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On the agenda

1. New strategy to target obesity

A new £372 million cross-government strategy to tackle obesity has been launched. The initial focus will be on children: by 2020, the aim is to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels. Other elements of the strategy include promoting healthier food choices, building physical activity into people's lives, creating incentives for better health and personalised advice and support. The strategy will be followed by an annual report outlining progress and setting out recommendations for further action.

www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=347137&NewsAreaID=2

2. Our NHS our future

More than 1000 NHS staff, patients and members of the public from across England were taking part in the second stage of the *Our NHS Our Future* review today. The participants were looking at new proposals for how their local NHS will deliver health services in the future. These consultation events will contribute to each SHA's vision for locally delivered healthcare due to be published in the Spring.

Our NHS Our Future is underpinned by the largest level of local engagement in the history of the service. Lord Darzi, who is leading the review, wants to know what you think about the NHS and how you want it to look in the future. NHS staff and members of the public can take part in an online questionnaire at www.ournhs.nhs.uk/

3. Future of payment by results

DH received almost 300 responses to the 'Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008/09 – 2010/11' consultation exercise, which ran from March to June 2007. This document describes the key messages received, and outlines how the work will be taken forward.

The consultation response is available at:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/index.htm

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Consultations and evaluations

1. Review of the Information Centre's survey programme (Gateway Reference number: 9338)

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care (IC) has consulted informally with their direct customers and some users to obtain a picture of current use and future data requirements. This preliminary exercise produced a set of suggested elements for the IC's future role plus an outline design for a new health and social care survey.

Link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/srpsconsultation

Action:

- NHS chief executives are asked to comment.

2. NHS Direct's public consultation on becoming a foundation trust (Gateway Reference number: 9328)

NHS Direct is conducting a public consultation on its plans to become an NHS foundation trust and is keen for as many people as possible to take part. The consultation runs until Monday 31 March 2008.

Link:

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/foundationtrust

Action:

- NHS chief executives are invited to give their views, get involved in NHS Direct by signing up to become a member and find out what becoming a member actually entails.

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Consultations and evaluations

3. Suspending chairs and non-executives of PCTs and other NHS trusts from office (Gateway Reference number: 9383)

The Department of Health is seeking views on introducing powers of suspension to enable the Secretary of State to direct the Appointments Commission to suspend chairs or non-executives of PCTs or other NHS trusts.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_082373

Action:

- NHS chief executives, non-executives and NHS chairs wishing to comment on the proposals, which will be of particular interest, should respond by 6 March 2008.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_081518

Action:

- NHS chief executives interested in responding should do so by 22 March 2008.

4. The Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Gateway Reference number: 9227)

This No 2 Order 2008 is the second in a series of orders that will take forward the reforms of professional regulation identified in the White Paper 'Trust assurance and safety'. It concentrates on reforms set out in the White Paper, but also includes measures required to deliver other legislative requirements.

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5. Family Nurse Partnership 2008-09 (Gateway Reference number: 9371)

The 2008/09 bidding guidance for PCT/LAs who wish to test the Family Nurse Partnership in their area has been published, with bids to be submitted (electronically only) to Joe.Farrell@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk and Kathryn.Nessling@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk, by 29 February 2008.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_082391

Action:

- NHS chief executives to note the guidance to inform bid to become a second wave site in 2008/09 and whether they wish to participate in the research trial from 2008-09 to 2011.

6. Technology implementation projects (Gateway Reference number: 9348)

The NHS National Technology Adoption Hub invites applications from the healthcare community in relation to technologies that may be appropriate for six technology implementation projects to begin in spring 2008. Further information and application details including a memorandum of information with selection criteria are available on the hub's website.

Link:

www.technologyadoptionhub.nhs.uk/536/call-for-6-technology-implementation-projects.html

Action:

- NHS trust and PCT chief executives should support colleagues considering submitting a proposal. They should submit proposals by 15 February 2008.

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7. 18 week indicators available on NHS Comparators (Gateway Reference number: 9366)

NHS Comparators now allows an initial commissioner and provider view on the delivery of the 18 week target.

Link:

<https://nwww.nhscomparators.nhs.uk>

Action:

- NHS chief executives can use NHS Comparators to support the local delivery and identification of issues relating to the 18 week target. The site, available to NHS web users only, is password protected. To register for a password please telephone the contact centre on 0845 300 6016.

8. National Institute for Health Research progress report (Gateway Reference number: 9298)

The National Institute for Health Research has published a two-year progress report describing the achievements made in implementing the government's best research for best health research strategy.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082171

Action:

- NHS chief executives will be interested in the results and implications for their organisations.

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9. Good practice in learning disability nursing

(Gateway Reference number: 8748)

This good practice guidance is provided in the context of national concern regarding the appropriateness and effectiveness of healthcare provided to people with a learning disability.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081328

Action:

- NHS chief executives are invited to consider how the benchmarks and recommendations in this report may help improve services provided by developing learning disability nursing practice.

10. 18 weeks inter-provider transfers

(Gateway Reference number: 9378)

DSCN 44/2007 informs the NHS and its systems suppliers of the mandation of the Inter-Provider Transfer Administrative Minimum Data Set (IPTAMDS) from the 1 January 2008 with full conformance from the service from April 2008.

Link:

www.18weeks.nhs.uk/Public/default.aspx?main=true&load=ArticleViewer&ArticleId=1068

Action:

- NHS chief executives should check they have the necessary processes in place in their organisations to ensure the minimum data set is transferred for all 18 week patients referred to another provider for care. This will enable monitoring against the 18 week target.

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11. Update on the electronic staff record project (Gateway Reference number: 9382)

The implementation of the NHS ESR project has been a significant achievement and is on track to complete by the end of March 2008. Catch up on current news and developments in this month's ESR News.

Link:

www.esrsolution.co.uk/news/newsarch/

Action:

- NHS chief executives wishing to find out more should visit the weblink or email communications@esrsolution.co.uk to subscribe.

12. NICE publishes public health guidance on physical activity and the environment (Gateway Reference number: 9388)

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance on promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity. All the recommendations are relevant when developing joint NHS and local authority strategies. They are also relevant when planning and managing the NHS (including its premises).

Link:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11917

Action:

- NHS chief executives should be aware of NICE's guidance when planning and managing the NHS and developing joint NHS and local authority strategies to support physical activity.

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13. Pooled Drug Treatment budget allocations 2008/09 (Gateway Reference number: 9384)

On 10 January, the Department of Health announced 2008/09 allocations for the Pooled Drug Treatment budget.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_082220

Action:

- NHS chief executives will be interested in this letter, including allocations at PCT level.

14. Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) roll-out complete (Gateway Reference number: 9389)

All hospital trusts are now using PACS, the technology which allows x-rays and scanned images to be stored electronically and viewed simultaneously at multiple locations. The roll-out of PACS has been a major element in the National Programme for IT. The PACS programme will now focus on further technical developments such as improved sharing of images between trusts.

Link:

www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=341031&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False

Action:

- NHS chief executives may be interested in learning more about PACS, given its role in supporting improved clinical decision-making and the 18 week referral to treatment initiative.

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15. **Getting off cigarettes campaign** **(Gateway Reference number: 9390)**

Smokers are up to four times more likely to quit successfully with NHS support. This is the focus of the new 'Getting Off Cigarettes' advertising campaign, launched in January. As part of this healthcare professionals, who have a key referral role, have been sent a letter offering campaign support materials.

Link:

www.nhs.uk/gosmokefree

Action:

- NHS chief executives may wish to call 0800 917 6699 for the new 'Get Support' DVD which explains the different services available.

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16. VOICE 08 – UK conference for social enterprise (Gateway Reference number: 9368)

This conference on 26-27 February 2008 is a chance to meet exciting social entrepreneurs and see how social enterprise can strengthen communities and provide innovative solutions to local issues and challenges.

Link:

www.tcp-events.co.uk/voice08/

Action:

- NHS and social care chief executives can find out further information and register by visiting the above link.

17. Changes to payment by results information event (Gateway Reference number: 9379)

From 1 April 2009 the national tariff will be based on a revised, more up-to-date currency – HRG4.

Link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/standards-and-classifications/casemix/hrg4/prepare-for-hrg4

Action:

- NHS chief executives should ensure their organisation takes advantage of these information events (including one with a clinical focus) in order to understand and prepare for the impact of this change.

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General comments

If you would like to make general comments on the week please contact Amy Key by email at theweek@dh.gsi.gov.uk or by faxing 020 7972 5851 or by writing to Room 449, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Department of Health, London SW1A 2NS.