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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 44 / 28 October 2010

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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Information

Date of next HOSC meeting: Friday 26 November 2010, 10.00 am .

Location: Council Chamber, Sessions House.

Main Agenda Items:

- 1) Primary Angioplasty
- 2) Community Mental Health Services.

Health in Kent

As it moves towards Foundation Trust (FT) status, the South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SECamb) governor elections are underway to create a Council of Governors, made up of elected members of the public, staff and appointees from partner organisations. The Council of Governors will work alongside the Trust Board to help plan and develop services to meet the needs of communities. In addition, they will ensure that the views and experience of patients, the public and staff are heard and acted on, and will be a crucial link between the ambulance service and the communities it serves.

See:

[Trust's governor elections underway](#)

Department of Health

In a letter from NHS Deputy Chief Executive David Flory to Strategic Health Authorities chief executives, Mr. Florey details the £70 million 2010-11 funding allocations for re-enablement to improve hospital discharge.

See:

[2010/11 funding for re-ablement linked to hospital discharge](#)

In a letter from Paul Streets, Director of Public and Patient Engagement and Experience dated 27 October 2010, Mr. Streets details the Contracting for support to Local Involvement Networks in 2011-20

See:

[Contracting for support to Local Involvement Networks in 2011-2012: supporting the possible transition to Local HealthWatch](#)

Self Care Awareness Week 2010, from 15 - 21 November, aims to get people, particularly those with a long term condition, learning about how they can improve the way that they look after their own health.

To help the NHS, social care, the voluntary and private sector and organisations support Self Care Awareness week, there are packs of information, key messages and promotional materials.

See:

[Self Care Awareness Week: 15-21 November 2010](#)

Following the announcement of the GP consortia pathfinder programme, a letter from Dame Barbara Hakin, sets out the next steps of the GP Consortia Pathfinder Programme.

The objective of establishing pathfinders is to empower pioneering groups of GP practices that want to press ahead with commissioning care for patients. The programme will specifically:

- identify and support groups of practices that are keen to make faster progress, under existing arrangements, and can demonstrate their capacity and capability to take on additional responsibility for commissioning services, in line with the proposals set out in *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*.
- enable GPs, working with other health and care professionals, to test different design concepts for GP consortia and identify any issues and areas of learning early so that these can be shared more widely.
- create learning networks across the country to ensure that experience and best practice are spread and specifically that pathfinders support other local groups that are less developed.
- involve these front line clinicians more in delivering the QIPP agenda.

See:

[GP Consortia Pathfinder Programme letter from Dame Barbara Hakin](#)

The first-ever European Antibiotic Awareness Day was celebrated in the 27 EU Member States on 18th November 2008, and this annual event, which this year is on 18th November 2010, aims to raise awareness on how to use antibiotics in a responsible way that will help keep them effective for the future.

This year, European Antibiotic Awareness Day is focusing on promoting prudent antibiotic use in hospitals, as antibiotic resistance is now an everyday problem in hospitals across Europe, and the selection and spread of resistant bacteria in hospitals is a major patient safety issue.

See:

[European Antibiotic Awareness Day](#)
[Antibiotic awareness campaign materials 2010](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) and Office For national Statistics (ONS) has released statistical release updates of the Mortality Monitoring Bulletin.

The three-year averages are shown for life expectancy, and three-year average mortality rates for all causes of death, and selected specific causes of death. The specific causes of death are:

- cancer, ages under 75
- all circulatory diseases, ages under 75
- intentional self-harm (suicide) and injury of undetermined intent, all ages
- accidents, all ages.

For life expectancy, all cause mortality, and cancer and circulatory diseases mortality, figures for England are compared to the former Spearhead Group (i.e. areas which had the worst health and deprivation).

See:

[Mortality Monitoring Bulletin \(Life expectancy and all-age-all-cause mortality, and mortality from selected causes, overall and inequalities\): update to include data for 2009](#)

Government

The Cancer Drugs Fund – A Consultation

The Government has set out its plans to establish a Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011. The Fund will provide a means of improving patient access to cancer drugs prior to the anticipated reform of arrangements for branded drug pricing on expiry of the current Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) at the end of 2013.

The Department is consulting on proposals for establishment of the Fund. [The consultation](#) sets out the context and case for change, the objectives for the Fund, the implications these have for the structure of the Fund and invites views on how to ensure that the Fund delivers its objectives as well as possible.

Other documentation is available from the [DoH website](#).

Consultation period: 27th October 2010 – 19th January 2011

The two Serious Case Review reports into the death of Peter Connelly have now been published on the Department for Education website in a bid to increase transparency.

The two reports have been redacted and personal details on vulnerable children have been made anonymous in order to protect them. Tim Loughton, Children's Minister, said that the reports had been published so that people could learn from the mistakes which had been made. He also welcomed the progress which had been made at Haringey over the past two years.

See:

[Sharon Shoesmith report](#)

[Graham Badman report](#)

[DfE Press Release](#)

[Baby P's death could and should have been prevented](#)

Parliament

House of Commons

Tuesday, 26th October, 2010.

Debates:

[Maternity Services](#)
[Violence Against Women Strategy](#)

Westminster Hall:
[Mental Health \(Infants\)](#)

Written Ministerial Statement:
[Serious Case Review Overview Reports \(Peter Connelly\)](#)

Wednesday, 27th October 2010

Debates:
[Suicide and self harm during a recession](#)

Westminster Hall
[Rarer Cancers](#)

House of Lords

Tuesday 26th October 2010

Debates:
[Health Spending Review, 2010: Question](#)

Written Statement:
[Child protection](#)

On 26th October, the House of Commons Select Health Committee held a second oral evidence session for the inquiry into how the financial squeeze will affect NHS and adult social care services.

The Health Committee will ask representatives of NHS organisations and local authorities about the likely impacts of the recent spending review settlement on service provision and efforts to improve efficiency and productivity. In addition, the Committee will also look more closely at how spending pressures on both health and social care will affect the interface between these two services.

See:

[MPs take further evidence on health-related public expenditure](#)
[Health Committee](#)

The House of Commons Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology has released a POSTnote on Drugs Pricing.

Drugs purchased by the NHS are not always priced relative to their clinical value, as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence evaluates clinical and cost effectiveness which can be controversial, and causes the Office of Fair Trading to argue that that drug prices should reflect their clinical benefits.

New measures implemented some aspects of value-based pricing in 2009. The Government has announced that it will implement value-based pricing but it is unclear whether this will save money, and details about the reform are unclear.

See:

[Drug Pricing](#)

The House of Commons Library has released a Standard Note 'NHS funding and expenditure' which is a summary of the structure of the NHS and how it is financed.

This note has been updated with details of planned expenditure on the NHS in England to 2014/15, as announced in the 2010 Spending Review.

See:

[NHS funding and expenditure](#)

Care Quality Commission

Since April 2009, The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has been responsible for monitoring the use of the *Mental Health Act* in relation to those patients detained in hospital, subject to guardianship or placed on a community treatment order, and has published a first report on the use of Act, where they believe improvements are needed and recommendations as to how this is achieved.

The commission identified three priority areas where services needed to do much better:

- involving patients in decisions about their care and treatment;
- assessing and recording patients' consent to treatment;
- minimising restrictions on patients and avoiding 'blanket' security measures.

Cynthia Bower, CQC's Chief Executive, said: 'Staff and managers who work in mental health services don't always get the recognition they deserve. Many of the men, women and children who come under their care may owe their very survival to their dedication and compassion, both on the hospital ward and out in the community.'

See:

[Monitoring the use of the Mental Health Act in 2009/10](#)

[Overview report](#)

[Mental Health Act Annual Report 2009/10](#)

[Regulator says it will drive improvements for mental health patients](#)

[Mental Health Network responds to CQC Mental Health act report](#)

Other Health Information

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health has warned that one in ten councils no longer provide pest control services and now rely on private contractors to provide these services.

This has led to fears that [rodent and bed bug populations are being allowed to grow unchecked](#) at a time when the risks have increased as a result of climate change, increased foreign travel and irresponsible attitudes to litter.

A [new health survey](#) commissioned by the Kings Fund has shown that only 23% of doctors think that Government plans to reform the NHS will improve patient care.

Doctors also warn that the NHS would not be able to make the £20bn of savings by 2014 that ministers expect as well as improving efficiency, while also going through a major reorganisation that will see GPs assuming responsibility for the commissioning of healthcare services as the PCTs are abolished.

See the full survey results - [Impact of the health White Paper: what do doctors think?](#)

Ofsted has published its latest serious case review report, [Learning lessons from serious case reviews 2009-2010](#).

The report looks at 147 serious case reviews evaluated by Ofsted from April 2009-March 2010. While the quality of the reviews continues to improve with 42% judged good and 42% adequate with 165 judged inadequate the report highlights some persistent shortcomings in child protection. These included –

- failure to implement good practice even though established frameworks and guidance were available
- agencies involved did not share this information early enough which would have contributed to a better understanding of children and their families
- insufficient consideration of the child's individual views and needs
- statements received from parents or other family members were not sufficiently challenged

A new report by the Audit Commission has shown that many councils are facing challenges in developing appropriate financial plans to give individual people their own budgets to spend on social care.

The report, [Financial Management of Personal Budgets](#), examines the implications for local councils as control of these budgets is transferred to those individuals in receipt of adult social care. The report finds that only 6 out of 152 councils are currently set to meet the Government target of by offering 30% of eligible people their own budget by April 2011.

See also

[Audit Commission press release](#)

[Councils slow on care budgets says Audit Commission](#) (BBC)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published the results of a study evaluating the impact of a new pilot project offering personalised budgets to rough sleepers in the City of London.

Key findings of the report, [Providing personalised support to rough sleepers](#) included –

- The majority of participants in the personalised budgets project were in accommodation by the time of evaluation;
- Long-term personalised support was needed to encourage participants to remain in accommodation;
- Both participants and professionals involved believed that the approach could work with other rough sleepers; and
- The personalised approach brought elements of choice and control not provided by standard support.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released the latest statistics on work-related health and safety in Great Britain for 2009-10.

The statistics cover work-related ill-health, injuries, dangerous occurrences, enforcement and gas safety.

See:

[The Health and Safety Executive Statistics 2009/10](#)

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