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## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 29 / 16 July 2010

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### 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.
- 3) Update on Referral to the Secretary of State for Health.

#### Internal Meetings:

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

Location: Darent Room, Sessions House.

#### Visits:

HOSC Members' Visit to Disablement Service Centre, Gillingham: 20 October 9.30 - 12.00.  
Please confirm your interest in attending with Tristan Godfrey, HOSC Researcher.

### Health in Kent

Twelve play spaces across Kent are going to be given a new lease of life.

Kent County Council has been handed £1,166,707 to develop 24 play areas for eight to 13-year-olds between April 2009 and March 2011.

The cash comes under the Government's Playbuilder scheme, and is distributed by Kent County Council following bids from voluntary groups, parish and district councils.

So far 12 play areas have benefited from the cash and another 12 will now be renovated with new equipment by March next year. They will each receive funding of between £30,000 and £65,000.

They are:

- St Andrew's Recreation Ground, Paddock Wood
- Abbey Rise Recreation Ground, Minster
- Lucerne Drive, Whitstable
- Victoria Park, Deal
- Weald Recreation Ground, Weald
- Wye Recreation Ground, Wye
- Mote Park, Maidstone
- Whitehall Recreation Ground, Ramsgate
- Bridge Mill Recreation Ground, Tovil
- Dymchurch Recreation Ground, Dymchurch
- Fowlmead County Park, Dover
- Oakfield Park, Wilmington

See:

[Development of play areas for 8-13 years olds](#)

### **Personal health budgets**

The Department of Health (DH) has published news and information about Personal Health budgets. The information presented includes 'Personal health budgets pilot programme' which sets out the current pilot programme involving around half the primary care trusts in England, including Medway, testing out personal health budgets in the NHS. 'Direct payments for healthcare' regulations and 'personal health budgets: publications' which is a leaflet to help commissioners, professionals and support organisations introduce the idea of a personal health budget to people.

See:

[Equality Impact Assessment: personal health budgets pilot programme](#)

[£4 million boost to give patients control of their health care](#)

[Direct payments for health care: Information for pilot sites](#)

[Personal health budgets: publications](#)

[Personal health budgets pilot programme](#)

[Personal health budgets: publications](#)

### **Department of Health structural reform plan**

The Department of Health (DH) has published 'Department of Health draft Structural Reform Plan' which provides some further information on indicative timetables for elements of the implementation of the coalition agreement. The DH structural reform plan is the key tool of the Coalition Government for making the DH s accountable for the implementation of the reforms set out in the coalition agreement.

See:

[Department of Health Draft Structural Reform Plan](#)

### **Birthday honours nominations**

Letter from Sir Hugh Taylor, KCB which invites nominations for the Birthday 2011 Honours round.

See:

[Honours nominations](#)

### **Department of Health taskforce on health aspects of violence against women and children**

The Department of Health (DH) has published a report [‘Sex and Violence: improving your care: task force on the health aspects of violence against women and children: young people’s version’](#).

The document, which combines the findings from the consultation with young people, aims to explain the work of the Taskforce and the violence agenda to young people – particularly to those who have been affected by violence.

For all Taskforce documents:

See:

[Sex and violence: improving your care. Taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and children - young people's version](#)

## Government

### NHS White Paper ‘Equality and Excellence

Andrew Lansley has published a Health White Paper - *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS* on NHS reform, which includes [supporting documents](#), and aims to combine Conservative thinking on choice and competition with the Liberal Democrat belief in local democracy to create a truly radical vision for the NHS – giving [general practitioners](#) authority over commissioning and patients much more control, and ensuring democratic accountability with councils taking greater responsibility, in particular over public health” .

The three tenants of this are:

- Patients will be at the heart of everything; increased access to information, choices about care; ability to rate clinical establishments etc. - “Decisions should only be made about us, with us and no decisions about us, without us.
- There will be a relentless focus on clinical outcomes - not “the bureaucracy that goes with it” - “many of our health outcomes - including stroke and [cancer survival rates](#) - lag behind our European counterparts … Only by focusing on results for patients will survival rates improve to the level that they should be” .
- Empower health professionals.

The Department of Health will also be required to find savings. £20 billion in efficiency savings by 2014, and a reduction in management costs by more than 45% over the next four years. Both actions will reinvest these monies in front-line services.

See also:

[The King's Fund's response to the NHS White Paper](#)

[White paper signals biggest shake up since NHS began](#)

[NHS Alliance's response to the White Paper](#)

[Care Quality Commission response to the government's health white paper](#)

### Quality Accounts survey 2009 –10

The Department of Health (DH) has published ‘Quality Accounts survey 2009-10’ which is designed to be the annual report to the public from providers of NHS healthcare services about the quality of their services.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Quality Accounts survey 2009-10](#)

### Foreign Office report ‘British behaviour abroad’

A report by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office [‘British behaviour abroad’](#)

suggests that a lack of travel insurance and a lack of adequate health preparation compound the hazards faced by Britons abroad.

See also:

[Many elderly Britons 'lack medical cover abroad'](#)

## Parliament

Monday 12 July 2010.

Steve Webb, Minister for Work and Pensions has announced announce Ageing Well, a new programme designed to support local authorities to improve their services for older people.

See:

[Ageing Well: Written Ministerial statement](#)

[Ageing Well Programme](#)

Tuesday 13 July 2010.

Government's response (Cm 7877) to the Health Select Committee report on commissioning, which was published on 30 March 2010.

See:

[Health Select Committee Report on Commissioning: Written Ministerial Statement](#)

[Government Response to the Health Select Committee on](#)

[Commissioning](#)

Wednesday 14 July 2010.

There was a House of Commons motion for leave to bring in a Bill: [Carers \(Identification and Support\)](#). There was also a Westminster Hall debate: [People with Learning Disabilities \(NHS Treatment\)](#)

The Government's response to the Health Select Committee's report on social care (Cm7884).

See:

[Health Select Committee Report on Social Care: Written Ministerial Statement](#)

[Government Response to the Health Select Committee Report on](#)

[Social Care \(Third Report of Session 2009-10\)](#)

Thursday 15 July 2010.

There was a Written Ministerial Statement on the [Use of Overseas Doctors \(Out-of-hours Services\)](#)

See:

[Response to the House of Commons Health Committee report](#)

[The use of overseas doctors in providing out-of-hours services:](#)

[Fifth Report of Session 2009-10](#)

### Standard Note on obesity

The House of Commons Library has released a Standard Note [‘Obesity’](#) which focuses on the problems of obesity and the reports concerning obesity.

## Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published a report into the GP out of hours provider Take Care Now (TCN). The report highlights systemic failings by TCN CQC published evidence that:

- staffing levels were potentially unsafe. Unfilled shifts and lack of clinical cover could have compromised the care of patients. There were occasions when one nurse was the only clinical cover for 70 miles.

- TCN failed to investigate, act upon and learn from serious incidents. This included the two previous overdoses of diamorphine. reporting of activity to the PCTs was not clear and transparent. “Double counting” of some patients would have given the impression that TCN was treating more patients and could have affected contract negotiations with the PCTs.
- local GPs were not confident in the service provided by TCN. Fifty per cent of GPs surveyed by CQC said the ability of the organisation to provide clinical care in people’s home was “poor” or “very poor”.
- TCN grew rapidly, taking on more contracts with PCTs, but apparently without the clinical governance in place to ensure the quality of its services.

For all the relevant reports:

See:

[Care Quality Commission's investigation into GP out-of-hours provider, Take Care Now, reveals serious failings](#)

[PCT Network comments on CQC Take Care Now report](#)

## Other Health Information

### **FSA consultation on guidance for how food business controls to control the risk of E.coli O157.**

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has released a consultation [‘Reducing the risk from E. coli O157 – controlling cross contamination \(England\)’](#) which seeks views on the approach to be taken in Agency guidance on how food businesses should control the risk of cross-contamination by *E. coli* O157 and how those delivering official controls can gain assurance that food business controls are adequate and effective.

See also:

[Reducing the Risk from E. coli O157 – controlling cross contamination \(England\)](#)

**Start date: 14 July 2010**

**End date: 5 October 2010**

### **Street count for rough sleeping**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has published ‘Rough sleeping England - total street count 2010’ which provides: a breakdown of the 2010 total street count figure by local authority and the results of the street counts from 1998 to 2009.

See:

[Rough Sleeping England - Total Street Count 2010](#)

### **Study suggests that babies born at night or weekends are at risk**

The BBC reports on a study by Glasgow and Cambridge universities, which suggests that babies born at night or at the weekend are at a greater risk of dying through being starved of oxygen than those born within normal working hours where there is more likelihood of senior clinicians on the ward.

The researchers from Cambridge University said the overall increased risk was small, the difference of one or two extra deaths per 10,000 live babies born, but extra staffing would minimise the problem.

See:

[Out-of-hours births 'are riskier'](#)

[Babies born outside working hours are 'more likely to die'](#)

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