Education and Training Policy for the Health Workforce

Issue: October 2009

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General – In the News

Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham, future plans for the NHS.

Speech included plans for a new multi-year tariff for the NHS, an increased emphasis on measuring patient and staff satisfaction, and proposals to abolish GP practice boundaries to allow people to register with the surgery of their choice. He was joined in a panel discussion by John Adler, Chief Executive of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and John Appleby, Chief Economist at The King's Fund. The King's Fund Chief Executive, Niall Dickson, was chair.

King’s Fund Response to Andrew Lansley

Responding to Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley’s speech to Conservative party conference this afternoon, The King’s Fund chief executive Niall Dickson said,
The NHS is about to enter the toughest financial period of its life. The Conservatives are right to start by looking for savings that will not hit frontline care. But although we know that there are efficiency savings that could be made to the NHS estate and to back office functions, those alone won’t be enough to bridge the gap between future NHS budgets and the cost of future demand for care.

**HPV vaccine update**
Following tragic news of the death of a girl in Coventry, the Department of Health is working closely with the NHS and regulatory bodies, to thoroughly investigate the details of the case.

**Football to promote awareness of cancer symptoms in men**
Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham announces new scheme to help educate men about the symptoms and risks of ‘male’ cancers.

**The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act comes into force**
The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 comes into force on Thursday 1 October – ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of developments in treatment and research.

The 2008 Act responds to changes in society and ensures it is fit for purpose in the 21st Century. Government undertook a review of the 1990 Act, bringing legislation up to date with society, and to reflect technological developments, such as new ways of creating embryos. It enables scientists to investigate cures for serious illnesses such as Parkinson’s disease and regulate assisted reproductive treatments.

Public Health Minister Gillian Merron said:
“*This landmark legislation ensures that the UK remains at the forefront of scientific advances in this field, now and into the future. The Act has already touched so many lives - ensuring scientists have the opportunity to work on discovering new cures for devastating illnesses, and offering others the chance to have a much wanted family.*

*This Act is proof that scientific progress can be balanced with the rights of individuals and proper controls.*

**NHS Stop Smoking Services – Ten years on**
At least 70,000 lives have been saved by NHS Stop Smoking Services in the ten years since they were established, according to new figures released today. The number of people whose lives have been saved could fill Old Trafford football stadium or 875 double decker buses.

NHS Stop Smoking Services celebrate their ten-year anniversary this month. During the last decade, the number of people smoking in the UK has plummeted, with smoking prevalence among the general population dropping from 28 per cent to below 21 per cent. Building on the UK’s cutting-edge smokefree policies, the development of the NHS Stop Smoking Services has been pivotal in achieving these successes.

**UK Older Person’s Day 1st October 2009**
Aims for South East celebration
- celebrate the huge contribution older people make to our society and economy
- create a positive view of later life and tackle outdated stereotypes
- raise awareness of the opportunities and entitlements for older people across society
- ensure older people don’t feel excluded or isolated from the rest of society

The South East Regional Forum on Ageing aims to address the challenges of an ageing society and ensure there is a platform in the region to promote action relating to older people. The events taking place across the Region on OP Day are an example of how older people are supporting their communities to address the issues of ageing; helping to pass on their skills and experience and demonstrating how to enjoy being actively engaged locally.”
Registered Professionals

**Family nurse partnership improving outcomes for vulnerable families**
Young first time mothers are being helped to improve the life chances of their babies and fathers are more involved in the early years of their children’s lives thanks to the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) programme, independent research published today has found.

**Consultation launched on future funding for healthcare students**
A consultation seeking views on how students studying to be nurses, midwives and doctors should be funded in their studies was launched by Health Minister Ann Keen today. Currently the NHS offers bursaries to healthcare students studying diplomas and degree level courses. However, the current system provides an incentive for students to opt for a diploma over a degree because they can receive additional funding, which is not means-tested. As the Nursing and Midwifery Council has indicated that the minimum qualification for new entry into the profession will, in the near future, be changed to a degree; the Department of Health is keen to ensure that the system will adequately support those students throughout their studies.

**Completion of reform to the healthcare regulatory bodies**
The completion of a series of reforms, to strengthen the focus on public protection in the regulation of health professionals including nurses, midwives and dentists, was announced by the Department of Health today. These reforms mark a significant milestone in the Government’s programme to make safety and quality paramount in the care of patients by modernising the regulation of healthcare professionals, as set out in the White Paper, Trust, Assurance and Safety.

**Prime Ministers Commission sets out its vision for the future.**
A vision that will allow nurses and midwives to transform the quality of care was set out today by the Prime Minister’s Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery. Its ultimate goal is that all nursing and midwifery staff will fulfil their potential to help people who use NHS services, families and communities achieve the best possible health and well being. It also sets out that in the future nurses and midwives will take centre stage in all aspects of health care and that nursing and midwifery practice will be rooted in compassion. The initial vision has been agreed by the Commission following an extensive engagement exercise over the summer, which sought the views of professionals and the public around the country on what they see as the future role for nurses and midwives. Separate to the vision statement the Commission has identified ten hot topics through responses to the first engagement phase and their own deliberations, which they want further debate on. Included within the hot topics for discussion are the need to address the confusion over roles and title of nurses and midwives and the role of nurses and midwives in putting service users in charge of their own care.

Non Registered Professionals

**Making sense of Assistant Practitioner and Health Care Assistant roles**
The focus for this conference to be hosted by the RCN 29th January 2010 is to ‘learn about the successes and challenges of preparing HCAs and APs for the future; to listen to ideas on how to approach the challenges and to explore the drivers for investing in and developing this workforce. The conference is aimed at educationalists, recruitment and retention leads, practice development facilitators and other stakeholders who have an interest in developing the HCA and AP roles. Plenary sessions to include Health care support worker regulation-policy update, Developing the role of the AP and providing opportunities or HCAs, Developing a lead HCA role, Apprenticeships.
Primary Care

Practice Based Commissioning GP Practice Survey Wave 8
This is the eighth quarterly practice survey for 2009, covering a sample of practices from each primary care trust (PCT), conducted between June and August 2009. The aims of the survey are to get feedback from practices on their perception of the support offered by their PCT and on the clinical and financial engagement of practices with PBC. The survey is part of a group of indicators that will be assessed together to give a picture of PBC implementation.

CPD Credits Scheme
In preparation for Revalidation, and in line with the 10 principles of good practice in CPD developed by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the RCGP has developed a CPD Credits Scheme for all GPs. Working closely with organisations such as COGPEd, NAPCE, UKCEA and Postgraduate Deaneries and they will be consulting with faculties and other local interests, individual GPs and CPD providers as the scheme develops. The scheme is currently piloting in various locations throughout the UK and is due to report in Summer 2009. A simple guide to the pilot scheme and a benchmarking tool to assist GPs using the pilot are now available.

Public Health

70,000 lives saved by NHS Stop Smoking Services
At least 70,000 lives have been saved by NHS Stop Smoking Services in the ten years since they were established,

Schools scheme gets health kick for its tenth birthday
16 September 2009
The government’s flagship scheme to make healthy living an integral part of a child’s school life is to be expanded following a decade of success, Public Health Minister Gillian Merron has announced.

Top teen concerns are losing weight and fitting in
Surveys for NHS Teen LifeCheck reveal social similarities and divides on some of the top teenage concerns. In just three months, Teen LifeCheck is already having a considerable impact. More than 100,000 teenagers have completed a LifeCheck, getting advice on topics like bullying and smoking as well as drugs, alcohol, personal safety, healthy eating and exercise. Today’s survey will inform the ongoing development of the site so it is up to date and meaningful to teenagers

Allied Health

Whole-brain radiotherapy after surgery or radiosurgery not recommended for all patients with brain metastases.
Whole-brain radiotherapy should not be given routinely to all patients whose cancer has spread to the brain, say researchers who found that using it after surgery or radiosurgery in patients with a limited number of brain metastases and stable cancer in the rest of the body did not extend lives or help patients remain functionally independent for longer. In the largest study to date on the issue, scientists reported at Europe’s largest cancer congress, ECCO 15 – ESMO 34, in Berlin that while the technique did extend the length of time before the cancer got worse and reduced the risk of brain-related deaths, it failed to prolong overall survival or the length of time that patients were able to remain independent in critical functions such as walking, thinking and eating.

Chief Health Professions Officer's Conference 6-7th October 2009
A strong effort being made to engage with the paramedic profession in the wider AHP community. This is particularly important as the developing role of our profession will
impact on the front line of patient care and the work with other Allied Health Professionals. The Chief Health Professions Officer, Karen Middleton made the following statement. *With the current focus on quality, innovation, productivity and prevention, AHPs really are the right people in the right place at the right time. We are key players in prevention, we bring value for money and, as most AHPs are first-contact practitioners, we set the tone for a high-quality patient experience. This year, my conference will focus on that fact and will encourage AHPs to really step up and show what they can do.*

**Boorman Review Interim Report published**

Occupational therapy and OT-related activities are included in the workforce requirements needed to support the health and wellbeing of NHS staff in the recently published NHS Health and Well-being Review Interim Report. It draws heavily on work commissioned from a range of external bodies which has helped to identify issues of concern with current staff health and well-being services in the NHS; to bring together best practice in the NHS and other organisations; and to highlight the benefits, to staff, patients and NHS bodies, of investing in improving staff health and well-being.

**International Reports and News**

**WHO takes on natural disasters on several fronts**

WHO is responding to natural disasters that hit countries in the Western Pacific Region over the last week. These include the earthquake-driven tsunami that hit coastal areas of Samoa and American Samoa, an earthquake in Tonga, and flooding in the Philippines caused by Typhoon Ketsana, which later also wreaked havoc in Viet Nam and Cambodia.

**Research**

**CSO Healthcare Scientists Research Fellowship Competition**

The Chief Scientific Officer for the Department of Health, supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), is launching the second round of the [CSO Healthcare Scientists Research Fellowship Competition](https://www.nationalhealthservice.gov.uk/). The scheme supports the development of healthcare scientist research capacity and capability building, by providing funding to undertake research for patient benefit. The Fellowships will support NHS Healthcare Scientists who already have some research experience and wish to bridge clinical or service careers and research. There are two award levels:

- funding for individual *doctoral level research*
- funding for individual *postdoctoral research projects*

Fellowships must be undertaken with the support of the relevant NHS line-manager and an appropriate academic partner. The research proposed must be of direct relevance to the NHS with the potential to improve service or clinical outcome. Applications are invited from individuals working in England from one of the three main Healthcare Scientist disciplines: **Life Sciences, Physiological Sciences, or Physical Sciences / Engineering.**

**Other Reports**

**Preventing hospital visits through telemedicine**

In the United Kingdom, where more than a quarter of the population are living with chronic conditions, a new telemedicine programme motivates and coaches people to manage themselves - making sure they attend regular checks, lose weight, exercise, stop smoking and
eat more healthily. This article from the *WHO Bulletin* describes the programme and how it is reducing hospital admissions.

**Consultations**

**Closing October**

- **Shaping the future of care together** Closing date: 31st October 2009
- **HPC Consultations** closing date Closing date: 16 October 2009 Psychotherapists and counsellors, dance movement therapists and hearing aid dispensers consultations
- **Fees for the registration of pharmacy premises: A consultation on the level of fees to be charged from 1 January 2010.** Closing date: 30th October 2009
- **The framework for responsible officers and their duties relating to the medical profession: a consultation on responsible officer regulations and guidance** Closing date: 25th October 2009
- **New Horizons consultation** Closing date: 15th October 2009
- **Consultation on the revision of the Fair Access to Care Services guidance to support councils to determine eligibility for social care services** Closing date: 6th October 2009
- **Essence of care: a consultation on a new benchmark on pain** Closing date: 2nd October 2009

**Closing November**

- **Safety and Security Directions - High Secure Psychiatric Services - Proposals for consultation** Closing date: 2nd November 2009
- **A joint consultation on the Report to Ministers from the DH Steering Group on the Statutory Regulation of Practitioners of Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Other Traditional Medicine Systems Practised in the UK** Closing date: 2nd November 2009
- **Consultation on the Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for health and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance; and Prevention and control of infection in care homes** Closing date: 6th November 2009
- **Manual for cancer services: draft radiotherapy measures** Closing date: 27 November 2009
- **Consultation on a review of Parental Order Regulations** Closing date: 23 November 2009

**Closing December**

- **NHS Waiting Times**
  A consultation on proposals to discontinue some current inpatient and outpatient collections. Closing date: 01 December 2009
- **Consultation on the proposed framework for Quality Accounts** Closing date: 10 December 2009
- **Supporting our future NHS workforce: a consultation on the NHS Bursary Scheme.** Closing date: 11 December 2009

**Awards**

The European Commission has launched a set of calls for funding health research under the EU’s Research Framework Programme.
There are several topics under the calls which may be of relevance to NHS organisations and researchers. The calls cover the following areas:

- Biotechnology, generic tools and medical technologies for human health
  - High-throughput research
  - Detection of biomarkers
- Translating research for human health
  - Large-scale data gathering and systems biology
  - Research on neurodegenerative diseases and ageing
  - Translational research into infectious diseases (including TB, HIV/AIDS, vectorborne infections)
  - Translational research in other major diseases (including cancer, CVD, rare diseases)
- Optimising delivery of healthcare
  - Quality, efficiency and solidarity of healthcare systems
  - International public health and health systems
- Novel therapeutics against influenza

The call deadlines range from October 2009 to February 2010 and the projects are expected to commence from mid 2010 onwards.

**NIHR Fellowship Scheme 2009**

Applications were received for the 2nd round of the NIHR Fellowship Scheme earlier this year. A number of changes were made to the Fellowship scheme since the first round. These are summarised below:

- The doctoral level award is now known as the Doctoral Research Fellowship (DRF)
- Eligibility to apply for a DRF has been extended - individuals who are registered for a PhD and have undertaken less than 12 months wte work on their doctorate are now eligible to apply
- Applicants to the Career Development Fellowship must have less than seven (7) years wte post-doctoral experience at the time of application
- Funding for research costs suitable for a research training vehicle is now included in a Fellowship. Anticipated launch is mid to late October.

**Events, Conferences and Courses**

**October 2009**

- 1 October – London PMETB Stakeholder’s event
- 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 & transdisciplinary 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