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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 42 / 16 October 2009

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The Department of Health (DOH) have published a draft consultation [‘Manual for Cancer Services: draft psychological support measures’](#). This revised Manual of Cancer Services is an integral part of the NHS Cancer Plan, Cancer Reform Strategy and modernisation of cancer services. It will support quality assurance of cancer services and enable quality improvement. The consultation document and other relevant documents are available on the [consultations page of DOH](#) website.

The consultation began on 9 October 2009 and finishes on 8th January 2010

The Sun reports that the NHS loses up to £500million a year on [unused drugs](#) because legislation requires that medicines cannot be re-used, and must be destroyed.

The Sun obtained the information via a Freedom of Information request to health trusts and pharmacies. Medication returned to the NHS is incinerated under a contract with the Department of Health (DOH) but the situation has revealed a huge wastage of expensive medication. A pharmacy lecturer Adam Mackridge, of Liverpool John Moores University, carried out a study that backed the figures, and estimated the total wastage to be between ‘£300million and £500million.’

A poll organised by the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) indicates that [patients are much less safe in the NHS](#) since the August introduction of European Working Time Regulation (EWTR) 48 hour working limits. As a result, the RCS argues that services are only being held together by a ‘grey market’ of doctors willing to covertly breaking the legislation to maintain care for patients. In addition, the poll indicated that more than 100 further hospital rotas have applied to break the legislation (so-called derogation) because they cannot meet the legislation.

The College surveyed 900 surgeons - almost an eighth of the UK surgical workforce – with responses from more than 360 consultants and more than 500 trainees to see how surgical services were faring under the new working time restrictions, and found that 64 % of all respondents thought quality of care had worsened due to the EWTR.

In addition:-

- More than half of consultants believe compliance with EWTR has been achieved at the expense of patient safety (overall 44 per cent of respondents agreed).
- A third say handover arrangements are inadequate in their hospital and 23 per cent say they cannot stay involved in all stages of individual patients clinical care that require their expertise.

- 62 per cent of surgeons said they were not working a truly compliant 48 hour week with 70 per cent estimating they worked more than 48 hours – with these surgeons estimating they averaged between 55-60 hours a week.
- A quarter of respondents say other professionals in the healthcare team are acting up to cover tasks previously done by surgeons and 43 per cent say they are covering rota gaps in other areas of their own hospital to keep services running.

(See:

[European Working Time Regulations \(EWTR\)](#)

[Summary of responses to College Survey](#)

[Hospital patients are dying because of restrictions on doctors' hours, say surgeons](#)

The BBC report that a 10-part [soap opera dealing with hard-hitting issues](#) and aimed at teenagers has been made by Kent County Council (KCC) at a cost of £20,000. The Hollyoaks-style weekly series, called Hollywould, which includes social issues, follows the life of a student called Holly and can be seen on the council website from Wednesday. The TaxPayers' Alliance said people would prefer to pay lower council tax than spend money on experimental drama. But KCC cabinet member for public health and innovation, Alan Marsh, defended the move and said the series was a 'truly innovative approach to communicating with Kent's young adults about really important issues.

The House of Commons Library have published a Standard Note ['Exclusive rights of burial'](#). The Note deals with the exclusive rights of burial in local authority cemeteries and the delegated legislation governing the burial authority

The House of Commons Library have published a Standard Note ['NHS Bed availability in England'](#) which provides an overview of bed availability in NHS hospitals in England. The Note offers current estimates together with information on trends since 1979 in the number of available beds.

A new Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) pamphlet ['What women want: and how they can get it'](#) argues that Government policy on women's rights and welfare not only fails to deliver what women want, but also harms children and families because it is based on promoting women's rights in the workplace, aiming to get more women into full employment, and ease their burden once they get there. But the YouGov poll done for CPS indicates that given the choice, only 12% of mothers actually want to work full time. 31% would rather not have paid work, and only 1% of mothers and 2% of fathers thought that the mother in a family of small children, where the father works should work full time.

LocalGov reports that Unison, the local government trade union argue that councils are funding legal battles to [prevent low paid women receiving equal pay](#), despite Ministers warnings that town halls must implement Single Status agreements and address the pay gap between men and women performing similar roles. Unison argue that following Freedom of Information requests sent to 50 councils, more than £11.5m has been spent 'obstructing' equal pay claims, and that some local authorities Unison surveyed, said they spent over £1m each on barristers' and solicitors' fees, and up to £1.2m worth of their own staff's time, attempting to block pay parity.

The House of Commons Library have published a Standard Note ['Incapacity benefit by Parliamentary constituency'](#) which contains figures for the number of people claiming Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance in each constituency in February 2009. These are compared with the working age population reported in the 2001 Census of Population

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) have published new guidance ['Promoting young people's social and emotional wellbeing in secondary education'](#). The new guidance on social

and emotional wellbeing in secondary education outlines how secondary education providers and service commissioners can help protect and nurture young people by providing a friendly, supportive environment that meets their social and emotional needs.

Promoting young people's social and emotional wellbeing in secondary education and other relevant documents are available on the [public health guidance pages](#) of the NICE website.

Care Services Minister Phil Hope has announced a new wave of [talking therapy services](#) going live between World Mental Health Day and March 2010. The sites, part of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme and delivered by Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), including those in Kent, are part of £103 million being spent by the Department of Health (DOH) to make available services to help people with mental health problems recover and get back into work. Their principle aim to help people with depression and anxiety disorders access National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) approved treatments, including cognitive behavioural therapies, counselling and guided self-help.

A King's Fund briefing paper '[Independent sector treatment centres](#)' looks at why the Government introduced independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) and how they are funded and regulated. The paper also assesses the impact of ISTCs, whether they are cost effective and their future as the first procurement contracts expire.

The briefing paper is available on the [King's Fund publications](#) web page.

(See also:

[Independent sector treatment centres: summary](#)

A research report '[Care homes use of medicines study: prevalence, causes and potential harm of medication errors in care homes for older people](#)' argues that despite a Government pledge to reduce the number of drug errors, there is an occurrence in seven out of ten care home residents. The paper argues that inadequate complicated medicine management systems, overworked staff, and poor teamwork prompt the occurrence of most drug errors, but care home residents are also potentially at risk because they are often prescribed multiple medicines, have a degree of cognitive impairment and lack the capacity to detect errors.

(See:

[Seven out of 10 care home residents subject to drug errors](#)

Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham has announced new funding is to be given to the charity [My New Hair](#) to help cancer survivors, hairdressers and NHS staff work together during hair re-growth following treatment.

New Hair, the charity established by celebrity hairdresser Trevor Sorbie focuses on providing training for hairdressers to help them understand the unique needs of cancer patients, and also provides advice and information for patients and NHS staff on wig styling, hair loss and re-growth. The Minister argues that the additional grant provided by the Department of Health will help to support and extend the programme by providing:

- Advanced nurse-led 'after care' skills training for hairdressers focusing on hair re-growth and communicating with patients.
- A comprehensive education resource for hair professionals to support the education programme to help them provide an effective pre-care and aftercare services for cancer patients.
- A booklet for patients and healthcare professionals with information on hair loss, wig services and hair re-growth covering different hair types.
- Confidence for hairdressers to be able to deal with the psychological implications involved with and sensitivity issues surrounding wig styling for cancer patients.

Turning Point, the social care organisation, have published a report [‘Elements of success’](#) which brings together the organisation’s practical experience in connected care and how it translates into service provision into a guidance to good practice for community based social enterprises.

Inspectors should not interfere in private arrangements between friends looking after each other's children, says Children's Secretary Ed Balls.

This follows the case of policewomen who were told that helping each other with babysitting was illegal if they were not registered. [Mr Balls has written to education watchdog Ofsted](#) to say this is not the intention of childcare legislation. Such arrangements "should not be a matter for regulation," says Mr Balls.

This clarification has been requested at the same time the government's [Vetting and Barring Scheme](#) goes live. The scheme was created following the Bichard Inquiry into the Soham murders, which recommended a number of key improvements to the system that bars unsuitable individuals from working with children or vulnerable adults. Stricter controls will begin to replace existing arrangements that determine who can't work with children and vulnerable adults in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. New entrants and volunteers working with vulnerable groups will need to start to apply to become ISA registered from July 2010.

(See also:

[Childcare swaps "outside rules"](#)

Judgment has been reserved in the High Court challenge brought by the former head of Haringey social services over the legality of her sacking.

The case brought by Sharon Shoesmith had been expected to last three days but over ran by a day. [Children's Secretary Ed Balls defended himself against accusations](#) being made by Ms Shoesmith that he acted unjustly when he made directions that led to her removal. Her lawyers had argued that she was unfairly and unjustly dismissed after Mr Balls allowed himself to be influenced by a "media storm and witch-hunt" over the Baby P case.

See also:

[Shoesmith sacking decision reserved](#) (Local Government Chronicle)

One of the two councils piloting a programme offering free school meals to all primary pupils has said the latest take-up figures are "proving a mouth-watering success".

The current uptake in Newham LBC has risen a [borough-wide average of around 75%](#) - compared with 51% of children last year who were either having a free school meal or paying for it. Twenty schools now have over 80% take-up, two of which are at 98%. The council says the figures - which are being regularly and closely monitored - are still rising. There has also been a knock-on effect on secondary schools: Newham LBC has achieved an school meal uptake increase of about 15% compared with the same time last year.

Just over one in ten professionals working with children have seen an increase in suspected cases of child neglect in the last year, according to a new report.

The survey, carried out by charity Action for Children of nearly 2,000 school, nursery and health professionals, who work with children aged under 18, said that 11% had spotted greater suspected neglect over the last 12 months.

19% said they had had no training or information on what to do. 15% felt the recession was partly responsible for the increase in suspected neglect. And 33% said reduced family finances were a factor.

(See also:

[Children's professionals spot neglect increase](#)

[Child neglect cases "overlooked"](#)

The removal of cigarettes from public display is a step closer after MPs said vending machines should be banned and shops should keep stocks out of sight.

[MPs supported a backbench amendment](#) to outlaw cigarette vending machines in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland has its own separate bill. The vending machine amendment to the government's Health Bill was passed by the Commons without going to a vote. Health campaigners welcomed the step, calling it a "brave move".

Scientists have proved that it is possible for a mother's cancer cells to be passed to her unborn child.

There are very rare cases where a [mother and child appear to share the same cancer](#), but in theory the child's immune system should block the cancer. However, an analysis by a British-led team of one such case shows the cells which caused leukaemia in the child could only have come from the mother. The study appears in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The Department for Children, Families and Schools has published a statistical release about looked after children in England

This statistical release provides information for the year ending 31 March 2009, and reports progress on seven national indicators. The figures are based on data from the SSDA903 return collected from all local authorities.

Key Points:

- There were 60,900 looked after children at 31 March 2009, 2 per cent more than last year's figure of 59,400 and relatively unchanged compared to 2005 (61,000).
- There were 25,400 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009, an increase of 9 per cent from the previous year's figure of 23,300 and an increase of 2 per cent from the 2004-05 figure of 25,000.
- There were 24,700 children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009, an increase of 1 per cent from the previous year's figure of 24,400 and a decrease of 5 per cent from the 2004-05 figure of 26,000.
- 3,300 looked after children were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2009. This represents a 3 per cent increase from the previous year's figure of 3,200 and a 13 per cent decrease from the 2004-05 figure of 3,800.
- In the past 5 years the percentage of former care leavers, with whom the local authorities were in touch and who were in education, employment or training around the time of their 19th birthday, had increased from 58.4 per cent in 2005 to 64.9 per cent in 2008. However, in 2009 the percentage dropped to 63.0 per cent.

(See:

[Children Looked After in England \(including adoption and care leavers\) year ending 31 March 2009](#)

Innovative new [ippr research](#) analysing the behaviour of low-income families in London, Newcastle, Nottingham and Glasgow looks at how the recession has changed the spending, saving and borrowing habits of families.

It shows that although many low-income families want to save money, they are struggling. This is because increases in the price of necessities like fuel and food, and rising unemployment have disproportionately affected low-income families.

ippr argues that at a time when public expenditure is under scrutiny, initiatives to encourage families to save must be expanded, not cut.

(See:

[When Times are Tough: Tracking household spending and debt through diaries](#)

Half of cot deaths are linked to bed-sharing but many parents are sceptical about the risk, studies have concluded.

A quarter of 500 mothers polled by the UK's Foundation for [the Study of Infant Deaths \(FSID\)](#) doubted that sharing a bed with a baby put them at undue risk.

But a Bristol University team's study published online in the British Medical Journal found that sharing a bed is a factor in more than 50% of cases.

Many of the deaths occurred when parent and infant slept together on a sofa.

Much of this risk was linked to parents' smoking and alcohol or use of sedating drugs before bedtime.

Although cot death rates in the UK has fallen dramatically since the "Back to Sleep" campaign in the early 1990s, specific advice is still needed to help reduce these deaths even further, say the Bristol University researchers.

Key points in reducing risk:

- Place your baby on the back to sleep, not on the front or side
- Don't let your baby get too hot - no bonnets
- Sleep your baby with their feet to the foot of the cot
- Never sleep with your baby on a sofa or armchair
- Sharing a bed raises the risk, especially if you or your partner smokes, drinks or takes sedating drugs
- A dummy can reduce the risk, even if the dummy falls out while your baby is asleep

Patients can now rate and compare GP practices on a new online comparison service launched today by [Health Minister Mike O'Brien](#).

The new tool, now available at [NHS Choices](#) will give people all the information patients need to decide which of England's 8,300 practices is right for them.

Similar to the hospital comparison service launched over the summer, the tool will make it easier to find key information in one place, such as opening times and additional facilities offered by the GP practice.

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

- How easy it is to get an appointment
- how highly they would recommend the GP practice
- how well patients are treated by staff
- if patients felt they were involved in decisions about their care.

(See also:

[Patients urged to rate GPs online](#)

A joint survey by the LGC and Carbon Trust has found that local councils have taken few practical steps to engage with their communities regarding [reducing carbon emissions](#).

Few local authorities have engaged with schools, despite 74% of councils citing them as the most important partner in tackling climate change. Community engagement also appeared limited, with 65% of councils not tracking public opinion on tackling emissions.

A new report by Ofsted [Learning lessons from Serious Case Reviews: year 2](#) has found that while 23% of reviews are judged good and 43% adequate, weaknesses still exist with over a third of reviews (34%) being judged as inadequate.

Serious case reviews are inquiries into the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor.

While councils were praised for "encouraging signs of improvement" in the protection of children a number of shortcomings were identified

- weak management
- a lack of joint agency working
- a failure to focus on the needs of the child
- insufficient staff expertise
- poor identification of ethnic or social issues

(See also:

[Child abuse reviews 'inadequate'](#)

[Ofsted encouraged by serious case reviews](#)

[LGA Response](#)

[Home education lobby groups](#) have told a committee of MPs say they are against having to register annually with local authorities fearing that a register would lead to interference by officials.

However, the Association of Directors of Children's Services told the committee of MPs that a register was necessary to ensure children's safety. There is currently no way of measuring how many children are educated at home.

A [review of home education in England](#) was published in June 2009 recommending that home educating families in England should have to register annually and demonstrate they are providing a suitable education.

As financial pressures increase councils are reviewing their strategies regarding [children's trust boards](#) in anticipation of their increased statutory role.

The proposals for Children's Trust Boards, contained in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, will extend the duty to co-operate in promoting children's wellbeing to include all maintained schools, academies, sixth form colleges, further education colleges and Jobcentre Plus as well as requiring children's trust board members to publish and monitor a strategic children and young people's plan for their local areas.

There is concern over whether the various partners will be able to maintain funding for children's services at current levels.

The General Social Care Council has published a final report on a small-scale qualitative study, convened in two phases among a panel of people who currently use social services or who have used services.

[Professional Boundaries in Social Work: A Qualitative Study](#)

The [Care Quality Commission](#) has published performance ratings for all 392 NHS trusts in England.

The assessment shows big improvements for patients, including

- More than 98% of the 19 million patients attending A&E waited less than four hours
- Between January and March this year, three million patients waited 18 weeks or less from referral to treatment
- 16% of people aged 15 to 24 were screened for chlamydia, up from 5% the previous year
- There were 19,400 fewer cases of Clostridium difficile and 1,500 fewer cases of MRSA in 2008/09 compared to 2007/08 – a reduction of a third for both
- Ambulances responded within eight minutes to more than 1.4 million life-threatening calls (category A)

In the area covered by the [South East Coast strategic health authority](#) the ratings for quality show little change overall although for financial management, the scores have increased overall when compared with last year's results.

However, two trusts in the area have been rated "weak" for quality services – one of these being the [Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust](#) which had failed to meet the core standards of infection control.

A spokesman for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust said the report did not reflect recent significant improvements in patient care.

See [Care Quality Commission - Performance ratings 2008/09](#) – this gateway page offers a variety of access points to the ratings

(See also:

[Watchdog vows to get tough on NHS](#)

[Fewer hospitals given 'excellent' rating](#)

The [Dept for Children, Schools and Families](#) has published the PE and Sport Survey 2008/09.

A new benchmark has been set so that children participate in five hours of sport each week in the run-up to the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics.

Findings of the report include

- 51% of pupils took part in at least 3 hours sport in a typical week.
- 69% of pupils participated in intra-school competitions during the school year.
- 44% of pupils participated in inter-school competitions during the school year.
- Schools provided an average of 18.6 different sports including football, dance, athletics, badminton and volleyball.

(See:

full report [PE and Sports Survey 2008-09](#)

The Department of Health has published the government response to the Health Select Committee Report '[Patient Safety](#)'

Inventor James Dyson has launched a [bladeless fan](#) which he argues can deliver a much smoother air flow than traditional fans, is much safer, and is a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to air conditioning. Mr Dyson said the fan, also saves on electricity and would help to stop the emission of Hydrofluorocarbons or HFCs

A Department of Health (DOH) survey, indicates that [86 % of people are worried about getting older](#), and more than half (54 %) worry about losing their mind and memory. The survey also indicated that 54% of respondents worry about illness or infirmity, 39% worry about loneliness in old age and 38 % worry about poverty. 8% of the respondents said that they hoped they would not get to an age where they would have to worry about these issues.

The Government are currently consulting with the public on the future of care services, following the publication of the Green Paper *Shaping the Future of Care Together*, which set out a vision for a National Care Service publication of a Green Paper earlier this year. Under the proposals, a National Care Service would be created, making care for older and disabled people simpler, fairer and more affordable for everyone.

See also:

[Department Of Health research reveals 86% are afraid of getting old](#)

Researchers at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) have made a study of a rare case in which [leukaemic cells](#) appeared to have defied accepted theories of biology and spread through the womb from a Japanese woman to her daughter. Around 30 previously known cases of a mother and infant appearing to share the same cancer, usually leukaemia or melanoma, had already raised suspicions that such spread was possible, but there was no genetic evidence to support this theory. But the study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* indicates how the ICR scientists used advanced genetic fingerprinting to prove for the first time that the infant's leukaemic cells were unquestionably of maternal origin.

(See also:

[Mother can pass on cancer in womb](#)

The Guardian reports that Professor David Salisbury argues that the [vaccine against swine flu is completely safe for pregnant women](#) and could also help to protect their unborn child.

Pregnant women have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to complications from the virus, but a poll last month said that almost half of expectant mothers could refuse a vaccination over fears about its safety. Professor David Salisbury, director of immunisation at the Department of Health, said that such worries were 'theoretical, with no evidence'.

The House of Commons Public Accounts Select Committee report ['Supporting people with autism through adulthood'](#) examines the development of a strategy and services for adults with autism, autism awareness, together with access to services, and improving the effectiveness of services of adults with autism.

Edward Leigh MP, Chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts, today said:

'Adults with autism, particularly 'high functioning' autism, including Asperger Syndrome, are often not diagnosed and supported appropriately. Many GPs and social care staff have little knowledge or awareness of the needs of people with autism and there is a lack of local specialist support services.'

(See:

[Supporting people with autism report](#)

There was a House of Commons debate concerning [Sure Start](#) in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 15 October, 2009.

A report from the Department of Health (DOH) ['Communities for Health: unlocking the energy within communities to improve health'](#) is the second report from the Communities for Health programme and covers the two years since the publication of the report from the pilot phase of the programme, *Communities for Health: Learning from the Pilots*, in February 2007. The Communities for Health Programme aims to exemplify the increasing role local government plays in supporting health improvement and reducing health inequalities, and this second report includes community activities in over 80 local authorities, including Kent, which are aimed at encouraging behaviour change and strengthening local partnership to tackle a wide range of key health priorities.

(See:

[Communities for Health: unlocking the energy within communities to improve health](#)
[Communities inspired to take control of their health](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) have published a guide ['World class commissioning: an introduction'](#) aims to provide a brief introduction to world class commissioning which is about delivering better health and wellbeing for the population, improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities through partnerships with local government, practice based commissioners and other organisations. The DOH argue that Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) supported by Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), will lead the NHS in turning the world class commissioning vision into a reality, adding life to years and years to life.

(See:

[World class commissioning - an introduction](#)

As part of the Dance4Life campaign, Public Health Minister Gillian Merron has announced 'The Dance Champions Campaign', which aims to get 100,000 more active through dance. The 'Dance Champions Group' will embark on a nationwide tour to get the country dancing, and aim to:-

- travel the length and breadth of the country to host free mass-participation 'dance-celebration' events in each region. The events will encourage people new to dance and those who used to enjoy dancing when they were younger to get involved and get active.
- offer free taster dance sessions for people who aren't very active and provide people with information about how they can get more involved in dance locally.
- create the first ever dance directory website, providing a one-stop-shop to let people know how they can get dancing.
- stage a Dance Summit to bring together national organisations involved in all types of dance and rally them behind the common goal of getting the nation active through dance. The

champions will work with dance organisations to get a clearer picture of how the work of the dance sector can be co-ordinated to help get the population more active.

(See:

[Dance stars launch campaign to get nation on the floor](#)

Supermarkets ASDA, Sainsbury's, and Waitrose will give evidence at the Health Committee inquiry into alcohol. Representatives from the Premier League and the Football League will also be questioned.

The alcohol inquiry is looking at the following areas:

- the scale of ill-health related to alcohol misuse.
- the consequences for the NHS.
- central Government policy.
- the role of the NHS and other bodies including local government, the voluntary sector, police, the alcohol industry, and those responsible for the advertising and promotion of alcohol.
- Solutions, including whether the drinking culture in England should change, and if so, how the change can happen.

(See:

[Health Committee Press Notice](#)

Forthcoming Parliamentary Business

Monday 19 October 2009

House of Commons

Main Chamber:

Oral Questions

Work and Pensions, including Topical Questions.

House of Lords

Main Chamber:

Oral Questions

Affordable house building - Baroness Jones of Whitchurch.

Legislation

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill – Committee stage (day 8) - Baroness Morgan of Drefelin/Lord Young of Norwood Green.

Orders and Regulations

Flexible New Deal (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2009 - Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope.

Tuesday 20 October 2009

House of Commons

Main Chamber:

Ten Minute Rule Motion

Marine Accident Investigation Branch (Reports) - David Cairns.

Westminster Hall:

Wardens in sheltered housing - Mr Geoffrey Cox.
Prisoner release decisions - Dr Nick Palmer.
Free school meals - Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods.

General Committee:

Child Poverty Bill Committee

Subject: to consider the Bill, & 4.00pm.

Second Delegated Legislation Committee

Subject: Draft Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Youth Conditional Cautions: Code of Practice) Order 2009 and the Draft Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Select Committee:

Home Affairs

Subject: The Cocaine trade.

Environmental Audit

Subject: Green jobs and skills.

House of Lords

Main Chamber:

Oral Questions

Unemployment among 16 to 24 year olds - Lord Roberts of Conwy.

Legislation

Policing and Crime Bill – Committee stage (day 5) - Lord West of Spithead/Lord Brett.

Wednesday 21 October 2009

House of Commons

Main Chamber:

Ten Minute Rule Motion

Local Health Services and Democratic Involvement - Dr John Pugh.

Westminster Hall:

Local regulation of private landlords - Graham Stringer.

OFSTED's supervision of fostering services - Mr James Plaskitt.

General Committee:

Seventh Delegated Legislation Committee

Subject: Draft Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

House of Lords

Main Chamber:

Oral Questions

Encouragement of parents to marry - Lord Northbourne.

Orders and Regulations

Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/1582) - Motion to annul - Baroness Butler-Sloss.

Thursday 22 October 2009

House of Commons

General Committee:

Child Poverty Bill Committee

Subject: to consider the Bill, & 1.00pm.

House of Lords

Main Chamber:

Legislation

Welfare Reform Bill - Report stage (day 1) - Lord McKenzie of Luton.

Short Debate

Enabling older workers to continue working - Baroness Turner of Camden.

Friday 23 October 2009.

House of Commons

The House of Commons will not be sitting.

House of Lords

Main Chamber:

Debate

European Union Committee report on the EU Consumer Rights Directive - Baroness Howarth of Breckland.

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