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**From:** TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk [mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk]  
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This bulletin is produced weekly by The Information Point  
**Tel:** (01622) 694125,  
**Freecall:** 7000 4125  
**E-mail:** [TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk](mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk)  
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## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 3 / 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011

*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](mailto:tristan.godfrey@kent.gov.uk).*

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### Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Information

**Date of next HOSC meeting:** Friday, 4th February, 2011 at 10.00 am  
**Location:** Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone  
**Main Agenda Items:** 1) The Future Shape of Community Service Provision.

### Health in Kent

**Kent and Medway Networks argue that a week long consultation by NHS West Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) says vulnerable people will be hit by cuts resulting from what it calls a 'panic consultation.'**

Kent and Medway Networks say that the Primary Care Trust's (PCT) week-long consultation in December resulted in 'hasty' cuts. The PCT, which needs to save up to £29million, is asking GPs to defer referrals for IVF, gender reassignment and surgery on the obese until April this year.

See:

[Health cutbacks will affect IVF, gender reassignment and obesity surgery](#)

## Department of Health

**The Department of Health (DOH) has issued a reminder that the ‘Healthy Lives: healthy people’ strategy for public health in England consultation closes on 8th March 2011.**

The White Paper sets out the Government’s long-term vision for the future of public health in England and outlines our commitment to protecting the population from serious health threats and helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

The White Paper is based on Professor Sir Michael Marmot’s ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives report’ and its life course framework for tackling the wider social determinants of health, the new approach aims to build people’s self-esteem, confidence and resilience right from infancy, with stronger support for early years.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England](#)

**The Department of Health (DOH) has published a technical guidance to list all the indicators against which the NHS will be held accountable nationally during 2011/12.**

The purpose of the technical guidance is to describe the indicators in the Integrated Performance Measures in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12, and to set out for each measure:

- Definitions.
- Monitoring Arrangements.
- Accountability Expectations.
- Relevant Planning Requirements.
- Further Information

See:

[Technical guidance for the 2011/12 Operating Framework](#)

## Government

**The Government has published the ‘*Health and Social Care Bill*’ which is a crucial part of the Government’s vision to revitalise the NHS as an organisation that it is built around patients, led by health professionals and focused on delivering world-class healthcare outcomes.**

The *Health and Social Care Bill* takes forward *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS* and the subsequent Government response *Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps* which require primary legislation. It also includes provision to strengthen public health services and reform the Department’s arm’s length bodies.

The *Health and Social Care Bill* contains provisions covering five themes:

- strengthening commissioning of NHS services.
- increasing democratic accountability and public voice.
- liberating provision of NHS services.
- strengthening public health services.
- reforming health and care arm’s-length bodies.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Health and Social Care Bill published](#)

[Health and Social Care Bill 2011](#)

## **The Government is due to announce plans to introduce minimum prices for the sale of alcohol.**

The changes will mean that shops and bars [cannot sell alcohol for less than the tax that they pay on it](#). The plans are intended as a move towards tackling the problems of binge drinking and the effect that this has on health.

## **The House of Commons Select Health Committee has published the report on NHS Commissioning.**

The report '[Commissioning](#)' sets out the crucial issues which the Committee believes the Health Bill should address and which it intends to follow, and concludes that more effective commissioning is key to delivery of efficiency gains.

The report's central conclusions are:

- The NHS needs to make unprecedented efficiency gains if it is to meet rising demand for healthcare against the background of budgets which are broadly stable in real terms (the Nicholson Challenge).
- More effective commissioning is key to the delivery of this requirement for unprecedented efficiency gains.
- The White Paper proposal to abolish Primary Care Trusts and transfer commissioning responsibility to GP-led consortia was not foreshadowed in the Coalition Programme and came as a surprise to most observers.
- This "surprise" approach created uncertainty among commissioners and therefore increased the risks and costs associated with delivery of the Nicholson Challenge.
- The pace of events since publication of the White Paper has required a pragmatic management response ahead of Parliamentary consideration of the proposals.
- The Committee intends to follow through its report with further work on the detailed proposals for commissioning in the Government's forthcoming Health Bill.

See:

[Health Committee publishes report on NHS commissioning](#)

## **The House of Commons Select Public Accounts Committee has published a report '[PFI in housing and hospitals](#)'.**

Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government are responsible for sizeable portfolios of PFI projects covering hospitals and social housing, but the Committee argues that it found no clear and explicit justification and evaluation for the use of PFI in terms of its value for money.

See:

[MP's publish report on PFI in Housing and Hospitals](#)

## **Parliament**

### **HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

**Written Ministerial Answers and Government responses.**

#### **[Health](#)**

[Arthritis: Health Services](#)

[Blood: Contamination](#)

[Care Quality Commission](#)

[Cataracts](#)

[Chronically Sick People](#)

[Dentistry](#)  
[Dentists: Finance](#)  
[Flu: Vaccination](#)  
[Food Intolerances](#)  
[Food Intolerances: Children](#)  
[Heart Diseases](#)  
[HIV Infection](#)  
[Hospital Beds](#)  
[Influenza: Vaccination](#)  
[Insulin: Finance](#)  
[Interim Cancer Drugs Fund](#)  
[Lyme Disease](#)  
[Medical Schools](#)  
[National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Drugs](#)  
[NHS Work Force Consultation](#)  
[NHS: Older People](#)  
[NHS: Recruitment](#)  
[NHS: Waiting Lists](#)  
[Patients: Transport](#)  
[Prescriptions: Fees and Charges](#)  
[Primary Care Trusts: Prisoners](#)  
[Tobacco: Retail Trade](#)

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

**Debates and Oral Questions.**

**Rape Prosecution**

How many specialist rape prosecutors there are in the Crown Prosecution Service.

**Domestic Violence**

What recent discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the Crown Prosecution Service's performance in the prosecution of cases involving allegations of domestic violence.

**Westminster Hall Debates**

**Young Carers**

Debate on young carers.

**Written Answers**

[Breast Cancer: Screening](#)  
[Cancer: Medical Equipment](#)  
[Cataracts: Medical Treatments](#)  
[Cervical Cancer: Screening](#)  
[Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research](#)  
[Dental Services](#)  
[Dental Services: Standards](#)  
[Disability](#)  
[Drugs: Rehabilitation](#)  
[Eggs: Contamination](#)  
[General Practitioners](#)  
[Genito-urinary Medicine: Young People](#)  
[Lyme Disease](#)  
[Medical Equipment: Contamination](#)  
[Mental Health Services](#)

[NHS 111](#)  
[NHS: Negligence](#)  
[NHS: Pay](#)  
[NHS: Reorganisation](#)  
[Pleural Plaques: Sunderland](#)  
[Primary Care Trusts: Redundancy](#)  
[Radiotherapy](#)  
[Transition Programme](#)

## **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

### **Westminster Hall Debates**

#### **Fuel poverty**

Fuel poverty is a serious and complicated issue.

### **Written Answers**

[Abortion: Young People](#)  
[Blood: Cancer](#)  
[Cancer: Surgery](#)  
[Cord Blood](#)  
[Diabetes: Screening](#)  
[Drugs: Mental Health Services](#)  
[Drugs: Rehabilitation](#)  
[General Practitioners](#)  
[Health Services: Foreign Nationals](#)  
[Health: Advertising](#)  
[Influenza: Vaccination](#)  
[Mentally Ill: Offenders](#)  
[NHS: Fees and Charges](#)  
[NHS: Finance](#)  
[Older People: Domestic Accidents](#)  
[Primary Care Trusts: Manpower](#)  
[Rehabilitation: Health Services](#)  
[Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Health Services](#)  
[Spinal Injuries: Health Services](#)  
[Stem Cells: Medical Treatments](#)

## **Thursday 20 January 2011**

### **Debates and Oral Questions**

#### **Disadvantaged Children**

Improving life chances for disadvantaged children.

### **Written Ministerial Statements**

#### **Sure Start Maternity Grant**

Payment of the Sure Start maternity grant would be protected at the current rate of £500, but limited to the first child.

### **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

## Written Answers

### Diabetes

Question asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Earl Howe on 21 December (*WA 291*), whether they will give further consideration to splitting research money between type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes, and consult with various research centres on the desirability of this course of action.

### Drug Tariff

Question asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers they have to ensure that continence patients have access to the full range of urology appliances listed under Part IV of the Drug Tariff (a) under the current commissioning arrangements, and (b) under the proposed new NHS commissioning arrangements.

### Reciprocal Agreements

Question asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reciprocal health care arrangements between the United Kingdom and Jersey.

## Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011

### Debates and Oral Questions

#### Stem Cell Research

Question asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review scientific developments in stem cell research, as recommended by the Select Committee on Stem Cell Research (Session 2001-02, HL Paper 83), with a view to ascertaining whether research on human embryos is still necessary.

### Written Answers

#### Children: Care

Question Asked by The Earl of Listowel

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Hill of Oareford on 11 November (*WA 109*), in respect of each local authority, how many looked-after children had (a) five to nine, and (b) 10 or more, placement moves in the year ending 2008

#### Health: Cancer

Question asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve cancer survival rates in the United Kingdom.

#### Mental Health: Women

Question asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will increase funding for the treatment of mental health disorders in women.

#### NHS: Costs

Question asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to introduce changes to allow the costs of treatment, medicines and services to be made available to NHS patients.

## Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## Debates and Oral Questions

### [Disabled people: transport](#)

Asked By Lord Low of Dalston

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will support the recent compromise agreement reached through the conciliation procedure on the proposed European regulation on bus and coach passenger rights, and what further steps they are taking to meet the United Kingdom's obligations under Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### [Health: Influenza Vaccination](#)

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the advice on the availability of the flu vaccination.

## Written Answers

### [Health: Cancer](#)

Question Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what effect abolishing primary care trusts will have on cancer care.

### [Health: Diabetes](#)

Question Asked by Lord Morris of Aberavon

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Earl Howe on 21 December (WA 291), whether they will increase expenditure on all types of diabetes in real terms; how much they spent in each of the past five years; and how much they will spend in each of the next five years

### [Health: GPs Emoluments](#)

Question Asked by Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make public the details of emoluments paid to general practitioners for the services they provide for the National Health Service.

## Other Health Information

**The Human Fertilisation Embryology (HFEA) authority the independent regulator for IVF treatment and research, is issuing a three month consultation on sperm and egg donation, focusing on three main areas of policy:**

- The level of compensation for donors.
- The number of families a donor can help to create.
- Family donation

Views can be shared through a series of questionnaires on the consultation pages on the HFEA website.

See:

[HFEA launches public consultation on sperm and egg donation](#)  
[Donation review](#)

**Consultation period: January 2011 and March 2011**

**The Royal College of Surgeons of England has taken the opportunity to respond to the Department of Health's consultation on the NHS Constitution and Whistleblowing.**

The College argue that their response commends the approach to put patients at the heart of the NHS along with a focus on clinical outcomes and leadership and a move away from targets that have no clinical relevance. But the College also highlight the need for partnerships between primary care and hospital clinicians if specialist services are going to be commissioned to meet needs of patients.

In addition in the light of Government proposals that the Constitution should include more explicit advice about whistle-blowing, the College is supportive of initiatives that highlight the importance of raising concerns in the health service. This guidance should however be backed up by practical support and initiatives for healthcare providers and clinicians.

See:

[Equality and excellence - Liberating the NHS: College response](#)

[Consultation responses](#)

[NHS Constitution and whistleblowing](#)

[RCS publishes two consultation responses to NHS proposals Liberating the NHS](#)

**The final GP Earnings and Expenses report for 2008/09 provides a detailed study of the NHS and private earnings of both contractor and salaried GPs in the UK by practice size, Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and rural location.**

The report '[GP Earnings and Expenses 2008/09 Final Report](#)' indicates that using self employment sources, the average income before tax of a contractor GP in the UK was £105,300 in 2008/09, a decrease of 0.7 per cent since 2007/08. This compares with an average income before tax of £57,300 for a salaried GP in the UK in 2008/09, an increase of 2.7 per cent since 2007/08.

As figures reflect earnings reported on tax returns, it includes private as well as NHS work and covers both full and part time GPs.

See also:

[GP Earnings and Expenses 2008/09 Final Report](#)

**Barnardos has released a report which outlines what is known about the scale and nature of sexual exploitation across the UK and points to some worrying new trends, including that child sexual exploitation is on the increase.**

The report '[Puppet on a string: the urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation](#)' argues that child sexual exploitation is a child protection issue, and calls for The Secretary of State for Education to appoint a minister to take forward a national action plan to tackle this crime against children.

**Graham Allen has published his interim report on early intervention to help give children up to the age of 3 the social and emotional background they need.**

The Labour MP for Nottingham North was commissioned by the government to look into these issues following on from a report he wrote alongside Iain Duncan-Smith in 2008. In the report, '[Early Intervention: the next steps](#)', he calls for a national parenting programme and suggests that early intervention would help improve the lives of vulnerable children and enable them to achieve more.

He states that a child's development score at 22 months can accurately predict its academic achievement by the age of 26, and also that depression and suicide attempts by women are attributable to childhood experiences in more than half the cases.

One of the Level 1 interventions to which the report refers is Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care which has been piloted in Kent for the past six years.

His three main recommendations are:

- 15 local early intervention places should be set up, run by local authorities and the voluntary sector
- An independent Early Intervention Foundation should be set up to support the above
- The Foundation should not be funded by Central Government, but by a range of sources including Local Government, charities, and private investors

Also see:

[‘Graham Allen urges launch of national early intervention body’](#)

[‘Making the case for early intervention’](#)

**The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) today published the [‘Violence at work’](#) report, as a part of the responsibility for developing and implementing policy on work-related violence.**

The report ‘Violence at work: findings from the 2009/10 British Crime Survey’ presents findings from the 2009/10 British Crime Survey (BCS) on violence at work. It provides an overview of the extent of violence at work in England and Wales and examines the nature of these incidents and the risk factors that may affect victimisation.

[TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk](mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk)

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