General
NHS meets key commitments on waiting and progress on tackling infections
- 18 Weeks commitment met five months early

Older people’s quality of life improved through National scheme
Almost 100,000 older people have benefited so far from a £60 million scheme to keep them in their homes and out of hospital and residential care, according to a report published today by Care Services Minister Phil Hope.

Annual health check shows significant improvements across NHS
The Healthcare Commission (HC), England’s healthcare watchdog, has today published its Annual Health Check - the toughest and most comprehensive assessment of the NHS. The report shows significant improvements across the health service with 42 trusts rated as ‘excellent’, over twice as many as last year.

Guide to Local Involvement Networks
Local Involvement Networks (LINks) aim to give communities a stronger voice in how local health and social care services are planned and delivered. This guide for managers explains more about LINks and how they can help.

New line of defence for heart attacks Primary angioplasty is set to become the nation’s first line of treatment for heart attacks, saving hundreds of lives each year, according to the National Infarct Angioplasty Project (NIAP) final report launched today by the Department of Health.

World class commissioning competencies
The Department of Health has published ‘How to Achieve World Class Commissioning Competencies. Practical tips for NHS Commissioners’. Each autumn, a commissioning assurance process will assess whether primary care trusts.

Health Minister to lead development of NHS constitution
Health Minister Ann Keen has been confirmed as the new ministerial lead for the NHS Constitution, the Department of Health has announced. She will oversee the development of the Constitution which will empower both patients and staff by clearly setting out their rights and responsibilities in one place for the first time.

Chair of International Academic Health Science Centre Designation Panel announced
Health Minister, Ben Bradshaw, today announced the appointment of Sir Alan Langlands as Chair of the international panel that is being established to designate Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs) in England. The international panel will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Health about the partnerships that should be awarded AHSC status. The panel will offer a form of “peer review” and will identify the organisations best placed to compete internationally alongside leading AHSCs elsewhere in the world, such as Harvard, Johns Hopkins and the Karolinska Institute.

NICE to confer on taking greater account of patients’ views
The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is to invite patients and health economists to comment on the factors it uses to decide which drugs to recommend for use in the NHS.

End child protection postcode lottery says RCN
The RCN has called for the end of the postcode lottery in child protection, saying there is insufficient investment in the training of nurses and other professionals to safeguard children and young people.

Agency workers to get same rights as permanent staff
UNISON has welcomed a new European Directive which will give agency workers who have worked for a 12-week qualifying period the same rights as their permanent colleagues.

Pandemic flu: UK international preparedness strategy

Registered Professionals - Education and Training
Checks for all Doctors Moves a Step Closer
Revalidation for all doctors moved a step closer today as the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, confirmed the formation of the implementation team for England and £1 million of funding to support them.

£11 million boost for dental hospitals
An extra £11 million will be allocated to dental hospitals across England to fund new IT systems that will support the training of dental students, the Department of Health announced in October.

Bursary scheme set up to help student midwives
A minimum of ten bursaries worth £1,000 each is being offered to help finance student midwifery and medical electives.

Nursing and Midwifery Council (Constitution) Order 2008, consultation report: October 2008
NMC standards for medicines management - commencement date announced
Standards for medicines management will come into effect on 1 November 2008.

Ensuring timely handover of patient care - ambulance to hospital

GMC welcomes appointment of Council Members
The Appointments Commission has confirmed the names of the members it has appointed to the reconstituted Council, who will take office on 1 January 2009.

Non-Registered Professionals - Education and Training

National Mental Health Strategy
The LSC’s vision is that people with mental health difficulties should, by accessing learning and skills provision, be able to lead active and fulfilling lives as part of their communities and in employment, in a way that sustains mental well-being.

From Here to Sustainability - The Learning and Skills Council’s Strategy for Sustainable Development - Progress Report
In September 2005, we published our sustainable development strategy, From Here to Sustainability. It confirmed our commitment to sustainable development (SD) in four key areas:
- positioning the sector;
- buildings and estates;
- curriculum; and;
- community.
This update provides a review of progress since 2005, and also highlights some of the challenges currently facing the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the further education (FE) system in the field of sustainable development.

Government Doubles Apprenticeship Commitment
Please click on the link for more information.

ED BALLS ANNOUNCES PLANS TO GIVE STUDENTS A BIGGER VOICE IN DESIGNING AMBITIOUS 14-19 REFORMS - AND FOR NEW JCB ACADEMY CATERING JUST FOR DIPLOMA STUDENTS

New National Advancement Service will break down barriers to work
New research shows vocational qualifications are a route to higher wages. A radical new advisory service, which will combine skills and training advice with practical guidance for people on how to overcome the barriers they face in getting on in life, has been announced by Skills Secretary John Denham.

The LSC Statutory Intervention Policy
The LSC Statutory Intervention Policy has now been laid before both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and therefore the powers which commenced in April 2008 can now be used by LSC National Council upon publication of the policy.

Train to Gain celebrates two years of success.

National Skills Academies
Skills Secretary John Denham has announced four new National Skills Academies, bringing the total number in the network to 16. Denham approves new National Skills Academies for Enterprise, Power, IT and Social Care.

Self-assessment Updated Guidance for the Further Education System
The Self-assessment Guidance has now been published to the LSC website. This guidance has been produced by the LSC and the LSIS to recognise the substantial developments that have taken place in the FE system since the previous publication in 2005.

New factsheets launched to help schools embed integrated working
New information on integrated working and schools is now available online. CWDC, supported by the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), has published two new factsheets. Integrated working campaign is elemental to the One Children's Workforce. CWDC's integrated working team has launched a six-month campaign to inspire, engage and motivate the children's workforce. The campaign encourages employers and workers to sign up for monthly bulletins, conferences…
Delivering 14-19 Reform: Next Steps
This is an update to the 14-19 Implementation Plan published in 2005. It brings together all the changes, looks at progress since 2005, and sets out the next steps and timetable to 2015 to ensure that all young people have the right learning opportunities and support to continue in education or training until at least 18

Passport registration scheme is proposed to vet youth workers
Youth work could follow the play sector by introducing a passport registration scheme for workers. The passports would contain details about an individual’s employment history.

Primary Care
National Patient Choice Survey latest results
The DH has now made the above available.

Alternatives to drug therapy for ADHD
New guidelines discourage GPs from treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder with prescription drugs.

Hepatitis C: Quick reference guide for primary care

Integrated care pilot programme - prospectus for potential pilots

Over half of GP surgeries now offer extended opening hours
Over 50 percent of GP surgeries are now offering patients extended opening hours, the Department of Health announced today.

Public Health
A summary of public health indicators using electronic data from primary care
The purpose of this project is to report on trends over recent years in the completeness of recording of selected public health indicators (obesity, smoking, blood pressures and cholesterol) within primary care electronic databases.

Junk food Ads - fewer on TV but more in print media
Fewer children are being exposed to junk food advertising on TV and child-themed advertising spend has decreased by 41 per cent since the beginning of 2003, according to a new report published by the Department of Health in October.

‘Beyond smoking kills’ report
A report published by Action on Smoking and Health ‘BEYOND Smoking Kills: protecting children, reducing inequalities’, shows that the annual cost of smoking to the NHS in England has risen from £1.7 billion a year.

Free sexual health training
The Terrence Higgins Trust is offering free sexual health training to professionals working with young people across England and Wales. The training sessions, which kick-off next month at the charity’s office.

Councils lack clarity over children’s trusts
Five years after the publication of Every Child Matters, local authorities still need guidance on what children’s trusts actually do, according to the president of the Association of Directors of Children’s Services.

Cost of obesity to local health services revealed
PCTs count the cost of bad diet and exercise

Improving care for children with long term health needs
Consultation on a National Framework for Assessing Children and Young People’s Continuing Care Needs

New inspection proposals provide cause for concern
The new system for inspecting children’s and youth services is beset with flaws, the Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS) has warned.
Allied Health Professionals
Framing the contribution of allied health professionals: delivering high-quality healthcare

Self-referral pilots to musculoskeletal physiotherapy and the implications for improving access to other AHP services

Speech and language therapists are stressed and demoralised, says union
The speech and language therapy service is 'heading towards crisis', a new survey of the profession by Unite, the largest union in the country, has revealed.

International Reports and News
WHO report shows mental health services in England leading the way in Europe

Consultation on patient mobility in the EU
A consultation that will help formulate the UK’s negotiating position to ensure the right legislative framework is developed around the new Patient Mobility EU Directive was launched today.

Launch of ‘Health is Global: a UK Government strategy’
A new strategy which sets out the way that the UK Government will work with the World Health Organisation, the EU and a number of other partners to improve the health of the world’s population was launched today by the Health Secretary Alan Johnson.

Plans to tackle midwife shortage in developing countries announced
An initiative aimed at tackling a lack of midwives in developing countries has been launched by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).

Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services in England
This country report for England is part of a larger, collaborative effort between eight European countries to document and analyse access to health care services. Key points from the country reports have been collated.

Research
Government action to fund gaps in health research
A new £5 million research programme which is intended to lead to an increase in service quality and patient safety through better ways of planning and providing health services was announced today by Public Health Minister Dawn Primarolo, during a visit to Southampton.

Top researchers appointed to lead the way in health and social care research
A directory listing 100 of the most prestigious health and social care researchers has been published by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) today.

Research Excellence Framework moves to pilot phase
The bibliometric techniques that will underpin the new method for assessing research after 2008 are the subject of a pilot exercise.

Other Reports
- Statistical press notice: GP extended opening hours - monthly update
- Statistical press notice: Mortality Target Monitoring - Update to include data for 2007
- PL CNO 2008 5: Improving cleanliness and infection control
- From deep clean to keep clean
- Mental Capacity Act 2005: Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards - draft standard forms
- Putting People First - the whole story
- Taking the long term view: the Department of Health’s strategy for delivering sustainable development 2008-2011
- Evaluation of the Individual Budgets pilot programme: final report
- Changes in food and drink advertising and promotion to children: a report outlining the changes in the nature and balance of food and drink advertising and promotion to children, from January 2003 to December 2007
- About flu jabs - who should get a flu jab this autumn? - easy-read leaflet
- Occupational therapy in adult social care in England
- Mental Health Act 2007: guidance on the extension of victims’ rights under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- How to Achieve World Class Commissioning Competencies. Practical tips for NHS Commissioners
- Human Rights in Healthcare - A Framework for Local Action
- Mortality Target Monitoring: Update to include data for 2007
- The Economics of Health
- Quality and Outcomes Framework 2007/08
- Foresight Mental Capital and Wellbeing Project - final Project report
- LSC opens Qualified Provider Framework
Consultations

- Developing the Quality and Outcomes Framework: Proposals for a new, independent process  
  DH  
  2 February 2009
- Safeguarding adults: a consultation on the review of the No Secrets guidance  
  31 January 2009
- Consultation on a National Framework For Assessing Children and young people’s Continuing care  
  31 December 2008
- Consultation on public, patients’, and other interested parties’ views on additional uses of patient data  
  12 December 2008
- Consultation on the European Commission’s proposals for a Directive on the application of patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare  
  3 December 2008
- JOINT CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL–LEVEL INDICATORS TO MEASURE WELL-BEING (DCSF;  
  Dec 2008)
- Consultation on a regime for unsustainable NHS providers  
  3 December 2008
- Consultation on Legislating for Sure Start Children’s Centres  
  This consultation seeks views on proposals to give Sure Start Children’s Centres a specific statutory legal basis, as part of the forthcoming Education and Skills Bill. Deadline: 06 November 2008
- NICE consultation on the public health process and methods manuals  
  The revised NICE public health process and methods manuals consultation on the 2008 drafts. Closing date for comments is 2 January

Awards

- Nominations are invited for the third round of the HEFCE Clinical Senior Lectureship Awards
- NIHR Clinician Scientist Award Round 8

Events, Education and Training Conferences and Courses

- RCOG Christmas Lecture for Young people  
  Wednesday 10 December 2008 12.00pm “Journey to the Centre of Birth” Dr Melissa Whitten MRCOG Institute for Women’s Health, University College Hospital London