

**Subject:** Health Information Bulletin No. 41 / 23rd December 2011.

**This bulletin is produced weekly by The Information Point**

**Tel: (01622) 694125,**

**Freecall: 7000 4125**

**E-mail: [TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk](mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk)**

**For our full range of information products please [Visit our K/net pages](#)**

## **Health Information Bulletin No. 41 / 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.**

*If you would like to receive further information, please telephone or email the appropriate contact officer responsible.*

### **Index**

[Care Quality Commission](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Government](#)

[Health in Kent](#)

[Other Health Information](#)

[Parliament](#)

### **Health in Kent**

**The Primary Care Trust allocations for 2012/13 have been announced and amount to an increase of 2.8%.**

Eastern and Coastal Kent will receive £1,313,543,000; Medway will receive £447,499,000; West Kent will receive £1,056,909,000. The [full table of allocations](#) is available on the department's website.

#### **A new birthing centre has opened at Maidstone Hospital**

Located in a stand-alone building behind [Maidstone Hospital](#), the new midwife-led birthing centre cost nearly £3m to build.

The consultant-led maternity services have moved to a new site at Tunbridge Wells Hospital, despite campaigners' fears that the lack of specialist care at Maidstone would put babies' lives at risk.

**The think tank Localis has published an article on local authorities and healthcare, and has argues that through the new Kent Health Commission, launched in November, local authorities are being given a snapshot of what their future, more dynamic role within the health system may be.**

The article '[Local government's role in healthcare](#)' also argues that the commission, which includes representative from Kent County Council (KCC) Dover district council, local GPs and other healthcare professionals to produce a series of recommendations for future best practice, aims to illustrate how early intervention can produce a more responsive system better tailored to patient need which, in the current economic climate, also ensures best value for public money

See: [Local government's role in healthcare](#)

### **Department of Health**

**Following the report on Commission on Funding of Care and Support, the Department of Health (DOH) has run a Caring for Our Future engagement exercise to**

**pinpoint the priorities on which the Government needs to focus to inform plans to improve the care system.**

The [Caring for our future engagement](#) ran between 15<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and has now closed. But the Department of Health will be continuing to work with the appointed [discussion leaders](#) and their [reference group members](#) to develop policy recommendations for the White Paper and the progress report on funding that will be published in spring 2012.

In addition, the feedback that has been collected from the care and support sector and the public between 15 September and 2 December will be used to help the Government understand the immediate and longer-term priorities for social care reform, and will inform this policy development and decisions.

See: [Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support](#)  
[Caring for our future engagement](#)

**The Department of Health (DOH) has published the NHS Standard Contract for 2012/13 bringing together the previous four core contracts into a single restructured contract.**

The contract [NHS Standard Contract for 2012/13](#) reflects the requirements set out in the [2012/13 NHS operating framework](#), and is for use by commissioners when commissioning NHS funded acute, ambulance, community and mental health and learning disability services from all types of providers.

See: [NHS Standard Contract 2012/13 available](#)

**Following changes to the immigration rules, the Department of Health (DOH) has revised guidance on implementing the overseas visitors hospital charging regulations to advise NHS bodies of the circumstances in which they can share data concerning outstanding overseas visitor payments for NHS hospital treatment. The update is in light of a change to the immigration rules on 31 October 2011.**

This guidance is for NHS bodies in carrying out their duties under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011 to make and recover charges for NHS hospital treatment from overseas visitors not exempt from charge. It also includes guidance to safeguard the health of those not entitled to free hospital treatment.

For all the relevant documents, see [‘Implementing the Overseas Visitors Hospital Charging Regulations 2011’](#).

**From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, the Department of Health (DOH) reports that the whistleblowing helpline for NHS staff will be extended to staff and employers in the social care sector.**

In addition, there will be a free dedicated helpline for the services, which encompasses all the elements of the current help-line service and is independent and confidential.

See: [NHS whistleblowing helpline to be extended to social care staff](#)

**The Department of Health (DOH) has released a draft version of the cancer of unknown primary measures and the community skin cancer measures for a three month consultation by stakeholders.**

The purpose of the consultation is not to reopen the extensive consultation on the guidance, but rather to invite comments on the contents of the draft measures which have been included in the manual to identify characteristics of services that should help those involved in service provision to identify gaps and to support the quality assurance of services enabling quality improvements

For all the relevant documents, see [‘Consultation on cancer of unknown primary and community skin measures’](#).

**The Department of Health (DOH) has published planning guidance to support the delivery of the [NHS Operating Framework 2012/13](#) and provide more detail on accountability arrangements**

The [integrated approach to planning and assurance between the Department of Health and the NHS for 2012/13](#) includes:

the indicative planning timetable.

content of the submission.

overview of the indicators process.

overview of the milestones process.

overview of assurance narrative and red, amber, green rating on each primary care trust cluster plan

See: [Guidance supports the delivery of the NHS Operating Framework 2012/13](#)

**Please find a link to the Department of Health (DOH) publication [‘The Week: 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011’](#)**

## **Government**

**The Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies has made a statement on [breast implants](#)**

See also:

[Poly Implant Prothese \(PIP\) breast implants update MHRA press release](#)

### **Cross-government definition of domestic violence**

**The government has launched this consultation to ask for views on whether the current cross-government definition of domestic violence should be widened. It also seeks views on whether the current definition is being applied consistently across government, and if it is understood by practitioners, victims and perpetrators.**

There are four options for consideration in this consultation:

the definition of domestic violence remains the same

the definition of domestic violence is amended to include coercive control

the government's definition of domestic violence is extended to all 16- to 17-year-olds

the government's definition of domestic violence is extended to all those under 18

[The consultation](#) seeks the views of key partners and directly affected parties, including the police, practitioners, other government departments and organisations with a direct interest in preventing domestic violence.

### **Consultation period – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**Health services face major re-organisations which could mean the closure or merging of services and units because of financial difficulties according to the Public Accounts Committee.**

The select committee has been looking at the issue of trusts achieving Foundation status, and its [latest report](#) warns that 80% of the remaining hospital trusts will struggle to achieve this status because of historic debt, bad management and the current savings drive.

It finds that trusts need strong leadership as prolonged uncertainty is making it harder to recruit good board members and staff and asks the question of how the Department of Health will manage the debts of these hospitals.

In response Andrew Lansley has [ordered an independent assessment of NHS trust boards](#) and will announce the new inspection regimes later.

Also see: [BBC coverage](#)

**The House of Commons Public Accounts Select Committee has published a report on the achievement of foundation trust status by NHS Hospital Trusts**

The report '[Achievement of foundation trust status by NHS hospital trusts](#)' examines the responsibility for hospitals dealing with the challenge, and also the challenges facing those hospitals which have still to attain foundation status, what is being done to protect taxpayers and patients when trusts need external help.

See: [MPs publish report on achievement of foundation trust status by NHS hospital trusts](#)

**The Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) has published a legislative scrutiny report on the Welfare Reform Bill.**

The report '[Legislative scrutiny: Welfare Reform Bill](#)' deals with a number of significant human rights issues, including:-

The thoroughness of the Government's human rights analysis.

Impact assessments and monitoring.

Destitution.

Discrimination.

Retrogression

See also: [Joint Committee publishes report on the Welfare Reform Bill](#)

**The House of Lords Constitution Select Committee has published a follow up report on the Health and Social Care Bill.**

The report '[Health and Social Care Bill: follow up](#)' argues for changes to the *Health and Social Care Bill* to ensure that ministerial responsibility to Parliament and legal accountability for the NHS are not diluted.

See also: [Lords Committee call for changes to Health and Social Care Bill](#)

## **Parliament**

### **House of Commons**

**Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

#### **Debates and Oral Answers**

[Violence against women](#)

[Domestic violence against men](#)

[Pregnancy counselling](#)

#### **Written Answers**

[Contraceptives](#)

[Abortion: research](#)

[Abortion: young people](#)

[Baby care units: manpower](#)

[Baby care units: nurses](#)

[Chronically sick people](#)

[Doctors: foreign nationals](#)

[E. coli](#)

[Epilepsy: health services](#)

[Family nurse partnership programme](#)

[Foetal alcohol syndrome](#)

[Four Seasons health care](#)

[Health services: cardiovascular system](#)  
[Health services: males](#)  
[Health visitors: regulation](#)  
[Health visitors: training](#)  
[Health: males](#)  
[Hospitals](#)  
[KPMG](#)  
[Malcolm Lader](#)  
[Medical certificates](#)  
[Mental health services: hospital beds](#)  
[Midwives: manpower](#)  
[Neurology: surgery](#)  
[NHS: negligence](#)  
[Palliative care](#)  
[Palliative care: community hospitals](#)  
[Prescriptions](#)  
[Radiation exposure](#)  
[Steria](#)

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

### **Debates and Oral Answers**

[Vulnerable people](#)  
[Health and safety](#)  
[Disability hate crime](#)

### **Westminster Hall**

[Children's access to parents](#)

### **Written Answers**

[E. Coli](#)  
[Food standards agency: publicity](#)  
[Food: radiation exposure](#)  
[Gangs](#)  
[NHS: disclosure of information](#)  
[Pregnant women: grants](#)  
[Prescription drugs](#)  
[Social services](#)  
[Social services: registration](#)

### **Wednesday 14 December 2011**

#### **Written Ministerial Statements**

[Revenue Allocations 2012-13 \(Primary Care Trusts\)](#)

### **Written Answers**

[Ambulance services: training](#)  
[Doctors](#)  
[Hospital beds](#)  
[Mental health services](#)  
[Occupational health: research](#)

**Thursday 15 December 2011**  
**Debates and Oral Answers**  
[health services \(disabled children\)](#)

**Written Ministerial Statements**  
[Tobacco Control Legislation](#)

**Written Answers**  
[Heart diseases: screening](#)  
[HIV infection: screening](#)  
[Mental health services: ex-servicemen](#)  
[NHS trusts](#)  
[NHS: ICT](#)  
[Social services: finance](#)  
[Telehealth](#)

**Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**  
**Debates and Oral Answers**  
[Mental health \(veterans\)](#)

**Written Answers**  
[Accident and emergency departments: waiting lists](#)  
[Anti-depressants](#)  
[Death: weather](#)  
[Dementia: health services](#)  
[Epilepsy: health services](#)  
[Health services: internet](#)  
[Health services: private sector](#)  
[Health services: weather](#)  
[Herbal medicine](#)  
[HIV infection](#)  
[Hospitals: infectious diseases](#)  
[Mass media](#)  
[Mental health: patients](#)  
[NHS foundation trusts: finance](#)  
[NHS litigation authority](#)  
[NHS: pay](#)  
[NHS: private patients](#)  
[Nurses: standards](#)  
[Nutrition](#)  
[Rehabilitation centres](#)  
[Skin cancer](#)  
[Smoking: motor vehicles](#)  
[Social enterprises](#)  
[Streptococcus](#)

**House of Lords**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**  
**Debates and Oral Answers**

[Welfare Reform Bill](#) - Report (1st Day)

**Written Answers**

[Embryology](#) – Questions

[Health Innovation Challenge Fund](#) - Question

[Health: Lyme Disease](#) - Question

[Health: MRSA](#) - Question

[Health: Professional Standards](#) - Questions

**Tuesday 13 December 2011**

**Debates and Oral Answers**

[Health and Social Care Bill](#) - Committee (12th Day)

[Health: Cancer](#) – Question

[Adoption](#) – Question

**Written Answers**

[Health and Safety](#) - Question

[Health: Clinical Trials](#) - Questions

**Wednesday 14 December 2011**

**Debates and Oral Answers**

[National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence](#) – Question

**Written Statements**

[Crime: Domestic Violence](#) – Statement

[NHS: Primary Care Trusts](#) – Statement

**Written Answers**

[Health: Dentistry](#) - Questions

[Health: Ophthalmology](#) - Question

[Schools: Nutrition](#) - Question

**Thursday 15 December 2011**

**Debates and Oral Answers**

[Health and Social Care Bill](#) - Committee (13th Day)

**Written Answers**

[Health: Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease](#) – Question

[NHS: Debt](#) – Questions

[Smoking](#) - Questions

**Monday 19 December 2011**

**Debates and Oral Answers**

[Health and Social Care Bill](#) - Committee (14th Day)

**Written Statements**

[Child Maintenance](#) – Statement

**Written Answers**

[Embryology](#) – Questions

[Health: Dermatology](#) - Question

[Health: Drugs](#) - Question

[Health: Ophthalmology](#) - Question

[Health: Productivity and Efficiency](#) - Questions

[Health: Savings Targets](#) - Question

## Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has released a guide to help health and care staff who need to raise a concern about their workplace.

The guide '[Raising a concern with CQC: a quick guide for health and care staff about whistleblowing](#)' offers advice on speaking out about poor care and what protection you will have from the law if you do.

See also: [Quick guide to raising a concern about your work](#)

## Other Health Information

The Food Standards Agency has published a consultation on child minders as food businesses

This consultation: [Food Standards Agency: Registration of childminders as food businesses in England - A consultation](#) seeks views on how food law applies to childminders who provide food on a regular basis to the children that they look after. This follows the publication of the government's response to the hospitality theme of the Red Tape Challenge.

**Consultation period: 12 December 2011 – 6 February 2012**

**A new plan to help families which struggle with problems such as addiction, unemployment, crime and poor health will get over £400m with the aim of turning their lives around over the next four years.**

The [Prime Minister gave a speech](#) arguing that the new plan would create a network of trouble-shooters, co-ordinated by local authorities, to locate the families in most need and report progress to the national Troubled Families Unit.

Local authorities will need to show results in return for any financial support, and a [Guardian article](#) warns that this could mean councils having to find £675m from their current budgets over the next three years when finances are already constrained.

Also see: [DCLG Press Release](#)

**A website indicating customer ratings of care homes is to be created as part of proposals in a new social care white paper to be published in Spring 2012.**

All [care providers would be rated on the database](#) which would record any details of abuse, link to the latest inspection reports as well as displaying feedback from residents and relatives.

**Primary Care Trusts (PCT) are slow in providing health MOTs for the over 40s in England**

The [NHS Health Checks](#), designed to spot heart disease by looking for risk factors like high cholesterol or blood pressure, should be fully rolled out across the country by 2012-2013. However, the charity UK Heart found that nine PCTs, including Eastern and Coastal Kent and West Kent had not carried out any checks.

Heart UK sent Freedom of Information requests to 152 PCTs, receiving 112 responses

[TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk](mailto:TheInformationPoint@kent.gov.uk)

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