



Health E-News Bulletin

Issue 19 - December 2007

Health Improvement - Keeping you informed

Welcome to the monthly issue of the Health E-News Bulletin. We aim to keep you updated with national, regional and local news, events and other relevant information which relates to the six key areas of the Department of Health's White Paper "Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier". We will also include more broader public health information. This is being produced collaboratively by the Health Improvement Library, the Primary Care Library, St Helens Health Partnership and Halton Health Promotion Service.

ALCOHOL

Drinks taken of shelf for illicit drug link.

Cannabis flavour drinks are removed from sale by the portman group.

<http://www.portmangroup.org.uk/?pid=26&level=2&nid=304>

Downing Street Summit

The prime minister has hosted a summit on the problems of underage drinking and binge drinking.

<http://www.portmangroup.org.uk/?pid=26&level=2&nid=303>

CANCER

Government launches Cancer Reform Strategy

The government has launched a new five-year plan to improve NHS cancer services, transforming all areas of care from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and aftercare. The NHS Cancer Reform Strategy represents the biggest review of cancer services since 2000's Cancer Plan and a £370 million investment has been pledged by 2010 in order to build a world-class cancer service in England.

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/newsarchive/2007/december/18378823>

NHSD Cancer Reform Strategy link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081006

Cancer strategy stresses prevention

Plans for reform of cancer services were due to be published this morning. An emphasis on cancer prevention and providing more long-term support for people with cancer was expected to be outlined in the strategy. The government is also expected to announce plans

to increase investment in radiotherapy services, raise public awareness of risk factors and consult on banning cigarette vending machines.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=335197&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE

Government calls on professionals and the public to be vigilant to help fight child trafficking – including UK born children

The government today called on people working with children, community groups and faith groups to help stamp out child trafficking by being extra vigilant and alerting the authorities to their concerns. In new guidance to be issued jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Home Office today, local agencies will be asked to raise awareness in their communities of ways to identify a child or young person who may have been trafficked and places where these children can get help.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0233

Cash to provide positive activities for young people

A £420m fund for more places to go and things to do for young people was allocated across the country today by Children's Minister Beverley Hughes. The money will pay for projects such as skate parks, basketball courts, and music workshops in disadvantaged areas where young people are at risk of getting into trouble. It forms part of a wider £679m package for young people's services, announced earlier this year as part of the Government's 10 year youth strategy.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0231

DRUGS

Feedback on drug strategy consultation; Mentor - UK Youth Involvement Project

The government's forthcoming drug strategy needs to ensure drug prevention education is a staple part of school life, according to a survey of teenagers. Ahead of the strategy's launch early next year, the Department for Children, Schools and Families asked drug prevention charity Mentor UK to consult with young people. The charity interviewed 17 teenagers aged 13 to 16, all of whom wanted schools to play a bigger part in drug awareness and called for statutory drug education lessons. Several of those interviewed, according to a report based on the interviews, said they had not received any drug education at...

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Archive/login/772816/>

New research on DIP impact

A new piece of research, published by the Home Office, examines the way that the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) engages and directs Class A drug misusers from the point of arrest or charge to the point of treatment, and examines their offending levels before and after identification by DIP. The research has a number of findings that have implications for policy makers and others involved in the area of drugs, crime and harm reduction and in particular the use of interventions that are targeted at underlying factors driving criminal behaviour.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr02c.pdf>

HEALTH INEQUALITIES/SOCIAL INCLUSION

Bespoke services to help disabled people into work

A consultation aimed at helping more disabled people into work by improving the specialist employment support available has been launched. The consultation includes proposals to provide a more bespoke service to disabled people.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/des-consultation.asp>

Learning disabilities consultation launched

A consultation on learning disability policy has been launched by the Department of Health. Valuing People Now: from progress to transformation follows the 2001 white paper Valuing People, which set out the government's vision for people with learning disabilities based on the principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_081014

Indices of Deprivation 2007

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. This allows each area to be ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/>

End to child poverty key to success of Children's Plan

Commenting on the announcement today of the 'Children's Plan' by Ed Balls, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Kate Green, the Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group said: "The wide range of measures announced today recognises many of the unmet needs of children poverty. We welcome the focus on disadvantage and early years support, with new funding for disabled children and for pre-school childcare.

<http://www.cpag.org.uk/press/111207.htm>

Inequality at birth still too great, figures show

The government is not on track to meet its targets for reducing inequalities at birth by 2010. The infant mortality rate has reduced for the second two-year period, but not by enough to meet the target.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Healthinequalities/index.htm>

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2007

The annual report on the state of poverty and social exclusion in the United Kingdom from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the New Policy Institute. Providing a comprehensive analysis of trends and differences between groups, this report examines the progress being made on reducing poverty and social exclusion, in light of the Government's ambitious target to halve child poverty by 2010.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=936>

MENTAL HEALTH

Alzheimer's patients need more social contact, report says

People with dementia who live in care homes typically spend two minutes in every six hours socially interacting with other people, according to research from the Alzheimer's Society.

http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/downloads/home_from_home_full_report.pdf

Most mental health service users face victimisation, report claims

The extent to which people with mental health problems are the victims of harassment, bullying and physical or sexual abuse in the community is revealed today in a report by charity Mind. Another Assault found that 71 per cent of respondents had been victimised in the community at least once in the past two years and felt this to be related to their mental health history.

<http://www.mind.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/A000B238-4E7E-46E3-8735-3C5E6038EBA5/0/Anotherassault.pdf>

Workplace Stress Costing Employers Billions

Britain's bosses unaware of the true scale of the problem. Britain's bosses are unaware of the scale of mental ill health in their workplaces or the enormous financial toll they can take, according to a new Position Statement issued by the Faculty of Public Health (FPH).

http://www.fph.org.uk/advocacy/press/archive/2007/24112007_mental_health.asp

Mental Health and Work – A Position Statement

http://www.fph.org.uk/resources/AtoZ/ps_mental_health_and_work.pdf

The Mental Health Foundation welcomes the Children's Plan

Responding to the launch of the Children's Plan, Andrew McCulloch, Chief Executive of the Mental Health Foundation, today said: "We welcome the announcement of the Children's Plan and the inclusion of emotional wellbeing and mental health. This is a major opportunity to improve the mental health of our young people.

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/media/news-releases/news-releases-2007/11-december-2007/>

Find out more at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/?pid=childrens_plan

New Survey Finds Increased Inequality in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

A survey published in the December issue of the Psychiatric Bulletin reports that inequality in the provision of child and adolescent mental health (CAMH) services has increased over the last 7 years, despite government policy to the contrary.

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pressparliament/pressreleases2006/pr970.aspx>

Full research: <http://pb.rcpsych.org/cgi/reprint/31/12/454>

Effective mental healthcare for offenders: the need for a fresh approach

This paper sets out Nacro's position on offenders with mental health needs. It explores some of the current problems with the provision of mental health services for offenders at different stages of the criminal justice process and makes practical and clearly targeted recommendations for change.

<http://www.nacro.org.uk/data/resources/nacro-2007101000.pdf>

Welfare overhaul could put mental health at risk, says charity

Mental health charity Mind has voiced concerns that people with mental health problems will be forced back to work under the government's strategy to overhaul the welfare system over the next four years. Commenting on the government's report Ready for Work: full employment in our generation, Mind chief executive Paul Farmer said: 'We welcome the reforms announced by the government today as a step in the right direction.

<http://www.mind.org.uk/News+policy+and+campaigns/Press/20071213-RFW.htm>

NUTRITION/OBESITY

Obesity linked to maternal deaths, report claims

Obesity is an increasing factor in the number of women dying in pregnancy and childbirth in the UK, according to a new report from the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health. Saving Mothers' Lives looks at maternal deaths between 2002 and 2005.

<http://www.cemach.org.uk/Publications.aspx>

PDF Version: <http://www.cemach.org.uk/getattachment/ee9ca316-2a9a-4de6-9d48-ecaf5716e2b4/Why-Mothers-Die-2000-2002.aspx>

SEXUAL HEALTH

HIV stigma persists, Red Cross survey shows

One in seven young British people would not be willing to stay friends with someone diagnosed with HIV and one in five would not care for an HIV-positive member of their family, according to a survey carried out for the Red Cross. Only 32 per cent of those questioned said they were worried about contracting HIV. The survey was carried out among 14 to 25 year olds.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/news.asp?id=75526>

73,000 UK adults are HIV-positive, says Health Protection Agency

The Health Protection Agency has warned of a continuing HIV and sexually transmitted infections epidemic among gay men. An estimated 73,000 adults are now living with HIV in the UK, according to the agency's latest report on UK sexual health. This figure includes those who have been diagnosed and those who remain unaware of their HIV status.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_sti/publications/AnnualReport/2007/default.htm

£17m earmarked for HIV support

More than £17m in grants to finance commissioning and care for HIV and AIDS services has been announced. Public health minister Dawn Primarolo said the funding would enable the development of strategic planning for HIV and AIDS services.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=334837&NewsAreaID=2>

Sexual health services warning

The move to local rather than centrally commissioned sexual health services could result in a dangerous postcode lottery, the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV has warned in its annual report. The group argues there is a 'public health imperative' to ensure full coverage for sexual health and contraceptive services and has called for national performance indicators to protect them.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Sexualhealth/Sexualhealthgeneralinformation/DH_4079794

It just got worse - the sexual health of young people

Figures from the Health Protection Agency, published today, show that sexually transmitted infection rates among young people got worse again this year.

http://www.brook.org.uk/content/M7_2007_23_11.asp

TOBACCO

NHS stop-smoking clinics are working, research shows

Research has shown that NHS stop-smoking clinics work, with figures highlighting particular progress in deprived areas. The study, carried out by a research team at Bath University,

found that 8.8 per cent of smokers in poorer areas had quit at the four-week mark, compared with 7.8 per cent elsewhere. Smoking cessation clinics, offering counselling and treatment in the form of nicotine replacement therapy, were set up in the NHS in 1999.

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/news/2007/12/3/tobaccocontrol.html>

Link to the abstract:

<http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/16/6/400>

NHS employees in Cheshire & Merseyside can access the full text with an Athens password.

Four leading public health organisations are urging local planners to target smoking as a way of tackling health inequalities. As local authorities are currently consulting on new Local Area Agreements, including funding plans and performance indicators, a number of organisations are calling for such Agreements to include targets to reduce smoking

http://www.newash.org.uk/ash_be2tdd0a.htm

Stop smoking services popular among poorer people

NHS stop smoking services are benefiting people from poorer areas more than from affluent communities, a new study published in the journal Tobacco Control has revealed. Figures show that some 1.5 million smokers used NHS stop smoking services between April 2003 and March 2006, involving counselling from trained advisers as well as access to cessation treatments such as nicotine replacement therapy (NRT).

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/newsarchive/2007/december/18383519>

Link to the abstract:

<http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/16/6/400>

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Pandemic flu framework unveiled

Health secretary Alan Johnson has announced plans to buy 350 million surgical masks and 34 million respirators for NHS and social care staff to use in the event of a flu pandemic. The government also plans to double the stock of antiviral drugs to cover at least half of the population. Announcing a new countermeasures strategy and national framework, Mr Johnson said: 'We know a pandemic would have significant social and economic impact as well as a serious effect on the health of the population.'

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh_080734

Hand-washing more effective than drugs, reports BMJ

Hand-washing, gloves and masks may be more effective in preventing the spread of respiratory viruses such as avian flu and SARS than drugs, the BMJ reports today. The researchers have called for global trials into the benefit of these cheap yet potentially effective methods in order to better prepare the world for a pandemic.

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/bmj.39393.510347.BEv1>

Stroke strategy calls for quicker MRIs

The government today announced its 10-year strategy for stroke services.

The £105m package includes plans to spend £12m on a public awareness campaign. There will be faster access to emergency care, with higher-risk patients who suffer a minor stroke getting an MRI scan within 24 hours.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081062

Hep C infections increase

The number of newly diagnosed cases of hepatitis C in England reached 8,346 in 2006 - 10 per cent higher than in 2005, latest figures released by the Health Protection Agency reveal.

The agency attributed the increase to an NHS campaign to raise awareness of hepatitis C among healthcare professionals, which is leading to more people being tested.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/071214_hepC.htm

National Community Safety Plan 2008-11

In July the Government published [Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-11](#), which described a refreshed approach to tackling crime and increasing community safety. This set the overarching strategic framework for community safety from 2008/09 to 2010/11. This was followed in October by a new set of Public Service Agreements (PSAs). This National Community Safety Plan covers the same period. This strategy has been revised to ensure that it is clearly in line with the Crime Strategy and PSAs. This does not mean a radical shift in direction - there is still strong continuity between the six themes of the National Community Safety Plan 2006-09 and the community safety priorities as set out in the new set of PSAs. However, there is some shift in emphasis, for example:

- A stronger focus on more serious violence
- Greater flexibility for local partners to deliver local priorities
- A specific outcome to increase community confidence
- The need to reflect the increased threat to communities posed by violent extremists.

The National Community Safety Plan is for members of all local partnerships with a role in delivering community safety. In particular, it is for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), but will also be relevant to Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs).

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/drug-strategy/communitysafetyplan?view=Binary>

Ready for Work: full employment in our generation' is a response to the 'In work, better off' consultation that ran from July 2007 to October 2007.

Key initiatives include;

- A new Middle Step introduced for lone parents with a youngest child aged 10 or over,
- a new Activity Allowance for 16 -17 year olds in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance announced,
- Weekly or lump sum payments of In Work Credits to be piloted,
- claimants may be required to sign on weekly rather than fortnightly,
- single parents with children aged over seven will look for work from 2010
- 16 hour rule changes to encourage people to study and take part in employability focused training.

- Lone parents who can work should apply for Job Seekers Allowance

Support for the disabled and those with health conditions will be provided through and Employment and Support Allowance to replace Incapacity Benefit for new and repeat claimants. In addition from April 2008 everyone on IB in Britain will have access to Pathways to Work. And a new Personal

Capabilities Assessment will be introduced that will focus on what people 'can do'.

<http://www.cesi.org.uk/news/shownone.asp?nld=202>

Link to: "Return to Work: full employment in our generation"

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/readyforwork/readyforwork.pdf>

NEW RESOURCES

Catch It Campaign

This communications campaign aims to encourage the public to practise correct respiratory and hand hygiene when coughing and sneezing, and to change current behaviour, in order to prevent the spread of viruses particularly during the colds and flu season

The A3 and A4 versions of the posters can be ordered free from DH Publications Orderline, quote codes 284556/A4 or 284556/A3 - tel. 0870 155 5455

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080839

Age Concern publishes guides on later life

Information guides to help older people get to grips with the challenges of later life have been published by Age Concern. The free guides cover money, health and home, and managing your life.

<http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/information/>

Sexual health links

Links to organisations that provide help & advice on pregnancy, contraception, abortion, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS & relationships

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Sexualhealth/DH_4017172

Get your facts straight with a new information service

The Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) has launched a new online advice service 'Sex Facts' which is a confidential, web-based question and answer service offering information about sex and sexual health.

www.tht.org.uk/sexfacts

HEALTH EVENTS 2007 – January

26 Dec – 2 Jan	Festival of Winter Walks, Ramblers Association http://www.ramblers.org.uk/		
5 Jan	Hypoparathyroidism Awareness Day www.hypoparathyroidism.org.uk	21-30 Jan	Leprosy Week Tel: 01206 216 700 www.lepra.org.uk
21-25 Jan	Food Intolerance & Food Allergy Week Tel: 01322 619 898 www.allergyuk.org/news_future.html	28 Jan - 3 Feb	Loud Tie Campaign Tel: 0208 892 5256 www.beatingbowelcancer.org
21-25 Jan	Cancertalk Week www.cancertalk.org.uk	31 Jan	Bug Busting Day Tel: 0207 686 4321 www.nits.net/bugbusting

OTHER LOCAL E-BULLETINS.

ChaMPS Public Health Network Bulletin

ChaMPS is your public health network for Cheshire and Merseyside PCTs, NHS Acute Trusts, local authorities and wider health organisations. If you would like to know more about joining ChaMPS and receiving this bulletin contact Viv Martindale, ChaMPS Network Administrator on 0151 643 5369 or email vivienne.martindale@bwwpct.nhs.uk

Cheshire & Merseyside New Documents Bulletin

A weekly review of new documents produced collaboratively by primary care librarians across Cheshire & Merseyside. Contact St Helens Primary Care Library on 0151 676 5650 or email library_pct.pct@sthkhealth.nhs.uk if you would like to receive this bulletin.

Your Comments

The content of this bulletin highlights recent articles and/or documents appearing on a selection of websites, which we feel may be of interest to the wider health improvement area. All links are correct at the time of publishing. If you have any comments or suggestions about the Bulletin or would like to forward an item or news of an event, we would love to hear from you. Please forward this bulletin on to people who might otherwise not receive it. Contact lynda.moss@hsthpct.nhs.uk.

Bulletin prepared by:

Lynda Moss, Katherine Bell, Linda Gittens, Laura Devlin, Paula Wright

Library Contact Details:

Health Improvement Library – Tel. 01744 626667, Fax. 01744 457339

Primary Care Library – Tel. 0151 676 5650, Fax. 0151 676 5663

Halton Health Promotion Unit – Tel. 01928 593057