Education and Training Policy for Health

Issue: May 2009

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General

£220 million to boost innovation in the NHS
A £220 million fund will be made available to encourage innovation within the NHS, Health Minister Lord Darzi, during an event at the Science Museum in London to mark the launch of 'Innovation for a Healthier Future', a series of initiatives to nurture and reward innovation within the NHS.

Way Forward for the National Programme for IT
A comprehensive strategy for accelerating the pace of delivery for the National Programme for IT (NPfIT) and introducing additional supplier capacity was outlined by the Department of Health's Director General. Christine Connelly set out a number of key proposals, including opening up the IT market with a procurement process for hospital trusts in the South of England which are not managed by BT. The computing marketplace will also be boosted by the provision of a Department of Health toolkit which will allow new products to be developed locally, accredited centrally and linked to existing deployments of information systems such as Cerner and Lorenzo.

Saving lives and fighting crime together - showcase of London partnerships tackling violent crime
As part of the Home Office's Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP), the Regional Public Health Group and NHS London have been working closely with Primary Care Trusts, the Government Office for London, the Metropolitan Police, and the Greater London Authority to address both knife crime and alcohol-related violence.

Meningitis cases hit record low
To coincide with World Meningitis Day, a new report by the Director of Immunisation, Professor David Salisbury, highlights the success of childhood vaccines against the three main strains of meningitis. In the next three years, it is hoped that a vaccine against the last significant cause of bacterial meningitis, group B meningococcal disease, is a real prospect.

New programme revolutionises DH/Third Sector working
The Department of Health has joined forces with 11 specialist organisations including Age Concern, the Men's Health Forum and the Race Equality Foundation in a bid to transform the way it works with third sector organisations. The £5.5 million 'Third Sector Strategic Partner programme' will support third sector organisations to build on their skills and knowledge to improve health and social care services and act as advocates, as well as ensuring input from the sector in developing health and social care policy.

All PCT boardrooms need nursing champions, says the RCN
The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) today called on all NHS Primary Care Trusts in the West Midlands to ensure that they have an Executive Director of Nursing on their boards. The RCN believes that all PCTs, which commission health services in their area, should have a full-time Executive Director of Nursing on their boards, with full attendance and voting rights, to champion nursing and patient care.

Health Care Matters
Drinkers pile on the pounds
New statistics reveal England's calorific alcohol intake. The average wine drinker in England now consumes around 2,000 calories from alcohol alone each month. Two fifths (42 per cent) of women surveyed by the Government’s Know Your Limits campaign admitted they did not know that a glass of white wine has the same calorie content as a bag of crisps. Two large glasses of white wine not only put a woman over the recommended daily limit for alcohol consumption but - at approximately 370kcal - also provide her with nearly a fifth of her daily calorie allowance. Similarly, two fifths of men (40 per cent) were not aware of the number of calories in alcohol.

Tackling inequalities from the ground up
A new support team to tackle infant mortality has been launched by Public Health Minister Dawn Primarolo, to help turn the tide on health inequalities. The new National Support Team will visit 43 areas with the highest rate of infant mortality in the routine and manual group, to deliver intensive four-day programmes of interviews and workshops and tailored support to local areas. The team will help local health teams to deal with maternal obesity, smoking, teenage pregnancy, housing and child poverty all which have significant roles to play in the life expectancy of an infant.

Have your say in NHS Dentistry review
Dentists and their teams from across the country are being asked to share their views on how to improve access and quality of NHS dentistry at a series of engagement events this Spring. The results of the study, 'A Review of NHS Dentistry in England' will be published this summer. The engagement events will be held as follows: Manchester Thursday 7 May 2009, Bristol Tuesday 12 May 2009, Birmingham Wednesday 13 May 2009.

New National Leadership Council Members Announced
Over 40 leading figures from healthcare, business and the public sector will today become part of the National Leadership Council (NLC) for the NHS. The Council has been established as a result of a commitment set out in the Government’s strategy for the future of the NHS, High Quality Care for All and has been created after extensive consultation with the NHS and leadership experts. Its immediate focus will be on strengthening Clinical Leadership, Board Development, Top Leaders, Inclusion and Emerging Leaders and the NLC will have a champion for each of these areas. The NLC will have 25 Core Members and 5 Patrons who will focus on bringing world-class leadership and leadership development to every level in the NHS. The Council will also be able to draw on the significant expertise of a Faculty of Fellows which is being created to support the Council. Regulators and NHS managers will be represented, including the Care Quality Commission Chief Executive, Cynthia Bower, Monitor Executive Chair, Bill Moyes, and NHS Confederation Chief Executive, Steve Barnett.

Public Health Skills and Career Framework
The Public Health Skills and Career Framework publication has been updated to include additional National Occupational Standards (NOS). This document will provide a useful tool for development of not only the professional public health workforce but also the wider workforce, which can have a major influence on the wider determinants of health. It will also provide a route map for career development in public health, horizontally as well as vertically.

Social Care Matters
A new vision for mental health and wellbeing
"New Horizons" is a new strategy that will promote good mental health and well-being, whilst improving services for people who have mental health problems. It will build on the National Service Framework for mental health - widely acknowledged as the catalyst for a transformation in mental health care over the last ten years - which comes to an end in 2009. Simon Lawton-Smith, Head of Policy at the Mental Health Foundation, said: "We strongly support this new focus on whole population mental health. Mental ill health is one of the biggest challenges currently facing the UK. Good mental health should be an achievable goal for everyone and mental health promotion needs to take its rightful place at the centre of public health efforts.

**New strategy for a 21st century social care workforce**

Fifty thousand long-term unemployed young people will be helped into social care traineeships thanks to new plans published by the Government today. Backed by £75 million from the Department for Work and Pensions, employers will receive a £1,500 subsidy to take on social care trainees aged between 18 and 24. Minister Phil Hope, will also aim to lure experienced graduates, managers and leaders from the private sector into the social care sector. The strategy will boost the status of social care so that the sector can attract and retain the best and brightest candidates. Working in social care, helping others get more out of life can be very rewarding. The aim is to make sure that the sector has a high quality workforce in place to deliver personalised services for years to come.

**Reports**

- NHS Performance Framework: Implementation guidance
- Download Creating an innovative culture
- Pandemic flu: managing demand and capacity in health care organisations
- Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system

**Consultations**

**Closing May**

- Developing general practice, listening to patients - patient, GP and stakeholder consultation; closing 1st May
- Proposed changes to the Fitness to Practise Rules 2004; closing 22nd May
- Together we can end violence against women; closing 29th May
- Response to consultation on the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers and consultation on draft Regulations; closing 29th May

**Closing September**

- A better future: a consultation on a future strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions closing 15th September.

**Events, Conferences and Courses**

**May**

- WHO Global Hand Hygiene Awareness Initiative - May 5th
- Spring General Meeting of the RCGP, 15th May, London
- 'Making the most of being a Salaried GP' Seminars, 27th May Oxford

**June**

- Leadership Skills for GPs – 3rd June 2009
- 5th Conference of the International Society for Equity in Health, 9th-11th June, Crete
- Leadership Skills for GPs – 3rd June 2009
- RCN Joint Educational Forums’ Second International Conference, 11th – 13th June, Scotland
- PCT Commissioners’ Fertility Conference 18th June, London.

**July**

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

**November**

- RCGP Annual National Primary Care Conference 2009 5th - 7th November, Glasgow