

Dutch system of elderly care is best, says Hancock

By Laura Donnelly HEALTH EDITOR

BRITAIN should adopt the Dutch model of elderly care, with teams of nurses put in charge of communities, the Health Secretary has said.

Matt Hancock said the system could offer "wraparound care" to patients in their own homes, said to be a cheaper and better quality way of working.

Under the scheme, groups of a dozen nurses take responsibility for home care of around 50 patients in a neighbourhood, instead of GPs being in charge of coordinating their care.

The model, pioneered by Buurtzorg healthcare organisation, means more patients can be kept healthy and out of hospital, while avoiding repeated visits to local doctors.

Mr Hancock told a conference of GPs at the National Association of Primary Care Conference in Birmingham that there were now record numbers of GPs in training, with a 10 per cent increase on last year, with goals to expand numbers by 5,000.

But other changes were needed to respond to growing demand from an ageing population. He said: "We must learn from the best. Like Buurtzorg."

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