

From: TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk [mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk]
Sent: 24 September 2010 16:27
Subject: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 39 24 September 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. 39 / 24 September 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 8 October 2010, 10.00 am .

Location: Council Chamber, Sessions House.

Main Agenda Items:

- 1) Pain Management Services
- 2) South East Coast Ambulance Service - Current Developments

Visits:

HOSC Members' Visit to Thanet Make Ready Depot and Coxheath Emergency Dispatch Centre: 29 September.

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

Health in Kent

Fast-food outlets could be banned from operating near schools in Medway as part of an effort to cut child obesity.

A study of 10 to 11-year-olds in the area revealed that almost [one in five was clinically obese](#) and that more than a third were overweight. The obesity rate among Year 6 children for 2008/9 in Medway is 19.4%, above the national average of 18.3%. Medway Council said it wanted to restrict outlets near schools to remove the temptation to eat unhealthy food.

See also:

[Fast food ban near schools](#) (Kent Online)

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DH) has released statistics for 'NHS: Local Spending Data'

The statistical spreadsheets relate to expenditure data for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 for Primary Care Trusts, Strategic Health Authorities and NHS Trusts.

See:

[NHS local spending data](#)

The NHS Information Centre has published 'Provisional Monthly NHS Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) Workforce Statistics in England'

These are provisional, experimental, monthly figures for headcount, full time equivalent, role count and turnover of NHS Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) staff groups working in England (excluding primary care staff).

The key facts from these statistics are:

- Provisional and experimental status.
- This is the third publication of a new monthly series of the Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) workforce statistics using data from the Electronic Staff Record (ESR).
- The figures do not include data for GPs and practice staff.

See:

[Provisional Monthly NHS Hospital and Community Health Service \(HCHS\) Workforce Statistics in England](#)

The Department of Health (DH) has released a statement regarding Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) distributing their draft pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA).

The draft statement also includes documents which provides information to assist PCTs in publishing their pharmaceutical needs assessments, particularly explanations on regulations to the Health Act 2009 (SI 2010/914).

For all relevant documents

See:

[Statement on PCTs distributing their draft pharmaceutical needs assessments \(PNAs\)](#)

The Department of Health (DH) has released from the archives the Department's policy for cancer services in England as set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy

The policy aims to improve cancer prevention, speed up the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, reduce inequalities, improve the experience of people living with and beyond cancer, ensure care is delivered in the most appropriate settings and ensure patients can access effective new treatments quickly.

See:

[Cancer reform strategy](#)

In a joint paper, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) and NHS Confederation, outline their views on how NHS organisations in the UK can drive quality and productivity whilst facing financial pressures.

The paper ['Improving quality and productivity in the NHS whilst facing the financial pressures'](#) argues that it is crucial the issue is addressed in ways that are constructive to help maintain the gains in quality, access and activity that have been achieved over the past, and as national representatives of the NHS medical, finance and managerial communities, the three organisations outline a number of common principles they believe will help NHS organisations

minimise the impact tightened finances will have on services. These include maintaining a focus on quality care for patients, improving clinical outcomes, and recognising the importance of delivering improved cost effectiveness for taxpayers

See:

[Healthcare organisations highlight the importance of maintaining quality](#)

Government

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has reported organisations' responses to the Disability Discrimination Act, 2009 study.

The research explores how organisations are responding to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and 2005. Part 2 of the DDA covers the employment and recruitment of disabled people, and the treatment of disabled elected members by locally electable authorities.

See:

[Organisations' responses to the Disability Discrimination Act 2009 study](#)

Personal budgets for social care users are expected to be expanded from November.

Currently 13% of the care budget is allocated through personal budgets, but Paul Burstow wants to see this extended to non-critical healthcare in order to get away from an NHS where one size fits all.

See:

['Social Care recipients to control their Personal Budgets'](#)

A new report, prepared under the last Government, has found a 5% increase in the number of pupils taking part in at least 3 hours of high quality PE or out of hours sport.

[The findings](#) show that years 12 and 13 have the lowest participation levels, whilst years 1-3 have shown the greatest improvement. Pupils in rural areas are more likely to take part than those in urban areas.

Parliament

House of Commons Library Standard Note: Fluoridation

The House of Commons Library has published a Standard Note ['Fluoridation'](#) which sets out the positions of various groups regarding the effects of fluoridation of drinking water and the Government's position. It is not a scientific critique.

House of Lords Summer Recess, 2010

Written Answers and Statements Week ending 20th September 2010

[Fluoridation](#)

Questions asked by Earl Baldwin of Bewdley

[Health Protection Agency](#)

Question asked by Baroness Thornton

[Health: Contaminated Blood](#)

Question asked by Lord Morris of Manchester

[Health: Diabetes](#)

Question asked by Lord Harrison

[NHS Direct](#)

Question asked by Lord Bradshaw

[NHS: Parking](#)

Question asked by Baroness Thornton

[NHS: Reorganisation](#)

Questions asked by Lord Corbett of Castle Vale

[Severe Disablement Allowance](#)

Question asked by Baroness Browning

[Welfare](#)

Questions asked by Lord Beecham

[Back to top](#)

Other Health Information

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence is developing national guidelines for the NHS in England and Wales to aid earlier diagnosis and promote more effective management and support specifically for women with ovarian cancer.

NICE is today publishing its draft recommendations for consultation on the management and

Charities, patient groups, NHS organisations and others who have registered an interest in this guideline, now have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed recommendations to help develop them further, ahead of the final guideline being published next year.

See:

[Ovarian cancer: guideline consultation](#)

[NICE opens consultation on first ever guidelines to tackle ovarian cancer](#)

Responses are invited by Friday 19th November 2010

Local Government Improvement and Development has released the [Healthy Communities bulletin, September 2010](#).

A survey for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers has found that almost half of those surveyed felt they could not cope.

Almost 60% of respondents had given up work in order to look after a dependent and many of those who do still work earn less than £10,000 per year. Examples have been given of people losing their homes, jobs and having to use their savings to pay for expensive equipment.

See: [UK Carers desperately worried about Finances](#)

Local authorities will face a public backlash unless they retain powers to scrutinise health services, council leaders have warned.

Proposals outlined in the government's health white paper would abolish council health scrutiny committees and set up [Health and Wellbeing Boards](#), in collaboration with GP consortiums, to commission a range of public health services.

Speaking at a meeting of the Local Government Group Executive last week, Oxfordshire CC leader Keith Mitchell (Con), said it was crucial that councils' scrutiny role continued separately from the boards in order to effectively hold health services to account.

Some articles in Local Government Chronicle are only available to subscribers. Please contact The Information Point if you would like to see the full text of the article.

The Food Standard Agency (FSA) has released a consultation on The Official Feed and Food Controls (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

The consultation seeks comments on the draft Official Feed and Food Controls (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011. This Statutory Instrument (SI) will update the Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009.

The reason for introducing the new SI is to remove the right of food business operators to continue to operate when the outcome of an appeal against the refusal or withdrawal of approval is pending.

The amendment will bring the national legislation in line with EU requirements relating to official controls carried out to ensure compliance with food law, and will reinforce public health protection.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[The Official Feed and Food Controls \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](#)

Lord Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality has announced that the Government will publish proposals for piloting a new dentistry contract by the end of 2010.

The NHS White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS proposed the introduction of a new dentistry contract following a period of consultation and piloting. The aim of the new contract will be to improve quality of patient care and increase access to NHS dental services, with an additional focus on improving the oral health of schoolchildren.

See:

[New dental contract pilot proposals to be published in December](#)

The 'Crazy Chemist' campaign which has been launched by James Brokenshire, Minister for Crime Prevention, highlights the risks of 'legal highs' and warns young people that just because a substance is advertised as 'legal' does not mean it is safe.

The campaign will be run in partnership with the National Union of Students (NUS). Posters and postcards will be distributed in university student unions across the country from Freshers week and welfare officers will be supplied with information and leaflets on the harms of so called 'legal highs' to help any students seeking further information.

See:

[Students warned about risks of legal highs](#)

Marie Stopes International, Britain's leading independent sexual and reproductive health provider is urging GPs and nurses to talk contraception with all their patients in the lead up World Contraception Day on 26th September as a new survey indicates that more young people are failing to use contraception with a new partner.

The research, funded by Bayer Healthcare, was part of a worldwide survey of 5223 respondents, including a total of 206 British under 24 year olds, 100 male and 106 females, who responded on-line to the questions carried out via online interviews. The survey indicated that one in four sexually active under 24 year olds that responded said they had failed to use contraception with a new partner, a figure up from 20 % the previous year.

The survey indicated that more than half of the respondents had already had sex by their 18th birthday and the Government's own data shows 83 % are sexually active by the same age, highlighting a need for GPs and nurses to begin the contraception discussion with younger patients and continue the discussion with older patients

The theme of World Contraception Day is 'Taking Responsibility for Contraception', and while most respondents said they were both responsible for using contraception, many were still practicing unsafe sex. The survey also indicated that confusion and a lack of information about contraception was apparent with almost half of respondents saying they were not very familiar with or were confused about the different types of contraception.

But the survey also indicated that British respondents were more likely than their European counterparts to blame alcohol for failing to use adequate protection, with one in five saying they failed to use contraception because they were 'drunk and forgot'.

See:

[Marie Stopes International: call for health professionals to talk contraception](#)

The think tank Bow Group has released a target paper calling on the government to better utilise and maximise pharmacy to improve patient health outcomes and support the ongoing NHS efficiency drive.

The research paper, 'Delivering enhanced pharmacy services in a modern NHS: improving outcomes in public health and long-term conditions' consulted with stakeholders to determine whether the role of community pharmacy, and specifically Enhanced Pharmacy Services, can play in facilitating improved cost-effectiveness, patient involvement and health outcomes for long term conditions (LTCs) in the modern NHS.

The research suggested that Enhanced Pharmacy Services are an under-utilised resource that can deliver innovative, cost-effective services to patients in a highly accessible manner, whilst facilitating the NHS to achieve its Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) objectives.

See:

[Delivering Enhanced Pharmacy Services in a Modern NHS: Improving Outcomes in Public Health and Long-Term Conditions](#)

Research to be published by the charity Plan UK indicates that almost half of girls who responded, feel unsafe in their neighbourhood after dark.

The findings are part of forthcoming international report entitled 'Because I am a girl' which examines the city life for girls in UK's biggest cities and also in cities across the developing and developed world. More than 500 girls were surveyed in the UK from London, Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Coventry, Glasgow and Edinburgh felt unsafe in their neighbourhood after dark, for reasons which included the threat of gangs, poor street lighting, fear of assault or harassment on public transport

The report calls for girls to learn skills to protect themselves and to recognise both the threats and the opportunities offered by city streets.

See:

[Half of girls in UK cities are scared to go out at night alone, finds children's charity](#)

The costs associated with dementia will amount to more than 1% of the world's gross domestic product this year at \$604bn (£388bn), a report says.

The World Alzheimer Report says this is more than the revenue of retail giant Wal-Mart or oil firm Exxon Mobil.

The authors say dementia poses the most significant health and social crisis of the century as its global financial burden continues to escalate. They want the World Health Organization to make dementia a world priority.

[Read the 2010 World Alzheimer Report](#)

See also:

[*Dementia cost "to top 1% of GDP"*](#)

More than half of English councils are planning to cut back services to older people or raise charges, according to a new survey by Charity Counsel & Care.

The figures were based on [responses given by 56 authorities](#) questioned in August 2010. Ten authorities said they were actively considering boosting home-care charges, with one respondent authority confirming that it now charged £19.70 an hour for such services. Twenty authorities said they charged more than £14 an hour, with 12 charging more than £15 an hour for essential home care. Two councils said they were currently consulting on either scrapping or raising their maximum weekly charging level for home care.

See also:

[*Charity blasts "short sighted" home care reviews*](#)

NICE has warned that women with complex social factors are missing out on maternity care and may need additional support.

Examples of women at risk of missing out include those struggling with substance misuse, homelessness, and domestic abuse, but also pregnant women under the age of 20, migrants, and those without a good grasp of the English language. NICE has issued a new guideline, [Pregnancy and Complex Social Factors](#), with its recommendations for tackling this issue.

The recommendations include holding ante-natal classes in schools, providing more interpreters, and offering a text message reminder service for appointments; these have been met with differing responses.

Also see:

['Vulnerable Pregnant Women miss out on Ante-Natal Care'](#)

['Teachers back call for Pregnancy Clinics in Schools'](#)

A new report, 'The Intelligent Board 2010: Patient Experience' supported by Dr Foster, challenges NHS boards and non-executive directors (NEDs) to review the way they treat patient experience.

The report included a sample survey of trusts which produced some key findings:

- The report found that only 36% of non-executive directors (NEDs) felt 'very well informed' or 'well informed' about the experiences of patients, relatives and carers using the services their trust provides or commissions.
- Of a random sample of Board reports only 26% of acute trusts, 58% at primary care trusts (PCTs) and 50% at Mental Health Trusts met the Intelligent Board criteria for the appropriate level of information on patient experience.
- Just over half (53%) of NEDs estimated they spent 10% or less of board time and attention on patient experience.
- Only 43% of NEDs said patient experience was always an integral part of discussions about quality of care at their board meetings.

- 40% of acute trusts do not have a regular item on patient experience. Of the 60% who do, half of the reports don't include any resulting actions.
- There is over-reporting of how patient experience is used at board level, for example;

See:

[The Intelligence Board 2010: Patient Experience Survey and Board Paper Review: summary of results](#)
[Patient Experience information needs set out](#)

The Children's Workforce Development Council has published a summary of research into the core roles and skills required in social care for children.

[Understanding the children's social care workforce](#) found that it is more useful to focus on where a child comes into contact with a professional rather than on specific roles.

TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk

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