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Sent: 26 November 2011 09:08
Subject: Health Information Bulletin No. 39 25th November 2011

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Health Information Bulletin No. 39 / 25th November 2011.

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Index

[Care Quality Commission](#)
[Department of Health](#)
[Government](#)
[Health in Kent](#)
[Other Health Information](#)
[Parliament](#)

Health in Kent

The BBC report that Martin Narey, the Ministerial Adviser for adoption, has released a critical report that indicates an imbalance between children waiting for adoption and adopting families in Kent.

The report argues that the number of adopters in Kent and across the country has declined in recent years and requires a radical re-think. Mr. Narey also argues that Kent County Council (KCC) should have noticed a deterioration of services, and criticises the adoption process for the time taken to adopt a child.

Kent County Councillor Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services conceded that Kent County Council needed to make improvements
See: [Martin Narey's report cites adoption failings in Kent](#)

Department of Health

Four new designs of bedside furniture which aim to reduce healthcare acquired infections have become available for the NHS to purchase.

The new designs for a patient chair, in eight hospitals which have been tested and approved by patients and staff in eight hospitals are easier and quicker to clean and

in comparison with existing furniture, have been voted as user- by ward staff, patients and visitors..

See: [Designs help combat hospital bugs](#)

A letter written to all chief executives of NHS Trusts, outlines the [next steps to deliver an all foundation trust \(FT\) provider landscape](#).

The letter covers four key themes:

All 114 aspirant NHS trusts have now signed formal public agreements which commit them to achieving FT status by a certain date.

The development of a board assurance framework, in partnership with existing FTs, to enable trust boards to assure their own capabilities.

Some financial support could be available to NHS trusts to enable them to achieve their milestones, providing they meet four key tests.

Plans for the structures and processes associated with the NHS Trust Development Authority

The Department of Health (DOH) initiative to vaccinate girls against cervical cancer, will change the vaccine for one which also offers protection against genital warts.

Vaccines protect against human papilloma virus (HPV) types 16 and 18, which cause more than 70% of cervical cancer. But from next September, the DOH will use the Gardasil jab, which also offers protection against HPV types six and 11 which cause nearly all genital warts, one of the most common sexually transmitted infections

See: [Switch in cervical cancer vaccine](#)

The Department of Health will set out plans to tackle the impact of alcohol, as a report shows an increase in liver cancer deaths of 70% since 1977.

In 2010, an estimated 3,788 people died from liver cancer across the UK, equating to an average of 10 people each day. England and Wales have seen an increase of 74% over the last 14 years.

On releasing the report the charity the [British Liver Trust](#) said that the UK also has the highest rate of oesophageal cancer in Europe.

Liver disease encompasses a large range of public health issues affecting a large part of the population, either through obesity, alcohol or viral hepatitis, said the trust.

The Department of Health (DOH) has been involved in a year long project to ease A &E patients' frustration, and reduce aggression and violence towards staff. .

The initiative includes the DOH working with designers and psychologists helping to identify the trigger reasons patients might become violent towards staff. Solutions found include a new approach to greeting patients, and clearer signs and maps to keep patients informed of the different stages of their A&E treatment

See: [Designers try to reduce violence in A&E](#)

Government

The Government's [expert advisory group on obesity](#) has been disbanded.

Members of the group has been critical of Health Secretary Andrew Lansley's decision to combat obesity by working closely with the food industry on labelling and in reducing the levels of fat and sugar in food

A report by the charity Gingerbread indicates that the Government is failing to grasp the importance of child maintenance in addressing the growing issue of child poverty.

The report '[Missing a trick?: the role of child maintenance in tackling child poverty](#)' argues that if the Government increased the number of effective child maintenance agreements, this could be crucial to helping lift thousands of families out of poverty. See also: [Government 'missing a trick' on child poverty](#)

Parliament

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday 14th November, 2011.

Written Answers

[Air pollution](#)

[Arthritis: physiotherapy](#)

[Baby care units](#)

[Dental services](#)

[Diabetes](#)

[Diabetes: admissions](#)

[Diabetes: nurses](#)

[Drugs](#)

[Health services: older people](#)

[Hiv infection: eu action](#)

[Hospitals: consultants](#)

[Hospitals: hygiene](#)

[Influenza: vaccination](#)

[Injuries: dogs](#)

[Mental health services: ex-servicemen](#)

[NHS](#)

[NHS: finance](#)

[NHS: manpower](#)

[NHS: pay](#)

[NHS: pensions](#)

[NHS: waiting lists](#)

[Nurses](#)

[Palliative care: finance](#)

[Prescription drugs](#)

[Prosthetics: ex-servicemen](#)

[Radiotherapy](#)

[Red Cross](#)

[Sickle cell diseases](#)

[Skin cancer](#)
[Smoking](#)
[Sport: schools](#)

Tuesday 15th November, 2011.

Written Answers

[Air pollution](#)
[Breast cancer: screening](#)
[Cancer](#)
[Cancer: wigs](#)
[Care homes](#)
[Change4life](#)
[Cystic fibrosis](#)
[Dementia: research](#)
[Diabetes](#)
[Disability: children](#)
[Doctors: pay](#)
[Drugs: misuse](#)
[Health services: overseas visitors](#)
[Heart diseases: ethnic groups](#)
[IVF](#)
[Maternity services: finance](#)
[Medicine: prices](#)
[mental health](#)
[NHS](#)
[NHS: disclosure of information](#)
[NHS: employment tribunals service](#)
[NHS pensions](#)
[NHS: sexual offences](#)
[NHS: solar power](#)
[Orphan drugs](#)
[Paramedical staff](#)

Monday 21 November, 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Mental health care](#)

Written Answers

[Accident and emergency departments: manpower](#)
[Alcoholic drinks: statistics](#)
[Blood: donors](#)
[Brain cancer](#)
[Breastfeeding](#)
[cancer](#)
[Cancer: surgery](#)
[Carers](#)
[Dementia: south east](#)
[Diabetes: nurses](#)

[General practitioners](#)
[Herbal medicine](#)
[Mental health](#)
[Neuromuscular conditions: health services](#)
[NHS: disclosure of information](#)
[NHS sick leave](#)
[Obesity: alcoholic drinks](#)
[Pancreatic cancer](#)
[Pharmacy](#)
[Social services: alcoholic drinks](#)
[Social services: learning disability](#)

Tuesday 22 November 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Accident and emergency provision](#)
[Social care](#)

Written Answers

[Winter pressures: NHS](#)
[Local hospital closures](#)
[Older people](#)
[Private finance initiative payments](#)
[Carers' breaks](#)
[Monitor: finance](#)
[Age UK: finance](#)
[Asthma: finance](#)
[Blood: donors](#)
[Brain cancer](#)
[Cancer: clinical trials](#)
[Diabetes: health services](#)
[Diabetes: young people](#)
[Diamorphine](#)
[Doctors' list of patients](#)
[General practitioners](#)
[Hospitals: waiting lists](#)
[Infant foods: marketing](#)
[Medicine: research](#)
[NHS: pensions](#)
[NHS: standards](#)
[Nutrition](#)
[Obesity](#)
[Organs: donors](#)
[Palliative care](#)
[Pancreatic cancer](#)
[Schools: sports](#)
[Social services](#)
[Surgery](#)
[Transplant surgery: public appointments](#)

Wednesday 23rd November, 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Bowel cancer screening](#)

Written Statements

[Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council](#)

Written Answers

[Childbirth: alcoholic drinks](#)

[Dental services: finance](#)

[Diabetes](#)

[Diabetes: health services](#)

[Diabetes: nurses](#)

[Dialysis machines](#)

[Food: taxation](#)

[General practitioners](#)

[Health and Social Care Bill 2010-12](#)

[Health professions: pay](#)

[Injuries: dogs](#)

[Mercury: health hazards](#)

[Muscular dystrophy](#)

[NHS: disclosure of information](#)

[NHS: pay](#)

[NHS: pensions](#)

[NHS publications](#)

[NHS: reorganisation](#)

[Nurses: crimes of violence](#)

[Nutrition: children](#)

[Obesity: health services](#)

[Obesity: surgery](#)

[Patients: per capita costs](#)

HOUSE OF LORDS

Monday, 14th November, 2011.

Debates and Oral Answers

[Health: Cancer Drugs Fund](#) – *Question*

[Health and Social Care Bill](#) - *Committee (5th Day)*

Written Statement

[Births and Deaths](#) - *Statement*

Written Answers

[Child Poverty](#) - *Questions*

[Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis](#) - *Question*

[Embryology](#) – *Question*

[Health and Social Care Bill \[HL\]](#) – *Question*

Tuesday 15 November 2011

Grand Committee

[Health Research Authority \(Establishment and Constitution\) Order 2011](#) - *Motion to Consider*

[Violence Against Women](#) - *Question for Short Debate*

Written Answers

[NHS: Consultancy Services](#) – *Question*

Wednesday 16th November 2011.

Debates and Oral Answers

[Health and Social Care Bill](#) - *Committee (6th Day)*

Written Answers

[Health: Elderly People](#) – *Question*

[NHS: Delayed Transfers](#) - *Questions*

[NHS: Ombudsman Scheme](#) - *Question*

[NHS: Self-referral](#) - *Question*

[Older People](#) - *Question*

Monday 21 November, 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Health: Early Diagnosis](#) – *Question*

Grand Committee

[Welfare Reform Bill](#) - *Committee (15th Day)* - *Relevant document: 17th Report from the Delegated Powers Committee.*

Written Statements

[Sickness Absence](#) – *Statement*

Written Answers

[Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis](#) – *Question*

[Embryology](#) – *Question*

[Health: End-of-life Care](#) - *Question*

[Health: Musculoskeletal Conditions](#) - *Questions*

[Smoking](#) – *Question*

Tuesday 22nd November, 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[NHS: Waiting Times](#) - *Question*

[Health and Social Care Bill](#) - *Committee (7th Day)*

Written Answers

[Embryology](#) – *Questions*

[Health: Bowel Disease](#) – *Question*

Wednesday 23 November, 2011

Debates and Oral Answers

[Health: Flu Vaccine Research](#) – Question

Written Statements

[Children: Sexual Exploitation](#) - Statement

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has announced a themed inspection programme of home care services.

CQC argue that implementing a programme of inspections will help the regulator develop new ways to ensure that services meet the essential standards people have a right to expect and that people are being treated with dignity and respect.

See: [CQC to target home care services](#)

Other Health Information

The think-tank Demos has released a paper which looks at economic wellbeing.

The paper '[Good Growth](#)' argues that in the public wider Perception of economic success, 'good growth' depends on creating jobs that enable bills to be paid, but also on other criteria such as work-life balance, health and housing, which are seen by the public as critical

Following a survey, the independent NHS Future Forum, a group of the country's top health experts, has published interim advice on integrated care, patient information and public health in a modern NHS,

The [NHS Forum's interim advice](#) and recommendations published in a letter are aimed at informing the shortly to be published 2012/13 NHS Operating Framework and Public Health Outcomes Framework.

The advice stresses that information about health and social care services must be published in a transparent and usable form and patients must have better access to health care records. It also calls for a national partnership across the NHS and public health.

The final reports, which will also include recommendations on education and training, will be published towards the end of the year.

See: [NHS Future Forum sends interim recommendations to Secretary of State](#)

[Government welcomes provisional advice from the NHS Future Forum](#)

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