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| e-tivity logo | **The political agenda: effect on service delivery** Image from secretlondon123, Flickr, CC-BY |
| **Purpose** | To reflect on the impact of political agenda on health and social care service delivery |
| **Task** | Read the [Appelby (2013) report](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/time-to-think-differently/publications/spending-health-and-social-care-over-next-50-years) about the factors that influence the demand for health and social care, about taking a long term perspective, and considering the pressure to increase spending on health and social care. If you are short of time, the summary in section 1, 5 and 6 are probably the most relevant to you.Consider the following questions for each of the three sectors:**NHS:*** Should the state be responsible for providing health care to all citizens?
* Should we be responsible for our own health and healthcare?
* How would you determine which services should be free and the criteria for determining this?
* How would you explore a “means-testing” services?
* Would you assess the acceptability on the idea of a two-tier health care system, paying to ‘top up’ care?

**The independent Sector:*** Do we need a private sector in healthcare?
* To what extent does the pursuit of profit hinder the provision of care?
* Are private practice and public service mutually exclusive?
* What if anything should be done to regulate private healthcare?

**The Voluntary Sector:*** What would you be willing to give freely to strangers?
* Why should you give anything, if you live in a country with a well-funded welfare state?
* If you pay taxes, is that enough, or do your social and moral obligations toward the community extend beyond this?

Also consider the following questions:* Where and how should the public debates and deliberations take place around the political and social choices?
* What might be the impact on those choices?
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| **Instruction** | Place your reflections on the above questions on the discussion forum. |
| **Reflection and feedback** | Comment on at least 2 contributions posted by your peers on the discussion forum. |
| **Attribution** | This E-tivity is developed by Linda Lilley, School of Health, University of Northampton, using the E-tivity template developed by Gilly Salmon (2002). |
| **Reference** | Appleby J (2013). *Spending on Health and Social Care Over the Next 50 Years. Why think long term?* London: The King’s Fund. Available at: [www.kingsfund.org.uk/time-to-think-differently/publications/spending-health-and-social-care-over-next-50-years](https://nile.northampton.ac.uk/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_group=courses&url=%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fcontent%2FcontentWrapper.jsp%3Fcontent_id%3D_1045665_1%26displayName%3DLinked%2BFile%26course_id%3D_25177_1%26navItem%3Dcontent%26attachment%3Dtrue%26href%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.kingsfund.org.uk%252Ftime-to-think-differently%252Fpublications%252Fspending-health-and-social-care-over-next-50-years).Salmon, G. (2002). *e-tivities: the key to active online learning*. London: RoutledgeFalmer. |