Education and Training Policy for the Health Workforce

Issue: July 2009

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General – In the News

High Quality Care for All: Our journey So Far - a year of progress towards High Quality Care for All

This report by Lord Darzi examines the progress made since last year’s publication of High Quality Care for All. Major improvements include the opening of fifty new GP led Health Centres, the introduction of a health plan for 9.3 million patients with long term conditions and growth on keyhole surgery. The report also proposes the following;

- Refining of targets based on evidence.
- Giving clinical teams ownership of their budget
- Introducing a peer review accreditation system

Transforming community services: ambition, action, achievement: Transformational guides covering six service areas

Six guides were launched by Lord Ara Darzi to support the NHS in delivering the highest quality healthcare services within the community. The Guides focus on six key areas:

- health, well-being and reducing inequalities
- acute care closer to home
- people with long-term conditions
- rehabilitation services
- services for children, young people and families
- end of life care.

Transforming health and social care: the Social Enterprise Investment Fund

Social enterprises which improve the quality of health and social care for local communities can now apply for loans and grants from the Department of Health’s Social Enterprise Investment Fund.

Jim Easton has been appointed NHS National Director for Improvement and Efficiency.

The current chief executive of the South Central Strategic Health Authority has commenced work in this new role during a period of transition from the SHA.
The first Aimhigher Week launched
The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) has launched the first ever Aimhigher Week to inspire, motivate and encourage youngsters to consider Higher Education.

Voices into action: Help make care better
This is a statement from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to:
- involve the people who use care services in everything the CQC does
- ensure that care services respond to what people say

Assessment of care services by the CQC in 2009/10
The CQC will undertake an assessment of the quality of service on commissioners, providers and others including a review on the state of health and social care.

Audit & Risk Additional Independent Committee Members
The treasury department recommended to the CQC that it extends the membership of the Audit and Risk Committee to include additional external expertise on the areas of risk and audit.

Professional and career development loans; requirements for registration as a learning provider June 2009
This guidance is from the Learning and Skills Council. Download

The Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners (FESC): a practical guide
This procurement tool has been devised to help PCTs develop commissioning services.

Approved mental health professionals, approved clinicians and best interests assessors; guidance on changes to qualifying requirements for psychologists from 1 July 2009
The qualifying requirements are changing for psychologists wishing to be approved mental health professionals (AMHPs) and approved clinicians (ACs) under the Mental Health Act 1983 or best interest assessors under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 deprivation of liberty safeguards (MCA DOLS). The statutory regulation of psychologists will be introduced from 1 July 2009.

A new Objective for MRSA: National Quality Board stakeholder engagement
This report reveals a new objective for MRSA and explains how this may be achieved by different Trusts.

Department of Health: Departmental Report 2009
The report also sets out the Department’s plans for future years. In particular, this focuses on activities and improvements planned for 2009-10.

New drive to save lives from venous thromboembolism in hospital patients
The national policy states that all adult patients in England receive a VTE risk assessment on admission to hospital. Strategic Health Authorities are encouraged to develop their own initiatives. A new online educational resource (e-learning) to inform clinicians and help them to assess a patient’s risk of VTE and take appropriate preventative measures has also been launched.

NHS meets target to cut C. difficile infections two years ahead of schedule
The Government's target to reduce Clostridium. difficile (C. difficile) infections by 30 per cent has been met two years ahead of schedule.

RCN to produce HCA professional development guidance with the OU
This guidance entitled ‘Your professional development: unleashing your potential’ is for HCAs and assistant practitioners.

Access to IVF increases as new guidance makes system fairer
The NHS is taking a step closer to ending regional variation in the provision of IVF.

Contract Awarded to Develop Patient Reported Outcome Measures
A new contract that will help improve the use of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs), which support the NHS to collect patient feedback on the success of their operations, was today awarded to the Royal College of Surgeons and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

**Valuing employment now**
This sets out an ambitious goal to increase radically the number of people with learning disabilities in employment by 2025.

**Transforming Community Services Quality Framework: guidance for community services**
This guidance sets out how the seven elements of the Quality Framework apply in community services.

**Prison Health IT programme: national roll-out**
This first national clinical IT system for prisons across England will now commence across the country in June 2009.

**Emergency Services Review**
This is to provide support to local health care communities.

**Registered Professionals - Education and Training**

**Junior doctor rotas to be compliant with the European Working Time Directive (EWTD)**
The overwhelming majority of all junior doctor rotas will be compliant with the requirements of the European Working Time Directive (EWTD) by 1st August 2009.

**Rise of Women in Medicine**
The royal college of physicians published the report from the study ‘Women and Medicine: The Future’.

**General Ophthalmic Services: payments for continuing education and training**
The DH has agreed with the optical profession and the British Medical Association that a payment should be made in respect of loss of earnings associated with continuing education and training.

**Review of NHS dental services in England**
This independent review was undertaken by Professor Jimmy Steele. The aim of this report is to ensure access to NHS dental services and that NHS dentists deliver high quality care and offer preventative solutions.

**Modernising Midwifery Careers UK**
This project was commissioned by the four UK Chief Nursing Officers to look at the future direction of midwifery. A project-dedicated website has just been launched to update all stakeholders and users on the development of the project.

**Forthcoming consultation on GMC guidance on research and making and using recordings of patients**
GMC is reviewing the guidance on research and on making visual audio recordings of patients. A public consultation will soon follow this review. This guidance is to take into account the recent changes on consent and confidentiality.

**GMC launch date for doctor’s licenses**
From November 16th all doctors will require a licence in addition to their GMC registration to practise medicine in the UK. Academic or researcher doctors will not require a license to practise.

BMA warns trusts against victimising NHS whistle-blowers

The BMA issues new guidance for doctors who are considering raising concerns about patient safety, or who face victimisation as a result. It advises hospital doctors to err on the side of raising any concerns about malpractice or systemic failures, and to do it as soon as they can, rather than allowing the situation to reach a point where patient safety is threatened.

200 applications made in first month of Certification Online

PMETB has launched its online CCT application form to simplify and streamline the CCT application process. This is particularly important as increasing numbers of doctors are completing their training in a concentrated window between the end of July and beginning of August.

PMETB’s merger with the GMC: DH Consultation Launched

The Department of Health (England) have now opened a consultation on draft legislation under Section 60 of the Health Act 1999. Details on the consultation may be accessed at the link: The General and Specialist Medical Practice (Education, Training and Qualifications) Order 2010, and, The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Order of Council 2010 - a paper for consultation

Non Registered Professionals - Education and Training

Review calls for basic computer skills training for all adults

This report calls for more support for 11.6 million who need basic computing skills training in England.

Vocational Qualifications Reform in England

The aim of the programme implemented by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) is to create a system:

- based on learner and employer needs
- with greater clarity and more flexibility and choice
- encouraging a more skilled and productive workforce
- allowing individuals to fulfill their potential
- supporting greater social justice and opportunity

LSC Funding Guidance 2009/10 - Update v3.0

This document sets out the key changes to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding approach for 2009/10. It is a technical reference document, and should be used in conjunction with the various LSC funding guidance booklets issued for 2008/09. All colleges, providers and other organisations that receive funding from the LSC for the provision of further and adult education are required to comply with the Guidance.

Demand-led Funding - Employer Responsive Model, Transitional funding arrangements and Level 4 Qualifications in 2009/10

This briefing note is designed to clarify the position of level 4 qualifications within the Employer Responsive model in respect of the eligibility of learners and the funding arrangements in 2009/10.

Longitudinal Evaluation of Training and Development for Radiographers’ Extended Roles

In 2008 Skills for Health funded the Institute for Employment Studies, in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire School of Health and Emergency Practitioners, to undertake a survey of
training for extended role activities undertaken by radiographers. This report is from this study. There were, therefore, concerns regarding the equivalence of competence levels developed at different trusts, with implications for patient safety and training. As a result Skills for Health agreed to fund this research, which aimed to:

- profile the extent and nature of training and development provided across the UK for ‘extended role’ activities undertaken by diagnostic radiographers and the extent to which provision is mapped against external standards and/or accredited by external bodies; and
- explore hospital policies relating to the recruitment of individuals with accredited and non-accredited training for extended role activities.

**Students in Higher Education Institutions**

Figures published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show steady progress in widening participation and further improvements in the numbers of students gaining a qualification, including medical school figures.

**Train to Gain Stakeholder Briefing Pack**

This is the up to date Train to Gain stakeholder pack outlining the procedure that will help benefit from the service. [Download](#)

**Health Trade Unions and Skills for Health collaborate to increase learning and development opportunities**

Recognising the significant contribution of trades unions and Skills for Health to the widening participation agenda, an action plan developed by the Joint Action Working Group and builds on the existing partnership between health trade unions and Skills for Health will go forward– originally outlined in the 2006 Sector Skills Agreement.

**ALAN SUGAR: APPRENTICES WILL HELP BUSINESS TO THRIVE IN THE NORTH EAST**

Sir Alan Sugar is delivering the message to around 370 employers from across the region today alongside Iain Wright and Lord Young. This is one of a series of regional seminars to explore the business benefits of employing apprentices in the economic downturn.

**Extra funding will allow record numbers of young people to take up education and training this autumn.**

An investment of £655 million over 2009-2011, will enable more than 1.55million young people to stay on in education and training this September.

**Primary Care**

**New Report to tackle Health Inequalities**

This report was published by Dr Foster Intelligence. The report challenges Primary Care Trust (PCT) Boards to ask difficult questions about their understanding of health inequalities and offers solutions about how Boards might answer them.

**Quality of GP Consultations Drives High Patient Satisfaction**

The GP Patient Survey, the biggest healthcare survey of its kind, found that overall satisfaction with surgeries was high at 91%, but there is still room for improvement in accessing GP services, especially getting through on the phone and being able to make appointments more than 48 hours in advance.

**Care Quality Commission sets out the parameters of its review of Take Care Now’s out-of-hours GP services**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) today outlines the scope of its review of the provision and commissioning of out-of-hours GP services run by Take Care Now.
New Cervical Cancer campaign
There will be a new drive to ensure GPs spot cervical cancer symptoms earlier in young women.

New primary care approach boosts referrals to NHS stop smoking services by 49%
The DH is rolling out a new systems-based approach to improve stop smoking interventions in primary care. This new approach has increased referrals to local NHS Stop Smoking services by up to 49% in pilot areas.

Primary care trust survey: provision of IVF in England 2008
Regulated fertility services: a commissioning aid - June 2009
The two links above relate to a DH initiative to provide standard provision of IVF treatments in the UK.

GP patient survey: further guidance for PCTs on QOF patient experience indicators

Public Health

Health Profiles 2009 launched
Advances in the nation's health are revealed containing the following key findings:
- early deaths from heart disease, stroke and cancer are falling
- more state school children spend at least two hours a week on sport or PE
- smoking-related deaths are falling
- life expectancy rises, both in affluent and disadvantaged areas, but the average length of life continues to be shorter in many disadvantaged areas
- average hospital stays due to alcohol related conditions rise

Tackling health inequalities: targeting routine and manual smokers in support of the Public Service Agreement smoking prevalence and health inequality targets
This guidance supports the achievement of the PSA smoking prevalence and health inequality 2010 targets. It provides PCTs and local authorities with a firm rationale as to why targeting routine and manual smokers will in turn help reduce smoking prevalence.

Councils awarded £2.5 million to stub out smoking
Councils in England will share a Department of Health grant of £2.5 million to help smokers quit.

£2.1 billion up in smoke for UK business every year
NHS offers free support for businesses to help employees stop smoking.

Teenagers - find out if you're healthy www.teenlifecheck.co.uk
NHS Teen LifeCheck uses an engaging and interactive quiz to offer health and lifestyle information to 12-15 year olds.

£1.4 million crackdown on teenage summer binge drinking

Allied Health

A new regulator for pharmacy
The new General Pharmaceutical Council will be set up in spring 2010 to replace the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain as the regulator for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. One of the first tasks for this body will be to provide a clearer framework to ensure the public remain at the heart of the framework. The regulator will be independent from all other interest groups.

Chair announced for new adjudication body for health professionals
The Department of Health, the General Medical Council and the General Optical Council today welcome the appointment of Walter Merricks, CBE as the first Chair of the new Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator (OHPA).
Promoting Innovation and Leadership in the Allied Health Professions (AHPs)

The AHP Leadership Challenges were designed around the commitments set out in *High Quality Care for All* to support leadership, at every level of the NHS and give AHPs the confidence to lead on innovation across health and social care.

International Reports and News on Education and Training Policy for Health

World Health Organization pandemic flu alert level: Secretary of State's statement to the House of Commons.

The World Health Organization raised its Pandemic Alert status to Phase 6. The criteria for making this declaration are based on the geographic spread of the virus and not its severity. There is now clear evidence of sustained community transmission in countries outside North America, which means that we are now facing the first pandemic for more than 40 years. Across the world, nearly 30,000 cases have been confirmed in 74 different countries. As of today there have been 909 confirmed cases in the UK. There have been 144 reported deaths in six countries, but none in the UK.

Does EU competition law matter for the NHS?

The NHS Confederation's European Office published a paper looking at the impact EU competition law might have on the NHS as it changes to offer more choice and make greater use of independent providers.

Working at the 'Edges' of Care? European Models of Support for Young People and Families

This is a summary of the main findings of a cross-national study which compared policy, practice and the professional skills of the workforce in four European countries (Denmark, France, Germany and England) when working with young people at or near the point of requiring accommodation outside their family.

Research

Attitudes to mental illness 2009 research report

Since 2007 this survey has again been carried out annually. The surveys serve as a benchmark, enabling measurement of whether attitudes are improving or worsening over time. The questionnaire included a number of statements about mental illness.

Train to Gain Employer Evaluation: Sweep 4 Research Report

This report highlights the latest new user sweep (Sweep 4) took place in early 2009, and focused on those employers who had had their initial contact with the skills brokerage service between May and October 2008.

BMA poll reveals the public's fear for future of the NHS

A nationwide public opinion poll conducted by Hamilton Lock for the British Medical Association has revealed how worried the public is about future funding of the health service in light of the recession.
Other Reports

- Statistical Press Notice - General Practice Patient Survey 2008-09 National Results
- Statistical press notice - NHS inpatient and outpatient waiting times figures 31 May 2009
- STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE - NHS REFERRAL TO TREATMENT (RTT) TIMES DATA - April 2009
- Report on the experience of patients in Black and Minority Ethnic groups
- Statistical Press Notice - Diagnostics data
- Healthcare Student Support Systems: A Review of the Literature
- Statistical press notice - Direct access audiology referral to treatment (RTT) times data March 2009
- Dear colleague letter: Appeals procedure for apportioning of MRSA bacteraemias
- The Flu Pandemic Game: a business continuity training resource
- LAC(DH)(2009)6: Social care for deafblind children and adults
- Single Equality Scheme 2009 - 2012
- Swine flu clinical package
- Whole Systems Demonstrators: an overview of telecare and telehealth
- The Quarter: quarter 4, 2008/09
- Information book for prisoners with a disability
- Health Care and Associated Professions (Pharmacy): The Pharmacy Order 2009 Consultation Report
- Pandemic influenza: guidance for commissioners and providers of social care - additional modules
- vCJD risk assessment calculations for a patient with multiple routes of exposure
- Clustering booklet for use in mental health payment by results evaluation work (July-Dec 2009)
- Pandemic influenza: recommendations on the use of antiviral medicines for pregnant women, women who are breastfeeding and children under the age of one year
- 2009/21 HEFCE strategic plan 2006-11: Updated June 2009 (June) (Web only)
- 2009/20 Patterns in higher education: living at home (June) (Web only)
- Latest healthcare associated infection figures published by Health Protection Agency
- Joint commissioning framework for dementia
- Report calls for significant changes to ease regulatory bureaucracy
- Quality Accounts tell a compelling story

Live Consultations

Closing July

- Consultation on ordinary residence guidance, Directions and cross-border arrangements, 17 July 2009
- Environmental design principles for adult medium secure units, 10 July 2009
- The regulation of private hearing aid dispensers by the Health Professions Council, 7 July 2009
- Lateral (including extreme, extra and direct lateral) interbody fusion in the lumbar spine: interventional procedures consultation, 30 June - 28 July 2009
- Review of the single and multiple technology appraisal processes. Section 5 - Patient Access and Flexible Pricing Schemes, 19 June - 20 July 2009
- Patient access scheme submission template, 19 June - 20 July 2009
- Autism spectrum disorders in children and young people: draft scope consultation, 9 June - 7 July 2009
- **Proposed Harmonised Data Standards and Definitions for the Children's and Young People's and Local Government Workforce** **Closing Date:** Monday 20 July 2009
- **Assessments Relating to Learning Difficulties - Guidance to Local Authorities,** **Closing Date:** Thursday 16 July 2009

**Closing August**
- **A Department of Health consultation paper: draft guidance on provisions to deal with nuisance or disturbance behaviour on NHS premises in England** Closing date: 4 August 2009
- **Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children - revised statutory guidance,** **Monday 3 August 2009**
- **Consultation: How alcohol is sold and supplied** until 5th August

**Closing September**
- **A better future: a consultation on a future strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions** **Closing date:** 15 September 2009

**Awards**
- **Clinical Senior Lectureship Awards** The awards for round four have been announced.

**Events, Conferences and Courses**

**July 2009**
- 1 July — London
  - Delivering effective needle and syringe programmes, Implementing NICE guidance
- 8 July — Manchester
  - Homelessness conference
- 9 July - Church House Conference Centre, Westminster
  - World Class Skills 2009
- 10 July –LGA group
  - from recession to recovery - the council role (Exeter) ( places available )
- 14 July
  - Qualifications Made Easy
- 21 July – London
  - A new direction for social care? What the Green Paper means for the future of care and support
- 26-31 July – San Servolo, Italy
  - Innovation and Health Technology Assessment : Improving Health System Quality

**August 2009**
- 3-14 August – Cagliari, Italy
  - Exploring salutogenetic pathways to health promotion

**September 2009**
- 3-5 September — Tromso, Norway
  14th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Dental Public Health
- 14-16 September — Warwick
  Health Protection 2009
- 24-25 September — Cardiff
  2nd Injury Prevention Conference for the UK and Ireland
- 28-29 September — Brussels
  2nd European meeting of EHESP school of public health

October 2009
- 5-6 October — London
  National Obesity Forum Conference 2009 - Obesity: Time to get serious!
- 14-16 October — Rotterdam
  HIA 09: An International Conference. On the move.
- 13 October — London
  Improving patients’ experiences in hospitals – yes we can! (King’s Fund)
- 18-23 October — Nairobi
  8th International Conference on Urban Health
- 20 October — Liverpool
  Big Food Debate II - national public health nutrition conference

November 2009
- 3 November — London
  Inequalities, Ethics and Obesity
- 5-6 November — Washington, DC
  2008 research conference on food, nutrition, physical activity & cancer
- 7-11 November — Philadelphia
  137th APHA Annual Meeting : Water and Public Health - The 21st Century Challenge
- 5th-7th November, Glasgow
  RCGP Annual National Primary Care Conference 2009
- 12-13 November — Peebles
  Scotland Faculty of Public Health: Public Health in a Change of Age
- 16-18 November — Manchester
  The 11th International Hepatitis C conference
- 16-20 November — Havana, Cuba
  Forum 2009 : Innovating for the health of all
- 18 November — Nottingham
  BHFNC 9th Annual Conference - National policy to local practice: working together to deliver physical activity programmes
- 24 November
  King’s Fund Annual Conference
- 25-28 November — Lodz, Poland
  31st ASPHER annual conference: Transcending the borders – intercultural & trans disciplinary public health education to promote social and environmental well-being – promoting innovation
- 26-28 November — Lodz, Poland
  17th EUPHA Conference on Public Health: Human Ecology and Public Health – promoting social and environmental conditions conducive to health
- 26-28 November — Lodz, Poland
  The second joint European Conference on Public Health