

Health Information Bulletin No. 22 / 10th June 2011

If you would like to receive further information, please telephone or email the appropriate contact officer responsible.

Index

[Care Quality Commission](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Government](#)

[Health in Kent](#)

[Other Health Information](#)

[Parliament](#)

Health in Kent

The birthing unit at the Kent and Canterbury hospital is to remain closed for at least another six months.

[The unit closed in January](#) due to staff shortages, and will now remain closed while a review of east Kent maternity services is carried out.

Virginia Howes, an independent midwife, said it was not appropriate for women who would have used the Canterbury birthing unit to go to a hospital medical unit. She said women who were being looked after in a medical unit were more likely to have medical interventions such as pain relief - which is not available in a birthing centre.

Dr Montgomery, who is chairing the review, said that figures for the birthing unit in 2010 showed there were about 300 births in the whole year, and of those 300 nearly a third needed to be transferred during labour. She said: "We need to look at the efficiency and safety of those units and we need to look at the choices that mothers would like to make."

Department of Health

The Patients' Association argue that the Department of Health (DOH) should follow through on their promise to abolish GP practice boundaries, and allow patients to register with any practice.

Currently, GPs throughout the UK can refuse to register patients who do not live near their surgery, but Ministers have argued for some time they want to change the system, and a consultation indicated that 77% of respondents thought that there should be change.

See:

[Call for an end to 'strait jacket' of GP boundaries](#)

The NHS Information Centre has released the findings of the 2011 survey of attitudes towards mental illness amongst adults in England.

The survey '[Attitudes to mental illness: 2011 survey report](#)' found that the percentage of people agreeing that 'mental illness is an illness like any other' increased from 71 % in 1994, which was the first year this question was asked, to 77 % in 2011.

In addition, the report highlighted some significant changes over time. Some key changes include:

- The percentage saying they would be comfortable talking to a friend or family member about their mental health, for example telling them they had a mental health diagnosis and how it affects them, rose from 66% in 2009 (the first year the question was asked) to 70% in 2011
- The percentage saying they would feel uncomfortable talking their employer about their mental health was 43%, compared to 50% in 2010 (the first year this question was asked).

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Attitudes to Mental Illness - 2011 survey report \(NS\)](#)

LGC report that Kathryn Tyson, director of international and public health delivery at the Department of Health (DOH) has said that there is a strong indication that the Government will not turn on the issue of local authority ring fenced public health budgets.

At a Westminster Health Forum public health conference, Ms Tyson argued that the issue of whether councils should get an un-ringfenced public health budget to spend as they wished was 'an argument that is already over'. With reference to the budget award, Ms Tyson argued 'the question is how much is it going to be, and we completely agree that it must be adequate for the task'.

The NHS Future Forum, which includes a strong local government presence, is due to report with its listening-pause recommendations next week. A full government response is expected later in the month.

'Public health ringfence argument is over' in LGC 9th June 2011. If you would like a copy of this article, please contact The Information Point (01622) 694125

Government

The Prime Minister, David Cameron has delivered a speech on the future of the NHS, stating the case for change and outlining some of the proposed reforms.

In a speech, Mr Cameron said the Government had listened to concerns about the NHS reforms, which gave GP more commissioning powers, increased competition in the NHS and aimed to abolish primary care trusts.

The Prime Minister argued that the Government had listened to concerns about the NHS reforms, and he was committed to an integrated NHS services and the involvement of a wider range of staff in their design. He argued that hospital doctors and nurses will be involved in clinical commissioning and 'clinical senates' will be introduced, where groups of doctors and healthcare professionals come together to take an overview of the integration of care across a wide area.

The health regulator, Monitor, will also now have a new duty to support the integration of services – whether that's between primary and secondary care, mental and physical care, or health and social care.

See:

[Protecting the NHS for tomorrow](#)
[Speech on the NHS
Cameron outlines changes to NHS reforms after criticism](#)

Parliament

The House of Commons Library has published a briefing paper on the Committee Stage of the Welfare Reform Bill.

The report '[Welfare Reform Bill: Committee stage](#)' details the background to the Bill and the significant changes.

See:

[Welfare Reform Bill: Committee Stage Report](#)

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Infertility (APPGI) has released a report which highlights the inconsistent availability of in-vitro fertilization services.

The report '[Holding Back the British IVF Revolution? A report into NHS IVF provision in the UK today](#)' argues that there was widespread evidence of primary care trusts imposing extra conditions on infertile couples that prevented them from obtaining treatment.

See also:

[British Fertility Society response to the report "Holding back the British IVF revolution?"](#)
[APPG on Infertility: 73 % of PCTs are failing to provide recommended IVF treatments](#)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, 7th June 2011.

Debates and Oral Answers

[nhs financial performance](#)

[integrated cancer services](#)
[southern cross healthcare](#)
[patient outcomes](#)
[speech therapy services](#)
[nhs blood and transplant](#)
[cancer drugs fund](#)
[foundation trusts](#)
[gp pathfinder consortia](#)
[breast screening programme](#)
[foundation trusts](#)
[mental health services](#)
[nhs \(competition and co-operation\)](#)
[mental health services](#)
[topical questions](#)
[winterbourne view care home](#)

Westminster Hall

[emergency life skills](#)

Written Ministerial Statements

[Winterbourne View Private Hospital](#)

Written Answers

[cancer drugs fund](#)
[nhs financial performance](#)
[influenza vaccine](#)
[nhs: competition and collaboration](#)
[gp commissioning consortia](#)
[emergency planning](#)
[health and social care bill](#)
[care quality commission](#)
[bowel cancer: older people](#)
[cancer](#)
[cancer: medical treatments](#)
[cancer: waiting lists](#)
[care homes](#)
[colorectal cancer: health services](#)
[dental services: equipment](#)
[departmental charitable donations](#)
[departmental equality](#)
[departmental manpower](#)
[drugs: misuse](#)
[enforcement actions](#)
[general practitioners](#)
[haematological cancer](#)
[health](#)

[health services: older people](#)
[health services: learning disability](#)
[health services: transsexuality](#)
[health: children](#)
[heart diseases: children](#)
[hospitals: television](#)
[infectious diseases: herbal medicine](#)
[inspections](#)
[leicester city primary care trust: diabetes](#)
[leucodepletion](#)
[local health watch: finance](#)
[london ambulance service: assetco](#)
[medical equipment](#)
[medical treatments](#)
[mental health services: children](#)
[multiple sclerosis](#)
[national clinical directors](#)
[national health service litigation authority](#)
[neuromuscular services](#)
[nhs trusts](#)
[nhs: databases](#)
[nhs: disadvantaged](#)
[nhs: finance](#)
[nhs: private patients](#)
[nhs: reforms](#)
[nhs: research](#)
[nhs: sick leave](#)
[older people: domestic accidents](#)
[older people: weather](#)
[orphan drugs](#)
[paramedical staff: crimes of violence](#)
[passive smoking: infants](#)
[physiotherapy](#)
[prescriptions](#)
[respite care: finance](#)
[school milk](#)
[smoking: young people](#)
[social services](#)
[social services: finance](#)
[southern cross healthcare: older people](#)
[stress](#)
[subarachnoid haemorrhages](#)
[sunderland hospital: manpower](#)
[tobacco](#)
[walking](#)

Wednesday 8th June

Debates and Oral Questions

[hiv/aids \(lesotho\)](#)

[hiv/aids](#)

Written Answers

[care quality commission](#)

[health and social care bill](#)

[sexual assault](#)

[air ambulance services](#)

[community hospitals: eltham](#)

[dental health: children](#)

[diabetic specialist nurses](#)

[epilepsy: research](#)

[general practitioners](#)

[general practitioners: telephone services](#)

[healthwatch: freedom of information](#)

[hospitals: consultants](#)

[injuries: young people](#)

[james kingsland](#)

[lung cancer](#)

[national association of primary care](#)

[national clinical director](#)

[national commissioning board](#)

[neuromuscular services](#)

[nhs: negligence](#)

[nhs: personal injury claims](#)

[nhs chaplaincy services](#)

[passive smoking: children](#)

[primary care trusts: manpower](#)

[special needs: health services](#)

[spinal cord injuries: rehabilitation](#)

Thursday, 9th June

Debates and Oral Answers

[cannabis and psychosis \(young people\)](#)

Written Answers

[care quality commission](#)

[art therapy](#)

[cancer: health services](#)

[departmental contracts](#)

[enforcement actions](#)

[general practitioners: telephone services](#)

[nhs direct: sign language](#)

[nhs: complementary medicine](#)
[nhs: reorganisation](#)
[nutrition](#)
[out-patients: attendance](#)
[pharmacy](#)
[prescriptions: databases](#)
[school milk](#)

HOUSE OF LORDS

Monday, 6th June

Debates and Oral Questions

[NHS: Reform](#) - *Question*
[Health: Brittle Bone Society](#) - *Question*

Written Answers

[Fluoridation](#) – *Questions*

[Health: Cancer](#) - *Question*
[Health: Chiropody](#) - *Question*
[Health: Hydrotherapy](#) - *Question*
[Health: Podiatry](#) - *Question*

Tuesday 7 June 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Health: Multiple Sclerosis](#) - *Question*
[Health: Hospital-acquired Infection](#)
[Care Homes](#) - *Question*
[Arbitration and Mediation Services \(Equality\) Bill \[HL\]](#) - *First Reading*

Written Statements

[Care Homes: Southern Cross](#) - *Statement*
[Care Services: Winterbourne View](#) - *Statement*
[Children: Commercialisation and Sexualisation](#) - *Statement*
[Disabled People: Transport](#) - *Statement*
[Health: E. coli](#) – *Statement*
[NHS: Reorganisation](#) - *Statement*

Wednesday 8 June

Grand Committee

[Disabled People: User-led Organisations](#) - *Question for Short Debate*

Written Answers

[NHS: Refurbishment](#) – *Question*

Thursday 9 June

Written Answers

[Healthcare: Costs](#) – *Question*

[Violence against Women](#) - *Question*

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has released the third batch of dignity and nutrition reports.

You can now find reports for:

- James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
- Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
- Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust
- Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
- Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust
- United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- Warrington and Halton NHS Trust
- Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust

See:

[Dignity and nutrition reports](#)

Other Health Information

The think-tank The King's Fund and Cancer Research UK has released a joint report which considers the existing differences between cancer survival rates in different countries.

The report [‘How to improve cancer survival: explaining England’s relatively poor rates’](#) argues that cancer survival rates in England are improving, but they still lag behind those in the best-performing countries in the world.

The report considers the existing differences in cancer survival rates between countries and discusses the reasons for these variations. In particular, alongside late diagnosis, and delays in getting treated, the report highlights under-treatment of older people as a key reason why overall survival from cancer is worse in England than in many other countries.

See:

[How to improve cancer survival: explaining England’s relatively poor rates](#)

[Older cancer patients more likely to die due to NHS 'age bias'](#)

See also:

[Cancer rates up as UK population ages](#)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank has issued the first report on disability, providing the first global estimates of persons with disabilities in 40 years and an overview of the status of disability in the world.

The report [‘World report on disability’](#) argues that more than 1.1 billion people suffer disability and face substantial barriers in their daily lives. The report also argues that governments should step up efforts to enable access to mainstream services and to invest in specialized programmes to unlock the vast potential of people with disabilities

See:

[New world report shows more than 1 billion people with disabilities face substantial barriers in their daily lives](#)

[World report on disability](#)

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has published qualitative research from a study which aimed to develop insights concerning attitudinal and behavioural change about health and work among the key target audiences of family doctors, line managers, and the general public.

The report [‘Health, work and well-being: attitudes of GPs, line managers and the general public’](#) found that overall, only a minority of respondents with particularly poor experiences of working life (such as being bullied, or signed off through work stress) held a less than positive view about the health benefits of work

A paper from the Centre for Health Economics has published a paper which examines approaches used to incorporate equity considerations in the planning of healthcare interventions.

The paper [‘An equity checklist: a framework for health technology assessments’](#) argues that despite the inclusion of equity ideals in the design of many health care systems,

pragmatic tools for integrating them into the efficiency categories of cost-effectiveness in Health Technology Assessments (HTA) remain under-developed.

The paper reviews approaches used to incorporate equity in HTA methods and develops a framework to help decision makers supplement the standard efficiency criteria of HTA and avoid building inequities, explicit or implicit, into their methodology

A laboratory study published in the journal *Nature* outlines the procedure that uses a drug to enable hearts repair to themselves has been used in research on mice.

The damage caused by a heart attack had previously been considered permanent, but the study indicates that a drug, thymosin beta 4, if used in advance of a heart attack, was able to 'prime' the heart for repair

See:

[Stem cells patch up 'broken' heart](#)

[Drug makes hearts repair themselves](#)

Research has enabled doctors in Manchester and Glasgow to begin treating NHS asthma patients with pioneering treatment.

The procedure, which is described as 'melting away' muscle in the airways. Instead of using drugs such as steroids, a wire probe is inserted into the lungs and then heats the tissue.

See:

[UK doctors begin pioneering asthma treatment](#)

TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk

Tel: (01622) 694125; Fax (01622) 694127; [Visit our Knet pages](#)