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Health Information Bulletin

No. 9 / 4th March 2011

From this week the HOSC Bulletin will be replaced by a regular newsletter that will deal specifically with HOSC committee business.

We would be happy to continue producing a general health bulletin if this would be useful, and would value your feedback.

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Health in Kent

The ambulance service for Kent, Surrey and Sussex has become one of the first to be granted foundation trust status.

South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb) was given the new status by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley after assessment by the regulator Monitor. [NHS foundation trusts](#) remain part of the NHS but are run locally and are accountable to patients, local people and staff.

SECamb now has 14 elected public governors, four elected staff governors and eight appointed governors from organisations including hospitals and councils. The governors will work alongside the board of directors.

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DOH) has published the latest 'The week' bulletin.

The Bulletin provides news, consultations and events for chief executives in the NHS and local authorities and their teams. It gives links to more information and resources, highlighting areas for action.

See:

[The Week: issue 184, 18 - 24 February 2011](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has published the Provider Development Board summary minutes.

The Provider Development Board is a sub-committee of the NHS Management Board, and works at a national level, bringing together national and regional leads to oversee the implementation of the new provider landscape as part of the proposals outlined in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'

See:

[Provider Development Board:summary minutes](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has published summaries of the proceedings of the Department of Health Executive Board, which exists to support the Permanent Secretary in her responsibilities as Principal Accounting Officer.

See:

[Executive Board summary notes](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has published the minutes of the NHS Commissioning Development Board.

The Board is a sub-committee of the NHS Management Board, and works at a national level, bringing together national and regional leads to oversee commissioning development as part of the proposals outlined in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'.

See:

[NHS Commissioning Development Board](#)

The Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) recommendations for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to be listed in the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) Authorisation Directions 2008 as amended are contained in a letter from Susan Grieve, Principal Pharmacist, Department of Health and Tim Donohoe, Director of Programmes and Operations, NHS Connecting for Health.

The letter provides an update on the process for PCTs to be listed in the EPS Authorisation Directions, and sets out the reasons for why no further PCTs (in addition to the 83 that will be listed from 1 May 2011) will be added to the Directions at this stage.

The Department of Health (DH) is considering options available to ensure the EPS continues to be deployed, and the future process will be published as soon as appropriate, in light of system supplier availability and deployment rate.

For all the relevant documents

See:

[SHA recommendations for PCTs to be listed in the Electronic Prescription Service \(EPS\) Authorisation Directions 2008 as amended.](#)

The Department of Health (DH) has released the Third Sector Investment Programme Financial Assistance Fund 2010-2011: information pack for Third Sector organisations.

The Investment Programme Financial Assistance Fund provides support to Third Sector Organisations who deliver or support health and social care that may be experiencing significant financial hardship in 2010/11.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Third Sector Investment Programme Financial Assistance Fund 2010-2011: information pack for Third Sector organisations](#)

The Department of Health (DH) has published a letter from Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director to medical directors in Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) which clarifies the financial arrangements for the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12.

See:

[Cancer Drugs Fund](#)

The Department of Health (DH) has published [National Cancer Programme Bulletin, Issue 15, February 2011](#)

The Bulletin provides updated information about relevant policy and implementation news for the National Cancer Programme which will be of specific interest to NHS staff involved in cancer related projects.

Paul Burstow, Minister of State for Care Services has announced that the Department of Health will not be seeking any exceptions to the planned implementation of the Equality Act 2010.

The Minister argues that the Government is committed to tackling age discrimination, and is committed to a personal, fair and diverse service that protects patients' dignity and ensures that all patients receive the best possible treatment regardless of their age.

The Government Equalities Office will shortly launch a consultation on the Equality Act through which Departments are able to seek specific exceptions before it comes into force in April 2012.

See:

[No more age discrimination on the NHS](#)

The Department of Health (DH) has published a report to the National Allied Health Professional Advisory Board on the outcomes of the Modernising Allied Health Professional Careers ProgrammeSE1.

The Modernising Allied Health Professions Career (MAHPC) work is a workforce initiative to maximise the contribution Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) can make to transforming health and social care. The project worked on three areas of delivery – the development of national workforce competencies; mapping the work of AHPs and encourage the use of learning design principles in the development of awards and qualifications.

See:

[Report to the National Allied Health Professional Advisory Board on the outcomes of the Modernising Allied Health Professional Careers Programme](#)

The Chief Executive of the NHS, Sir David Nicholson has written to the chief executive community giving an update on transition arrangements with a particular focus on the new commissioning system and providing answers to some frequently asked questions on the Health and Social Care Bill.

See:

[Equity and Excellence: liberating the NHS: managing the transition](#)

The Department of Health (DH) has issued the invitation from the DH Offender Health to submit expressions of interest to become a youth justice point of arrest diversion pathfinder.

Funding is available to provide identification of health needs and other vulnerabilities and support under 18 year olds into interventions at the earliest stage possible.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Diversion pathfinder selection for children and young people](#)

Government

Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health has announced that the NHS Stroke Awareness campaign is to be re-launched.

The Minister argues that the Act F.A.S.T. campaign has raised awareness of the importance of getting people who are having a stroke to hospital quickly through its graphic depiction of stroke spreading like fire in the brain. The re-launch campaign is expected to help more people recognise the signs of stroke so that they can help family, friends and others should a stroke occur.

See:

[Act F.A.S.T. campaign re-launched to save more liv](#)

Paul Burstow, Minister of State for Care Services has launched a Government campaign to raise awareness of the early signs and symptoms of dementia.

The campaign, which targets the family and friends of dementia sufferers, is aimed at recognising the symptoms and challenging misconceptions about the disease,

See:

[Campaign launched to tackle dementia](#)

Parliament

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday 28th February

Written Answers

[Ambulances: Testing](#)
[Blood Diseases: Health Services](#)
[Blood: CJD](#)
[Cancer Drugs Fund](#)
[Cancer: Drugs](#)
[Care Homes: Standards](#)
[Carers](#)
[CJD](#)
[Clinical Physiologists: Regulation](#)
[Diabetes: Brighton](#)
[Dichloromethane](#)
[Donors: Bexleyheath](#)
[Drugs: Rehabilitation](#)
[Drugs: Safety](#)
[Drugs: Waste Disposal](#)
[General Practitioners](#)
[General Practitioners: Finance](#)
[General Practitioners: Freedom of Information](#)
[Health Professions: Regulation](#)
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[Heart Diseases: Health Services](#)
[Herbal Medicine: Regulation](#)
[Hospices: Children](#)
[Hospital Beds](#)
[Hospitals: Consultants](#)
[Hospitals: Voluntary Work](#)
[Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination](#)
[Incontinence: Disability](#)
[Mental Health Services: Offenders](#)
[Mental Health Services: South West](#)
[Midwives: Manpower](#)
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[MRSA: Screening](#)
[National Innovation Centre: Finance](#)
[National Lung Cancer Audit](#)
[NHS Commissioning Board: Voluntary Organisations](#)
[NHS Outcomes Framework](#)
[NHS Trusts](#)
[NHS: Drugs](#)
[NHS: Legal Costs](#)
[NHS: Private Sector](#)
[NHS: Productivity](#)
[NHS: Reform](#)
[Obesity](#)
[Obesity: Surgery](#)
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[Post-Menopausal Osteoporosis](#)
[Respite Care](#)
[Swine Flu](#)
[Treatment Centres](#)

Tuesday 1 March 2011

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[Abortion](#)
[Alcoholic Drinks: Young People](#)
[Baby Care Units](#)
[Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Disability Living Allowance](#)
[CJD](#)
[Dentistry](#)
[Departmental Interpreters](#)
[Departmental Manpower](#)
[Diabetes](#)
[Doctors: Foreign Workers](#)
[General Practitioners: Clacton](#)
[Health](#)
[Health Services](#)
[Health Services: Older People](#)
[Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination](#)
www.bmj.com/content/337/bmj.a769.full
[Hyperactivity: Warwickshire](#)
[Kidneys: Transplant Surgery](#)
[Maternity Services](#)
[Maternity Services: Finance](#)
[Midwives: Manpower](#)
[MRSA: Screening](#)
[NHS: Buildings](#)
[NHS: Finance](#)
[Organs: Donors](#)
[Out of Area Treatment: Wales](#)
[School Milk](#)
[Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)
[Tuberculosis](#)
[Tuberculosis: Vaccination](#)

Wednesday 2 March 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Sure Start Children's Centres](#)

Westminster Hall

[Child Slavery](#)

Written Answers

[Abortion: Private Sector](#)
[Baby Care Units](#)
[Blood: Contamination](#)
[Cervical Cancer: Smoking](#)
[Death](#)

[Drugs: Rehabilitation](#)
[General Practitioners: Private Sector](#)
[Hospitals: Construction](#)
[Human Papilloma Virus](#)
[MRSA: Screening](#)
[National Drug Treatment Monitoring System](#)
[NHS: Finance](#)
[Nurses: Pay](#)
[Obesity](#)
[Patient Choice Schemes](#)
[Prostate Cancer: Health Services](#)
[Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy](#)
[Rotavirus Vaccine](#)
[Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)
[Swine Flu](#)

Thursday 3 March 2011

Westminster Hall

[Life Expectancy \(Inequalities\)](#)

Written Answers

[Blood](#)
[Blood: Donors](#)
[Departmental Location](#)
[Departmental Regulation](#)
[Diseases](#)
[Food: Genetically Modified Organisms](#)
[Health Visitors: North East](#)
[Maternity Services: Finance](#)
[Members: Correspondence](#)
[Mental Illness: Prisoners](#)
[Midwives: Insurance](#)
[Midwives: Training](#)
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[Spinal Injuries: Surgery](#)
[vCJD](#)

HOUSE OF LORDS

Monday 28th February 2011

Written Statements

[Employment: Sickness Absence](#) - Statement
[Health: Personality Disorders](#) - Statement

Written Answers

[Embryology](#) - Questions
[Health: Diabetes](#) - Questions
[Health: Diabetic Retinopathy](#) - Question
[Health: Drugs](#) - Questions
[Health: EEA Countries](#) - Question
[Health: European Health Insurance Card](#) - Question
[Health: GP Commissioning Groups](#) - Question
[Health: Orthopaedics](#) - Question
[Health: Pain Management](#) - Questions
[Health: Pharmacology](#) - Question
[Health: Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia](#) - Question

Tuesday 1 March 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Homelessness: Tuberculosis](#) - Question
[Health: Alcohol Minimum Pricing](#) - Question

Written Answers

[Health: Herbal Practitioners](#) - Question
[Health: Vaccines](#) - Question

Wednesday 2nd March 2011.

Debates and Oral Answers

[Health: Cancer](#) - Question

Thursday 3rd March 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Health:](#) - Question

Other Health Information

The Chairman of the BMA'S GP committee has said that plans to reward commissioning GP consortia with a Quality Premium could be considered unethical.

This payment, which is part of the Health & Social Care Bill, is not yet clearly understood, but Dr Laurence Buckman has said that it could place a barrier of mistrust between patients and their doctors as it has been suggested that its role is to encourage cost cutting. Paul Burstow has denied this, saying that would be a reward for improved care and survival rates.

See:

['Government health reform plans unethical warns BMA'](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has released a report which examines how the global economy impacts on people living in poverty.

The report focuses on experiences of the 2009–2010 recession, and identifies areas where welfare reform is necessary to protect poorer people from the unpredictable world economy.

The report [‘The impact of the global economic downturn on communities and poverty in the UK’](#) examines the effects of the recession on work and local economies in deprived areas and identifies the impact of high food and fuel prices on everyday life and well-being as well as discussing forms of state and non-state support that helped people on low incomes during the recession.

See also:

[How people in poverty experienced recent global economic crises: summary](#)