Education and Training Policy for Health e-Newsletter

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This newsletter 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 links to access the full article.

General

The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2009/10
The Department of Health published the operating framework for the NHS in England in 2009/10 and PCT resource allocations. The operating framework sets out the priorities and specific policy, business and financial arrangements expected of the NHS for the year ahead. NHS Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are to receive £164 billion funding over the next two years. The funding includes an average increase of 5.5 percent over both years. PCTs will control a greater proportion of funding, with more than 80 percent of the total NHS budget now allocated directly, allowing them to tailor health services locally to meet local patient needs. It will help deliver Lord Darzi’s vision as set out in his report, High Quality Care for All. In line with Lord Darzi’s review of the NHS, PCTs will set their own additional local targets based on evidence about the local needs of patients and the community.

Key points

- Healthcare associated infections
- Access to care and the 18-week target, and improving access to GP services.
- Reducing health inequalities paying attention to children’s health, focusing on improving care for cancer and stroke.
- Improving patient experience, staff satisfaction and engagement.
- Readiness for a state of emergency such as pandemic influenza.

For further information, The NHS confederation has published details of the operating framework, also available in the form of a poster and the King’s Fund has made available an article on their website focusing on the framework.

2009 is the European year of creativity and innovation.
Each year, the EU chooses a theme for a campaign to draw attention to a specific issue. 2009 will be devoted to creativity and innovation. During the year, hundreds of conferences, projects and exhibitions will take place across Europe, all intended to raise awareness of the need for imaginative solutions to today’s challenges. Innovation is an essential part of both the commission’s climate change package and its plan to revive the EU economy, now suffering its worst downturn in decades. Although the year of creativity and innovation officially begins on 7 January with a conference and gala in Prague, there has already been one event – a concert performed on instruments made of fresh vegetables! Later in the year, Brussels will host a series of debates on how to encourage bold new ideas and how society can benefit more from them. In particular, Europeans must learn to embrace change and be receptive to different strategies.

Teachers and skills educators have a critical – and difficult – role. The campaign will help shape the EU’s agenda for cooperation between its member countries on education and culture. It will also feed into policy in other areas, like business and employment.

New legislation to promote the well being of children and introduce a flexible demand-led adult skills system.
This legislation will be introduced in order to meet the economic and demographic challenges of today and the future, to make the education and training system for young people and adults more responsive and flexible. As set out in the White Paper, Raising Expectations: Enabling the System to Deliver, the reforms will include the transfer of £7 billion per year to local authorities for the planning, commissioning and funding of 16-19 and adult education and training.

The Children, Skills and Learning Bill will:
- provide a right to those in work to request time for training;
- establish the skills funding agency which will take over responsibility - in 2010 - for adult skills funding from the Learning and Skill Council;
- establish the national apprenticeship service to administer the expanded apprenticeship programme.
- provide new powers to strengthen Children’s Trusts;
- improve local services for children and parents;
- establishment of an independent regulator of examinations and tests (Ofqual) and a development agency for curriculum, assessment and qualifications (QCDA), which will continue to maintain high standards and confidence in the exams and qualifications system;
The Young People’s Learning Agency (YPLA) will support local authorities when they become accountable for 16-19 learners in the 2010/11 academic year. At the same time Government will direct £4 billion a year through a new slimline Skills Funding Agency (SFA). The SFA will focus on delivery, and will respond more closely to the needs of their local and regional business and learner communities. It will have responsibility for funding Train to Gain and for ensuring that providers are properly accredited.

State of healthcare report released by the Healthcare Commission
Commission releases fifth and final report to Parliament on the state of healthcare in England and Wales. The Healthcare Commission praised the NHS for making significant improvements in services across the board in recent years. The Commission's annual State of Healthcare report highlights huge strides in cutting premature death rates for the big three killers over the past decade. Early deaths from heart disease have halved, while the death rates for stroke and cancer have fallen by 44% and 18% respectively. This is the Healthcare Commission's fifth and final report before the Care Quality Commission - a new single regulator for health and social care - starts work in April 2009.

New NHS Choices Tool
The NHS Choices website allows patients to review the services they received in hospital and share their experiences with other patients, empowering patients to directly influence the quality of care they receive. The five key areas patients are asked to comment on are:

- dignity and respect;
- cleanliness;
- whether doctors and nurses worked well together;
- if patients felt they were involved in decisions around their care; and
- if they would recommend the hospital to friends and family.

The National Health Service Constitution: report of the Constitutional Advisory Forum to the Secretary of State for Health. Please click on the title link above for further information.

Appointment to NHS Medical Education England
Sir Christopher Edwards is to be the first Chairman of a new organisation to provide ministers with independent advice on planning the future number of doctors, dentists, pharmacists and medical scientists in the NHS in England, as well as overseeing their education and training.

Registered Professionals - Education and Training
Government appoints independent group to review NHS Dentistry
An independent review team to help improve access for patients who want to see an NHS dentist was appointed today by Health Secretary Alan Johnson.

Application process opens for Academic Health Science Centre designation
The process to select the organisations that will be designated as Academic Health Science Centres (AHSC) has formally opened in December. At the same time it has been confirmed that Sir Ian Kennedy has been formally appointed to chair the international panel which will make a recommendation to Secretary of State about which partnerships should be awarded AHSC status.

PMETB welcomes the publication of a new consensus statement on the role of the doctor
A consensus statement on the role of the doctor was launched in December.

GMC appoints Chair for UK Revalidation Programme Board
Sir Michael Pitt, chair of the South West Strategic Health Authority, has been announced as the appointed Chair of the UK Revalidation Programme Board. The Board will oversee the delivery of the new revalidation process across the UK. The GMC plans to introduce licenses to practise in the autumn of 2009.

Non-Registered Professionals - Education and Training
Record number of adults gain vocational qualifications
A record number of adults gained vocational qualifications in the past academic year, according to new ONS figures published in December.

New Chief Executive of National Apprenticeship Service appointed
The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) was announced as part of the apprenticeship review, World Class Apprenticeships in January 2008. The NAS will be fully functional from April 2009. Simon Waugh has been appointed the first chief executive of the new NAS. This body will deliver an expanded apprenticeship programme and will provide a single point of contact for employers who want to offer apprenticeships and for prospective apprentices.

Employers and public sector to create 10,000 apprenticeship places
At least 10,000 apprenticeships will be created in spite of the contraction in the economy, as the bill which launched the NAS was announced. New Government commitments on procurement are expected to see upwards of 7,000 new apprenticeships in construction, while high street giants released plans for large-scale increases in the numbers of apprenticeships they offer.

25 million will gain right to request time to train
Government answers business questions on how proposals will work as new legislation announced.

**Five million employees benefit from employer commitment to Skills Pledge**
DHL Express - made recently a commitment to train its 9,000-strong workforce.

**Primary Care**

Guidance for strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and GP practices: the new expanded GP patient survey 2008/09
The new survey has been developed with Ipsos MORI and academics from the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre and the Peninsular Medical School. Around 5½ million registered patients in England will be invited to take part during January to March 2009.

Practice based commissioning GP practice survey
This is the fifth quarterly practice survey, covering a sample of practices from each primary care trust (PCT), conducted between September and November 2008. 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.

First GP health centre in the East Midlands
The new centre in Corby will see patients 8am-8pm, seven days a week. GP Health Centres were announced in Our NHS our future, the October 2007 Next Stage Review Interim Report, and are part of Lord Darzi's Review of the NHS High Quality Care For All, published on 30 June 2008.

**Public Health**

Department of Health Change4Life Launch

According to experts 90% of children become adults by 2050 could be overweight or obese and at risk of developing a host of serious illnesses including heart disease, cancer and diabetes in later life. The Change4 Life advertising campaign aims to raise awareness and help families and children live healthier lives. Families are invited to call 0300 1234567 to register for support, or visit the Change4Life website. The Government is galvanising support from everyone in the country, from organisations to leading supermarkets and charities.

Visitors to the Change4Life website will be able to do a postcode search to find local services such as cookery clubs, after-school activities and sporting facilities in their local areas. In total there will be in the region of 45,000 relevant contacts in England.

- Watch Change4Life advert and more Change4Life videos on YouTube (opens new window)
- View photos of animators making the Change4Life TV ad (opens new window)

Deprivation Doubles Cervical Cancer Risk
Women living in the most deprived areas of England are nearly twice as likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer than their affluent counterparts – according to a report presented by national cancer director Professor Mike Richards at the Britain Against Cancer conference on the 2nd of December.

More advice on healthy living
Further information available by clicking the link on the title above.

Towards healthier, fairer and safer communities - connecting people to prevent violence: a Framework for Violence and Abuse Prevention
A ban on 'all you can drink' promotions in pubs and bars is among a range of new measures announced in December by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and Health Secretary Alan Johnson, supported by a new £4.5 million crackdown on alcohol fuelled crime and disorder.

Tackling health inequalities 2005-07 policy and data update for the 2010 national target
This is now available from the DH.

**Allied Health Professionals**

Drug Information and Prescribing Guidance to become a key part of NHS Evidence
Drug reference information in the British National Formulary will become a key element of the new NHS Evidence portal due to be launched in April 2009. As a result, responsibility for provision of this information for the NHS will transfer from the Department of Health to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), as part of the development of NHS Evidence.

More help to get young people talking
Boost for services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. The £12 million action plan to improve services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs was launched in December by the DH and the DCSF.
The future of the healthcare science workforce. Modernising scientific careers: the next steps
This consultation document sets out proposals to transform the future training and career pathways of the healthcare science workforce. These proposals have been developed as the result of detailed discussions with nearly 3,000 stakeholders. This UK initiative will be taken forward by the four countries in partnership with all major stakeholders, including patient groups, to ensure that the healthcare science workforce is fit for the future in a rapidly changing and evolving healthcare environment.

Report of the second phase of the review of NHS pathology services in England
Transforming NHS pathology services will improve quality, safety and efficiency in diagnostic tests, according to a two-year review into NHS Pathology Services published in December.

International Reports and News

Ranking Europe’s universities
The European Commission has launched a call for tenders for the design and testing of a new multi-dimensional university ranking system with global outreach. This initiative builds on earlier EU-funded work on mapping the different strengths and missions of universities and responds to an invitation by the French Presidency of the EU to explore and test the feasibility of a new ranking system for higher education and research institutions in Europe, in comparison with other world regions. The first results of the envisaged pilot project will be available in the first half of 2011. The project, will be funded by the Commission up to a sum of € 1.1 million.

Commission welcomes European Parliament vote for new tools for mobility and quality in vocational education and training - A new credit system in vocational education and training
The European Commission welcomes December’s vote at the European Parliament, which opens the way for the introduction of two new European instruments to facilitate mobility and improve quality in vocational education and training. The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) will help learners gain recognition of what they have achieved in different countries or learning environments. The European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQARF) will promote better vocational education and training by providing authorities with common tools for the management of quality. There is a need to make it easier for both learners and workers to take full advantage of the opportunities in education and training across Europe. In order for people to move from one country or region to another – or to profit from learning opportunities outside formal education systems – they need to be sure that their learning achievements are adequately appreciated, transferred, accumulated and recognised. The new system will support the possibility for learners – such as young people in initial training, apprentices or adults in continuing training – to choose their own path towards a particular qualification.

Commission launches a public consultation on the future of Europe’s workforce for health
The European Commission adopted a green paper on the EU workforce for health. This marks the beginning of a consultation period which aims to identify common responses to the many challenges facing the health workforce in Europe. In an ageing Europe, with growing healthcare costs and rising expectations from both citizens and patients, a high quality health workforce is crucial for successful health systems. The health workforce plays an important role in the EU economy accounting for about 10% of all jobs. In addition, 70% of EU healthcare budgets are allocated to salaries and employment related issues. The aim of the green paper is to launch a debate on how best to tackle the challenges facing the health workforce in Europe and to engage stakeholders in discussion. The green paper describes the ‘workforce for health’ as all people engaged in the planning and delivery of health services including health promotion. Important issues raised in the green paper include investing in training and developing robust human resource strategies to improve recruitment and retention. One such area is, for example, improving the status and participation of women in the health workforce.

Commission takes steps to promote patient safety in Europe
Each year, in the EU, between 8% and 12% of patients admitted to hospitals suffer harm from the healthcare they receive, including from healthcare associated infections. Much of that harm is preventable. Today, the Commission adopts a Communication and proposal for a Council Recommendation with specific actions that Member States can take, either individually, collectively or with the Commission, to improve the safety of patients. The most common types of adverse events in healthcare are: healthcare associated infections; incorrect or delayed diagnoses; surgical errors; and medication related errors. Most efforts to improve patient safety at Member State and EU levels have so far focussed on specific causes, for example, minimising the risk from medicinal products, medical devices or antimicrobial resistance. However, most adverse events are caused by a combination of factors which together result in harm to the patients. Key recommendations for Member States include, embedding patient safety in the education and training of healthcare workers. Member States are also encouraged to share best practice and expertise in this field.

The annual number of patients in the EU with at least one hospital acquired infection is estimated at 4.1 million patients, equivalent to one in twenty hospitalised patients[1]. Well known examples of such infections are those caused by the bacterium MRSA (meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). However, recent studies have shown that healthcare associated infections can be reduced by up to a third when certain infection prevention and control measures and structures are put in place. Therefore, the proposal includes a particular focus on healthcare associated infections. Key recommendations for Member States include: putting in place specific measures to prevent and control infections; ensuring that infection prevention and control is enhanced in hospitals; and having effective systems in place to detect and report infections.


Research
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. In a high proportion of cases, the training was not conducted to any external standard or accredited or validated. There were, therefore, concerns regarding the equivalence of competence levels developed at different trusts, with implications for patient safety.

Other Reports

- Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards annual report (covering the 2008 awards round)
- Health Poverty Index: 2008 release
- NHS staff help develop measures of quality care
- Pandemic influenza: guidance for primary care trusts and primary care professionals on the provision of healthcare in a community setting in England
- Download Change4Life support materials
- Disability equality
- EU system for monitoring the safety of medicine.
- Meeting the healthcare needs of Armed Forces personnel, their families and veterans
- The gender and access to health services study: final report
- The cancer reform strategy: maintaining momentum, building for the future: first annual report
- How well are acute trusts following the hygiene code? (PDF, 1217KB, opens in new window)
- Department of Health autumn performance report 2008
- Resource allocation: weighted capitation formula - sixth edition
- What are the Mental Capacity Act Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards? - leaflet for hospital and care home staff
- Understanding detailed patient experience data: toolkit for analysts
- NHS Next Stage Review: what it means for the Third Sector
- Market Forces Factor (MFF) information
- Pandemic influenza: guidance on preparing maternity services
- The standard NHS contracts for acute hospital, mental health, community and ambulance services and supporting guidance
- Seeing the person in the patient: The Point of Care review paper
- Simplification Plan Year Three
- Easy read version of the Secretary of State report on disability equality
- Commissioning and Behaviour change: Kicking bad habits final report - Download in full (257kb)

Consultations

- Consultation on regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008. Closing date: 30 March 2009
- The use of 084 telephone numbers in the NHS. Closing date: 31 March 2009
- GMC formal consultation on revised Tomorrow’s Doctors. Closing date: 27th of March. GMC will also be hosting a consultative conference on 2nd of March in London. Please email GMC Events to register.
- General Dental Council (Constitution) Order 2009: a paper for consultation. Closing date: 27 March 2009
- The future of the healthcare science workforce. Modernising scientific careers, the next steps: a consultation Closing date: 6 March 2009
- End of Life Care Strategy: Quality Markers Consultation. Closing date: 6 February 2009
- Chemotherapy services in England: ensuring quality and safety. Closing date: 4 February 2009
- Developing the Quality and Outcomes Framework: Proposals for a new, independent process. Closing date: 2 February 2009
- Draft guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care. Closing date: 27 January 2009

Events, Education and Training Conferences and Courses. Please click on the name of the event for further information.

- Investing in teenage health – PH. 15 Jan 2009 09:00 - 17:00
• Addressing Health Inequalities through Primary Care: RCGP. 5th February 2009
• 14th World Conference on Tobacco or Health – PH 08 Feb 2009 09:00 - 12 Feb 2009 17:00
• The Future of Public Health Information and Intelligence: needs and applications – PH 12 Feb 2009 09:00 - 17:30
• 74th Road safety congress 2009 - Road safety: What have we learnt? – PH 23 Feb 2009 09:00 - 25 Feb 2009 16:00
• The Impact of Personal Health Budgets on long-term conditions, King’s Fund 4th March 2009.
• Love is the drug - babies, parents & drink & drugs – PH 13 Mar 2009 09:00 - 17:00 Download conference details [PDF 400KB]
• RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference: 24 - 27 March 2009, Cardiff, Wales, UK.
• Shaping PCT Provider Services: The future of primary and community services. 31st March 2009.
• Fifth National Conference on Obesity and Health: 27th to 29th April 2009
• 6th European Conference on Promoting Workplace Health – PH 27 Apr 2009 09:00 - 28 Apr 2009 17:00
• 12th World Congress on Public Health – PH 27 Apr 2009 10:00 - 01 May 2009 18:00
• Medical students’ conference 2009; 3 - 4 April 2009 at Streatham Campus, Exeter. Link to website
• The Campbell collaboration colloquium 2009: Better evidence for a better world – PH 18 May 2009 09:30 - 20 May 2009 16:30 Link to conference webpage
• Faculty of Public Health annual conference – PH 16 Jun 2009 09:00 - 18 Jun 2009 17:00 Leading for Health – Evidence, policy and practice