Education and Training Policy for Health

Issue 14: February 2008

This newsletter is produced on behalf of NESC by the Innovations, Development and Wider Workforce team and provides a series of links to a selection of relevant and interesting articles issued over the past month. Copyright lies with the originator and not with NESC. Please click through the title links to access the full article or further information.

General

Historic Launch of the First NHS Constitution
This Constitution will empower patients and the public by incorporating all their existing rights and was signed by the Prime Minister, Health Secretary and NHS Chief Executive.

NHS is Leading on Leadership
Plans for a new National Leadership Council have been announced and new guidance has been published to help Strategic Health Authorities plan for leadership and talent development.

National Leadership Council
The Department of Health has started recruitment processes for the National Leadership Council, as advocated by “High Quality Care for All”.

The King’s Fund Consultancy Report on the Centre of Excellence for Workforce Strategy
The King’s Fund has produced a consultancy document for the Department of Health about its proposals for a Centre for Excellence for workforce planning. This reports views of stakeholders on the proposals and makes recommendations, including on the Centre’s remit and purpose.

Personalized Care for Long Term Conditions
The Department of Health has issued guidance, “Supporting People With Long Term Conditions: Commissioning Personalised Care Planning” to ensure patients are more involved with their illness and treatment.

Third National Health Profile for England
This encouraging report highlights that life expectancy is higher than ever with death rates from infant mortality, cancer, heart disease and suicide continuing to decline. However, challenges still remain, including the obesity epidemic. Associated statistics have also been published.

Financial Penalties for Providing Mixed Sex Accommodation
Trusts that do not ensure that men and women don’t share sleeping and toilet facilities will face tough financial penalties from next year announced Health Secretary Alan Johnson.

Implementation Update for the European Working Time Directive
The Department of Health has issued an implementation update in its commitment to supporting the NHS to achieve compliance with the Working Time Directive by 1st August 2009.

Health Bill
A new Health Bill has been published, which will improve the quality of healthcare and will give patients greater choice and control over their care.

Allowance for More Liberal Use of Mobile Phones
The Health Minister has called for a lift to hospital-wide mobile phone bans to allow patients closer support whilst in hospital.

New NHS Code for Healthcare Associated Infections
The Health Social Care Act 2008 is a Code of Practice for the NHS on the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and related guidance.

Registered Professionals

GMC’s new Council Structure
The GMC’s Council is now smaller and has an equal representation of lay and medical members. The reconstituted structure reflects the GMC’s key interest groups; patients and the public, doctors, the NHS and other healthcare providers, and medical schools and medical Royal Colleges.

National Clinical Director for Trauma Care
Professor Keith Willett will lead the Department of Health’s development of a national clinical policy for trauma care.

**Fall in C.difficile Rates**
There was a 33% reduction in *Clostridium difficile* rates in England between July and September 2008 when compared to the same quarter last year and the NHS is on track to achieve an annual 30% reduction by 2010/11.

**Non-Registered Professionals**

**New Opportunities White Paper**
Career development loans will treble under the New Opportunities White Paper which is a package of investment and support to encourage people to fulfil their potential by undertaking training and developing their skills.

**Investment in Apprenticeships**
The Government is investing £140 million to fund an additional 35,000 apprenticeships next year in the private and public sectors.

**Primary Care**

**Exceeded Target for GP Surgery Extended Opening**
Over 69% of GP surgeries are offering extended openings and providing early morning, evening and weekend appointments thereby making access by patients easier.

**Patients’ Views Sought**
The third year of the GP patient survey will see five million English patients being canvassed for their views to drive changes in GP services and provide rewards for GPs offering fast and convenient services.

**RCGP Response to NHS Next Stage Review**
The Chairman of the Royal College of General Practitioners has welcomed the Commons Health Select Committee report on the NHS Next Stage Review but stated that the RCGP still had some reservations about the roll-out of GP-led health centres and polyclinics.

**National Association of Primary Care PBC Survey**
The Department of Health requested the National Association of Primary Care to conduct a survey to identify barriers to GPs taking on practice based commissioning. These included workload and apathy.

**Primary Care Hepatitis C Guide**
Guidance has been published about Hepatitis C for primary care doctors and nurses. This is a quick reference guide and includes a testing and diagnosis flowchart.

**Public Health**

**NHS pledge on sustainability and carbon use**
The NHS has published plans to meet the Government’s target of reducing carbon emissions by 2050. An ambitious target has been set of achieving a 10% reduction in the NHS’s 2007 carbon footprint by 2015 and sees the NHS leading by example as the country’s biggest public sector employer.

**Ignorance about Hepatitis C**
Department of Health commissioned research has highlighted that around one third of people are unaware about how Hepatitis C can be transferred from person to person. An awareness campaign is being launched to reach the approximately 100,000 who are unaware that they are infected.

**Change4life launches “How are the kids?”**
The largest survey of child health is asking families for details about the eating and activity habits of their children in return for specially tailored plans to improve children’s health.

**Medical guidance on alcohol consumption for young people**
A five point guidance document has been announced which encourages an alcohol-free childhood by recommending that children under the age of 15 years should avoid drinking alcohol completely. This is in response to requests from parents for clear messages about the health risks to young people from drinking alcohol.

**Tobacco – Health Bill 2009**
The Health Bill proposes to remove tobacco displays from shops and restrict cigarette sales from vending machines.

**Allied Health Professionals**

**Free Cancer Prescriptions**
Cancer patients will receive free prescriptions from 1st April and have been encouraged to apply for a 5-year exemption certificate. It is predicted that up to 150,000 patients already diagnosed with cancer will benefit, who may each save up to £100 a year in prescription charges.
Doubled flu drug stockpiles
Antiviral stockpiles of Tamiflu® and Relenza® will double in case of an influenza pandemic, making the UK one of the best prepared countries for such an incident.

Human Genetics Commission appointments
A new Chair and five new members have been appointed to the Human Genetics Commission, which includes experts in clinical and research genetics, consumer affairs, ethics, law, industry and those with personal experience of genetic conditions. This Commission aims to ensure the proper and ethical application of new knowledge about genetics.

Support for People with Learning Disabilities
The launch of ‘Valuing People Now - A Three Year Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities’ will offer all-round support for people with learning disabilities in areas such as health, housing and employment.

New Audiology Data Published
The Department of Health has published data about waiting times from referral to audiology service treatment for the first time. This marks a key stage in reducing protracted waits for patients with hearing-related problems because previously published data only showed the time to assessment rather than treatment.

New Neurological Guidance
The Neurological Alliance has published new guidance signposting patients and their families to sources of advice and support for those affected by conditions of the brain, spine and nervous system.

Primary Care Dental Decontamination Services
The Chief Dentist for England has contacted all Primary Care Trusts to identify practices for decontamination of surgical instruments. This survey will identify quality in decontamination and will suggest methods for improvement.

Increase in NHS Healthcare Scientists
The Scientific Officer has launched a campaign to “Find 60 healthcare scientists for NHS 60” to recruit more healthcare science ambassadors linked to Healthcare Science Awareness Week.

International Reports and News

UK Cord Blood Banking
This report reviews current UK practice for banking umbilical cord blood and compares this to the international situation.

Other Reports

NHS Inpatient and Outpatient waiting times – 31st December 2008
NHS Referral to Treatment Times – November 2008
Department of Health diagnostics data – November 2008
Primary Care and Community Services: Improving Dental Access, Quality and Oral Health
Impact Assessment of the NHS Constitution
The Handbook to the NHS Constitution for England
The Statement of NHS Accountability for England
General Ophthalmic Services: Increases to NHS Sight Test Fee
Protection of Vulnerable Adults scheme in England and Wales
Transforming Community Services and World Class Commissioning
Cancer Commissioning Guidance
Religion or Belief: A Practical Guide for the NHS
Records Management: NHS Code of Practice
New Business Toolkit in Fight Against Counterfeiting and Piracy

Consultations

Closing March

• The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce; closing 6th March
• Creating a New Professional Regulator for Pharmacy; closing 9th March
• Ending Child Poverty: Making It Happen; closing 11th March

Closing April

• Streamlining Health and Adult Social Care Assessments; closing 17th April
• Common Assessment Framework for Adults; closing 17th April
• The Health Professions Council (Constitution) Order 2009: closing 17th April
• Fairer Contributions Guidance: A Consultation on the Extension and Revision of the Statutory Guidance for Charging for Non-Residential Social Services in Relation to Personal Budgets: closing 19th April
• GMC Licence to Practise: Consultation on Draft Regulations and Supporting Guidance: closing 21st April
• Young People and Alcohol Guidance: closing 23rd April

Awards

RCGP’s Discovery Prize: closing 27th February
People’s Award for Dignity in Care: closing 6th March
Humanitarian Fund 2009: closing 13th March
Public Health Awards: closing 22nd April
NIHR Clinical Award Round 8, closing 30th May

Events, Education and Training Conferences and Courses

February
• Introduction to Literature Searching, 17th February, The Royal Society of Medicine, London
• Supporting the Child Health Strategy through Improved Child Health Data and Intelligence, 26th February, University of York

March
• Medicines for Children, 2nd-3rd March, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
• 2nd RCN Annual Prescribing and Medicines Conference, 7th March, London
• Locum GP “Survival Guide”, 7th March, London
• RCSLT Scientific Conference, 17th – 18th March, London
• Mental Health and Well-Being at the Workplace, 17th-18th March, Berlin
• Health and Sustainability Network workshop, 20th March, Sheffield
• Broadening Your Horizons: Taking Time Out to Work and Train in Developing Countries, 23rd March, London
• The 2009 International Nursing Research Conference, 24th – 27th March, Cardiff
• Business Skills for GPs, 25th March, London

April
• British Psychological Society Annual Conference, 1st – 3rd April, Brighton
• Managing Long Term Conditions, 7th April, Harrogate
• 6th European Conference on Promoting Workplace Health, 27th-28th April, Perugia, Italy

May
• Spring General Meeting of the RCGP, 15th May, London

June
• 5th Conference of the International Society for Equity in Health, 9th-11th June, Crete
• RCN Joint Educational Forums’ Second International Conference, 11th – 13th June, Scotland

July
• Innovation and Health Technology Assessment: Improving Health System Quality, 26th-31st July, Italy

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