

Brunswicks' Healthcare Review

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refreshingly modern, reassuringly traditional

This week's article

Pension reforms to affect employers

Lee Slater of Chartered Accountants Moore & Smalley with offices in Preston, Blackpool, Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale and Lancaster spells out the forthcoming changes to pensions law which will affect almost all businesses with effect from 2012.

More steps forced on businesses at a time we can ill-afford them. However, clearly, someone has to make up for the inadequacies of government!

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Editorial

August is the month when typically there are staff shortages and there is little news and monthly magazines and newsletters suspend publication.

This year threatened far more than that with swine flu having had the potential to decimate the workforce.

Fortunately, although many people appear to have fallen victim of the swine flu it did not take hold in the way many people had expected. It may yet do so. As school children return to the class room, as we head into the autumn months, the flu may yet take hold and damage businesses' ability to meet obligations.

Those who have made plans for a flu pandemic should take the next couple of weeks to review the plans and tweak them if necessary.

For those who have not yet developed a formal plan for how your business will respond in the face of a full-blown pandemic, now is the opportunity to do so. There are not only the obvious risks to service users, but, how will your business cope if a substantial number of staff 'phone in sick all on the same day?

We know that the Care Quality Commission has plan in place to ensure that it still functions in the face of a

pandemic – it will stop carrying out planned inspections of services.

You are unlikely to have an aspect of your services that you can simply stop delivering – hence the need to carefully plan.

Good luck.

Stay healthy this winter.



HealthInvestor magazine has announced its survey to find the 50 most influential people in independent health-care, as voted for by its readers.

To view the full list please visit www.healthinvestor.co.uk

The HealthInvestor Power Fifty gala lunch will take place at the Hilton Park Lane, central London, on 25 November 2009. The event will involve a drinks reception, three-course meal and a special presentation counting down the top twenty. Each guest will also receive a power fifty book, profiling each of the finalists.

HealthInvestor is offering a limited number of tables at the gala lunch. Book now to take advantage of an unrivalled networking opportunity with the leading figures in independent healthcare. For bookings and further information please contact Kate Atkins on 0207 104 2000 or kate.atkins@healthinvestor.co.uk

Abuse/Dignity

1. Shocking figures in Lancashire on abuse

25th August 2009 The Citizen

Up to 35,000 adults in Lancashire may have suffered abuse, according to a new report.

Council bosses say 95% of adult abuse cases go unreported, despite a publicity drive.

In March, 204 alerts were received by County Hall's adult social care team, half of which related to frail or disabled adults.

The previous March just 82 calls were received. The council says that the rise is due to increased publicity and awareness of the help available – but the report, to be presented to Lancashire County Council's adult social care committee, said more had to be done to protect vulnerable people and said research revealed 23,000 to 35,000 people could have been abused at some point.

2. State House passes bills to fight elder abuse

27 August 2009 Detroit News Lansing Bureau

Lansing -- Part of a package of bills to prevent financial exploitation of senior citizens passed in the state House this afternoon.

A package of Bills have been passed in State House Michigan, USA, called the Elder Abuse Protection Plan, the package is meant to address a surge in abuse complaints, which, according to the Michigan Department of Human Services, have increased 40% in the State since 1998.

Under the Bills, financially exploiting a vulnerable adult would be a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine. Children who abuse, neglect or exploit their aging parents would be disinherited. And third parties would be able to file criminal complaints to stop and prevent abuse cases in nursing homes and elsewhere.

The Bills have to pass the state Senate and be signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to become law.

"Now, the victim has to voluntarily go in and file the complaint themselves," said state Rep. Andy Neumann, D-Alpena, chair of the House Committee on Senior Health, Security and Retirement. *"(Under the bills) a friend, or somebody from the financial community, like a banker, could file a complaint and have it investigated."*

Based partly on the findings of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Elder Abuse Task Force, the package has been lauded by advocates worried about the rise in elder abuse. Michigan's Adult Protective Services received more than 16,300 reports of adult mistreatment in 2008.

3. Murdered toddler was 'invisible' to social services

28 August 2009 The Times

NSPCC has been highly critical of Kirklees Council following a serious case review after the murder of 2 yr old Sanam Navsarka by her mother's partner. Social services focused on the adults in the family, rather than the child.

Ed. Another Baby P.

I am concerned not just that children's services up and down the country are seriously flawed, but, that

there are similar scandals concerning the abuse of older people who do not have the 'popular appeal' of children, but, who are nevertheless, in many cases, equally vulnerable and equality reliant upon those around them to provide care and support. While there are many cases of elderly abuse in formal care settings research in 2004 demonstrated that the overwhelming majority of abuse of older people took place in domestic settings. The same places these children are murdered.

Business News

4. Lloydspharmacy races to fill NHS gap with high street healthcare

25 August 2009 The Times

Lloydspharmacy has introduced 300 'virtual GPs' (computer terminals with access to doctors) in stores including consultation rooms for check-ups and vaccinations.

Ed. This move sees the chemist seeking to play a more central role in the delivery of primary health-care; it may have come at just the right time if there are to be mass inoculations of the public against swine flu. GPs are said to want £300m to pay for the additional cost of administering the inoculations – 5% of that would probably deliver a healthy profit to Lloydspharmacy on the investment in a very short time.

5. Family nursery firm launches with double swoop

26 August 2009

Maitland Nurseries, which has been formed by Geoff and Elaine Maitland, their son Philip and his wife Victoria, has bought Griffin Day Nursery in Bootle and

Hearts Junior Club in Crosby, Liverpool. The deal was supported by a £100,000 funding package from The Royal Bank of Scotland, Liverpool, under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme.

Established in 1989, Griffin Day Nursery provides full time care for up to 30 pre-school children from 8am until 6pm and has nine employees.

Hearts Junior Club operates pre and after school clubs within St Luke's Church Centre in Crosby. It caters for 24 children and employs five.

Philip Maitland, director of Maitland Nurseries, said: *"Both the Griffin Day Nursery and Hearts Junior Club are well established businesses and we are delighted to have acquired them."*

"Our aim is to provide children with a safe environment in which to learn and develop and we look forward to working with the staff in both venues to make this happen."

6. Peter J. Curtis Named as new CEO of Forest Healthcare

26 August 2009

Efi Hershkovitz, the UK-based Forest Healthcare CEO, has declared changes in the company's management. These include his stepping down, and the nomination of Peter J. Curtis as the new CEO.

Following is Hershkovitz's official announcement:

"After almost 15 years as the Chief Executive Officer of Forest Healthcare, I have decided to step down from this challenging position. I will be moving up to become the Chairman of our Company and will assist the management team in the continuing growth of Forest to one of the UK premier healthcare provid-

ers. After a long selection process, we have appointed Peter J. Curtis as our new Chief Executive Officer. Peter will be joining us during the month of September.

Peter has a wealth of healthcare experience most recently with HCA (the parent company of one of the top leading hospitals in the UK including: The Harley Street Clinic, The Wellington, The princess Grace Hospital and more) where for the last 4 years he has served as the Chief Executive Officer of one of London's leading private healthcare facilities, The Portland Hospital for Women and Children.

Before HCA, Peter was the Director of Operations for Capio Healthcare UK (now Ramsay) with direct responsibility for their 21 acute hospitals as well as their other non acute healthcare facilities which included both The Gardens and The Jacob Centre..."

7. Cash offer for Claimar Care Group plc

28 August 2009 Housing 21

The boards of Claimar Care and social enterprise Housing 21 announced they have reached agreement on the terms of a unanimously recommended cash offer to be made by Housing 21 to acquire the entire issued and to be issued ordinary share capital of Claimar Care valuing Claimar at £19.5m.

Commenting on the Offer, David Grayson, Chair of Housing 21, said:

"We are delighted to have agreed the terms of an offer with Claimar Care. The addition of their services and structures within Housing 21 will significantly advance our ability to offer much greater choice and more integrated services to older people across the country. The combined strength of our two organisations will greatly enhance our position as one of

the UK's leading care providers to people in their own homes and will increase the quality of care for all users through extended service offerings."

Ed. This deal is something of a red letter day – as it is the first time that a not-for-profit organisation has launched a full takeover of a publicly quoted company in the UK. Claimar was listed on AIM.

8. Co-payments to top up state funding could fortify the NHS

28 August 2009 The Times

Adrian Fawcett, chief executive of BMI Healthcare expresses the opinion that opening the NHS market requires first that one assesses the demand for services, assess who delivers it and that the concept of co-funding (where the patient tops up state funding) would provide wide benefits.

9. Claimar Care

29 August 2009 The Times

The share price of Claimar rose 3p to 36.5p on news of the recommended offer – see above.

10. Goldshield in talks with SFO

30 August 2009 Mail on Sunday

Chairman of Goldshield, Keith Hellawell, former Chief Constable of West Yorkshire has revealed that in the face of the 2006 SFO prosecution for allegedly defrauding the NHS out of millions of pounds Goldshield opened secret talks about a guilty plea. Apparently, detailed talks took place.

11. MMCG on fast track to growth with 52nd home

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Feature on the recent opening of the latest care home in the Maria Millaband Care Group, Bowerfield Court.

12. Kitchen doctor

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

A look at food safety when cooking a BBQ – something to save for next year in the hope of a summer, perhaps!

13. Ribble Valley care home is first in the country to strike gold

The Manor House Nursing and Residential Home in Ribble Valley, Chatburn, is the first Care Home in the country to achieve the prestigious Gold Standard for Investors in people.

The company has joined an elite group of just 1% of all UK employers that have attained Investors in People's highest accolade. Investor in People's biggest change is the introduction of bronze, silver and gold accreditation.

The nursing and residential home, received the award after an intensive inspection by two assessors from Investors in People North West. The team of over 80 staff is led by owners Janet and Chris Harrison and their management team who pride themselves on exceptional standards of care and service for their clients.

Care Homes

14. Axed care home closes its doors

28 August 2009 BBC

The last two residents have been moved out of Troed y Ton in Kenfig Hill care home, which a community fought desperately to save. The Bridgend care home is set to be demolished to make way for new "extra care" housing for older people.

Two other residents, both in their 90s, lost a High Court action to stop Bridgend council closing the home.

15. Star ratings – is that a fetter of discretion I see before me?

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Stuart Marchant writes about the convenience of star ratings and how the process of allocating scores – using a computer system – pushes the process into inflexible policy, thereby rendering it an unlawful fetter on discretion.

Case Reports

Law Reports

16. In re D (children)(Care Proceedings: Preliminary hearing)

The Court of Appeal held that where it was clear that a child had been injured by one or other of two people, the court was not required to identify which one was the perpetrator.

Disciplinary cases

17. Operating department practitioner struck off following police conviction

24 August 2009 Health Professions Council

Operating department practitioner, Barry Gisborne has been struck off the HPC Register for sexual and indecent assaults involving nine colleagues, most of whom were junior to the Registrant.

A panel of the HPC Conduct and Competence Committee heard how these assaults took various forms

including inappropriate touching, making grossly inappropriate comments and excessive displays of affection to colleagues, whilst employed at Heatherwood Hospital in Ascot.

The panel also heard that Gisborne, in relation to the ten counts of sexual assault, received a community sentence on each count, that he was ordered to participate in Thames Valley Sex Offenders Programme and ordered to sign the Sex Offenders Register for 5 years.

18. NHS manager warned over pornographic emails

25 August 2009 Health Service Journal

A senior blood transfusion specialist who was given a warning for sending pornographic emails to colleagues said he did it to "fit in" with other staff members.

19. Doctor gave overdose to two patients

25 August 2009 The Times

Michael Stevenson, 57, appeared before the fitness to practise panel of the GMC accused of administering six times the correct dose of diamorphine to two patients during the same shift.

20. GP 'used drug threat for sex with woman'

25 August 2009 The Times

Michael Rusling, 48, allegedly threatened to withhold drugs from a patient addicted to tranquilisers if she refused to have sex with him.

21. Paramedic struck off for misconduct

26 August 2009 Health Professions

Paramedic, Iain Finney has been struck off the HPC Register following a conviction of sexual assault on a female and doing and intending to pervert the course

of justice having pleaded guilty to both charges at Norwich Crown Court on 05.02.09..

The Panel heard that whilst alone with the victim in the back of the ambulance, Finney removed the victim's clothing and took pictures on his mobile telephone. Very shortly after taking the photographs, he realised the stupidity of his actions and deleted all of them.

Finney received a 9 month prison sentence and was required to sign the sex offenders register for 10 years.

22. Paramedic struck off for misuse of painkilling gas

27 August 2009 Health Professions Council

Paramedic Timothy J Standing has been struck off the HPC Register for taking Entonox cylinders, whilst working for the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

A panel of the HPC Conduct and Competence Committee heard how Mr Standing took 6 cylinders of Entonox from the Trust in 2007 for personal use and had used a total of between 15 and 20 Entonox cylinders over a period of 10 to 14 days before that date.

The Panel also heard how on the 26 September 2007 Mr Standing was visited at home by two colleagues and was found to have 6 Entonox cylinders at the property.

Mr Standing admitted that he took Entonox cylinders, although he said that he was not able to be specific as to the number of cylinders he took.

Panel Chair, Mr Ian Griffiths commented:

"Mr Standing's default was very serious. He misappropriated Entonox in order to misuse that medication. The effect of taking the cylinders created a real potential for patient harm as a result of a shortage of supply"

"The Panel is entirely satisfied that in taking and using Entonox, Mr Standing acted deliberately, it is found that Mr Standing has advanced a case that demonstrates a lack of personal and professional integrity."

The panel decided the most appropriate action was to strike Timothy J Standing from the Register.

Timothy J Standing was both present and was represented at the hearing.

23. Doctor had child porn

28 August 2009 The Times

Euan McLusky, a Harrogate GP for 35 yrs, was struck off after admitting that his fitness to practise was impaired following a police caution for having 700 indecent images of children.

Cases in the news

24. Welsh health board in court over patient suicide

25 August 2009 Health Service Journal

A Welsh health board is set to face charges for breaking patient safety guidelines in the wake of a patient's suicide in 2004.

Children

Nothing to report

Conferences & Courses

To follow next week

Consultations

25. 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 13.11.09. 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

26. 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

27. 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 every-one.

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

28. 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](#)

29. 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](#)

30. 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](#)

31. 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](#)

32. 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/index.cfm?>

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

33. 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](#)

34. 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](#)

35. 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 under-take 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](#)

36. 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>

37. 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 with 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](#)

38. 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 everyone.

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

39. NICE: Current consultations

To browse through consultations go to

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

Care Quality Commission, CSSIW & Scottish Care Commission

Nothing to report

Dementia

40. Dementia, dignity and personalisation July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Martin Green, CEO of ECCA, reminds readers that the Green Paper debate is essentially about how society pays for the high cost of long term care and how he has witnessed greater numbers of people living in care settings with some form of dementia and cited examples of person centred care which he has witnessed.

41. Hearing the voice of people working with dementia care

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Item which promotes 'emotions at work' for staff providing front-line support in dementia care settings.

Ireland, Scotland & Wales

Ireland

Nothing to report

Scotland

Nothing to report

Wales

Axed care home closes its doors

28 August 2009 BBC

See item 14 under Care Homes

Learning Disabilities

Nothing to report

Legislation Update

Nothing to report

Mental Capacity

Nothing to report

Mental Health

42. David Cameron urged to clarify mental health plans

27 August 2009 Health Service Journal

Conservative leader David Cameron is being urged to set out his position on mental health services, following its omission from a wide-ranging speech on NHS reform last week.

43. Sailing therapy for mental health

30 August 2009 BBC

Sea Sanctuary, a charity based in Falmouth, is launching an alternative way of treating young people with mental health problems. The Sactuary will offer placements on a 43ft (13m) yacht with sessions led by mental health professionals, aimed at helping

young people address their illness and gain sailing qualifications.

Miscellaneous

44. US releases \$1.2bn for EMRs

27 August 2009 E-health Insider

Almost unnoticed amid the furore over the Republican Party's attacks on "socialised medicine" of the NHS kind, the Obama administration has started to hand out the billions of dollars that it hopes will lead to every US citizen having an electronic medical record within five years.

No less than \$1.2 billion will be spent on health information technology centres and health information networks; just to provide support for implementing EMR systems and to encourage information sharing. Healthcare providers will still have to buy EMR systems and show they are making "meaningful use" of them to qualify for reimbursement under President Barack Obama's economic stimulus legislation.

45. Cafcass: Post-Baby Peter hike in care cases continues

Applications for first four months of 2009-10 almost 75% higher than first quarter of 2008-9

28 August 2009 Community Care

Applications to the family courts in the wake of the Baby Peter case shows no sign of slowing reveals Cafcass.

Family Courts received 755 section 31 care and supervision order requests in July, 270 more than in the same month last year and only 19 fewer than June 2009's record of 774.

July's figure brings the total for the first third of the 2009-10 financial year to 2,826, almost 75% higher than the same period last year, and averages out at 707 per month, compared with 408 over the same time last year.

46. Co-payments to top up state funding could fortify the NHS

28 August 2009 The Times

Adrian Fawcett, chief executive of BMI Healthcare expresses the opinion that opening the NHS market requires first that one assesses the demand for services, assess who delivers it and that the concept of co-funding (where the patient tops up state funding) would provide wide benefits.

47. Swine flu vaccine in storage for a month

28 August 2009 BBC Radio news

Manufacturers of the vaccine have delivered 100,000 doses to the UK. However, they can't be used as the vaccine does not yet have the necessary licences.

48. Middle classes face bigger bills for care

28 August 2009 Daily Mail

People who have saved may have to pay even more to cover their personal care in old age, it emerged yesterday. It has now emerged that another option of the Green Paper is a sliding scale, with people with larger savings paying more than £20,000, while those who have only a modest amount pay less.

Ed. It hasn't just emerged at all! This is one of the profound challenges facing policy makers – namely, how do you keep the public incentivised to save for older age when ensuring that those who have little in the way of assets, perhaps because they have always been on the poverty line, or perhaps, because they enjoyed their wealth as it was earned.

There is a fine balance to be struck if the public is not to become totally disillusioned. One can't simply take all, or the majority of, savings from people for the provision of support which will be provided free to those 'without' if one is to avoid the nation becoming populated exclusively by spendthrifts!

49. GSCC raises concerns over lack of checks on social workers

28 August 2009 Community Care

The General Social Care Council has raised concerns over the government's failure to extend new requirements on employers to run checks on social care staff.

GSCC's proposed code of practice, ensure staff are registered where this is required and report any breaches of the code by registered staff to the GSCC.

50. Fluedo

30 August 2009 The Mail on Sunday

A report about the downloadable flu pandemic 'game' designed by Camden PCT for training purposes.

Ed. This is the story we brought to readers of BHCR a full two weeks earlier – see 'How to maintain business as usual in a swine flu pandemic' BHCR Vol 4, Issue 33, Item 83.

51. A profile of OSJCT

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

The Orders of St John Care Trust operates 74 care homes. Established in 1991, it is the second largest not for profit provider of care for older people; all these facts and more about OSJCT.

52. New Care Television launch celebrated

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Report about the launch on 01.07.09 of the Aged Care Channel TV.

53. Can eight Government Ministers demonstrate 'green fingers'?

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Article by our own editor about the Green Paper into funding long-term care.

54. Whatever the season, the care sector deserves more than fairweather friends

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Ian C Wilkie considers the effect of the financial woes afflicting Four Seasons Healthcare and whether those troubles will have wider ramifications for the care sector.

55. Transaction activity goes full circle

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Samantha Cooper of GVA Grimley comments on what her business has been seeing in terms of market activity, sales, purchases etc.

56. We are not going to train our way out of this recession: we are going to have to trade our way out of it

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Paul Brennan considers the continuing value of properly training staff and ensuring that their learning are carried into practice.

NHS

57. NHS nurses attacked for 'cruel treatment' of elderly patients

27 August 2009 Community Care

According to a report published by the Patients Association, a number of elderly patients are being treated in a demeaning manner by "bad, cruel nurses".

The investigation presents 16 stories in detail from a database of hundreds of stories from patients and their relatives who claim to have been badly treated by the NHS.

58. Basic care 'lacking' in hospitals

27 August 2009 news.bbc.co.uk

Nurses 'left elderly patients lying in urine'

27 August 2009 The Times

The Patients Association is demanding an urgent review of basic hospital care after highlighting accounts of "appalling" NHS standards. Relatives told the Patients Association how their loved ones, often elderly people, were left lying in faeces and urine and were not helped to eat.

59. Conservatives plan 'organic' reduction in PCTs

27 August 2009 Health Service Journal

The number of primary care trusts in England could be significantly reduced under Conservative health plans, HSJ has learnt.

60. CQC to get tougher on NHS spending

27 August 2009 Health Service Journal

The Care Quality Commission is to step up its focus on ensuring NHS commissioners get value for money ahead of the predicted public spending squeeze.

61. CQC's high death-rate hospital list at risk of 'scaring' public

27 August 2009 Health Service Journal

Tables naming trusts with high death rates could be misinterpreted by patients and "scare local populations", patient champions and data specialists have claimed.

62. Monitor sends FT directors to Sandhurst

27 August 2009 Health Service Journal

Foundation trust chairs, chief executives and medical directors are being encouraged to attend an army-style leadership course at Sandhurst to help ride out the recession.

63. NHS IT's local future

27 August 2009 Health Service Journal

The Department of Health has quietly turned away from central control of IT. But what will replace it? And what will happen if there is a change of government? Dave West reports.

64. Public back report

28 August 2009 The Times

Health campaigners report that they have been "overwhelmed" by messages of support after publishing a report into poor care suffered by NHS patients.

65. Three ambulances were dirty

20 August 2009 St Helens Star

Care Quality Commission inspectors found 41% of ambulances in the North West Ambulance Service were in a very poor condition with visible dirt on floors, walls, door frames and horizontal surfaces. The remainder were not found to have been cleaned to a 'good' standard either with visible dirt present.

Ed. I ask you, is it any wonder we have such a high prevalence of MRSA and other bugs in hospital settings. It is high time we turned the clocks back and held individuals accountable for their actions and inaction. I am in favour of all manner of rights, including employment rights which have been hard won over the last 100 years. However, heads must roll when this level of dereliction is identified. This ain't rocket science. We all know that in mucky conditions an ambulance will have dirt trafficked inside. However, this is worse and endemic. We all know how to clean. We all know basic hygiene...

66. Hospital accused of botched work

29 August 2009 The Times

Weston General Hospital, Weston-super-Mare, faces legal action as it is alleged that about 30% of hip and knee replacements were botched. The hospital spent £3m between 2003 and 2006 hiring surgeons from Denmark, Finland and Sweden to carry out the ops.

67. Time to set out NHS boundaries

29 August 2009 The Times, Letters to the Editor

Chris Vellenoweth, an NHS manager since 1957 at the most senior level, opines that the country cannot continue to fund the NHS as it has and suggests that that there be a party political truce to assess the accumulated evidence since the 1953 Guillebaud inquiry and make some radical changes to the system and its funding.

Ed. Will the next Government be brave enough to adopt such a course? May be there is little choice if, as a country, we want to bring down the public sector borrowing and invest in other essential services which have been starved of cash.

68. Novices do nurses' job after week's training

30 August 2009 The Sunday Times

Patient care is frequently left to healthcare assistants, auxiliaries sometimes with as little as one week's training. They are not registered with any professional body.

Peter Carter, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, is calling for more training and the introduction of a code of conduct.

Nursing

69. NMC September Council: draft agenda and new start time

28 August 2009 Nursing and Midwifery Council Newsletter

From 10 September the time of the public session will change to 1.00pm.

The draft agenda, now available on our website, includes our strategic vision, updates from around the organisation, and a report on the CHRE action plan. [read the draft agenda](#)

Did you know that members of the public can attend open sessions of the Council? It's a good way to find out how the NMC operates, and to meet the directors and Council members. [find out more about Council meetings](#)

70. Nurses 'left elderly patients lying in urine'

27 August 2009 The Times

The Patient's Association released a report damning of the care (more accurately, lack of care) delivered

by many nurses. Claire Raynor, president of PA called for bad nurses to be struck off the register.

Older People

71. Elderly in energy trap

28 August 2009 The Times

The Institute for Fiscal Studies said due to high energy costs elderly people are not heating their homes properly.

72. Nurses 'left elderly patients lying in urine'

27 August 2009 The Times

The Patient's Association released a report damning of the care (more accurately, lack of care) delivered by many nurses.

73. Help the aged? Speak for yourself, Joan

25 August 2009 The Times

Roy Hattersley expresses his opinion that older people should not be given state benefits merely on account of age alone, that there ought not to be a voice on behalf of the elderly, Dame Joan Bakewell and that age is as much a product of attitude of the individual as anything else. He is looking forward to new and exciting experiences, he may even get himself a motorbike!

Parliament

Parliament is in recess until 12.10.09.

Social Care

Nothing to report

Workforce

74. Nuts and bolts of TUPE

July/August 2009 Healthcare Business

Item about the key issues in business transfers and which party to a business transfer bears liability for workforce issues.

ARTICLE

Pension reforms to affect employers

Employers will have to have a qualifying workplace pension scheme in place for their eligible employees in 2012. This requirement, introduced under the Pensions Act 2008, will affect nearly every employer in the UK. Failure to comply could lead to heavy fines and, in the most serious cases, imprisonment.

Stakeholder pension schemes missed the mark

In April 2001 the Government introduced Stakeholder pension legislation. The aim was to offer an easy-to-understand, low-cost pension solution that could be readily accessed by all UK individuals. At that time these changes were being dubbed 'a pension revolution'.

However, after 7 years the Government has been disappointed with the lack of uptake of Stakeholder pension schemes by lower earners. They failed to realise that to comply with the legislation, all employers had to do was designate a Stakeholder scheme, stick up a poster confirming the Stakeholder provider in the canteen and nothing else! Employees were therefore not flocking to sign up to these 'revolutionary' new pensions.

The new rules

Recently published draft regulations set out the responsibilities employers will have when the pension rule changes are launched in 2012. These new schemes are currently being referred to as 'Personal

Accounts' but are not to be confused with bank or building society accounts.

Compulsory enrolment and employer contribution

The new rules include automatically enrolling staff into a workplace pension scheme, even for those employees who have absolutely no wish to embark on pension saving. Pension saving will be voluntary for employees in the new world of pensions, but being auto-enrolled will be compulsory. Employees will be able to opt out of the scheme, however, it is the employer who will be responsible for ensuring that the opt out takes place. Employers will also be obligated to contribute 3% of employee earnings into the pension scheme.

Enforcement and penalties

The new regulations will be policed by a compliance department being set up by the new 'Personal Accounts Delivery Authority'. A breach of the rules, including missing enforcement deadlines, could lead to a fine of up to £50,000 and a possible 2 year prison sentence.

Key points

Set out below are the main requirements that employers will be responsible for in 2012

- All employees over 22 years of age and earning around £5,000 or more per annum will have to be enrolled into a qualifying workplace pension scheme within 7 days of starting employment

- Employers will be required to provide information, but not advice, regarding the scheme to eligible employees
- Employers must collect the contributions from the employee's salary and make the employer contribution on a daily basis from the point of enrolment
- Employees can opt out of the qualifying workplace pension scheme within 30 days of being enrolled. Employers will be responsible for ensuring this opt out takes place and refunding any money which has been deducted.
- If the employee decides to stay in the qualifying workplace pension scheme the employer will be required to contribute 3% of all earnings, up to a predefined limit (currently £33,500)

If the employee opts out of the scheme the employer must auto-enrol them again exactly 3 years after the date they first became eligible to join

Contact Lee Salter, Financial planning consultant on 01772 821021 or e-mail lee.salter@mooreandsmalley.co.uk for further advice and assistance on your particular circumstances.

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