
From: TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk [mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 December 2010 08:59
Subject: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 49 3rd December 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. 49 / 3rd December 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 7th January 2011 , 10.00 am .

Location: Council Chamber, Sessions House.

Main Agenda Items:

1) Dentistry

Health in Kent

At the latest Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) Members looked at community mental health services to gain a deeper understanding of how they are run, and to ask if the type, level and quality of care is right in Kent.

The meeting had the opportunity to hear from, and put questions to, representatives of the health sector including the NHS and KCC's Adult Social Services team.

They asked a range of questions on the provision of community mental health services and future plans for the service including:

- Who are the main providers of these services?
- How many people access these services each year?

- How are community mental health services being developed?
- How much do you spend on adult mental health services, and how much is spent specifically on community mental health services?

See:

[Mental health care in Kent](#)

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DOH) has released a consultation seeking views on elements of the White Paper '[Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England](#)'. The White Paper outlines the commitment to protect the population from serious health threats, helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest.

The White Paper responds to Professor Sir Michael Marmot's [Fair Society, Healthy Lives report](#) and adopts its life course framework for tackling the wider social determinants of health. The new approach will aim to build people's self-esteem, confidence and resilience right from infancy – with stronger support for early years, and complements [A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens](#) in emphasising more personalised, preventive services that are focused on delivering the best outcomes for citizens and that help to build the Big Society.

See:

[Executive Summary](#)

[LGA responds to Public Health White Paper](#)

Consultation period: 30 November 2010 - 8 March 2011

In addition, the Department for Health has also released '[The review of the regulation of health professionals](#)' which asks a specific consultation question on the 'Healthy lives, healthy people' report.

Dr Gabriel Scally, Regional Director of Public Health for the South West, has prepared the report on the issue of professional regulation within public health on behalf of the Chief Medical Officers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

For details:

See:

[Healthy Lives, Healthy People](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has also released a consultation on the transparency framework of the Department of Health Business Plan, 2011 – 2015.

The DOH business plan was published on 8 November, but the section of the plan on transparency - the input and impact indicators, and the information strategy - is now out to consultation.

The purpose of this engagement is to seek feedback from our key external partners to ensure that this section of the business plan contains the most relevant and timely information and technically robust indicators.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[DH Business Plan 2011-2015: Consultation on the Transparency Framework](#)

Consultation period: 30th November 2010 – 31st January 2011.

As part of the [Transforming Community Services programme](#) which will deliver more personalised care closer to home, The Department of Health (DH) argues that all Primary Care Trusts should have separated the commissioning of community services from their provision by April next year

This is when all staff and services will be transferred to a range of new organisations such as Community Foundation Trusts, or Social Enterprises, or integrated with existing providers which will provide more choice for patients and have a vital role in the transfer of care and treatment.

The Transforming Community Services programme will also see a role of such organisations to support the NHS in a drive to improve quality and productivity, a move which DH argues will enable these new organisations to provide more choice for patients and have a vital role in the transfer of care and treatment from hospital settings to help patients with their recovery or manage their healthcare needs. They will be financially more independent while remaining part of the NHS.

See:

[Plans in place to transform community services](#)

A public consultation on the 'Fitness to Practise Adjudication for Health Professionals: assessing different mechanisms for delivery' ran between 9 August 2010 and 11 October 2010.

The Department of Health (DH) has released the consultation report which contains an overview of the consultation process, the responses received and the Department's reply and actions taken. This is also accompanied by an impact assessment and an equality impact assessment.

See:

[Consultation Report - Fitness to Practise Adjudication for health professionals: Assessing different mechanisms for delivery](#)

Government

NHS staff to take control of the community services

As part of the [Transforming Community Services programme](#) which will deliver more personalised care closer to home, all Primary Care Trusts should have separated the commissioning of community services from their provision by April next year

All staff and services will be transferred to a range of new organisations which will provide more choice for patients and have a vital role in the transfer of care and treatment. The organisations will also support the NHS in its drive to improve quality and productivity

The Government has published an anaerobic digestion framework document that sets out the steps the Government believes are needed to increase energy from waste in England through anaerobic digestion (AD).

The document ['Developing an Anaerobic Digestion \(AD\) Framework strategy'](#)

Is an invitation to work with Government on the strategy, and has the potential to meet several major challenges by reducing greenhouse gases from manure and waste management, and producing renewable energy without causing significant adverse land-use change, as well as diverting waste from landfill.

See:

[Anaerobic Digestion framework document published](#)

Deadline for expressing interest in participation - 12 December 2010.

The Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances, conducted by MP Frank Field has released a new strategy to meet the Government's target of abolishing child poverty.

The strategy ['The Foundation Years: Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults'](#) took as the main aims of the review to:

- Explore how a child's home environment affects their chances of being ready to take full advantage of their schooling.
- Generate a broader debate about the nature and extent of poverty in the UK.
- Recommend potential action by government and other institutions to reduce poverty and enhance life chances for the least advantaged, consistent with the Government's fiscal strategy.

- Examine the case for reforms to the poverty measures, in particular for the inclusion of non-financial elements.

The conclusions of the review were that there is overwhelming evidence that children's life chances are most heavily predicated on their development in the first five years of life. It is family background, parental education, good parenting and the opportunities for learning and development in those crucial years that together matter more to children than money, in determining whether their potential is realised in adult life.

See:

[Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances](#)

[Frank Field's poverty report challenges 'welfare state sacred cows'](#)

Anne Milton, Minister for Public Health has launched a new on-line comparison service which enables expectant parents to compare and rate maternity services and make it easier to find key information.

The tool is designed to extend the choices open to expectant parents, and help them decide which maternity service is right for their needs, and also to offer in one place, all the information they need to make an informed decision.

Patients will also be able to read other people's comments about:

- How highly they would recommend the service.
- How well patients are treated by staff.
- If patients felt they were involved in decisions decide which maternity service is right for them.

See:

[Expectant Parents to Rate Maternity Services Online](#)

Parliament

Lord Faulks has made his maiden speech in the House of Lords in a report to the Prime Minister on the independent review of Health and Safety in respect of the health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture.

The report, '[Common sense, common safety](#)' published 15 October 2010, discusses health and safety laws and the growth of the compensation culture, the result of the way in which sensible health and safety rules that apply to hazardous occupations have been applied across all occupations.

See:

[Lords discusses health and safety review](#)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday 29th November 2010.

Debates:

[Dental Practitioners](#)

Written Ministerial Statements:

[Dental National Decontamination Survey 21010](#)

Tuesday 30th November 2010.

Debates:

[Public Health White Paper](#)

[Hospital Chaplaincy](#)

[Domestic Violence](#)

Westminster Hall Debates:

[Disability Allowance](#)
[Breast Cancer Screening \(Young Women\)](#)

Wednesday 1 December 2010

Westminster Hall Debates:
[Candour in Health Care](#)

Written Ministerial Statements:
[Stem cell transplant services](#)

Thursday 2nd December 2010

Written Ministerial Statements:
[Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator](#)

HOUSE OF LORDS

Monday 29th November 2010.

Debates:
[Academic Health Partnerships. Question for short debate tabled by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff](#)

Written Statement:
[Dentistry](#)

Tuesday 30th November 2010.

Debates:
[Public Health: statement](#)
[Passive smoking: question](#)

Wednesday 1st December 2010.

Written statements:
[Stem cell transplantation](#)

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report that the results of their latest survey into maternity services reveal some encouraging improvements since last year.

Key findings indicate that:-

- More women were seen by a midwife rather than a GP, and 53% had a booking appointment before nine weeks.
- 74% of women were always involved in decisions about their care (increased from 67% in 2007).
- 73% 'definitely' had confidence and trust in the staff caring for them during labour and birth, compared with 68% in 2007.

CQC also argue that these results identify further concerns.

- Too many women still feel that they are left alone during labour and birth.
- Eight per cent of women reported that they did not get the pain relief they wanted, (unchanged from 2007).
- Almost one in five women (18%) did not feel that they got enough information about their own recovery, and 21% felt they were not given enough information about emotional changes they might experience following the birth.
- No improvements have been made in the length of time women wait for stitches for an episiotomy (cut) or tear.

See:

[Maternity services 2010](#)

Other Health Information

Two Kent Health Trusts are praised in a survey

Monitoring body [Dr Foster](#) produced a survey which looks at overall death rates and deaths after surgery in hospitals across England. The analysis shows that East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS have lower than expected mortality rates.

The report also named East Kent Hospitals as its 2010 overall trust of the year for putting patients first. The trust has performed consistently well across all criteria, and has succeeded in meeting the challenges of being one of the largest trusts in the country.

See: [Hospital Guide 2010: What makes a good hospital?](#)

See also: [NHS death rates better - but some trusts still too high](#)
[NHS Confederation response to Dr Foster Hospital Guide](#)

Major report into improving education for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) published

The report [Special Educational Needs: Reforming provision in English schools](#) published by Policy Exchange, is aimed at driving up standards and helping every child achieve their potential.

It considers:

- potential reforms in the context of broader educational issues and policy changes.
- specific problems such as what SEN is, and how the government should approach inclusion
- setting up independent panels to gauge what individual needs SEN pupil have – with parents given a guaranteed choice on what type of schooling their child should get.

A better approach to SEN should be seen as a vital concern in reforming the education system.

See: [The Policy Exchange press release](#)

See also: [Think tank calls for more competition in SEN provision](#)

New report examines how local government can support a better life for its citizens

Jointly commissioned by Local Government (LG) Improvement and Development and the National Mental Health Development Unit and written by nef (the new economics foundation), [The role of local government in promoting wellbeing](#) highlights good practice in local government through the local wellbeing project.

There is very little within the core functions of local government that does not have the potential to contribute to improving wellbeing whether that be through improving employment and the economy, planning and maintaining the physical environment, improving access to green spaces, supporting parenting and early child development, providing opportunities for physical activity and so on.

See: [The press release and related documents](#)

See also: [NEF Press release](#)

Lord Bach argues that the proposed reform of the legal aid budget will effectively decimate social welfare legal advice.

Lord Bach argues that the Green Paper '[Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales](#)' which began a consultation on the reform of legal aid, amounts to cutting the legal aid budget, currently £2bn per year, by about £350m and the cut civil legal aid by £279m, about one third of total civil legal aid spend.

He argues that this will effectively mean that a million people will no longer be in scope or meet the new lower eligibility test, and represents a 50 % cut in civil legal aid services to the public. While some of these proposed savings are in the area of private family law, the most to be saved by taking out of scope massive amounts of social welfare law, particularly legal advice. All welfare benefit law is to go, all employment law and all education law as well. Practically all debt advice and a large part of crucial housing law is to be outside legal aid.

See:

['Shocking, callous and counterproductive'](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published a new resource pack in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, aimed at staff supporting people with learning difficulties who develop dementia.

'Supporting Derek' is based on extensive research by experts in the field. It will be indispensable to care staff and training officers from learning difficulty and dementia settings, as well as community, housing and health care staff.

See:

[Supporting Derek - a new resource for staff working with people who have a learning difficulty and dementia](#)

British Association of Social Workers (BASW) plans to bid for a major involvement in the social work practice pilots for adult services recently announced by Government as part of a vision statement for older people's care.

The Government are seeking ten authorities to participate in specific pilots which will extend the social work practice model from children's services into work with adults. BASW wants to be able to link the pilot councils with local groups of independent practitioners who will be able to suggest projects that the local authorities could outsource to social work practices.

See:

[BASW bids for key role in social work practice pilots](#)

The Commission on Funding of Care and Support are launching a 'Call for Evidence' for ideas on the formulation of a sustainable future funding system

Andrew Dilnot, Chair of the Commission argues that further evidence and fresh perspectives are needed to develop a fair, sustainable and resilient solution for the future funding of care and support, and the '[Call for Evidence on the future funding of Care and Support](#)' is particularly aimed at asking those with an interest in future funding models to provide their expert view.

The Commission has identified four key priorities :

- Increased resources – public, private and voluntary – will need to be dedicated to care and support in future
- People should have the opportunity to be protected against the future costs of care and support
- People need to understand how the care and support system works and be encouraged to plan accordingly

- People need to be clear about the role of the wider system of public support (including the NHS and social security)

See:

[Call for Evidence](#)

[Care Funding Commission seeks fresh evidence and ideas](#)

Period of Call for Evidence: 1st December 2010 - 28th January 2011.

As part of the King's Fund joint programme 'Quality in a cold climate' which aims to help mental health commissioners and providers identify areas which enable mental health services to be delivered in a different, more cost effective way, opportunities to re-design mental health services as a means of improving productivity without sacrificing quality of care were the focus.

The report ['Mental health and the productivity challenge: improving quality and quality for money'](#)

highlighted areas with promising targets for immediate attention:

- reducing unnecessary bed use in acute and secure psychiatric wards, for example by strengthening community teams that help to avoid admission and facilitate discharge.
- establishing systems to review the use of highly expensive out-of-area treatments.
- improving workforce productivity.
- strengthening the interface between mental and physical health care, particularly for older people and people with long-term conditions.

See:

[Mental health and the productivity challenge: findings](#)

A unique new partnership to drive up standards in drug and alcohol treatment and help more people achieve recovery, has been recently launched.

The Substance Misuse Skills Consortium, a partnership of doctors, former drug users, healthcare managers and charities, has established an online gateway, the Skills Hub, offering easy access to hundreds of resources to help front line drug and alcohol workers share best practice, and work together to improve services and achieve better results for those in their care.

See:

[Substance Misuse Skills Consortium](#)

[Drug and alcohol treatment sector drives up standards of care](#)

TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk

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