

This bulletin is produced weekly by The Information Point
Tel: (01622) 694125,
Freecall: 7000 4125
E-mail: TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk
For our full range of information products please [Visit our K/net pages](#)

Health Information Bulletin No. 20 / 27th May 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

Following a rise in cases of measles among children and young people who have not been vaccinated, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is urging parents to consider vaccination for their children.

The outbreak is thought to be linked with an epidemic in France where 7,000 cases - more than reported in the whole of 2010 - have been notified since January. In Britain, the Health Protection Agency reported 334 cases compared with 33 in the similar period last year, and argue it is "crucial" that those at risk are fully immunised. Worst-hit are London and the South East, with 104 and 102 confirmed cases respectively in the first quarter of this year

The HPA say the latest cases are mainly among unvaccinated people under 25 years old and are centred on "small clusters in universities, schools or families or associated with travel abroad".

See:

[Measles outbreak prompts plea to vaccinate children](#)

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DOH) has released a document which aims to inform mental health trusts, PCTs and SHAs of the criteria against which mental health performance will be assessed.

The document '[The NHS performance framework: application to mental health trusts](#)', which should be read alongside the document 'Implementing the NHS framework' works to inform Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) as the regional system managers and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) as the local commissioners of NHS services of when they should intervene to address poor performance.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Applying the NHS Performance Framework to mental health trusts in 2011/12](#)
[NHS Performance Framework: Implementation guidance](#)

Government

The European Commission (EU) has proposed a package of measures designed to ensure a minimum level of rights, support, and protection for victims of crime across the European Union.

The Commission proposes legislation in a 'Directive on minimum standards for victims' which will reinforce existing national measures with EU-wide minimum standards, so that any victim can rely on the same basic level of rights – whatever their nationality and wherever in the EU the crime takes place.

The proposed Directive aims to ensure that, in all 27 EU countries:

- victims are treated with respect and police, prosecutors and judges are trained in how to properly deal with them.
- victims get information on their rights and their case in a way they understand.
- victim support exists in every Member State.
- vulnerable victims are identified – such as children, victims of rape, or those with disabilities – and they are properly protected.

See:

[European Commission ensures better protection of crime victims](#)

[Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council](#)

[establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime](#)

[Government should sign up to European rights for victims](#)

Parliament

The House of Commons Select Committee on Public Accounts has published a report which examined the national and regional procurement systems in the NHS and on trusts' individual procurement practices.

The report '[The procurement of consumables by National Health Service acute and Foundation Trusts](#)' argued that the fragmented system of procurement has produced a great deal of waste, with trusts being charged different prices for the same goods, ordering in inefficient ways and failing to control the range of products which they purchase.

See:

[NHS Trust procurement report](#)

After consideration of the National Health Service (Primary Dental Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2011 the House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee has published a report.

See:

[National Health Service \(Primary Dental Services\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2011 - Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee](#)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday 23rd May 2011.

Written Answers

[ambulance services: expenditure](#)

[bladder cancer](#)

[bladder cancer: research](#)

[blood: cjd](#)

[breast cancer: screening](#)

[cancer: drugs](#)
[cancer: medical treatments](#)
[cancer: research](#)
[drugs: hospitals](#)
[food poisoning](#)
[general practitioners](#)
[health and social care bill](#)
[health professions: patients](#)
[health services: merseyside](#)
[health services: older people](#)
[heart diseases: children](#)
[hospitals: admissions](#)
[hospitals: repairs and maintenance](#)
[influenza: vaccination](#)
[macular degeneration: drugs](#)
[nhs blood and transplant](#)
[nhs: equality](#)
[nhs: manpower](#)
[nhs: reorganisation](#)
[nhs: standards](#)
[nhs: trade unions](#)
[nhs: training](#)
[occupational therapy: manpower](#)
[prion working group](#)
[public expenditure](#)
[radiotherapy: finance](#)
[speech therapy: manpower](#)
[st helens and knowsley hospitals nhs trust](#)
[trade unions](#)
[whiston hospital: finance](#)

Tuesday 24 May 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[disabled people \(elected office\)](#)
[domestic and sexual violence](#)
[autism \(quality standards\)](#)
[domestic and sexual violence](#)

Written Answers

[bowel cancer: health services](#)
[breast cancer: screening](#)
[breast cancer: surgery](#)
[cancer: drugs](#)
[cancer: health services](#)
[carers](#)
[closed circuit television](#)
[continuing care](#)
[counselling](#)
[dental services](#)
[dental services: standards](#)
[dentistry: pay](#)

[departmental assets](#)
[departmental manpower](#)
[drugs: prisoners](#)
[health professions: regulation](#)
[health services: older people](#)
[health: disadvantaged](#)
[heart diseases](#)
[hospital wards: standards](#)
[macular degeneration: drugs](#)
[malnutrition](#)
[mental health](#)
[nhs: middlesbrough](#)
[nutrition](#)
[obesity](#)
[research](#)
[southern cross healthcare](#)
[spinal injuries: continuing care](#)

HOUSE OF LORDS

Monday 23rd May 2011.

Debates and Oral Answers

[Mental Health: Children in Local Authority Care - Question](#)

Written Answers

[Care Homes](#) – Question
[Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis](#) – Question
[Fluoridation](#) – Questions
[Reciprocal Agreements](#) - Question
[Sickle Cell Disease](#) - Question

Tuesday 24th May 2011.

Written Answers

[Embryology](#) – Question
[Female Genital Mutilation](#) – Question
[Fluoridation](#) – Questions
[Health: HIV](#) - Question
[Health: Hydrotherapy](#) - Question
[Health: Musculoskeletal Disorders](#) - Question

Care Quality Commission

The first set of reports from the Care Quality Commission on dignity and nutrition in the care of older people have been released, raising concerns about their treatment in hospitals.

The CQC has carried out unannounced inspections of 100 hospitals, the results of which will appear gradually over the summer before a national report is issued in September. [Concerns were raised](#) about six of the hospitals, with three not meeting their legally required standards. Concerns were raised around people not being given assistance to eat and not being given enough to drink whilst they were also treated in a condescending way and not being involved in their own care.

Also see:

['Regulator raises elderly care concerns'](#)

Other Health Information

A working paper released by the London School of Economics (LSE) estimated the performance of English National Health Service acute trusts for the years 1996-2008, based on health outcomes after elective treatment, using a latent variable approach.

The paper ['Using a latent variable approach to measure the quality of English NHS hospitals'](#) argues introduces the basic approach which analyses the determinants of hospital quality through a two-step process, with hospitals being the unit of analysis.

The paper concludes that while these types of variables may only be only risk adjusted outcome measures, they provide a straightforward way to present, observe and analyze outcome data as well as to provide directions for further research.

The High Court has ruled that Birmingham City Council acted unlawfully over a decision to reduce its provision of care for disabled people, because its consultation process did not comply with anti-discrimination legislation.

The Conservative –Liberal Democrat Birmingham City Council had proposed, as part of a saving plan, to limit council funded social care to only those severely disabled people, assessed as being 'in critical'. But the judge, Mr. Justice Walker, ruled that the council had failed to consult properly about the changes, and neglected to take proper account of the duty to promote equality under laws on disability and discrimination.

See:

[Social care: judge rules cuts are 'potentially devastating'](#)

[Birmingham council's plan to cut care for disabled ruled unlawful
Judgement](#)

A recent paper in *Disability and Society* examines the experiences of disability disclosure among professionals.

The paper 'Disclosing disability in the context of professional regulation: a qualitative UK study', argues that disclosure was perceived as having the potential to exclude participants from their chosen profession. The paper further argues that abolishing health standards for the professions would increase disability disclosure and decrease the stigma associated with disability.

See:

[Disclosing disability in the context of professional regulation: a qualitative UK study: abstract](#)

The Health Foundation has released a literature review which examines healthcare professionals' views on, and involvement in, quality improvement initiatives.

The report ['Are clinicians engaged in quality improvement?: a review of the literature on healthcare professionals' views on quality improvement initiatives'](#)

Is an update to a previous seeking to clarify what is already known about the views of UK healthcare professionals. This updated review builds on this and highlights how clinical engagement in improvement remains a complex, challenging issue.

See:

[Are clinicians engaged in quality improvement?: summary](#)

A joint report released by Demos and the Drug Policy Commission argues that the continual emergence of new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') presents a major challenge to public health and public order.

The report '[Taking drugs seriously: a Demos and UK Drug Policy Commission report on legal highs](#)' calls into question the ability of traditional approaches to drug control to keep pace with change, and seeks to demonstrate the potential benefits of taking a different approach to considering control of new substances.

See:

[Demos/UKDPC: Drug bans outdated for new highs](#)

A study looks at how a specialist family drug and alcohol court was successful in improving outcomes for children by tackling the substance misuse of parents at an early stage of care proceedings.

The final report of '[The Family Drug & Alcohol Court \(FDAC\) Evaluation Project](#)' presents the findings from the evaluation of the first pilot Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) in Britain. FDAC is a new approach to care proceedings, in cases where parental substance misuse is a key element in the local authority decision to bring proceedings.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) has launched a new online tool for health and social care professionals which, for the first time, brings together all connected NICE guidance on a topic in a user-friendly electronic flowchart.

The tool 'NICE Pathways' provides fast access to NICE guidance, quality standards and associated products by visually representing everything NICE has to say on a particular topic.

See:

[NICE Pathways](#)

TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk

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