long track record as a local campaigner, often on high profile health issues, including working to save local maternity services and A & E.

She graduated from the University of Manchester with a Biology degree and she also has professional qualifications in Biomedical Sciences and in Marketing. Maggie began her career as a Medical Laboratory Scientist, working in the NHS, and then moved into Medical Diagnostics Sales & Marketing for Nycomed (UK) Ltd, before setting up her own business.

She is a champion of decentralisation, saying that “patient-centred healthcare is important – it doesn’t always have to be delivered in the latest, high-tech environment.”

Her priority for reform:

“More preventative medicine – the well-woman and well-man clinics introduced by the last Conservative Government were a step in the right direction.

Also the cost of screening and therefore early diagnosis and prevention must be much lower than the cost of treating diseases at a later stage, plus the cost to employers of sickness absence and the cost to the State in benefits.

More importantly, it must be good for the individual.”

Local PCT priorities

- Inequalities
- CVD deaths increasing
- Physical activity
- Reducing smoking

Local hospital performance rating

Solihull Hospital

Quality of Service: ★★
Financial Management: ★★★★★

Mark Coote

PPC for Cheltenham

0.33%
swing required



Mark cites his passion for healthcare as stemming from the NHS saving his life from a rare illness when he was in his twenties. A former teacher, he is now

Associate Director of Britain's largest charity, Cancer Research UK.

Unsurprisingly, improving cancer outcomes features high on his list of priorities and, in particular, prevention and early detection as well gaining equitable access to treatments.

He also wants to see “a fair solution to long-term healthcare for the elderly, improved access to free dental care, and stronger recruitment models for trainee doctors and dentists.”

He believes there should be a systematic dismantling of Department of Health targets, and devolution to Hospital Trusts and PCTs of “Far more responsibility based on the audited needs of individual communities and their unique healthcare needs and provisions.”

Having fought Hastings and Rye in two successive elections, he now has the chance to take his hometown of Cheltenham from the Lib Dems who hold it with a slim majority.

He believes:

“If I could change one thing it would be to end the inequities of healthcare access within deprived communities and the postcode lottery with treatment availability.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smoking• Obesity• Breastfeeding• Alcohol misuse• Independence of vulnerable people and reducing falls in over 75s	Cheltenham General Hospital Quality of Service: ★★★★★ Financial Management: ★★★★★

Penny Mordaunt

PPC for Portsmouth North

0.38%
swing required



Penny is a former Director of Diabetes UK – the largest patient organisation in Europe. In this role she helped the charity develop the provision of services as well

as raise awareness of the condition and improve diagnosis and access to services.

Penny is concerned with international development, an interest that dates back to her time as an aid worker in the hospitals and orphanages of post-revolutionary Romania. More recently she participated in a UK Trade and Invest health mission to India, and also devised and ran an occupational health programme for UK companies with overseas staff, delivering screening and educational programmes on five continents.

Penny has worked in Westminster, for William Hague as Leader of the Opposition, and in Washington DC, as George W Bush’s head of foreign press, as well as for **hanover** as a public relations consultant.

Improving care and services for older people is her priority, and she recently helped bring together major charities for older people with the Centre for Social Justice, to encourage greater policy focus on these issues within the party. She is also a hospital visitor, and during the London mayoral campaign ran a campaign to highlight poor access to GP services for commuters.

She wants to see:

“A true level playing field for all potential providers, maintaining focus on continual training and development for staff, and a more outward looking NHS.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obesity & Smoking• Alcohol related harm• Oral health• Teenage pregnancy• Substance misuse and inequalities	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (Queen Alexandra and St Marys) Quality of Service: ★★★★★ Financial Management: ★★

Maria Hutchings

PPC for Eastleigh

0.56%
swing required



Maria has spent the last 6 years campaigning for special needs children and their carers and takes a particular interest in autism, having an autistic son.

Although she only needs a tiny swing to win, she has a considerable challenge on her hands. She is standing against the well-resourced and experienced campaigner Liberal Democrat Chris Huhne MP. Huhne has been critical of her wish to increase access to single vaccines for MMR for parents who are concerned about the joint vaccination. A former radio broadcaster, Maria makes regular media appearances often describing the “immense struggle” of coping with a child with a disability and citing her personal experience of “fighting the system” as her motivation in politics. A popular and well-known figure, she famously ambushed Tony Blair in February 2005 live on television, over the proposed closure of the special school attended by her son.

After a brief 12 month flirtation with the Labour party in 1983 she joined the Conservatives in 2005 after coming to prominence through her campaigning. She went on to serve as a member of the Conservative Party Public Service Improvement Policy Group and the Commission on Special Needs.

She thinks patient organisations will:

“Have their work cut out for them in an increasingly crowded space.”

and thinks that the current trend for mergers of these organisations will:

“Be balanced by the emergence of more splinter groups due to the need for increased and more detailed, specific knowledge.”

Her priorities would be “joining up the dots between health and education provision and tackling single vaccine availability.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mortality rates• Child obesity• Teenage pregnancy• Alcohol related harm	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare Trust Quality of Service: ★★ Financial Management: ★★

Margot James

PPC for Stourbridge

1.46%
swing required



A vice-chairman of the Party since 2005, and named by The Pink Paper as the tenth most powerful gay, lesbian and bisexual politician in the UK, Margot is one to watch should she turn

the suburban West Midlands seat of Stourbridge blue in 2010.

She has experience of working in healthcare as a volunteer, a politician and professional, as well as being a carer for her own family. After working in the family firm, Margot co-founded Shire Health, a healthcare PR and medical education business which she sold to Ogilvy & Mather in 2004, joining the senior management team.

She also brings expertise as a former mental health manager, as a board member of Parkside NHS Trust, and as an 'Older People's Champion' and member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee while a councillor for the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

On healthcare funding, Margot opposes any idea of co-payment and says that "As soon as you move to a two-tier system that guarantees a 'minimum' and facilitates access to better treatment and services to those who can afford co-payment or insurance, then more and more treatment will start to fall in to the latter category and the 'minimum' will become worse over time."

She wants to:

"Restore the values of care, and time with patients so this becomes the cornerstone of nursing. I would like for nurses to take greater pride in their work and have the power to aspire to, and reach, a much higher standard of ward discipline and patient care than is reportedly the case at the moment."

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol• Obesity	Dudley Hospital NHS Trust Quality of Service: ★ Financial Management: ★★☆☆

Paul Maynard

PPC for Blackpool North and Cleveleys

4.24%
swing required



In 1999, Paul served as a health adviser in the Conservative Research Department and was later appointed an adviser to Dr Liam Fox MP during his role as Shadow

Health Secretary. After he left his role within the Conservative Party in 2002, Paul took a year's sabbatical at the think tank Reform.

He believes the ethical dimensions of healthcare provision will become more important as the costs of healthcare escalate and our ability to meet those costs fails to keep up.

Paul sees the biggest challenge, for those who provide care, is to fit the care to the patient and not the patient to the care.

“The more complex healthcare becomes, the harder it seems to be to preserve a patient’s individuality. Everything I hear from local groups is about how difficult people find it to access the help appropriate to them – if you don’t fit neatly into the tick-boxes, you struggle.”

Noting that his constituency has the highest proportion of residents in the country with a long-term medical condition, improvements in this sphere are important to him and he thinks mental and public health are much neglected policy sectors.

He has two priorities:

“Reform to the financing of end-of-life provision, and a review the 1969 Medicines Act in its totality to reflect current medical reality (adults with, for example, cystic fibrosis should be allowed free prescriptions).”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol misuse• Smoking• Obesity• Teenage pregnancy	<p>Blackpool Hospital</p> <p>Quality of Service: ★★☆☆</p> <p>Financial Management: ★★☆☆</p>

Helen Whately

PPC for Kingston and Surbiton

9.05%
swing required



Helen is the daughter of two doctors and currently works as a healthcare specialist for a management consultancy. She is a passionate campaigner for the NHS, saying it should be “held up as

an example to aspire to around the world.”

She has previously worked for the Conservatives’ Culture Media & Sport team, at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and at AOL, where she launched the UK’s first legal internet film service.

Helen wants to:

“See the NHS continue to move from acute to primary and community care, and I believe that more transparency in performance will help drive up standards, as has happened with hospital cleanliness.”

In addition to the funding challenges faced by the NHS, she is concerned about a lack of clarity around the status of patient organisations within the service, as well as the extent to which the NHS is locally accountable: “I’m unconvinced by the structures intended to bring local democracy to bear on the NHS.”

She also takes a close interest in ‘healthcare systems’ and in the nursing profession “which has been in crisis for a decade now.” Her priorities would be End of Life Care and Mental Health.

Since winning this seat with a wafer thin majority in 1997, Lib Dem MP Ed Davey has built up a comfortable lead here. However the Conservatives are working hard to ‘lovebomb’ Lib Dem voters and are ambitious about eroding Mr Davey’s majority with the aim of taking the seat back, either at this election, or the next.

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving life expectancy and tackling inequalities.• Improving quality and responsiveness of services especially for people with long term conditions, disabilities and mental health issues	<p>Kingston Hospital</p> <p>Quality of Service: ★★</p> <p>Financial Management: ★★★</p>

Rowena Holland

PPC for Nottingham South

9.6%
swing required



Nottingham South is an ambitious target seat that could turn blue if the Conservatives' best showings in the opinion polls holds up through to the election. Rowena's

campaign is aided by her local credentials and the sitting Labour MP Alan Simpson's retirement.

If elected, Rowena Holland would bring to Parliament 15 years in the pharmaceutical sector. She has a doctorate in Biochemistry and has worked for 3M Healthcare, Merck Sharp & Dohme and ALK-Abellio. Allergy is her current area of professional interest and she is a long standing supporter of the Anaphylaxis campaign.

Rowena would like to see reform of NICE as a priority, but she also highlights the need for pharmaceutical companies to provide adequate evidence in terms of clinical trials, health economic data and quality of life patient outcomes in a format that can be quickly evaluated.

“The Scottish Medicines Consortium reviews all new drugs and I think that NICE should do likewise, and give physicians a review of all new drugs that are released for use in the UK. The current process is extremely slow and reviews only a small proportion of new medicines, leaving physicians and PCTs to make their own reviews which ultimately causes ‘postcode prescribing’ issues...a very unfair system that needs to be addressed.”

Local PCT priorities	Local hospital performance rating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Premature deaths (CVD, stroke, smoking, road accidents)• Reducing childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy and improving drug and alcohol treatment	<p>Nottingham City Hospital</p> <p>Quality of Service: ★★</p> <p>Financial Management: ★★★</p>

Julia Manning

To be selected



Julia Manning will be a key player in future Conservative health policy development, whether she becomes an MP or not. One of the four finalists in the recent open primary in Gosport,

she has made good progress through the selection process and commentators have had her as a favourite to get a seat for the forthcoming General Election.

Julia, an optometrist by trade, set up her own specialist practice for the housebound. She is a founder and Director of 2020health.org a web-based, centre-right Think Tank for health and social care which focuses on policy development by front line professionals. Earlier this year they produced a paper on Practiced Based Commissioning, and current research work includes valuing work as a public health outcome and value based pricing for pharmaceuticals and medical technology.

She was a founder member of the British Association of Behavioural Optometrists, visiting lecturer at City University, visiting clinician at the Royal Free Hospital, London, and a Director of the Institute of Optometry. Her clinical interests include diabetes and multiple sclerosis and she has campaigned for improved provision for people with visual impairment.

She has recently called for an end to the duplication of management roles in the NHS, and for greater streamlining of services as a means to finding savings in the health budget.

“And as a former NHS clinician I think the single most depressing fact is the waste in the NHS of a huge number of incredibly talented, imaginative, innovative medics and ancillary staff. Their expertise and experience is a significant pool of wisdom which is frequently ignored or dismissed.”

Departures:

voluntary and involuntary

There are well over 100 MPs standing down at the next election, with an expectation that many more will follow before the election campaign begins. Amongst those that are standing down are three consecutive Health Secretaries (1999-2006): **Alan Milburn**, **Patricia Hewitt** and **John Reid**, together with their former Cabinet colleague and long serving health minister **John Hutton**.

The energetic **Dr Howard Stoa**te, mainstay of a myriad of health related All Party Groups and a long standing Health Select Committee member, has chosen not fight his ultra-marginal Dartford seat, dropping constituency surgeries in favour of his doctor's surgery. His Co-Chair on the All Party Group on Obesity and Health Select Committee colleague, former immunologist **Dr Doug Naysmith**, will not be fighting marginal Bristol North West next time around either.

Long-time mainstays of the Science & Technology Select Committee, former medical researcher **Dr Des Turner** and organic chemist **Dr Brian Iddon** will also depart next year. The Select Committee for Innovation Universities Science and Skills, that lost **Dr Ian Gibson** earlier this year, will also lose committee Chairman **Phil Willis**.

Mental health campaigner, former laboratory technician and Health Select Committee member **John Austin**, Chair of the HIV / AIDS All Party Group **Neil Gerrard**, the Conservative Government's last Science minister **Ian Taylor**, and this Government's first one, **John Battle**, will all leave the House.

Other health related departures include: sexual and reproductive health campaigner **Chris McCafferty** in the Pennine marginal of Calder Valley; two former Conservative ministers, **Michael Jack** and **Tim Boswell**, who have been campaigners on health and on disability from both front and backbenches. The redoubtable former Shadow Secretary of State for Health during the Hague era, **Ann Widdecombe**, also moves on, as does former Opposition Chief Whip **David Maclean**, who spoke from personal experience about Multiple Sclerosis. **Angela Browning**, who brought understanding of the impact of Asperger's syndrome on those with the condition and their families, is also standing down.

In addition to MPs that will depart the Commons of their own accord, there are others at risk of involuntary retirement at the hands of the electorate. The ministerial team at the Department of Health looks the most vulnerable in Whitehall with at least three likely to forego both their ministerial salaries and their seats in Parliament unless there is a major turnaround in Labour's fortunes.

Prime amongst them is 'Expensesgate' hit social services minister **Phil Hope** who is nursing a wafer-thin majority in Corby. His colleague **Ann Keen's** seat of Brentford & Isleworth also looks hard to hold, and Minister of State **Gillian Merron** will be lucky to keep hold of Lincoln if current polls are anything to go by. Fellow minister **Mike O'Brien** in Warwickshire North is not out of the woods either.

Liberal Democrat MPs may prove harder to unseat than Labour ones. However amongst those vulnerable to a resurgent Conservative Party include former frontbench spokesman and campaigner on health, older people and disability **Paul Burstow** in Sutton & Cheam; and Chair of the All Party Group on Diabetes **Adrian Sanders**.

A number of longstanding Health Select Committee members face tough elections, including former UNISON organiser **Charlotte Atkins** in Staffordshire Moorlands where boundary changes mean it is already considered a Conservative seat. Former pharmacist and longtime Liberal Democrat spokesperson on health and older people **Sandra Gidley** in ultra marginal Romsey & Southampton North is also a top target for the Conservatives, and should rheumatologist and septuagenarian Independent MP **Dr Richard Taylor** decide to stand again in Wyre Forest he too will face a strong challenge from the Conservatives.

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about **hanover** please get in touch.

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Design by Straightedge straightedge.co.uk
Print by Marstan Press themarstanpress.co.uk

Printed on FSC certified paper.