

Health E-News Bulletin

Issue 18 - November 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

Low prices 'tempt teen drinkers'

Low prices coupled with high pocket money mean "there has never been a better time" for teenagers to buy lots of cheap drink, a charity has warned. Alcohol Concern said the price of alcohol had barely risen in 10 years but children's weekly allowances had increased 600% since 1987. It called for increased taxes on alcohol to deter young drinkers. But drinks industry body the Portman Group said education was a better way to prevent under-18s abusing alcohol.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7081669.stm>

"Young People, purchasing power and alcohol" Report:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/07_11_2007twicetheprice.pdf

National Code Awareness Campaign Launched

A new campaign to raise awareness on the strict controls on the naming packaging and promoting of alcoholic drinks.

<http://www.portmangroup.org.uk/?pid=26&level=2&nid=301>

Local Authority Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE)

New alcohol profiles for each Local Authority in England have been published online today by the North West Public Health Observatory, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University. The profiles, first produced last year, have been updated to include 22 different indicators and contain for the first time measures for every Local Authority in England of the number of people drinking above recognised sensible levels, in quantities that are hazardous or harmful to their health.

<http://www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape>

Government should tackle excessive drinking

The government should implement tougher measures to tackle excessive drinking, and alcohol producers, sellers and advertisers should take more responsibility for preventing harm to health, says a report on public health ethics published by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics.

http://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/fileLibrary/pdf/Public_health_ethical_issues.pdf

The Alcohol Health Alliance UK has called for more to be done to prevent the rise in alcohol-related disease.

The 24-organisation coalition, launched today, includes the Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Alcohol Concern and the British Liver Trust.

http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/news/news.asp?PR_id=377

CANCER

Vaccine could cut cases of cervical cancer

A new vaccine could reduce cases of cervical cancer and genital warts if introduced into the national immunisation programme, the Health Protection Agency has said. Up to 70 per cent of cases of cervical cancer and 95 per cent of cases of genital warts in men and women could be prevented by introducing the human papilloma virus vaccination, the agency says.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/070919_hpv_cost.htm

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE

£30m boost for family nurse partnership programme

Vulnerable babies, young children and their families will continue to benefit from improved life chances because of a £30m expansion of an initiative to help equip young people with parenting skills, health minister Ann Keen has announced. Ms Keen said: 'Children at risk of social exclusion in later life need intensive, preventive, early intervention to improve their life chances.' She added: 'The family nurse partnership programme is showing promising progress already, so we will be investing a further £30m over three years from next April to expand it.'

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=327164&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

International child health code published

The World Health Organisation has published the first internationally agreed code for assessing the health of children and youth in the context of stages of development and the environment. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health for Children and Youth, aims to confirm the importance of precise descriptions of children's health status.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007/pr59/en/index.html>

DRUGS

DrugScope's response to the Government consultation on the national drug strategy

This response was produced by DrugScope with the support and input of many organisations and individuals who have worked with us throughout our 2007 policy review - members of our expert groups, our trustees and contributors, the people who came to our conference and the many workers, managers, commissioners, service users and family members who came along to our consultation events.

<http://www.drugscope.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2E6EF551-B307-4991-8670-6366577C8125/0/drugscoperesponse.pdf>

Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2006/07 British Crime Survey

This statistical bulletin considers the extent of illicit drug use among 16-59 year olds in England and Wales in 2006/-7 and trends in drug use since 1998 (the beginning of the Government's Drug Strategy) based on data from the British Crime Survey (BCS).

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1807.pdf>

'Nothing about us, without us', English user representatives report 2007

The NTA sponsored eleven service user representatives from across England to attend the International Harm Reduction Association's (IHRA) 18th International Conference in Warsaw, Poland in May 2007. The service user group were asked to collect fresh evidence-based work on reducing drug-related harm and communicating these messages to the wider service user community in England on their return. This report contains recommendations from the group based on their impressions of the conference.

http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/nta_nothing_about_us_without_us_irha2007.pdf

Homelessness increases risk of infection for injecting drug users

A new report from the Health Protection Agency shows that around three-quarters of injecting drug users (IDUs) have been homeless at some point. In addition, those who have been homeless have higher levels of injecting risk and associated infections, primarily through the sharing of needles and low standards of hygiene.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/071029_idu.htm

MENTAL HEALTH

We Need to Talk campaign

The We Need to Talk campaign consists of 5 leading mental health organisations calling for an increased investment in and wider access to psychological therapies on the NHS. As part of the campaign, we have:

- produced the We Need to Talk report
- submitted a petition to the Department of Health showing your support for the campaign
- requested information about your experiences about access to psychological therapy on the NHS

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/we-need-to-talk/>

Early Preventive Intervention for Disruptive Boys Can Improve Education and Reduce Later Criminality

Early preventive intervention for boys at high risk of antisocial behaviour can improve their educational chances and reduce later criminality, a new study has found. Many intervention programmes have tried to reduce disruptive behaviour problems during early childhood to prevent school drop-out, violence and criminality during adolescence and adulthood. The aim of this Canadian study, published in the November 2007 issue of the British Journal of Psychiatry, was to assess the long-term impact and clinical significance of 2-year 'multi-component' preventive intervention on criminal behaviour and academic achievement.

<http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pressparliament/pressreleases2006/pr964.aspx>

Full research at:

<http://bjp.rcpsych.org/cgi/reprint/191/5/415>

NUTRITION/OBESITY

Junk food ad limits 'not enough'

Restrictions on television junk food adverts do not properly protect children, say researchers. A report by Which? magazine concludes children are still exposed to adverts promoting foods with high sugar, salt and fat content. It found 12 of the 20 programmes most popular with under-10s were not covered by the current restrictions. However, the advertising industry rejected a call for a total ban before 9pm as too simplistic.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7090206.stm>

Agency publishes diet advice for over 50s

The Food Standards Agency has published a leaflet, entitled 'The Good Life' that provides practical advice to help people aged over 50 improve their diets and overcome any misgivings they may have about what is meant by healthy eating.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2007/oct/over50s>

FSA Scotland launches the 'What's Cooking?' Guide

The Food Standards Agency Scotland has launched a 'What's Cooking?' guide to help people set-up and run school and community food clubs.

The guide aims to help participants plan and prepare balanced meals, read and understand food labels, be creative in cooking food, budget for food and learn basic food hygiene skills.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2007/oct/whatscooking>

SEXUAL HEALTH

Gay Africans with HIV face double stigma

Gay and bisexual African men living with HIV in London face a dual stigma, with many not disclosing either status to their family and friends, according to a study by the Centre for the Study of Sexual Health and HIV at Homerton University Hospital foundation trust.

http://www.homerton.nhs.uk/uploaded_files/R_D/african_men_hiv_report.pdf

FPA responds to research in sexual behaviour abroad in the journal "Sexually Transmitted Infections"

In response to findings about sexual behaviour abroad from the National Survey of Sexual and Lifestyle (NATSAL). Sex partner acquisition while overseas: Results from a British national probability survey

<http://www.fpa.org.uk/news/press/current/detail.cfm?contentid=823>

Sexually Transmitted Infections, Published online November 2007 before publication.

Abstract:

<http://sti.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/sti.2007.026377v1?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=1&andorexacttitle=and&andorexacttitleabs=and&fulltext=sexual+behaviour+abroad&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&resource=HWCIT,HWELTR>

FPA opens Pamela Sheridan Award for excellence in sex and relationship education

The Pamela Sheridan award is an annual prize that is awarded to primary, secondary and special needs school and youth and community projects for outstanding work in sex and relationships education (SRE)

<http://www.fpa.org.uk/news/press/current/detail.cfm?contentid=824>

Knowledge of Chlamydia has increased over the last 6 years

Contraception and sexual health news release

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/csh1007.pdf>

National Chlamydia Screening Programme aims to target more men with new strategy

Men's strategy to be launched at annual conference. The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) is to launch a new strategy aimed at increasing the number of men screened for the sexually transmitted infection.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/news/articles/press_releases/2007/071109_ncsp_target_men.htm

BBC launch a new sexual health website for 16-25 year olds

See Section on New Resources

TOBACCO

Smoking ban has widespread approval

Almost 80 per cent of adults believe the smoking ban will improve public health. Those surveyed said hair and clothes not smelling of smoke, a more pleasant atmosphere in pubs, bars and restaurants and cleaner air were the main benefits of the ban. Research carried out for the Department of Health after the first three months of the ban showed that three quarters of adults support the ban.

<http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/>

Harm reduction in nicotine addiction - helping people who can't quit

Compiled by leading experts in the field, this report makes the case for harm reduction strategies to protect smokers. It demonstrates that smokers smoke predominantly for nicotine, that nicotine itself is not especially hazardous, and that if nicotine could be provided in a form that is acceptable and effective as a cigarette substitute, millions of lives could be saved. Harm reduction is a fundamental component of many aspects of medicine and indeed everyday life, yet for some reason effective harm reduction principles have not been applied to tobacco smoking. This report makes the case for radical reform to the way that nicotine products are regulated and used in society. The ideas presented are controversial, and challenge many current and entrenched views in medicine and public health.

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/contents/e226ee0c-cccf-4dba-b62f-86f046371dfb.pdf>

NHS Stop Smoking Services: service monitoring guidance, October 2007/08

This updated guidance is intended for everyone involved in managing, commissioning or delivering NHS stop smoking services. It has been developed by means of a collaboration with representatives from SHAs, PCTs, the Information Centre and academics from the field of smoking cessation.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=151882&Rendition=Web

Statistical Press Notice: Smokefree Compliance Data

The following statistics were released by the Department of Health:

- Smokefree Legislation Compliance Data, September 2007

<http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/thefacts/national-compliance-data.html>

Smokefree England - The first three months

Public pleased with better atmosphere, cleaner air and no smoky clothes

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=327697&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

2007/054 NICE public health guidance aims to help people change their behaviour so that they can enjoy healthier lives

NICE's public health guidance, published today, aims to help health professionals bring about changes in people's behaviour that will enable them to enjoy healthier lives.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=461396>

Keep warm campaign launched

A map published by the Department of Health showing the country's cold spots is hoped to trigger people into preparing for winter. The cold homes map of England marks the launch of the Department of Health Keep Warm Keep Well campaign, which advises those most vulnerable to winter cold – older people, those on low incomes and disabled people – on how to stay warm and healthy during the colder months. Financial support for heating is available through the Warm Front scheme and winter fuel payments.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=325686&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

EVENTS

Cancer Research UK invites all women to come together for Race for Life 2008

If you're looking for a day filled with emotion, determination and inspiration, then why not sign up for Cancer Research UK's Race for Life 2008. Opening for entries on 21st January, Cancer Research UK is inviting hundreds of thousands of women to walk, jog or run 5k from 3rd May to end of July and raise millions of pounds for vital research into cancer.

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/pressreleases/2007/october/379606>

NEW RESOURCES

New resource to support patient and public involvement in health care

A comprehensive collection of current knowledge and evidence about patient and public involvement in health care is now available in the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Specialist Library run by the King's Fund for the National Library for Health.

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/ppi/>

BBC launch a new sexual health website for 16-25 year olds

G.I. Jonny has been developed for people aged 16 and over. The aim is to empower teenagers and young people with the facts about HIV and encourage them to protect each other from infection by sharing this information.

www.gijonny.co.uk

NLH Public Health Specialist Library goes live

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/publichealth/>

NHS Choices unveils revamped website

The NHS Choices website has been revamped following consultation with patients and health professionals. New features include a redesigned homepage, a section where academics can discuss health stories in the headlines, and MySpace-style pages for GPs. A newsletter has been written outlining the changes in more detail and advising users on how to get more out of the site.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/homepage.aspx>

'Working with Parents' Newsletter

The primary focus is on parenting education and support for drug and alcohol using parents, but as many readers are involved in universal parenting education and drug awareness, articles or announcements about these are included.

<http://www.drugscope.org.uk/ourwork/educationandprevention/newsletters.htm>

Food Standard Agency publishes diet advice for over 50s
See Section on Nutrition/Obesity

HEALTH EVENTS 2007 – December

Dec 1	World AIDS Day Ph: 020 7814 6767 Fax: 020 7216 0111 Email: info@nat.org.uk www.worldAIDSday.org
Dec 3	International Day of Disabled Persons www.un.org
Dec 10	International Human Rights Day www.un.org

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@hsthpcct.nhs.uk.

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