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**Sent:** 28 January 2011 13:12  
**Subject:** Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 4 28th January 2011

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## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 4 / 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011

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### 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, 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.

Please also find the [Agenda Document for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#), to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 10am in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

### Health in Kent

#### **New Pembury Hospital opens**

The new £230m building, which is yet to be named, opens today, and the transfer of babies, children and new mums from the old [Pembury hospital](#) begins next week. Maidstone's services are expected to move over in September.

**The *BBC* report that the consultation process by which Kent County Council made the decision to close or sell care homes for the elderly has been referred to the Audit Commission.**

Cabinet members approved the plans for the closures, and said that the consultation had been well run, and there would be complete co-operation with the Audit Commission, but residents and their families described the public consultation as a sham.

Chairman of the cabinet scrutiny committee, councillor Trudy Dean, said she also had concerns about the way alternative proposals were assessed.

See:

[Audit Commission to look at Kent care home closures](#)

## **Department of Health**

**The Department of Health (DOH) has released statistics on monthly situation reports on critical care beds, cancelled operations and delayed transfers of care.**

The main findings for December 2010 were:

- There were 3,535 adult critical care beds available with 3,088 occupied in December 2010. This compares to 3,525 available and 3,031 occupied in November 2010.
- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 322 in December 2010. This compares with 211 urgent operations cancelled in November 2010.
- The number of delayed transfers of care for December 2010 is 3,881 and the total number of delayed days in the month was 112,938. Of those 3,881, 2,011 were acute patients and of the delayed days 59,212 were acute.

See:

[Statistical Press Notice: Critical care and delayed transfers of care statistics – December 2010 data](#)

**The Multiple Sclerosis Risk Sharing Scheme was set up in 2002 to ensure that people with MS could access MS treatments.**

The scheme is a long-term observational study and collects data from more than 5,000 patients to measure effectiveness of the treatments which has evolved from a cost effectiveness initiative between the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and UK Health Departments which enabled access to the drugs to make treatments available on the NHS.

See:

[Multiple Sclerosis Risk Sharing Scheme](#)

**The Department of Health (DOH) has released a report setting out the findings of a literature review on bereavement services conducted by the University of Nottingham.**

The report '[Bereavement care services: a synthesis of the literature](#)' was

commissioned to inform future work on bereavement care, as part of the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy, and draws on papers relating to bereavement service provision,

**The Department of Health (DOH) has released a report which sets out the findings of a literature review on spiritual care at the end of life conducted by the Universities of Hull, Staffordshire and Aberdeen.**

The report '[Spiritual care at the end of life: a systematic review of the literature](#)' was commissioned to inform future work on spiritual care at the end of life, as part of the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy.

**The Department of Health (DOH) has published a letter from David Behan CBE, Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, inviting Chief Executives and Leaders of Local Authorities to join a network of early implementers for health and wellbeing boards.**

See:

[Invitation to be an early implementer for health and wellbeing boards](#)

**The Department of Health (DOH) has published a summary of HPV vaccination coverage across England at PCT, SHA and Description national level for the second year of the programme.**

This second annual report on HPV vaccine coverage in England presents data for the academic year 2009/10 and provides a comparison with vaccine coverage achieved during the first year of the programme (academic year 2008/09), and with published data from selected international HPV vaccine programmes.

Key points include:

- During the first two years of the HPV programme over 60% of all females born between 1 September 1990 and 31 August 1997 completed the three-dose course of HPV vaccination (Table 1), with the highest coverage achieved in the youngest cohorts.
- The high level of coverage achieved in 2008/09 for the routine cohort has been maintained in 2009/10 with 76.4% of 12- to 13-year-old females completing the three-dose course.
- More than 3 million doses of vaccine were given through the routine and catch-up programmes during 2009/10.
- HPV vaccination status is increasingly being routinely entered onto child health information systems (CHIS) for vaccinations delivered through schools enabling automated extraction of coverage data in some PCTs.

See:

[Annual HPV vaccine coverage in England in 2009/2010](#)

## **Government**

**GP groups from over 4,000 GP practices across the country who are already engaged in Pathfinder GP groups have met the Prime Minister to launch the start of the GP Pathfinder Programme.**

The event will also see the launch of the Pathfinder Learning Network, which enables GP consortia to share key learnings and best practice as they prepare to take on commissioning responsibilities for their local communities.

The National Leadership Council, working in collaboration with the NHS Institute, is also offering leaders of GP pathfinders and their teams access to a number of development tools, including personal and team coaching, to support them in the transition to the new system.

See:

[Prime Minister congratulates first GP commissioners](#)

[Praise for enthusiasm of GP pathfinders](#)

[Pathfinder Learning Network](#)

[Interactive map of GP pathfinders](#)

**The Department of Health (DOH) has outlined the role of the Pathfinder Learning Network online hub, which provides support, resources and information for GP pathfinder consortia and the wider health community interested in the pathfinder programme**

The online hub aims to promote sharing of best practice and will support GP pathfinders in developing and implementing their new roles within commissioning, and also provides emerging consortia with the opportunity to find out more about joining the programme and provides support in achieving pathfinder status.

See:

[Pathfinder Learning Network](#)

[Map of GP pathfinder consortia](#)

## Parliament

**The House of Commons has issued a Standard Note titled [Disability discrimination: access to goods facilities and services under the Equality Act 2010](#).**

The Note (no. 1749) sets out a summary of the relevant provisions in the Equality Act and in the Disability Discrimination Act relating to access to goods, facilities and services for disabled people and of the key differences between the two pieces of legislation.

**The House of Commons Select Health Committee has issued an invitation to submit written evidence for a follow-up inquiry into Commissioning.**

In the House of Commons Select Health Committee report on [Commissioning](#), the Committee declared the intention to undertake further work, and set out a number of specific issues connected to Commissioning on which the Committee welcome further submissions.

See:

[Commissioning: written evidence](#)

[Follow-up inquiry into Commissioning](#)

**The deadline for submitting written evidence is noon on Monday 28 February.**

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

### Debates and Oral Questions

#### [Child Protection](#)

What factors were taken into account in reaching the decision to merge the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and the national crime agency.

### Written Answers

#### Health

[Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse](#)

[Blood Diseases: Health Services](#)

[Cancer](#)

[Care Homes: Finance](#)

[Carers](#)

[Hospital Wards: Children](#)

[Maternity Services](#)

[Mobility](#)

[NHS: Contracts](#)

[NHS: Disclosure of Information](#)

[NHS: Negligence](#)  
[NHS: Standards](#)  
[Out of Area Treatment](#)  
[Pain: Medical Treatments](#)  
[Prescriptions](#)  
[Public Health Service](#)  
[Slaughterhouses: Horses](#)  
[Smoking: Health Services](#)  
[Swine Flu: COE Countries](#)  
[Waiting Lists](#)

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

## **Oral Answers**

### **Health**

[Gp Commissioning](#)  
[Cancer Survival Rates](#)  
[Social And Health Care](#)  
[Alcohol Misuse \(Young People\)](#)  
[Nhs Reorganisation](#)  
[Video Link Consultations \(Prisons\)](#)  
[Bcg Vaccine](#)  
[Nhs Waiting Times](#)  
[Elective Treatments](#)  
[Medical Aids](#)  
[Topical Questions](#)

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2011**

## **Debates and Oral Answers.**

### **Carers and employment**

Motion for leave to bring in a Bill (*Standing Order No. 23*) to make provision for carers' rights to flexible working; and for connected purposes.

## **Written Answers**

### **Health**

[Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse](#)  
[Cancer: Health Services](#)  
[Cannabis: Mentally Ill](#)  
[Cannabis: Misuse](#)  
[Departmental Communication](#)  
[Departmental Manpower](#)  
[Depressive Illnesses](#)  
[Drugs: Misuse](#)  
[Health Services](#)  
[Influenza: Vaccination](#)  
[Lorazepam](#)  
[MMR Vaccine](#)  
[MRSA](#)

[Multiple Sclerosis](#)  
[NHS Foundation Trusts: Community Care](#)  
[Obesity](#)  
[Prescriptions](#)  
[Smoking: Health Services](#)  
[Swine Flu: Vaccination](#)

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

## **Debates and Oral Answers**

### **[HGV Drivers \(Diabetes\)](#)**

The date the Department for Transport (DfT) plans to publish a consultation on changing the law to allow UK nationals with diabetes to drive heavy goods vehicles in the UK.

## **Written Answers**

### **Health**

[Arthritis](#)  
[Blood: Contamination](#)  
[Cancer: Drugs](#)  
[Cancer: Health Services](#)  
[Cannabis: Misuse](#)  
[Carers: Public Expenditure](#)  
[Children: Death](#)  
[Departmental Contracts](#)  
[Drugs: Rehabilitation](#)  
[Health and Social Care Bill](#)  
[Health Visitors](#)  
[Heroin](#)  
[HIV Infection](#)  
[HIV Infection: Brighton](#)  
[Hospitals: Food](#)  
[In Vitro Fertilisation](#)  
[Infant Mortality](#)  
[Low Birthweight Babies](#)  
[Mental Health](#)  
[Mental Health Services: Nurses](#)  
[Mental Health Services: Prisons](#)  
[Mental Health: Armed Forces](#)  
[NHS: Drugs](#)  
[NHS: Fertility](#)  
[NHS: Training](#)  
[Prescriptions: Fees and Charges](#)  
[Primary Care Trusts: Debts](#)  
[Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)  
[Smoking: Health Services](#)  
[Social Services](#)  
[Strokes](#)  
[Suicide](#)  
[Sunbeds](#)

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Written Answers**

[Abortion](#)

[Births: Statistics](#)

[Embryology](#)

[Swine Flu](#)

[Health: Contaminated Blood Products](#)

[Health: Drugs](#)

[Health: Fertility](#)

[Health: General Practitioners](#)

[Health: GP Commissioning Board](#)

[Health: Haemophilia](#)

[Health: Influenza](#)

[Health: Polio](#)

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Grand Committee**

[Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011](#)

Consideration of Disabled Children Regulations from the 9th Report from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

**Written Answers**

[Abortion](#)

[Benefits: Disability](#)

[Embryology](#)

[Health: Contaminated Blood Products](#)

[Health: Influenza](#)

[Health: Midwifery](#)

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**Written Answers**

[Health and Social Care Bill](#)

[Health: Diabetes](#)

[Health: Primary and Community Care](#)

[Health: Social Enterprises](#)

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Debates and Oral Answers**

[Defra: Disease Outbreaks](#)

What contingency funding the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has for disease outbreaks.

## Written Answers

[Health: GP Commissioning Groups](#)

[Health: Medical Practitioners](#)

[Health: Social Enterprises](#)

[Herbal Medicines](#)

## Other Health Information

**The home support given to people with dementia and their carers is an "absolute travesty", says the Alzheimer's Society.**

The charity has produced a [study based on feedback from carers](#), health workers and patients. They say that the problem with home support is causing unnecessary admissions to hospital and care homes.

The authors called for better training for staff and access to services in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The government said the charity was right to highlight the issue.

About 750,000 people in the UK have dementia, two-thirds of whom are living at home with support from loved ones and sometimes social services.

But the report said too many were ending up in hospital or being admitted to care homes too early because of the lack of support being provided to ensure people could remain in their own homes.

Read the full report: [Support. Stay. Save.](#)

Read the [Executive Summary](#)

See also:

[Putting care right campaign – care at home](#)

[Dementia home support an absolute travesty – charity](#)

**A Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) survey looked at the impact Early Years Professionals (EYPs) have in both the settings in which they they work and their career development and aspirations.**

The project, which comprised an annual survey of all EYPs, asking about their career development needs and aspirations, together with case studies in 30 settings across the country, looked at how EYPs are improving the quality of care available to children, and illustrated the positive impact of graduate-level training on the skills, status and on-going professional development of early years practitioners.

See:

[First national survey of early years graduate leaders identifies positive impacts](#)

[First national survey of practitioners with EYPS](#)

***The Daily Telegraph* argue that an investigation run by the newspaper has indicated that NHS trusts are closing accident and emergency departments (A&E) to help pay for hospitals built under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).**

*The Daily Telegraph* argue that health campaigners claim a 'clear connection' between the 'inflated' costs of PFI and the cuts on the argument that since 2007, more than a fifth of England's hospital trusts with active PFI hospitals have closed casualty departments, or published proposals to do so. In the same period, only 4% of trusts without PFI hospitals have closed, or proposed to close, A&E units.

Fewer than a quarter of England's 168 NHS hospital trusts have significant PFI hospitals in operation. But these trusts account for almost two-thirds of A&E closures or proposed closures. However, most trusts insisted there was no connection — not all A&E closures are necessarily done on financial grounds and some are supported by local clinicians.

See:

[Casualty units shut to pay for private finance hospital contracts](#)

**The British Medical Journal (BMJ) has released a study which assesses the impact of a pay for performance incentive on quality of care and outcomes among UK patients with hypertension in primary care.**

The study, 'Effect of pay for performance on the management and outcomes of hypertension in the United Kingdom: interrupted time series study' argues that good quality of care for hypertension was stable or improving before pay for performance was introduced. Pay for performance had no discernible effects on processes of care or on hypertension related clinical outcomes.

See:

[Effect of pay for performance on the management and outcomes of hypertension in the United Kingdom: interrupted time series study](#)

['Nudge' approach doesn't work](#)

**Professor John Appleby of the King's Fund think tank has argued that the Government has over-sold the need for its overhaul of the NHS in England.**

Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley argues that changes are needed in the NHS to make the service more responsive to patients. In addition, Mr. Lansley based his proposals on the fact that outcomes in England - the numbers dying early from disease and how long they are surviving - lag behind other European countries.

But Professor Appleby, writing in the British Medical Journal, said the government's approach revealed "only part of the story".

See:

[The case for change in NHS 'over-sold'](#)

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