

Brunswicks' Healthcare Review

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refreshingly modern, reassuringly traditional

This week's article—Giving older people the information they need

A brief article by the publishers of 'Mature Times' a monthly publication aimed at the over 50s.

If you would like a supply of the publication for residents of your care home, contact the publishers whose details appear at the end of the article... it may well prove popular with relatives and other visitors.

To read the article [click here](#)

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Editorial

Flu planning tips

Care providers of all kinds have been busy in the past few weeks stepping up their preparation for a flu pandemic – brought home forcefully a few weeks ago with hundreds of thousands of people falling victim, albeit to a mild version.

However, there is an additional tool available to one and all in the form of a 'flu pandemic game' now available from the DH website.

- Play the flu pandemic game. It is downloadable free from the Department of Health website
- Identify local businesses that are crucial to running your service and ask if they are prepared for a pandemic

It is now [downloadable from the Department of Health's websites in two versions, adapted for GP surgeries and for other NHS organisations.](#)

Is the NHS any good?

The Westminster politicians have been drawn into a premature skirmish over the quality and standards of the NHS - as those in the USA who fear the reforms promoted by the Obama leadership resist by first lobbing metaphorical grenades at the state system in the UK. If there is one thing Americans dislike it is the thought that the government is interfering with their individual self determination.

Sadly, there have been plenty from the UK who have joined in the free-for-all.

On a different note...

Happy birthday

His Honour Judge David Pearl, author of some 26 legal and other text books, past director of studies of the Judicial Studies Board – the body responsible for training judges - and a Principal Judge in the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber which replaced the Care Standards Tribunal of which he was President, was 65 last week (11.08.09); the team at Brunswicks wishes Judge Pearl a belated 'Happy Birthday'.



Abuse/Dignity

1. Baby P: born into a nightmare of abuse, violence and despair, he never stood a chance

16 August 2009 - The Observer

The tangled family history of Baby Peter should be a warning of what generations of neglect and savage abuse can visit on children. Andrew Anthony spent months investigating the case – speaking to the boy's grandmother, social workers and police to find out how we can protect children from damaged families in an atomised society

The semi-detached house in which Baby Peter Connelly spent the last hours of his brief life is bland and unremarkable. A slightly shabby prewar slice of suburbia, with bay windows and a side door, it does not stand out in a nondescript street a few minutes from the Tottenham Hotspur football ground. You would walk past without taking a second look. Which is exactly what the locals did.

2. What made her so wicked?

15 August 2009 Daily Mail

Two page article following the public revelation of Baby Peter's mother and other tormentors.

3. Why Baby P names were kept secret

11 August 2009 – BBC News

Article about Baby Peter's parents, Tracey Connelly and Steven Barker.

[For full report click here](#)

4. A protected life for Baby P pair?

11 August 2009 – BBC News

An MP has suggested that taxpayers could face the "abhorrent" prospect of paying to protect Baby Peter's mother from vigilantes when she is released

from prison.

The risk of attacks means Tracey Connelly and her partner Steven Barker may need new identities, paid for accommodation and round-the-clock protection.

[For full report click here](#)

5. Baby Peter: Trio who caused his death

11 August 2009 – BBC News

Article giving particulars of the three people involved in Baby Peter's death.

[For full report click here](#)

6. Self-obsessed mother, her sadistic lover and a lodger created the 'perfect storm'

11 August 2009 The Times

Two pages on the mother of Baby Peter and the naming of the three jailed for his death.

7. Woman tells of abuse at Jersey home

11 August 2009 The times

At the trial of Gordon Wateridge, 78, a 53 yr old woman told of how he allegedly forced his hands into a child's underwear and groped girls' breasts at Haut de la Garenne, Jersey. Wateridge denies 19 counts of indecent assault.

8. Timeline: Key events in baby case

10 August 2009 – BBC News

An account of the developments surrounding the case of 17-month-old boy Baby Peter who died in Haringey, north London, in August 2007 after suffering a series of injuries:

[For full report click here](#)

Business News

9. Villafont secures £3.8m for first care home 14 August 2009

Property developer Villafont has secured over £3m of funding for its first venture into care homes.

Villafont, previously focused on the residential property sector, teamed up with Welsh care homes operator Southern Care Group, in a JV called New Care Projects LLP, for the 63-bed facility in Urmston Greater Manchester.

The £3.85m deal has been funded by the Royal Bank of Scotland's healthcare team based in Manchester.

Work on the Stretford Road site is due to start end August 09 and is expected to take 12 months.

Once open the home will create 75 new jobs.

Villafont is planning to build a further two new homes in the Trafford area.

Abergele-based Southern Care Group was formed by its managing director Dylan Southern in 2001, and operates 14 homes across North Wales and the North of England.

Chris McGoff, managing director of Villafont, said: "There is a strong demand for specialist residential care across Greater Manchester and our aim is to provide residents with a high standard of care in a homely environment, where they can relax in smaller, familiar surroundings whilst receiving the necessary support.

"This is a purpose built project and each room will have excellent facilities."

Chris Calow and Chris Green from the RBS Healthcare team in Manchester provided funding.

Chris Calow, relationship manager at RBS, commented: "*Villafont and Southern Care Group have combined their expertise to create a facility that will greatly improve the standard of care available in Urmston when it opens next year.*"

10. Southern Cross Healthcare Group PLC 13 August 2009

Director/PDMR Shareholding

The Company announced it received notice that Jamie Buchan purchased 36,911 shares in the Company on 13 August 2009 at a price of 134.31p per share. Mr Buchan now has a total of 135,579 in the company.

11. BUPA/Business big shot 13 August 2009 The Times

The medical insurance group saw a drop of 3% in customer numbers.

It has raised prices to offset the losses. Feature on Ray King CEO of Bupa.

12. Deal is perfect match for healthcare services provider 11th August 2009 - TheBusinessDesk.com

The sale of health Huddersfield-based care services provider CM Community Services to rival SevaCare has been completed for an undisclosed sum.

CM Community Services is a regional provider of domiciliary, community healthcare and specialist services offering services within a 15-mile radius of Batley.

The business was incorporated in 2006 and up to the sale employed 78 staff and generated pre-tax profits of £140,000 on a turnover of £1.1m.

13. Meridian on track for 10th year of growth 11th August 2009 - TheBusinessDesk.com

Chris Barry reports care homes operator Meridian Healthcare which has 1,338 beds and has 1,200 staff has posted a record turnover and profits for a ninth year in a row, and expects continued growth this year.

Alan Firth, chairman, who runs the Hyde-based business with his wife Susan, Meridian's managing director, says the company's growth prospects are being hampered by the banking crisis.

"We are a successful, well-run business and there are a lot of opportunities out there, but the cost of borrowing is just not realistic. We are ambitious and keen to move forward so it is very frustrating to be in this position.

"We should do a 10th year of growth - we opened new facilities in Knowsley last year and have opened Leeds this year, and both are now full. The question is though is whether the banking situation will sort itself out so we can continue to grow the business beyond April 2010.

"A couple of years ago we were seen as being too risk averse because we didn't want to borrow more than we needed, and now it's difficult to even use our own cash because if we want to borrow more to do anything, the bank wants to re-price everything."

Ed. Banks with an interest in the sector and with a spare pound or two of sterling clinking in their pockets could do worse than contact Mr Firth!

14. Southern Cross's recovery is far too slow 11 August 2009 - The Independent , Investment column

Our view: Avoid

Share price: 140.25p (-9.5p)

Alistair Dawber looks at Southern Cross Healthcare which is now a better company than the 'basket case' it became last year, when the management team left after a calamitous decision to issue a profits warning just weeks after telling the market that all was well. That was June 09, and the shares slumped to 130p going even lower in the year. Investors will have realised that the group's share price has not recovered much since then. Yesterday's numbers for the 14 weeks to 5 July hardly helped, with Ebtida down £2m to £22.4m. The shares fell accordingly, by 6.3 per cent.

One of the problems facing Southern Cross, and indeed other care home operators, is that occupancy rates are falling. Sadly for Southern Cross, it is falling faster at the company's homes than elsewhere, while the finance director Richard Midmer concedes that the group is also behind the rest of the market in terms of quality.

Analysts at Investec say that falling occupancy is structural, and that it will not return to historic levels. With Southern Cross already behind, we would look at alternative names in the sector and, even though the group has reduced its debts and made other improvements, we would not splash out on the shares. Avoid.

15. Southern Cross Healthcare Group PLC 10 August 2009 - Q3 2009 Interim Management Statement

Highlights for the 14 week period ended 05.07.09:

- Number of available beds at period end 37,820 (2008: 37,270)
- Average mature occupancy during the period 87.5% (2008: 89.8%)
- Mature occupancy at period end 88.0% (2008: 90.3%)
- Average weekly fee up 4.9% to £556 (2008: £530)
- Revenue increased by 3.7% to £254.8m (2008: £245.6m)
- Adjusted EBITDA down to £22.2m (2008: £24.4m), with the impact of lower occupancy offset by cost savings
- Service quality improving ahead of plan, with 73% of homes in the two highest CQC categories at end Q3 compared with 71% at end Q2
- Net debt reduced by £3.0m to £71.4m

EBITDA represents earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation, loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment and subsidiary undertakings. Adjusted EBITDA represents EBITDA after adding back charges for future minimum rental increases.

Occupancy and Quality Initiatives

During Q3, the average occupancy of the mature portfolio was 87.5% (2008: 89.8%). Occupancy for the mature portfolio increased to 88.0% at the period end from 87.8% at the start of Q3. While the Group is benefiting from the expected seasonal increases in occupancy, management continues to take action to address the overall shortfall. Since the end of the

period, mature occupancy has continued to increase and now stands at 88.4%, as at 7 August.

Financial Overview

In Q3, revenues were £254.8m (2008: £245.6m) and Adjusted EBITDA was £22.2m (2008: £24.4m). The Q3 home operating margin was 31.8%, 0.2% lower than during the same period in the prior year. This reflects a 0.7% increase in staff costs as a proportion of revenue (2009: 56.8% of revenue versus 2008: 56.1%) due to lower occupancy, partially offset by a reduction in home running costs (2009: 11.5% of revenue versus 2008: 11.9%).

During Q3, average weekly fee rates were 4.9% higher than during the same period last year at £556 per week (2008: £530 per week). Fee negotiations have now been completed with 95% of Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts and this has led to an average fee increase of 2.8% per week with effect from April 2009.

Cash flow from operations in Q3 was £18.5m (2008: £16.9m) representing a cash conversion of Adjusted EBITDA of 83.3% (2008: 69.3%). The reduction in net debt, which on 7 August was £61.8m, has allowed the advanced repayment of 50% (£6.8m) of the Syndicate Property Bridging facility, which has reduced the total facilities available to the Group to £117.0m. The Group continues to comply with all financial covenants associated with its banking facilities.

Revenue for the year to date increased by 5.7% to £715.6m (2008: £676.8m). This reflects an increase of 4.6% in the average weekly fee to £543 (2008: £519) and the 3.1% increase in average available beds during the year to date (2009: 37,564 versus 2008: 36,425). However, this was partially offset

by the 2.1% reduction in year to date mature occupancy. As a result, Adjusted EBITDA for the year to date fell £4.5m to £50.7m (2008: £55.2m).

Green Paper

The Group notes the Government's recent Green Paper on the future of adult social care and welcomes the encouragement of a broad debate on this crucial issue. As the UK's leading care home operator by number of beds, Southern Cross will seek to play an active role in shaping this debate during the consultation period.

Ed. The interim statement from Southern Cross has been edited; to read the full report, go to the company's website.

Care Homes

16. NHS standard contract for community services

12 August 2009 - ECCA

DH has announced that for the year 2010/11 it will:

- develop for introduction during 2010/11 a standard contract for NHS commissioners to use specifically in relation to care homes. The DH says it has become clear that for certain services and sectors (principally care homes and prison health) the needs and/or contractual relationships are sufficiently different to warrant a separate standard contract, tailored to the specific needs of commissioners and the type(s) of providers. This should mean that the contract and associated guidance is shorter, targeted and more relevant to the types of services ECCA members provide

- It will develop much more accessible guidance on the use of the contract, and provide a plain English version of the main sections.

17. Southbank Care Home in Bowdon hosts open day to mark its expansion

15 August 2009 - Messenger Group

Southbank Care Home, Bowdon in south Manchester, operated by Craegmoor Healthcare, marked the expansion of its services and accommodation with an open day.

The open day, featured barbecue, raffle with signed Altrincham FC shirts, music from DJ Paul Doran, and a range of stalls, was presided over by the deputy mayor of Trafford, Ken Weston.

The expansion of the home will see all 58 individuals move into more spacious bedrooms and living accommodation.

Case Reports

Law Reports

Nothing to report

Disciplinary cases

Nothing to report

Cases in the news

18. Two carers charged with neglect after major police probe

13 August 2009 St Helens Star

David Hill, 47, and Kathleen Roberts, 57, are charged neglect of service users at Victoria Care

Home, Rainford, under s44 Mental Capacity Act. The home is operated by Four Seasons Healthcare. The pair will appear before St Helens Magistrates Court later this month.

19. Baby P's father set to sue 'negligent' council

12 August 2009 The Times

Haringey in the dark after press claims of £200,000 lawsuit

12 August 2009 – Community Care

The father says he told Haringey social workers five months before Peter was killed that he was in danger

[For CC report click here](#)

Children

20. We approach others' children at our peril

16 August 2009 The Sunday Times

Jenni Russel reflects that during her childhood, all the people who came to her 'rescue' were men and how that wont happen now.

21. Private law referrals rise by 30% in year to June

12 August 2009 – Community Care

Cafcass has seen a huge rise in referrals of private family law cases, such as contact and residence arrangements when parents separate. The increase comes when it is already dealing with a surge in care applications following the baby Peter case.

[For full report click here](#)

22. Swine flu drugs for children 'too risky'

11 August 2009 The times

Item about the risks of antiviral drugs outweighing benefits for children.

23. Implementation of provisions in Children and Young Persons Act 2008

1 August 2009 – CIW

Provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2008 which relate to Residence and Special Guardianship Orders will be implemented from 1 September 2009.

[For full report click here](#)

Conferences & Courses

To follow next week

Consultations

24. Shaping the Future of Care Together

The Green Paper on the Reform of Adult Care and Support in England: join the debate

On 14.07.09 the Government launched the Green Paper 'Shaping the Future of Care Together' which contains ideas on ways the care and support system in England can be improved, both in the way it is delivered and funded. The future system should be fairer, simple to understand and more affordable for everyone.

There will now be a period of public consultation until the 13th November. During this time the Government will be running a series of local events across the country at which the issues raised in the Green Paper will be discussed in detail.

Once the consultation has finished, the Government will publish the results and will set up a national leadership group, bringing together the leading experts and organisations across care and support to drive forward changes and to resolve issues where clear

differences remain.

The Government will publish a White Paper on care and support in 2010, with detailed proposals for implementing a new National Care Service offering care and support for everyone.

Join the big care debate

Everyone with an interest in the future of care and support is invited to join Ministers, Department of Health officials and other key stakeholders at the event held closest to you to debate the issues and air your views on the proposals outlined in the Green Paper.

Below is the list of all the regional events.

South East

Tonbridge, Friday 24 July 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Tonbridge, Saturday 25 July 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

West Midlands

Stafford, Thursday 30 July 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Stafford, Thursday 30 July 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

Birmingham, Friday 31 July 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Birmingham, Saturday 1 August 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

North East

Darlington, Thursday 3 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Darlington, Thursday 3 September 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

Newcastle upon Tyne, Friday 4 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Newcastle upon Tyne, Saturday 5 September 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

East Midlands

Lincoln, Thursday 10 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Lincoln, Thursday 10 September 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

Leicester, Friday 11 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Leicester, Saturday 12 September 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

North West

Carlisle, Thursday 17 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Carlisle, Thursday 17 September 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

Manchester, Friday 18 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Manchester, Saturday 19 September 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

East of England

Bedford, Thursday 24 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Bedford, Thursday 24 September 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

Norwich, Friday 25 September 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Norwich, Saturday 26 September 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

Yorkshire & The Humber

Hull, Thursday 1 October 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Hull, Thursday 1 October 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

Leeds, Friday 2 October 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Leeds, Saturday 3 October 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

South West

Exeter, Thursday 8 October 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Exeter, Thursday 8 October 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

Bournemouth, Friday 9 October 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

Bournemouth, Saturday 10 October 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

London

London, Thursday 15 October 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

London, Thursday 15 October 2009: 17.00 - 20.30

London, Friday 16 October 2009: 13.00 - 16.30

London, Saturday 17 October 2009: 09.30 - 13.00

Follow the link below to register your place at one of the events:

www.coievents.co.uk/careandsupport .

Alternatively, telephone 020 7261 8400 or email careandsupport@coi.gsi.gov.uk .

If you are unable to attend one of the events, you are invited to contribute your thoughts and views on the Green Paper online at

www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk

25. HPC launch consultation on the recommendations for the statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors

14 July 2009 - Health Professions Council

The Health Professions Council launched a three month consultation on the statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors. It incorporates recommendations made by the Psychotherapists and Counsellors Professional Liaison Group and the HPC Council.

The consultation features recommendations on a range of issues such as the criteria for use in identifying the voluntary registers which should transfer, grandparenting period for psychotherapists and counsellors, standards of proficiency and threshold level of qualification for entry to the HPC Register. It also states that the Register should be structured to differentiate between psychotherapists and counsellors and that the titles 'psychotherapist' and 'counsellor' should be protected.

26. Health Professions Council launches consultation on the statutory regulation of dance movement therapists

15 July 2009

The HPC launched a three month consultation on the statutory regulation of dance movement therapists and is seeking the views of stakeholders on the protected titles, the transfer of voluntary registers, the standards of proficiency and the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register.

In March 2004 the Council considered an application from the Association of Dance Movement Therapists (now the Association of Dance Movement Psychotherapists) for statutory regulation. The HPC Council recommended that dance movement therapists

should be regulated. However, any final decision about whether a profession should be regulated is one taken by Government.

27. Three-digit number (3DN) to access nonemergency health care : Ofcom consultation

Closing Date: 20 August 2009

After a major review of NHS services in 2007/8, the NHS Next Stage Review Final Report, High Quality Care For All, committed the DH to explore the benefits of introducing a new, memorable, three-digit telephone number to help people find the right local service to meet their non-emergency but urgent, unplanned care needs.

[For full report click here](#)

28. CQC seeks feedback on guidance for registration of all health and adult social care services

Closing Date: 24 August 2009 CQC

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) today (Monday 1st June) launched a consultation on guidance outlining what health and adult social care services will need to do to meet new legally enforceable **registration standards**.

From April 2010, the regulator will begin to put in place the first ever registration system covering all health and adult social care services in England, whether they are public or independent.

Consultation on the Guidance for Registration closes on 24 August. For all the consultation documents, visit the CQC website at www.cqc.org.uk or call the customer service centre on 03000 61 61 61.

29. (DH) Autism consultation launches

Closing Date 15 September

Minister receives first responses to Autism consultation in person.

Five people with Autism Spectrum Conditions will meet with Care Services Minister Phil Hope to respond in person to a consultation on Autism which launches today.

The meeting will appear online on the National Autistic Society website, You Tube and the new Department of Health consultation webpage . The issues raised will be formally submitted as the first responses to the consultation, which asks for opinions on what should be in the Government's National Autism Strategy to be published later this year.

The consultation will run for 20 weeks and seeks views from people with autism, their families, their carers and those involved in delivering services, to make sure that the final strategy makes a real difference on the ground.

To obtain a copy of the consultation call 0300 123 1002, e-mail dh@prolog.uk.com, fax: 01623 724 524, minicom: 0300 123 1003 (8am to 6pm, Mon-Fri) or logging on to <http://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk>. Please quote 295339 / A consultation on a future strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions.

You can also write to:
DH Publications Orderline
PO Box 777
London SE1 6XH
autism@dh.gsi.gov.uk

30. Autism Strategy Consultation

There are some fantastic services out there for people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions. We need to

ensure that excellent services are the rule and not the exception. Many people with autism are undiagnosed, misunderstood and looking for help. There must be good services available everywhere and for everyone.

Of course, it is important to debate issues as important as this in Parliament, but the real answers are going to come from people with autism, their families and their carers. That is why the Government has launched a consultation for the first national strategy for adults in England with autism spectrum conditions. The consultation will collect views, experiences and examples to inform this nationwide blue print which will ensure that every child and adult with autism, as well as the people around them, get the support they deserve.

The consultation will run until 15th September.

To find out more and to respond to the consultation, go to:

<http://adultautismstrategy.dialoguebydesign.net>, email autism@dh.gsi.gov.uk

or call: **020 7861 2877** for more information. The Government are also encouraging local organisations to organise their own events: a toolkit will soon be available to be downloaded from the Department of Health website. For more information please email: adultautismstrategy@opinionleader.co.uk

31. Inspection of Children's Centres: Consultation

Closing Date: 18 September 2009

Consultation seeking views on proposals for inspecting children's centres.

[For full report click here](#)

32. Consultation on the De-authorisation of NHS Foundation Trusts

Closing Date: 18 September 2009

Consultation seeking views on proposed changes that will enable the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts and the government to de-authorise failing foundation trusts and remove foundation status.

[For full consultation click here](#)

33. Health Protection Regulations: A consultation

Closing Date: 30 September 2009

A consultation wanting views on draft health protection regulations to be made under the amended Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 to continue the process of modernising health protection legislation in England.

[For full report click here](#)

34. Essence of Care: A consultation on the reviewed original benchmarks

Closing Date: 2 October 2009

A consultation looking for views on all of the material belonging to essence of care, a versatile and structured system of benchmarks widely used in various health settings. This will help ensure the system continues to reflect best practice.

[For full consultation click here](#)

35. Review of the Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme: Consultation

Closing Date: 5 October 2009

A consultation seeking the views of the third sector and any other interested parties on the future approach and shape of the children, young people and families grant programme.

[For full report go to http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/)

index.cfm?

action=

consultationDetails&consultationId=1612&external=no&menu=1

36. Essence of care: a consultation on a new benchmark on pain

Closing Date: 12 October 2009

Essence of Care is a system of benchmarks widely used in various health settings. Essence of Care benchmarks are developed by stakeholders from focus groups that will use them. A focus group is made up of carers, patients and professionals have met to review the benchmarks and this has led to a proposed new benchmark for pain management.

[For full consultation click here](#)

37. New Horizons: Towards a shared vision for mental health – Consultation

Closing Date: 15 October 2009

A consultation wanting views on the Government's plans to target the root causes of mental illness and support the local development of higher quality, more personalised services.

[For full consultation click here](#)

38. Serious Case Reviews: Revised chapter 8 of working together to safeguard children - Consultation

Closing Date: 23 October 2009

Consultation seeks views on revised guidance that aims to improve the quality, consistency and impact of serious case reviews and is directed in particular at local safeguarding children boards that by law undertake a serious case review whenever a child dies or is

seriously injured and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor.

[For full consultation click here](#)

39. Proposals to Complete the Transposition of the Framework Directive on Health and Safety of Workers 89/391/EEC into the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005: Consultation

Closing Date: 6 October 2009

Consultation seeking views on an omission that has been detected in the transposition of the Framework Directive on Health and Safety of Workers into the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

[For full report go to http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/consultationhealthsafetyrro](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/consultationhealthsafetyrro)

40. Delivering Excellent and Effective Transition to Life Long Services for People with Autism

Central London – Tuesday 6 October 2009

This conference will explore the themes of the Adult Autism Strategy and the initial response from consultation on the strategy, managing the effective transition to adult services, developing effective care pathways for people with autism, secure care and the development of person centered planning. This timely and focused conference will offer the opportunity not only to listen to the distinguished panel of speakers but to join in an interactive panel discussion enabling delegates to interact with one another and the speakers.

For further details please contact Irene Lo Coco on 020 7923 5390 or e-mail irene@laingbuisson.co.uk
View the [conference brochure](#) or [book online](#)

41. Shaping the future of care together (Green Paper)

Closing Date: 31 October 2009

The much delayed Green Paper sets out a vision for a new care and support system. It identifies the challenges posed to the current funding system by

the increasing population of older people and the need for radical reform, to develop a National Care Service that is fair, simple and affordable for every-one.

The Green Paper sets out a number of consultation questions and seeks views about how Government can make its vision a reality and develop a care and support system fit for the 21st century. The consultation runs from 14 July 2009 to 31 October 2009. A White Paper is expected next year.

The Green Paper can be downloaded:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_102338

42. NICE: Current consultations

To browse through consultations go to

<http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?=-consultations.current>

Dementia

43. New project to help people with dementia benefit from self-directed support

11 August 2009 - Mental Health Foundation

A new piece of work being carried out by the Mental Health Foundation aims to make available and promote different forms of self-directed support, including direct payments, individual budgets, and personal budgets to people living with dementia and their carers.

As a result of the Health & Social Care Act 2008 there will be much greater opportunity for the 580,000 people with dementia in England* and their carers to benefit from direct payments. Previously, legislation had prevented people who lack mental capacity to benefit from this type of self-directed support.

But the uptake of the different forms of self-directed support for people living with dementia and their carers remains low. 'Dementia Choices', funded by the Department of Health, will identify the reasons why and recommend solutions, that will be disseminated nationally.

Toby Williamson, Head of Development for the Mental Health Foundation, said: "This project aims to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their carers. Whilst eligible for self-directed support, many are still not accessing or benefiting from what's available. Working with voluntary and statutory groups and organisations we hope to identify and help overcome the barriers."

Claire Goodchild, National Programme Manager of Dementia Implementation at the Department of Health, said: "Dementia Choices will play an important role in improving community personal support, which is a key theme in the Government's National Dementia Strategy. It should accelerate our knowledge and boost our understanding of how we can help people to live well with dementia. We welcome the opportunity to work closely with the Mental Health Foundation on this vital project".

The Mental Health Foundation is seeking expressions of interest from organisations interested in taking part in the project as a pilot site. Closing date is **7 September 2009**; visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Care Quality Commission, CSSIW & Scottish Care Commission

44. Orcadians invited to learn about care standards in their area

12 August 2009 – SCC

Scottish Care Commission is hosting a consultation event in Orkney to discuss care standards on the island with the local community.

[For full report click here](#)

45. NHS Lothian Cancer and Palliative Care Courses

11 August 2009 – SCC

NHS Lothian is to run several courses during September - December 2009 at a cost of £20 for care home staff. The courses will be about cancer and palliative care. Click link to see full brochure.

[For full report click here](#)

Ireland, Scotland & Wales

Ireland

46. NI set to become first UK country to register all care staff

Northern Ireland health and social services department consults on mandatory registration for all social care staff

7 August 2009 – Community Care

Northern Ireland might be the first UK country to introduce compulsory registration for its entire social care workforce. A consultation has been launched to this effect.

Compulsory registration could come to an end for social workers and social work students, to a further 23,000 social care workers.

[For full report click here](#)

Scotland

47. Care burden 'makes patients ill'

12 August 2009 – BBC News

A new study in the British Medical Journal says that some chronically ill patients are so overburdened by treatment that it makes their health worse.

The paper, by clinicians from Glasgow and Newcastle universities, says badly co-ordinated care leads to "wasted resources and poor outcomes".

[For full report click here](#)

Wales

48. Mental healthcare 'lottery' worry

14 August 2009 – BBC News

A solicitor who specialises in mental health issues has warned that a shake-up of local health boards could lead to "yet another postcode lottery".

Under plans announced in March, the number of local health boards (LHBs) in Wales will be cut from 22 to seven.

[For full report click here](#)

49. Fear over NHS compensation scale

14 August 2009 – BBC News

It has come to light that the NHS in Wales is facing potential clinical negligence claims of up to £500m.

[For full report click here](#)

50. Family wins nursing fees fight

12 August 2009 – BBC News

After a six-year legal battle, a family has recovered

over £165,000 in nursing fees which were wrongly paid. Marjorie Eyton-Jones had Alzheimer's and was admitted to a home on the Wirral in 1998, but had to pay for her care.

Her family was forced to sell her home to fund the nursing fees until her death at the age of 88 in May 2007.

[For full report click here](#)

Learning Disabilities

51. Worlds Apart

16 August 2009 The Sunday Times Magazine

A look at the development a number of people with autism as they grow from child into adulthood.

52. I believe that the world would be a better place if every family had experience of a child with autism

16 August 2009 The Mail on Sunday

Disc Jockey Ken Bruce writes in the second and final part of the excerpts from his forthcoming book 'The Tracks Of My Years' in which he describes the poignant story of how his son was diagnosed autistic and the joy and despair that followed.

53. National care provider commits to increased support to enable people into work

13 August 2009 - Craegmoor Healthcare

Leading care provider Craegmoor announced its commitment to encourage the number of people it supports into paid employment.

The national provider of care and support to people with learning disabilities, mental health illnesses and older people made the announcement after celebrating the success of Sam Martin – who has been using

one of Craegmoor's services for over the last two years – in securing a job at the Archive Service department of a major Local Authority.

Craegmoor previously celebrated with Sam last year when he graduated with a 2:1 Honours degree in History and Heritage Management from the University of Gloucestershire. In support of Sam's studies, Craegmoor's supported living team had assisted him in attending lectures and tutorials as well as travelling to a number of interviews with experts in the fields which he was researching for his dissertation.

More recently, in order to support Sam and other service users seeking paid employment, Craegmoor's supported living team ran coaching sessions on interview techniques and staged mock interviews. Craegmoor staff also established a regular dialogue with the local Job Centre Plus and the Local Authority, enquiring after vacancies which were suited to the individual skill sets of service users.

Christine Cameron, Craegmoor's Chief Operating Officer, said:

"The focus for us is always on continually personalising what we do so that we can make a difference to the lives of those who use Craegmoor's services. Working collaboratively with Local Authorities and Job Centre Plus is essential to getting people into work and, as in the case of Sam, helping to remove barriers to employment for those who might otherwise be excluded.

"I see the tailoring of the support provided to Sam when he moved from full-time study into paid employment as a model for the type of support that should be readily available and what really gives me pleasure is being able to congratulate Sam on his thor-

oughly deserved success”.

54. Autism care provider reacts to BBC TV documentary 'The Autistic Me'

12 August 2009 - Brookdale Care

Commenting on the BBC Three documentary which followed the lives of three young people living with Autism and Asperger syndrome ('The Autistic Me', BBC Three, 9pm, 11.08.09), Lesa Walton – Care & Development Director of specialist Autism care provider Brookdale Care – said today:

“The programme makers and especially the three young people living with Autism and Asperger syndrome featured in the documentary are to be congratulated on aiding public understanding of Autism and associated Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC), which affect one in every hundred people in the UK.

“As the documentary showed, three of the biggest challenges that people living with ASC face are the transition from adolescence to adulthood, social integration and acceptance and finding employment.

“It was commendable, therefore, that the programme highlighted not only the importance to people living with ASC of having structure and routine in any job, but also the issues surrounding employment opportunities for those living with ASC.

“The programme noted the praiseworthy work of the National Autistic Society in finding Oli, one of the young men featured, a temporary job in the British Library. What is needed now is more consistent support nationally from the education and care services to enable more people living with ASC to find the employment that they find rewarding.

“Brookdale Care hopes that the documentary 'The

Autistic Me' will help bring this about by raising the awareness of the immense contribution that so many people living with ASC can make, and dispelling the myths that still surround Autism and Asperger syndrome.”

Ed. You can watch 'The Autistic Me' again on the BBC iplayer: http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00m5jb4/The_Autistic_Me/

Legislation Update

Nothing to report

Mental Capacity

Nothing to report

Mental Health

Nothing to report

Miscellaneous

55. This mother went on the run across Europe after social workers tried to snatch her son. Her Crime? Letting him see her husband shout at her

15 August 2009 Daily Mail

Two page special report by Sue Reid about the waste and worry caused by Devon social services in trying to take the young son away from his mother on the basis that she 'emotionally harmed' him.

56. GPs bargain on flu jab

15 August 2009 The Times

Item about how the government will fund the administering of 13million flu jabs.

57. Independent Complaint Monitor for the Criminal Records Bureau

14 August 2009 The Times

The CRB is advertising a post which is expected to require a minimum of 16 days a year at a pro-rata of £100,000.

CRB wants a person with a wealth of experience who will report to the CEO.

Interested persons should contact CRB before 01.09.09.

58. Swine flu vaccination programme

13 August 2009 – DH

The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), Health Secretary Andy Burnham has announced the priority groups for vaccination against swine flu:

- i. individuals aged six months and up to 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups
- ii. all pregnant women, subject to licensing considerations on trimesters
- iii. household contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- iv. people aged 65 and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups

[For full report click here](#)

59. Study urges quicker patient tests

13 August 2009 – BBC News

A study of patients by researchers has led to them urging GPs to quicker at sending some patients with worrying symptoms for tests.

A study of patients with "red flag" symptoms such as coughing up blood showed that half did not have a proper diagnosis three years later.

[For full report click here](#)

60. Vetting loopholes 'still need closing'

13 August 2009 – BBC News

Wesley Stephenson of BBC Radio 4's The Report is asking if the new scheme will close current loopholes and if it will really protect children and vulnerable adults.

[For full report click here](#)

61. The National End of Life Care Programme website questionnaire

13 August 2009

The National End of Life Care Programme (NEoLCP) website is changing and, to make sure that the new site is relevant and useful to you, the NHS needs to know a little bit about you, what – if you use it now – you think about the current site, and what you might like to see on it in the future.

This questionnaire should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete. You can complete it in Word and return it by email, or print it out, fill it in by hand and return it by post (relevant addresses at the end of the questionnaire).

If anything isn't clear or you have any queries, please email sheila.joseph@eolc.nhs.uk

Please return this questionnaire by **01.09.09** to sheila.joseph@eolc.nhs.uk or to:

Sheila Joseph
National End of Life Care Programme
3rd Floor
St John's House
East Street
Leicester
LE1 6NB
Tel: 0116 222 5103
<http://www.endoflifecare.nhs.uk/eolc/>

62. Criminal Records Bureau's customer satisfaction at all time high

12 August 2009

Research results apparently show that Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks have prevented around 98,000 unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable adults in the past five years.

[For full report click here](#)

Ed. How can you truly demonstrate this?

63. Dirty ambulances 'infection risk'

12 August 2009 – BBC News

An inspection by the Care Quality Commission showed that the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) is putting patients at risk of infection with dirty vehicles and poor training.

The Commission looked at 22 ambulances and found nine were "in a very poor condition with visible dirt".

The other 13 were not cleaned to a good standard and one was so unclean it had to be taken out of service.

[For full report click here](#)

64. New research methods needed to build evidence base on effectiveness of popular complementary therapies

10 August 2009 – King's Fund

The King's Fund says that new research is needed into the clinical and cost effectiveness of the complementary therapies used by millions of Britons every year to improve and manage their health.

[For full report click here](#)

NHS

65. USA versus the NHS

16 August 2009 The Sunday Times

Full page on the competing attractions of the NHS as compared to the American healthcare system.

66. PM puts NHS at heart of election

16 August 2009 The Sunday Times

AS the two major UK political parties begin to plan for the forthcoming election in nine months or less, the battle lines are being drawn identifying the areas which will be 'hot' topics in the lead up to the election.

67. The NHS 'traitor'

15 August 2009 Daily Mail

Full page item about the reaction of the Tory Party leadership in the wake of the comments made by the conservative MEP Daniel Hannan on USA TV.

68. Healthcare systems in the States, UK and France

15 August 2009 The Times, Letters to the Editor

Two correspondents cite different statistics to support their respective claims of which healthcare system is 'better'.

69. Deal 'close' over swine flu jabs

14 August 2009 – BBC News

The British Medical Association has said they are hopeful that an agreement can soon be reached in negotiations with government over the swine flu vaccination programme.

Ministers unveiled plans to vaccinate over 13 million people in the first wave of the UK programme but were forced to admit GPs had still not signed up to the deal.

[For full report click here](#)

70. NHS attack by MEP 'unpatriotic'

14 August 2009 – BBC News

Health Secretary Andy Burnham has accused Daniel Hannan, a Tory MEP who attacked the NHS on American TV of being "unpatriotic".

[For full report click here](#)

71. Hospitals given hygiene all clear

14 August 2009 – BBC News

North Bristol NHS Trust which was failing to meet health standards set by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has now had its restrictions lifted.

CQC imposed an Improvement Notice on North Bristol NHS Trust back in April.

[For full report click here](#)

72. Health and council chiefs set the pace for Putting People First

13 August 2009 – Community Care

The Department of Health and local government heads will be setting out "milestones" for councils on delivering on the Putting People First agenda to personalise care.

[For full report click here](#)

73. Implementing the Next Stage Review Visions: The quality and productivity challenge

13 August 2009 – DH

A letter from NHS Chief Executive David Nicholson which sets out the challenge of quality, innovation, productivity and prevention to the NHS in the implementation of the next stage review in the current financial conditions.

[For full report click here](#)

74. Browns join Twitter war over NHS

13 August 2009 – BBC News

Gordon and Sarah Brown joined a Twitter campaign to defend the NHS, which is currently under fire in the US.

The prime minister posted a message on the welovetheNHS page after critics of Barack Obama's health reforms dubbed it "Orwellian" and "evil".

Mr Brown said the service "often makes the difference", and added "thanks for always being there".

[For full report click here](#)

75. NHS trusts urged to control cost of agency staffing

13 August 2009 - Health Service Journal

NHS Trusts have been urged to 'hold down' agency staffing costs - figures revealed the first rise in long-term NHS vacancies for five years.

The advice comes amid fears of growing locum costs and has sparked complaints from agencies that the NHS is being "hostile and aggressive".

Among qualified nursing staff, long-term vacancies rose from 0.5% to 0.7%.

In London, 12.6% of qualified medical posts were vacant in March, compared with 3.6% in the East midlands.

Ed. I bet it will go into reverse if swine flu strikes hard – the NHS will be pleading for staff from anywhere at almost any price!

76. NHS is too focused on service delivery

13 August 2009 The Times, Letters to the Editor

Prof. Jonathan Beard writes in support of Prof. Angus Wallace that the European Working Time Directive and its effect on doctors training is merely a smoke-screen for the NHS which focuses too much on DH targets.

Ed. It is having a distorted sense of obligation and responsibility which leads administrators and others to falsify NHS statistics – such as A&E waiting times! See item 80 in this issue of BHCR.

77. PCTs gear up for swine flu pandemic

12 August 2009 - Health Service Journal

The NHS is working to tight deadlines to plan for another wave of swine flu - and estimate how much the outbreak will cost.

PCTs have been asked by DH to predict how much they will spend during 2009-10 responding to the outbreak. Early figures seen by HSJ are between £1m and £2.2m for each PCT – suggesting a potential maximum of more than £300m.

78. Bloggers debate British healthcare

12 August 2009 – BBC News

As the US healthcare debate hots up during Congress's summer recess, anti-reform campaigners have been criticising the UK healthcare system.

[For full report click here](#)

79. 'No shows' costs the NHS millions

12 August 2009 – BBC News

Patients who do not keep hospital appointments cost the NHS over £600 million a year, the equivalent of running two medium-size hospitals.

Between 2007 and 2008, 6.5 million appointments were missed in the UK, with hospitals losing around £100 per patient in revenue.

[For full report click here](#)

80. FT confirms two suspensions over A&E 'irregularities'

12 August, 2009 - Health Service Journal

A foundation trust has suspended its nursing director after launching an investigation into allegations of "irregularities" in its accident and emergency waiting times figures.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust confirmed the suspensions over the allegations relating to the trust's Arrowe Park Hospital, although it would not confirm their names as nursing director Michael Monaghan and department manager Maria Jeffery.

Chief executive Len Richards said: "We recognise we are dealing with serious allegations and we are determined to get to the bottom of them as quickly as possible.

"In the meantime, we have taken steps to ensure the accuracy of the reporting of performance against national A&E waiting time standards. Validation of data is currently being undertaken by another department in our trust.

"We are also supporting the continued provision of excellent care by the staff in A&E. Five senior clinical

managers have been seconded on a rota basis to support A&E staff in ensuring patients are seen as quickly as possible, while still receiving the highest standards of care."

81. Woman turned away from NHS Centre

11 August 2009 – BBC News

A woman with a severe leg infection was refused entry to an NHS walk-in centre in Nottingham because she had been originally diagnosed with swine flu.

Anne Smith, 48, of Jacksdale, had been diagnosed with the H1N1 virus over the telephone and was taking Tamiflu. She is now in hospital with cellulitis.

[For full report click here](#)

82. NHS spending is 'over-optimistic'

11 August 2009 – BBC News

Monitor, the foundation trust regulator has said that NHS managers in England have been warned about over-optimistic financial plans at a time when public finances are likely to squeeze health budgets.

The regulator has given chief executives until the end of September to draw up more realistic financial plans.

[For full report click here](#)

83. How to maintain business as usual in a swine flu pandemic

11 August, 2009 - Health Service Journal

A swine flu outbreak could shrink workforces for weeks, but health organisations can download a tool which helps them plan for business continuity. Daloni Carlisle explains

A flu pandemic game was originally developed in 2006 by NHS Camden and Camden council so the PCT and council could help voluntary groups to businesses plan for a pandemic. It has been part of the

foundation trust's pandemic preparations for some years.

It is now [downloadable from the Department of Health's websites in two versions, adapted for GP surgeries and for other NHS organisations.](#)

"It's an artificial scenario designed to consider the effects of a pandemic on business continuity," says UCLH infection control nurse and flu lead Martin Bruce. "It is all about getting people with managerial or service level responsibility to think about what impact a flu pandemic would have."

84. NHS shifts take surgeons away from operations

11 August 2009 The Times, Letters to the Editor

Prof. W Angus Wallace draws attention to the lack of an appropriate training regime for trainee surgeons.

85. NHS should assess foreign locums

11 August 2009 The Times, Letters to the Editor

Dr John Hutchinson writes that in his view there is an urgent need for the clinical assessment of locum doctors from outside the UK.

86. Tories face NHS database tangle

10 August 2009 – BBC News

Article looking at the challenge posed for the Conservatives who want to let you view your health records online.

[For full report click here](#)

87. Appropriate care: how to know when to move patients out of hospital

10 August, 2009 - Health Service Journal

Daloni Carlisle explains the appropriateness of care tool designed to assist in deciding when to move patients off wards and into community care settings

- 77% - Patients found not to need to stay on an acute ward
- 1,574 - Bed days during 16 weeks when the patients could have been better off in other care
- 6% - Patients redirected from an acute admission

Rotherham foundation trust chief nurse Jackie Bird has a problem most in her position share: *"As an acute trust we are not getting the flow of patients out of the hospital right. We believe that is because we do not have the right level of care outside in the community."*

88. Minister and surgeons on NHS 'pressure' 10 August 2009 The Times, Letters to the Editor
ANN KEEN, Health Minister wrote to challenge the assertion that the NHS is under "unsustainable

We must take issue with your article that claims that the NHS is under "unsustainable pressure" ("Hospitals creak under the strain as vacancies spread through NHS", Aug 7).

89. Department of Health: Innovation - Updated August 2009 – DH

This page gives information on the department's vision of high quality, innovative health care.
[For full report click here](#)

90. NHS Cancelled Operations - Updated
Quarterly reports on cancelled operations in NHS organisations from 1996 to the present.
[For full report click here](#)

91. 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Statistics - Updated
Page linking to referral to treatment statistics for June 2009.
[For full report click here](#)

92. Appointment of expert panel for awards for NHS ideas

'High Quality Care for All' announced the establishment of a £20 million fund to challenge the NHS, public, private, academic and scientific communities to address and find solutions to some of the major healthcare challenges we face. The 'Challenge Prize Fund' will support up to five challenges each year for the next four years and will focus on areas like obesity, ageing and dementia. It's aim will be to achieve real and lasting breakthroughs which improve the quality of care patients receive – be they medical, technical or cultural. The first prizes will be launched in April 2010.

The Appointments Commission has been asked to appoint an Expert Panel to set the criteria and make awards for each of the new Challenges. The Panel will report its recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health. This new and exciting initiative will reward the best in innovation and will help to transform the healthcare service.

An advertisement appeared in the press on 16.08.09. This is a rare opportunity to help shape and inform government policy and deliver real and meaningful change for patients. We are keen to ensure that the panel represents a good skills mix, and includes leading medics, scientists, managers, academics and others involved in patient care.

The Appointments Commission is committed to making appointments on merit alone. The Commission will only appoint candidates to sit on a board or sub-committee on completion of a successful short-listing and interview exercise that will involve an accredited independent assessor.

Requests for an information pack and an application

form may be made to our Recruitment Services Centre on 0870 240 3802, quoting reference DH9009C.

The closing date for completed applications is 14.09.09.

Nursing

Nothing to report

Older People

93. At 86, he wanted peace and quiet – not a village all to himself

15 August 2009 The Times

Item about the single occupant of Homebridge village retirement complex, Witham, Essex which cost £6m to develop which is now in administration. Martin Green of ECCA quoted in relation to the effect of the credit crunch on the market.

Ed. It is a difficult time for those developing alternative social care provision. With the value of homes occupied by older people having fallen, few want to sell at the bottom of the market and will bide their time until values increase. Mean-time, developers must find the cash to service the borrowings or face funders calling in the debt.

94. Using memories to improve communication

13 August 2009 - BBC Radio 4 - Woman's Hour

Felicity Finch reports about reminiscence therapy and support, some simple techniques spoken about. Carers are often spending lots of time on delivering physical care and little on emotional care and support – ideas for reversing the trend.

Julie Heathcote is a Trainer in reminiscence-based approaches for the Alzheimer's Society which are proving to be successful in helping both carers and the cared for to spend more quality time together.

The book, 'Memories Are Made Of this', by Julie Heathcote, is available from the [Alzheimer's Society](#)

95. Village fate

12 August 2009 – BBC News

Article looking at retirement villages, the new alternative to care homes.

[For full report click here](#)

Parliament

Parliament is in Summer recess until 12.10.09.

Social Care

96. Swine Flu: Letter to directors of adult social services

5 August 2009 – DH

A letter setting out the actions that directors of adult social services should be undertaking to deal with swine flu.

[For full report click here](#)

97. Order sought only after social worker cleared of charges

13 August 2009 – Community Care

The General Social Care Council has been criticised because it took six months to apply to have a social worker facing child sexual abuse allegations suspended.

[For full report click here](#)

98. Social workers on Baby P fallout

BBC Radio 4 The World Tonight

12 August 2009 – BBC News

The public identification of Baby Peter's abusers has renewed the spotlight on the role played by social workers, and a wider interest in the job.

[For full report click here](#)

99. Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care: response to the consultation

11 August 2009 – DH

A response document is in response to 'Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care' consultation.

It sets out messages relayed during the consultation process through nine regional workshops held around England, an on-line questionnaire; and detailed written responses received by the Department of Health.

[For full report click here](#)

100. Adult social care's £1.3m boost

11 August 2009 – BBC News

Northamptonshire County Council's cabinet will be backing eight pilot schemes in areas such as mental health, visual impairment and dementia. As a result, the schemes will benefit from £1.3m of new funding.

[For full report click here](#)

Workforce

101. Cardiff Care Manager Honoured For Outstanding Contribution To Social Care In Wales

11 August 2009 - Craegmoor healthcare

Debbie Alcock, Area Manager for the Independent Hospitals division in Cardiff and the surrounding region of care provider Craegmoor, has this week been

honoured for her outstanding contribution to social care in Wales – being named as the regional winner for Wales of recruitment agency Reed's "Carer of the Year" competition at an awards ceremony in Cardiff.

Giving older people the health information they need

How can older people freely access information about the health issues of particular relevance to them?

Mature Times is one of the UK's leading publications aimed at the 'grey market' and, as well as producing a free monthly newspaper read by over half a million people aged 50+, it also has a lively website with well over 1.5 million page reads every month.

And one of the key components in both media is health – a mix of helpful information on conditions and treatments, a regularly updated news area on research findings, and campaigns on issues directly affecting older people. The paper has played a leading media role in campaigning on topic such as healthcare rationing, access to digital hearing aids, assisted suicide, elder abuse, age discrimination in hospitals and the funding of care services for older people in the community.

The paper's positioning as the 'voice of older people' means that the subjects covered are driven by readers, with much of the content being provided by them too – in the shape of readers' experiences and queries.

“Older people are the biggest users of the healthcare system,” said Mature Times editor Tony Watts, *“but they often feel patronised by the system and – to some extent – discriminated against. We try to give a balanced coverage on these issues, and also provide*

the information they need to make the right choices for them, written in an accessible way.”

The monthly newspaper is distributed in bundles of 100 through libraries, clubs, health centres and other outlets across the country, and new ones are being added all the time. The website is accessible to all those with internet and a free monthly e-newsletter goes out to over 30,000 subscribers.

The editorial team also welcomes news and information of help to its readers.

Contact: editorial@maturetimes.co.uk or go to www.maturetimes.co.uk.

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