IN PURSUIT OF EQUITY IN HEALTH CARE

Heather Brown Newcastle University The Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt has recently become interested in social justice. Consequently the new buzzword floating around the Department of Health is 'equity'.

The Secretary of State has asked a working party to meet with the following aims:

- 1 To come up with a definition of equity.
- To outline how this definition would be operationalised. This bit should address questions like what would be the role of local authorities and clinical commissioning groups and how would you monitor implementation of the policy (i.e. what would you measure and how?).

The Secretary of State considers himself a 'can do' politician, meaning that he views himself, as a person of action, is very impatient. So, the first meeting of the working party takes place this afternoon.