

From: TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk [mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk]

Sent: 02 July 2010 10:14

Subject: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 27 2 July 2010

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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 27 / 2 July 2010

If you would like to receive further information, please telephone or email the appropriate contact officer responsible. Alternatively, contact Tristan Godfrey on 01622 694196 or email tristan.godfrey@kent.gov.uk.

Index

[Care Quality Commission](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Government](#)

[Health in Kent](#)

[Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Information](#)

[Other Health Information](#)

[Parliament](#)

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Information

Date of next HOSC meeting: Friday 23 July 2010, 10.00 am.

Location: Council Chamber, Sessions House.

Main Agenda Items:

- 1) Diagnostics - Waiting Times.
- 2) Update on Health and Transport.

Internal Meetings:

HOSC Agenda Planning Meeting: Friday 23 July 2010, 14:30 - 16:30

Location: Darent Room, Sessions House.

Health in Kent

Kent and smoking

On the third anniversary of anti-smoking legislation, Kent County Council jointly supports the Kent Alliance on Smoking and Health (KASH) campaign 'Towards a Smokefree Generation' plan, which is a commitment to change the culture of how we tackle the smoking epidemic.

Towards a Smoke Free Generation focuses on six key areas:-

- Tougher enforcement by Trading Standards on underage sales and illicit tobacco
- Give smoking equal billing to drugs and alcohol when teaching children

- Improve how the message is given to children and young people
- Highlighting the risks of second hand smoking, especially to children
- Try to break the link of social exclusion and smoking
- To support all people who work and interact with children and young people to educate to them the dangers of smoking and advice to say no or quit.

This new approach will not just look at smoking as a health issue, but also make it relevant to younger people as they make their lifestyle choices.

See:

[Kent and smoking: a new approach](#)

Department of Health

DOH publication The Week

The Department of Health (DOH) publication [The Week: 25 June – 1 July 2010](#) offers need-to-know news, consultations and events for chief executives and their teams, and well as providing links to more information and resources, highlighting areas for action.

NICE quality standards

The first three quality standards produced by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) and covering the topics of stroke care, dementia care and prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) have been presented to Andrew Lansley, the Secretary of State for Health.

The National Quality Board has also written to Mr. Lansley, advising on how these and future quality standards can become a central, underpinning element, of the whole quality improvement system for the NHS.

See:

[National Quality Board: NICE quality standards](#)

[NICE launches new quality standards on stroke, dementia, and venous thromboembolism \(VTE\) prevention](#)

Head and neck measures

The Department of Health (DOH) has issued the Head and Neck Measures which are included in the Manual for Cancer Services 2008.

See:

[Head and Neck Measures for the Manual for Cancer Services 2008](#)

NHS Information Centre reports provide more detail about the profile of carers

The NHS Information Centre (NIC) has released two new reports [‘Survey of Carers in households, 2009/10 England: provisional results’](#), which involved results from 2,400 interviews with carers, and [‘Personal Social Services survey of adult carers in England, 2009/10’](#), a new survey of carers known to councils with adult social services responsibilities. The NIC argue that these reports provide more detail than ever before about the typical profile of a carer and their experiences.

The Survey of Carers in households, 2009/10 England: provisional results, offers provisional national estimates based on 2,400 interviews with carers. The report shows that just over a third or 35% of carers look after or provide special help for a parent, while over a quarter or 27% care for their spouse or partner.

The report ‘Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England, 2009/10’ surveyed carers known to councils and received 35,000 responses.

Key points from the responses include:-

- Nearly half of carers (47 per cent) were either retired or self employed, while nearly one in five (17 per cent) were not working because of their caring responsibilities and 14 per cent were not in employment for other reasons. Six per cent were in work and said they did not need support from their employer while 12 per cent were in work and felt supported, but four per cent were in work but did not feel supported.

See also:

[Percentage of carers providing 50 hours or more care a week has more than doubled in 9 years, provisional figures show](#)

Report on the ambulance services in England 2009-10

The NHS Information Centre has released a report '[Ambulance services in England, 2009-10](#)' which argues that the ambulance service in England took 7.87 million emergency and urgent calls in 2009/10; 391,000 more than in the previous year. The service also completed 4.70 million urgent and emergency patient journeys in 2009/10, which is 191,000 more than in the previous year.

See also:

[Ambulance service dealing with hundreds of thousands more calls, new report shows](#)

National Mastectomy and Breast Reduction Audit, 2010 indicates a level of high quality care

The third annual report of the '[National Mastectomy and Breast Reduction Audit, 2010](#)' indicates that nine out of ten women breast cancer patients who undergo mastectomy or breast reconstruction surgery confirm that they received high quality care.

The care survey, which sampled nearly 7,000 women over England as part of the audit, found that 88 % of women felt that throughout their hospital stay, they were treated with respect and dignity, and 90 % of respondents rated the care they received as excellent or very good.

See:

[Mastectomy and breast reconstruction](#)

[Women with breast cancer who had a mastectomy or breast reconstruction rate their care very highly, audit shows](#)

Lessons learnt from the H1N1 health and social care worker vaccination programme

The Department of Health (DOH) report '[Learning the lessons from the H1N1 vaccination campaign for Health Care Workers](#)' provides the NHS and social care sector with information on lessons learnt from the H1N1 health and social care worker vaccination programme.

See also:

[Written Ministerial Statement: H1N1 Pandemic](#)

[Lessons learned from the H1N1 \(swine flu\) pandemic](#)

[Report of the Swine Flu Critical Care Clinical Group and Key Learning Points for Future Surge Planning](#)

Government

NHS Alliance report 'Whose NHS is it anyway?'

The NHS Alliance has published a report 'Whose NHS is it anyway?: sharing the power with patients and the public,' which was launched at the House of Lords, and is a detailed plan of action on engagement across the NHS, the result of a year-long debate with key stakeholders. The five main recommendations of the report are:

- More shared decisions in the consulting room – greater support for initiatives that allow patients to take more control if they want it. Shared decision making and people focused skills need to be a stronger theme in professional training and regulation.
- GP surgeries to be more responsive to their local populations – closer engagement between GP practices and their patients, communities and LINKs, supported by more sensitive regulation and monitoring.
- More responsive and accountable commissioning. Commissioning, whether through primary care trusts (PCTs) or practice based commissioning (PBC) clusters, will be more effective if it involves patients and communities.
- A stronger push at national level to share power with patients and citizens, government, regulators and professions do more to promote shared decision making for individual patients, including more community participation in the NHS, and a more listening and responsive service.
- Explore co-production of services – this could offer a new vision of how primary care could design, deliver and monitor improved health care, in collaboration with the population it serves, through users groups, LINKs and the voluntary sector.

The report is available as a pdf. on the PALS website

[Whose NHS is it anyway?](#)

See press release:

[Whose NHS is it anyway? Sharing the Power with Patients and the Public](#)

LocalGov reports that NHS ignores plans for Total Place style of working

LocalGov report that some NHS bodies have ignored authorities plans for a 'Total Place-style attempt at joint working, despite the potential for a combined approach to working and sharing resources which would improve patient services and save money.

Such schemes, involving a range of public bodies merging budgets and sharing management expenses, were successfully piloted last year, and could be effective in tackling the rising demand for challenging and expensive local health initiatives, such as adult social care, and public health issues such as alcohol abuse, which are at present managed by the NHS using a 'silo mode' approach, but which could put frontline services at risk as Ministers demand tough public sector savings.

See:

[NHS block Total Place](#)

Launch of the direct payment scheme

Care Services Minister Paul Burstow has announced the launch of the first direct payment scheme for patients that will enable patients more choice and control over their healthcare.

Eight Primary Care Trusts, (PCTs) including Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT will begin to road test direct payments for personal health budgets. The scheme will allow PCTs to give the money for someone's care directly to them, and allow individuals to decide how, where and from whom they receive their healthcare, in partnership with the local NHS.

See:

[More power to the patient](#)

Ofsted report on the progress of healthy eating in schools

An Ofsted report 'Food in schools – progress in implementing the new standards' indicates the progress schools are making in promoting healthy eating, meeting nutritional standards, and making good school meals affordable.

See:

[Food in schools](#)

Schools show encouraging progress in encouraging healthy eating

National Audit Office report considers the DOH attempt to tackle health inequalities

The National Audit Office (NAO) has published a report [‘Tackling inequalities in life expectancy in areas with the worst health and deprivation’](#) which argues

That the Department of Health has made a considerable attempt to tackle health inequalities across England, but having set a target in 2000 to reduce health inequalities, it was slow to take action and health inequalities were not a top priority for the NHS until 2006.

See:

[Executive summary](#)

Parliament

House of Commons

Monday 28 June 2010

In the adjournment debate, Mr. David Anderson, MP for Blaydon gave a speech on Government policy on wheelchair services.

See:

[Wheelchair services](#)

[Urgent action needed to fix failing wheelchair services](#)

There was a Written Ministerial Statement from Mr. Paul Burstow, the Minister of State, for the Department of Health which stated that the Government have today authorised the piloting of direct payments for health care, under powers in the Health Act 2009.

See:

[Direct Payments for Health Care](#)

Tuesday 29 June 2010

There was a health debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday 29 June which included oral answers to questions on cancer, NHS targets, NHS waiting times, alcohol health warnings, autism and long term care by the Secretary of State for Health Mr Andrew Lansley.

See:

[Oral answers to questions: health](#)

Wednesday 30 June 2010

There was a debate in Westminster Hall regarding the coalition Government decision to limit free school meals.

See:

[Free School Meals](#)

[Free school meals lift children out of poverty](#)

Thursday 1 July 2010

There were two Ministerial Statements from Mr. Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health regarding the H1N1 pandemic and Quality Accounts.

See:

[Written Ministerial Statements: Health](#)

Mr. Paul Burstow, the Minister of State, Department of Health opened a debate in Westminster Hall regarding supporting carers

See:

[Supporting carers](#)

Revolutionary treatments in spinal research

E.pollitix.com reports that a Parliamentary reception at Spinal Research learned of 'revolutionary treatments' being developed through research into spinal cord injuries.

Speaking at the Spinal Research reception 'Paralysis - stepping up to the challenge', Lord Walton of Detchant praised the results of research into treatment for spinal injury sufferers and noted the numerous benefits of medical research in the UK.

Lord Walton, a patron of Spinal Research and former neurologist, said:

'The benefits of research into spinal cord injuries are numerous. It strengthens the economy, seeks to improve people's lives and keeps Britain ahead in scientific endeavour and innovation. I am confident that there is, on the horizon, a great deal to be grateful for.'

See:

[Providing a 'vision to prevent paralysis'](#)

Care Quality Commission

A report argues that progress has been made in tackling youth alcohol misuse and offending

A thematic joint inspection ['Message in a bottle: a joint inspection of youth alcohol misuse and offending'](#) aimed to determine if youth offending teams (YOTs) and health services were sufficiently engaged and involved in efforts to reduce the impact of alcohol misuse by children and young people who offend.

The report re-emphasises the known links between alcohol misuse and health problems, underachievement in school and offending behaviour, and reports that YOTs are sufficiently aware of this link and are offering significant and effective health resources where alcohol misuse is seen to relate directly to offending.

See:

[Progress made in tackling youth alcohol misuse but still more to do, say inspectors](#)

Other Health Information

Report examines the quality of work with registered sex offenders in the community

A joint report ['Restriction and rehabilitation: getting the right mix: an inspection of the management of sexual offenders in the community'](#) both examined the quality of work with registered sexual offenders in the community by the police and probation services, and also updated the findings of a previous inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in 2005 into the management of these offenders.

A joint briefing paper explores what needs to happen to give GPs real power and responsibility in leading commissioning in the NHS

A joint briefing paper ['Giving GPs budgets for commissioning: what needs to be done?'](#) explores what needs to happen to realise the Government's intention to 'strengthen the power of GPs to act as patients' expert guides through the health system'. if GPs are to be given real power and responsibility for leading commissioning in the NHS.

See:

[Summary](#)

MRSA leaflet for patients

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians and the Infection Protection Society, has produced a leaflet [‘MRSA: information for patients’](#) which contains information about MRSA, what it is and how it affects patients in hospital and the people around them.

HSE guidance on carrying out a risk assessment

HSE has published guidance [‘How do I carry out a risk assessment?’](#) which amalgamates the risk assessment, health and safety policy and record of health and safety arrangements into one document, explains how to do a risk assessment for occupational health and safety, and also advises on the use of the risk assessment and policy template.

TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk

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