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## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 30 / 23 July 2010

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### Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Information

**Date of next HOSC meeting:** Friday 3 September 2010, 9.30 am.

Location: Council Chamber, Sessions House.

#### Main Agenda Items:

- 1) Update on SECamb's Make Ready Depot Programme.
- 2) The Future of PCT Provider Services and the Use of Community Hospitals

#### Internal Meetings:

HOSC Agenda Planning Meeting: Wednesday 1 September 2010, 10:00 - 12:00

Location: Darent Room, Sessions House.

The pre-meeting for the HOSC Meeting on Friday 3 September will take place prior to the above Agenda Planning Meeting: Wednesday 1 September 2010, 9:00 - 10:00, Darent Room, Sessions House.

#### Visits:

HOSC Members' Visit to Disablement Service Centre, Gillingham: 20 October 9.30 - 12.00.

## Health in Kent

### **NHS Eastern and Coastal new three year strategy for mental health**

NHS Eastern and Coastal have set out a new three-year strategy for mental health promotion [‘Promoting mental health and wellbeing: a three year strategy for mental health promotion, 2010 – 2013’](#) which will take the way forward to improve the lives of people living in eastern and coastal Kent.

The strategy aims to give a framework for mental health promotion for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent in order to improve and sustain mental health and wellbeing across all age groups and for those living with mental health issues.

See:

[Strategy leads way for improving mental health Strategies](#)

## Department of Health

### **Department of Health consultation ‘Transparency in outcomes: a framework for the NHS’**

The Department of Health (DH) has released the recent White Paper’s initial consultation [‘Transparency in outcomes: a framework for the NHS’](#) which details proposals for a new framework which will refocus the NHS on outcomes achieved for patients by a set of national outcome goals by which patients and public can judge the NHS’s overall performance, and hold the Government accountable for the progress.

In addition, the framework and the national outcome goals will also form a combined mechanism by which the Secretary of State for Health can hold the new NHS Commissioning Board to account for the outcomes achieved for patients. The framework suggests five outcome domains and seeks views on the structure and the core principles underpinning the development of the framework, as well as the more specific outcome measures that should be used. The proposed domains are:

- Domain 1: Preventing people from dying prematurely.
- Domain 2: Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions.
- Domain 3: Helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury.
- Domain 4: Ensuring people have a positive experience of care.
- Domain 5: Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm.

See:

[Transparency in outcomes - a framework for the NHS](#)  
[Liberating the NHS](#)  
[Written Ministerial Statement](#)

**The consultation start: 19 July 2010**

**The consultation ends: 11 October 2010.**

### **The Department for Health (DH) have released a further two consultations that build on proposals in the White Paper.**

The first consultation ‘Liberating the NHS: commissioning for patients - consultation on proposals’ which sets out the proposals outlined in the White Paper, that local consortia of GP practices in charge of commissioning services, supported by an independent NHS Commissioning Board, best meets the needs of local people.

The consultation and engagement process on how to implement these proposals, seeks views on a number of areas including:

- How GP consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board can best involve patients in improving the quality of health services.

- How GP consortia can work closely with secondary care, community partners and other health and care professionals to design joined-up services that are responsive to patients and the public.
- How the NHS Commissioning Board and GP consortia can best work together to make effective and efficient commissioning decisions.
- How the NHS Commissioning Board can best support consortia and ensure they achieve improvements in outcomes within NHS resources.

See:

[Liberating the NHS: commissioning for patients - consultation on proposals](#)

[Giving healthcare power to local people](#)

**Launch date: 22 July 2010.**

**Consultation closes: 11 October 2010.**

### **Increasing local democratic legitimacy in health**

The second consultation '[Liberating the NHS: Increasing democratic legitimacy in health](#)' builds on the proposals in the White Paper to increase local democratic legitimacy in health. The paper indicates that this will be achieved by local authorities supporting patient choice and ensuring an effective local voice, together with effective NHS, social care and public health commissioning arrangements. Both documents are closely linked and, taken together, set out the strategy for commissioning of health, care and wellbeing which will enable the new system works together to provide improved outcomes for patients, users and the public.

See:

[NHS Confederation response to publication of White Paper consultation documents on democracy and commissioning](#)

**Publication date: 22 July 2010.**

**Respond by: 11 October 2010.**

### **Extraordinary you**

The Department of Health (DH) has published '[Extraordinary you: science in healthcare](#)' which is a snapshot and celebration of the extraordinary work of and careers of healthcare scientists working across the NHS.

### **National survey of investment in adult mental health services**

The Department of Health (DH) has published '2009/10 National Survey of Investment in Adult Mental Health Services' which presents as an adult mental health analysis, the results of the finance mapping exercise detailing the level of investment in mental health services for working age adults (aged 18-64) in England for 2009/10, together with a comparison of the results of previous years.

Key findings include:-

- Total investment increased from £5.892 billion in 2008/09 to £6.311 billion which is a 7.1 % cash increase and a real increase of 5.3 %.
- Since 2001/02, the real term total investment, after allowing for inflation, has increased by £2.315 billion from £3.996 billion to £6.311 billion in 2009/10; this represents an increase of 58 % in real terms after allowing for inflation.

See:

[2009/10 National Survey of Investment in Adult Mental Health Services](#)

## Government

### Commission on the Funding of Care and Support

Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley has set out for Parliament the terms of reference for the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, which will investigate the formation of a sustainable care and support system for all adults that puts individuals and their families at its heart,

The Commission will consider a range of funding ideas, and examine and provide recommendations on:

- the best way to meet care and support costs as a partnership between individuals and the state.
- how an individual's assets are protected against the cost of care.
- how public funding for the care and support system can be best used to meet needs
- how to deliver the preferred option including implementation timescales and impact on local government.

See:

[First step to sustainable care and support system](#)

### Concerns that Summary Care Records are not being updated

EHI report that the BMA's GP committee is calling on the Government to suspend access to all existing Summary Care Records. Because it has emerged that some GP practices are failing to update SCRs once they have been uploaded to the Spine.

The General Practitioner Committee said that the risk to patient safety meant access to existing SCRs should be immediately suspended 'until all patient safety issues have been fully investigated and satisfactorily resolved.'

A BMA spokesperson told EHI Primary Care: "Concerns are being expressed that many of the SCRs that have already been created are not being updated.'

See:

[BMA says suspend access to SCRs](#)

## Parliament

**Monday 19 July, 2010.**

**House of Commons**

Debates:

['Carer's Allowance'](#) which included a question by Tracey Crouch (Chatham and Aylesford).

The effect on [child poverty](#) from the ending of the future jobs fund.

Assisting [disabled people](#) to work.

The continued development of [early intervention](#) policies

Written Ministerial Statements

NHS White Paper Consultation: the publishing of the first supporting document ['Liberating the NHS'](#)

**House of Lords**

Question:

Steps being taken to increase GPs awareness of [prostrate cancer](#)

**Tuesday 20 July 2010**

**House of Commons**

Debate:

[Safety of medicines](#) - motion for leave to bring in a Bill (*Standing Order No. 23*)

Written Ministerial Statement:

[Commission on the Funding of Care and Support](#)

### **House of Commons Standard Note on Immigration violence**

The House of Commons Library has released a Standard Note [‘Immigration: domestic violence’](#) which argues that people with temporary immigration status who suffer domestic violence are often particularly vulnerable: as they will not be able to access specified public funds, their immigration status may make them hesitant to take action against their partners in case they lose their right to remain in the UK and despite specific provision in the immigration rules, they may find it hard to obtain indefinite leave to remain in Britain.

## **Care Quality Commission**

### **Chair of the Care Quality Commission (CQC)**

The Government’s candidate for the post of chair of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following an independent recruitment exercise, is Dame Jo Williams, and the Secretary of State for Health has invited the Health Select Committee to hold a public pre-appointment scrutiny hearing and report on the candidate’s suitability for the post, in line with proposals for scrutiny of key positions in which Parliament has an interest.

See:

[Candidate for post of Care Quality Commission Chair announced](#)

[Response from Dame Jo on Department of Health's announcement](#)

## **Other Health Information**

### **The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is the first human rights treaty of the 21st Century, re-affirming disabled people's human rights and signalling a further major step in disabled people's journey to becoming full and equal citizens..

See:

[UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

[A guide to the UN disability convention.](#)

### **Survey indicates that people with learning disability are widely discriminated against.**

A survey by health and social care provider, Turning Point, supports the wide view amongst social care professionals that people with a learning disability are the most discriminated against group in society.

The poll found that nine out of ten people believe individuals with a learning disability still experience discrimination, with more than half (51 %) thinking they are the most discriminated against group in society.

In addition, the research shows that expectations about what individuals with a learning disability can achieve are low, with a third of respondents thinking they cannot live independently or undertake employment.

The survey also reveals a lack of knowledge about what constitutes a learning disability. For example, just under a third (32 %) wrongly identified mental illness as a learning disability, while almost a quarter (24 %) classified dementia as one.

See:

[Public still discriminate against individuals with a learning disability](#)

### **Food Standards Agency**

The Government has confirmed the intention to retain the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to focus on the core remit of food safety policy and enforcement so that public confidence in food safety issues will be protected.

The Government argue that reorganising the FSA in this way will contribute to the Government's objectives to improve efficiency, and is paramount to the key priority of improving the health of the nation by creating a public health service.

See:

[Food Standards Agency to keep crucial safety role](#)

### **Annual figures on MRSA and C.difficile**

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has published the annual figures on MRSA (meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) bloodstream infections and C. difficile (Clostridium difficile) infections for England and Wales.

The figures indicate that there was a total of 1,898 cases of MRSA reported between April 2009 and March 2010, representing a 35% reduction in cases from the previous year when 2,935 cases were reported. In the same period, 25,604 cases of *C. difficile*\* were reported, representing a 29% reduction from the previous year when 36,095 cases were reported.

See:

[MRSA and C. difficile infections fall by a third](#)

[Mandatory C. difficile infection \(CDI\) surveillance scheme](#)

### **Technology key to end of life care**

A report from the Economist Intelligence Agency '[The quality of death: ranking end-of-life care across the world](#)' indicates that the UK has one of the best systems for palliative care in the world.

The paper argues that technology will be an increasingly important element in delivering end-of-life care at home, as patients at the end of life often wish to die at home and technology is of key importance in enabling them to do this.

See also:

[UK does well on end of life care](#)

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