

Brunswicks' Healthcare Review

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29 April 2009



refreshingly modern, reassuringly traditional

This week's article

Andrew Dawson gives his pithy take on Swine flu. Keith is away in North America—perhaps being exposed to the virus! Seriously have you and your business prepared for the potential effects of a pandemic?

Andrew advises that now is the time to do your planning—after all the WHO says the UK is, with France the best prepared country in the world to withstand a pandemic. If we are the best ...

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Editorial

Do we think the NMC got it right when they struck off Margaret Heywood for breaching patient confidentiality when assisting Panorama carry out covert filming of patients without consent. OK she and Panorama got retrospective consent and her hospital Chief Executive has publically apologised for the state of the wards identified in her very public whistle blowing.

It has been interesting watching the BBC's self righteous handwringing over Ms Heywood's plight—she has certainly been given generous airtime by the BBC to put her side of the story. Opinion is

polarised between those who believe confidentiality is sacrosanct and those who believe the ends justified the means and no-one who was filmed denied her retrospective consent.

Whilst I would not presume to suggest the NMC got it wrong in this case I do wonder whether they gave sufficient weight to the public interest in disclosing the appalling neglect in an NHS hospital.

She certainly had strong mitigating arguments and great benefit came about at her hospital because she blew the whistle.

However this public acclaim won't pay her bills or make pension contributions.

On a completely different note—the budget.

All I can say is brace for impact—we ain't seen nothing yet in terms of the rises in personal taxation and national insurance contributions let alone the effects of austerity government for perhaps a generation.

Things can only get better? - Who is kidding whom!

Andrew

If you currently get this Brunswicks' Healthcare Review from someone else and would prefer to get your own copy, sent directly at no cost - please email us with a request. Our contact details are on the last page of this issue. Thank you.

Abuse/Dignity

Nothing to report

Business News

Nothing to report

Care Homes

Shock as woman returned to home

22 April 2009 – BBC News

Ros Figg has spoken of her shock when social services and police turned up at her home with a battering ram to take her 86-year-old mother back to her care home.

The council said Mrs Figg was taken out of the home against advice.

[For full report click here](#)

Case Reports

Law Reports

Nothing to report

Disciplinary cases

1. Two arrests in care homes probe

22 April 2009 – BBC News

A 56-year-old woman and a 71-year-old man have been taken in for questioning after concerns were raised about the welfare of residents at privately-run care homes in Essex.

The nine properties in Colchester were searched by police on Tuesday morning.

The homes in Cowdray Avenue and Harwich Road accommodate people with mental health problems.

[For full report click here](#)

2. Nurse accused of patient neglect

21 April 2009 – BBC News

The proprietor of Care 4 You has been jailed for six months after being found guilty of stealing £10,400 from an elderly woman. Suzanne Mary Walsh offered to do the victim's shopping and was given a debit card and PIN number, and also altered the victim's will so she stood to inherit £10,000 and her daughter £50,000.

[For full report click here](#)

3. Nurse accused of patient neglect

20 April 2009 – BBC News

Nonhlanhla Nkomo has been accused of failing to look after elderly patients.

Her work at a Bristol care home showed severe shortcomings, a hearing of the Nursing and Midwifery Council in London heard.

[For full report click here](#)

4. Killer nurse struck off register

20 April 2009 – BBC News

Colin Norris, jailed last March for murdering elderly patients has been struck off by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

He was found guilty last March of killing four women at Leeds General Infirmary and St James's Hospital in 2002.

[For full report click here](#)

5. Choke death home fined £250,000

20 April 2009 – BBC News

The Chine Home in Enfield has been fined £250,000 after a 26-year-old man choked to death.

Jesse Moores, from Friern Barnet, north London, had autism and Tourette's Syndrome and choked on a sandwich at The Chine home in Enfield in November 2005.

Robinia ran The Chine, and admitted three counts of failing to comply with health and safety rules.

[For full report click here](#)

6. Council chair Rosie Varley raises concerns over cases in press

20 April 2009 – Community Care

The General Social Care Council has warned that employers are failing to pass on information about social workers who may have breached the workers' code of practice.

Chair, Rosie Varley said some internal disciplinary cases had only come to the GSCC's attention via the press, and said: "This is of great concern to us."

The GSCC is writing to every social work employer in England reminding them of their duty to report staff misconduct cases to the regulator.

[For full report click here](#)

7. Drugs led to deaths of patients

20 April 2009 – BBC News

An inquest jury has ruled that 3 patients who died at a hospital in Hampshire in the late 1990s were given inappropriate medication.

The inquest panel looked at the deaths of 10 patients

at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1996 and 1999 and the panel also found that two patients were given the correct medication but in doses which contributed to their deaths.

The patients' families are now calling for a criminal investigation.

Cases in the news

Nothing to report

Children

8. Policing the dark side of the net

24 April 2009 – BBC News

Article about when the BBC went behind the scenes at the Internet Watch Foundation to see how its researchers cope with the psychologically demanding job of policing sites peddling images of child abuse.

[For full report click here](#)

9. Children at risk of web predators

23 April 2009 – BBC News

Jim Gamble, head of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) has warned that millions of children across the UK potentially risk meeting internet sex predators.

He said there was a need for young people to learn how to stay safe on the web.

[For full report click here](#)

10. Stability for children in care

22 April 2009 – CIW

New laws have been unveiled with the aim of improving stability for young people in care and to minimise up-

heaval as they grow up.

11. Laming child protection review a 'missed opportunity', say LGA chiefs

22 April 2009 – Community Care

A joint response to the Laming report published in response to the Baby P tragedy has been called a "missed opportunity" to save children.

[For full report click here](#)

12. Children in care: Your experiences

20 April 2009 – BBC News

Readers share their experiences of growing up in care in the past as MPs call for the care system in England to be given a radical overhaul.

[For full report click here](#)

13. Whistleblowing 'hotline' for children's social workers goes live

Phone line for practitioners to raise concerns about safeguarding

20 April 2009 – Community Care

Ofsted has launched its confidential whistleblowing hotline for children's services workers in England to highlight concerns about safeguarding procedures in their organisations.

The inspectorate is now accepting calls from staff in local authorities and other providers who believe children are being placed at risk by poor practice in the workplace. The scheme will be run on a pilot basis until July, when its effectiveness will be evaluated.

[For full report click here](#)

14. Looked-after Children report – GSCC response

20 April 2009 – GSCC

Mike Wardle, Chief Executive of the General Social

Care Council has commented on the Looked-after Children report from the Children, Schools and Families Committee.

He said: "Those who work in social care have a crucially important role to play in ensuring that all looked-after children get the help and support they need to give them the best possible start in life."

[For full report go to http://www.gsccl.org.uk/News+and+events/Media+releases/media_release_20-04-09.htm](http://www.gsccl.org.uk/News+and+events/Media+releases/media_release_20-04-09.htm)

Conferences & Courses

To follow next week

Consultations

15. Department of Health (National) (DH) Autism consultation launches

29 April – 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

16. Consultation on ordinary residence guidance, Directions and cross-border arrangements

Closing Date: 17 July 2009

The consultation document seeks views on the revision of the Department's guidance on the ordinary residence provisions in the National Assistance Act 1948 (current guidance is contained in LAC(93)7). It also seeks views on draft Directions that set out local authority responsibilities when ordinary residence disputes arise and draft cross-border arrangements for dealing with ordinary residence disputes between English and Welsh authorities.

17. NICE: Current consultations

To browse through consultations go to <http://www.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?=&consultations.current>

CQC

18. Protecting Vulnerable Groups: Check to Protect Information Events

21 April 2009 – SCC

The Scottish Government plans to host a series of six free information events in June 2009.

The events will aim to bring organisations up to speed with implementation activities and provide an opportunity to consider and discuss aspects of the PVG Scheme.

19. Letter sent to all care at home providers

20 April 2009 – SCC

The Scottish Care Commission has written to all care at home providers in Scotland to update them on its regulatory position.

Ireland, Scotland & Wales

Ireland

Nothing to report

Scotland

20. Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland Motion considered by Parliament

22 April 2009 – CIW

During the meeting of the Scottish Parliament on 22 April 2009, Scottish MPs considered the announcement of the nomination for the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland.

Wales

21. Nurse describes attack by patient

24 April 2009 – BBC News

A nurse described his attack whilst working at a Welsh hospital and is calling for security to be improved for NHS staff.

He was grabbed around the throat by a patient, managed to pull the man off but was left shaken by the experience.

[For full report click here](#)

22. CCTV scheme to cut NHS violence

24 April 2009 – BBC News

New measures to protect NHS staff from violence and aggression

24 April 2009 – Welsh Assembly Government

Health Minister, Edwina Hart announced plans that are currently underway to trial new measures to help protect NHS staff from violence and aggression and to provide more evidence to prosecute offenders when incidents take place.

[For BBC report click here](#)

Learning Disabilities

23. New guide to person centred planning for young people with autism

A new guide for young people with autistic spectrum disorders and their carers has been published by The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities. The guide titled, *We Can Dream*, details how person centred planning and self-directed support can be used by people with autism when making the transition from school or college to adult life.

Person centred planning has been used successfully

to enable many people with learning disabilities to take greater control of their lives and make their own decisions. Until now, however, there has been limited use of the approach by people with autistic spectrum disorders.

We Can Dream uses the real life experiences of four young people as they make their way in the world after leaving education. It shows how person centred planning tools such as circles of support can be adapted for people with autism, making allowances for their particular needs and preferences. *We Can Dream* is available free online from www.learningdisabilities.org.uk.

Legislation Update

Nothing to report

Mental Capacity

Nothing to report

Mental Health

Nothing to report

Miscellaneous

24. Confidential files found on road

24 April 2009 – BBC News

Confidential records of people with learning or physical difficulties were found on a road in Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

A parent dropping his children off at school found the files and initially thought they must have dropped out of his car. He then realised the records were actually from a residential home 25 miles away.

[For full report click here](#)

25. Anger over GP quality decision

23 April 2009 – HSJ

The Department of Health has angered senior people in primary care by appointing external consultants McKinsey to advise a panel of experts on how to measure GP quality.

Some of the 20 members of the clinical advisory group originally set up to advise on aspects of Lord Darzi's primary and community care strategy are unhappy that the DH hired McKinsey & Company to come up with ideas, rather than consulting panel members first.

[For full report go to http://www.hsj.co.uk/5000658.article](http://www.hsj.co.uk/5000658.article)

26. 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Statistics – Updated

February 2009 – DoH

Page linking to referral to treatment statistics for the Department of Health.

[For full report click here](#)

27. Appeal in Parkinson's Awareness Week

23 April 2009 – NCF

The Parkinson's Disease Society has launched a nationwide appeal to mark Parkinson's Awareness Week 2009 (20-26 April). The Society is asking for people to pledge to donate their brains for Parkinson's research.

[For full report click here](#)

28. SCIE response to the budget

22 April 2009 – NCF

Julie Jones, Chief Executive of the Social Care Institute for Excellence has commented on the budget announcement that money is being set aside for traineeships in social care:

"The Chancellor is right to point to a new generation of workers who are being attracted to the social care profession and so the investment announced today is more than welcome, especially because of high vacancy rates in the sector. It's now up to us to make sure we skill them up and keep them in social care. It's an exciting time to train this new workforce and there are many attractive reasons to become a social care professional."

"However it's a challenging time and this new career isn't an easy option. The first thing we need to tell new recruits about is changing demographics: aging baby-boomers are simply not going to tolerate the paternalistic-style of some traditional support services. We at SCIE will be available to provide best practice to new workers and to the managers who will be supervising them, especially in the early stages of their careers. This will ensure that the status of social care is raised and the right people gain a wide range of skills in a rewarding job that helps to support some of the country's most vulnerable people who are suffering because of the recession."

[For full report click here](#)

29. Budget a wake-up call for the health service ahead of funding squeeze from 2011

22 April 2009 – The King's Fund

The King's Fund's chief executive Niall Dickson has commented in response to the Budget and said:

"This is a wake-up call for the health service – no matter

who is in power from 2011 the NHS will have to manage with very low or no growth in its funding. We are in a serious recession from which the NHS cannot be immune.”

“The health service will have to make additional savings of £2.3 billion in 2010/11 but this was already planned for so this year and next year will be relatively benign. The real message from the Budget is that from then on the NHS will have to be much more productive or make significant cuts in its services. Given rising demand, a static budget will feel like a cut, unless the NHS delivers more value for every pound it spends.”

“This is a challenge the NHS can meet but health professionals and managers will have to find ways of providing more care for less money while improving overall quality. What we should expect to see over the next few years is a turnaround in productivity levels, which have been falling over the past five to six years.”

“While a degree of short-termism is inevitable, what the health service must avoid is crude cost-cutting measures, such as freezing posts and delaying care to patients. This would ultimately leave the NHS in a poorer state when the recovery begins.”

30. City care firm needs to improve

22 April 2009 – BBC News

Southampton City Council has refrained from making any new placements with Care UK in a bid to encourage it to improve the quality of its services.

This means that the company, one of several care providers in the city, will only be fulfilling three quarters of its expected contract.

Care UK acknowledged there were "local difficulties" but said it was working with the council to resolve

them.

[For full report click here](#)

31. Concern for cross-border patients

21 April 2009 – BBC News

Concerns have been raised that people in the Forest of Dean registered with GPs over the border in Wales, are missing out on vital health checks.

Health service rules mean those patients are not entitled to free screening for diseases like bowel cancer from either English or Welsh primary care trusts.

[For full report click here](#)

32. Texts remind patients of GP dates

21 April 2009 – BBC News

Lincolnshire patients will receive text messaging to remind them of their GP appointments.

The plan was initiated after there was an increase in people missing or failing to cancel appointments.

[For full report click here](#)

33. The European Commission's proposals for a Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare - UK Government's response to consultation

20 April 2009 – DoH

Document providing an analysis of the submissions to the consultation and sets out the Government response to them.

The Government conducted the consultation to help inform the UK's negotiating position on a draft Directive from the European Commission on cross-border healthcare.

34. The Government's response to the House of Lords European Committee Report Healthcare across EU borders: a safe framework

20 April 2009 – DoH

This Paper responds to the conclusions and recommendations of the House of Lords European Union Committee Report Healthcare across EU borders: a safe framework originally published on 24 February 2009.

NHS

35. Bullying: the 'corrosive' problem the NHS must address

23 April 2009 – HSJ

Sir Ian Kennedy's parting shots and last month's staff survey have both warned of a culture of bullying in the NHS.

Sir Ian Kennedy issued a warning about the "corrosive" impact of bullying among NHS staff in his farewell interview as he stepped down from his role as Healthcare Commission chair.

For full report go to <http://www.hsj.co.uk/5000577.article>

36. A&E transfer records criticised

23 April 2009 – BBC News

Jeremy Colman, Auditor General for Wales has said that hospitals should keep better records of how long it takes to hand patients from ambulances into A&E departments.

In his report, he said many patients have to wait too long in ambulances before being transferred into the care of hospital staff which means that vehicles are queuing outside A&E when they are needed elsewhere, he added.

[For full report click here](#)

37. NHS must not waste opportunity to improve care for most vulnerable

23 April 2009 – BBC News

A report published by The King's Fund says that the NHS must learn from previous reorganisations and not waste the opportunity to modernise community services provided by district nurses, health visitors, physiotherapists and other staff.

The report also offers practical advice to primary care trusts (PCTs) on how to reform community health services.

38. NHS trust boards must have continuous focus on improving quality of care

23 April 2009 – The King's Fund

The King's Fund response to a joint consultation on quality accounts has said that for the pursuit of quality to become embedded within the NHS there needs to be a continuous focus on it by the management and board of every health service organisation and a personal commitment to it from their chief executives.

39. Experts voice concerns over 'cyclical NHS sackings'

23 April 2009 – HSJ

Care Quality Commission chair, Baroness Young, spoke at a King's Fund seminar last week and said: "I'm worried about the cyclical sacking phenomenon, which has got worse since I left the health sector. We have to get to a point where junking managers isn't the first answer to failure".

For full report go to <http://www.hsj.co.uk/5000583.article>

40. Use of NHS number in social care: policy statement

22 April 2009 – DoH

Ministers have made the decision that the NHS number can be used in social care for the purpose of linking social care as well as NHS records. The statement sets out the policy on which the decision was based.

41. (DH) NHS makes budget efficiencies

22 – DoH (National)

The Department of Health has contributed £2.3bn in additional savings, as part of £5bn efficiencies in spending across the public sector in 2010/11, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Department's revenue budget for 2010-11 was adjusted from £104.6bn to £102.3bn, but spending will rise by 18% in this Spending Review period 2007/08 - 2010/11.

The NHS is making these savings in response to the current economic conditions, and to implement Lord Ara Darzi's vision of high quality, efficient services as set out in his review of the NHS - High Quality Care for All.

Health Secretary Alan Johnson said:

"Better quality, safe health care goes hand in hand with better value for money. Getting it right first time for patients means better care, but also better value for money as it avoids costly follow ups to put mistakes right. For example, our drive to reduce healthcare associated infections has improved the experience of thousands of patients and has saved the NHS £75 million in the last year."

"As well as providing health care and support to those that need it at this crucial time, the NHS is also well

placed to help the country through the economic downturn as a major contributor to the overall economy and the country's largest employer."

42. Health service facing 'hard slog'

22 April 2009 – BBC News

Chancellor Alistair Darling's budget means that investment in the NHS in the long-term is set to slow-down significantly.

From 2011 public spending will rise by just 0.7% a year to help repay debts which is less than the 1.1% predicted last year and means the NHS is under pressure to make savings.

[For full report click here](#)

43. Hospital chief reassures patients

22 April 2009 – BBC News

Basildon University Hospital's chief executive has reassured patients after police started an inquiry into damaged intravenous fluid bags.

Police are also investigating the death of a three-year-old girl who was taken to the hospital on Friday evening and died the following morning.

[For full report click here](#)

44. C.diff deaths inquiry announced

22 April 2009 – BBC News

Scotland's health secretary has ordered an independent public inquiry into a fatal outbreak of C.diff at the Vale of Leven hospital.

A total of 55 people were affected by the infection with 18 patients dying, between December 2007 and June 2008.

An initial review of procedures at the hospital found "inadequate" infection controls.

[For full report click here](#)

45. NHS to review sight drug decision

22 April 2009 – BBC News

Telford and Wrekin NHS Trust has pledged to review its decision to refuse a father-of-two treatment which consultants said could save his sight.

Allan Farley, 46, from Telford, suffers from a degenerative eye condition but had been denied the Lucentis drug by the Trust.

A course last 2 years worth of injections can cost the NHS up to £18,000.

[For full report click here](#)

46. NHS to review sight drug decision

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[For full report click here](#)

47. Use of NHS Number in Social Care: Policy statement

22 April 2009 – DoH

Statement setting out the policy on which the decision was based that the NHS number may be used in social care for the purpose of linking social care and NHS records.

[For full report click here](#)

48. Template Patient Leaflets on MRSA Screening

21 April 2009 – DoH

Newly issued illustrative template leaflets have been developed to assist local areas in communicating to patients about pre-operation MRSA screenings.

[For full report click here](#)

49. Wasted drugs cost NHS millions

21 April 2009 – BBC News

Government figures show that unused prescription drugs is costing the NHS in Oxfordshire over £7m a year.

When drugs are returned to pharmacies they need to be destroyed, even if they have not been opened.

[For full report click here](#)

50. 'Open mind' over hospital deaths

21 April 2009 – BBC News

Hampshire's chief constable has declared that he is keeping an "open mind" about reopening an inquiry into deaths at a hospital until he has seen the coroner's report.

An inquest jury looked into 10 deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the late 1990s and found that three of them were given "inappropriate medication".

[For full report click here](#)

51. NHS safety drive 'saving lives'

21 April 2009 – BBC News

Health service bosses claim that its campaign to cut the number of life-threatening mistakes in the NHS in Wales has saved hundreds of lives.

They estimated that 410 lives were saved in the first six months of the two-year "1,000 Lives Campaign".

[For full report click here](#)

52. Fears over web health revolution

20 April 2009 – BBC News

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics has raised concerns on the rise of online drug sales and private DNA tests and scans in the last few years.

The group also said that such changes may be putting patients at risk or leading to unnecessary alarm and it wants to hear about patients' experiences and the views of private companies offering these services.

[For full report click here](#)

53. New NHS dentists in £1m project

20 April 2009 – BBC News

Another 18,000 people were promised access to an NHS dentist in Berkshire as part of a £1m investment.

Three new surgeries are set to open under the plan, with the one in Twyford already taking its first patients.

The other practices in Newbury and Shinfield will open their doors next month.

[For full report click here](#)

Nursing

Nothing to report

Older People

54. Malnutrition in elderly tackled

23 April 2009 – BBC News

NHS Peterborough is to roll out a scheme to stop malnutrition in care homes for the elderly.

The screening programme was piloted in six care homes and actually cut malnutrition by a third.

[For full report click here](#)

Ed—it is frightening to read of such things!

55. A sweet and sour budget for older people

22 April 2009 – NCF

Michelle Mitchell, Charity Director for Age Concern and Help the Aged stated:

“In a Budget for jobs, workers over 50 have once again slipped under the Government’s radar. With today’s figures showing unemployment among the over 50s rising at a higher rate than among any other age group [1], without targeted help for over 50s, ministers risk creating a lost generation of older people shut out of the job market and walking into a retirement blighted by pensioner poverty.”

“Maintaining the Winter Fuel Payment, measures to help grandparents and help for low-income savers will provide cheer to pensioners in an otherwise gloomy Budget. But the failure to do more to tackle fuel poverty will continue to leave many pensioners out in the cold.”
“More traineeships are welcome but the failure to provide emergency funding for our creaking social care system will exacerbate the current crisis. In an era of difficult financial choices, ministers must not use the recession as an excuse to starve the care system of funds it urgently needs or be distracted from much needed long-term reform.”

[For full report click here](#)

Parliament

The following section is produced in conjunction with PLMR – Political Lobbying & Media Relations – www.plmr.co.uk specialists in health and social care

20th April 2009 – House of Commons – Written Question and Answer that asked the Secretary of State for Health about the number of people with a learning disability who are employed by the Department of Health and the NHS. The question was tabled by the Shadow Minister for Health and MP for Eddisbury, Stephen O’ Brien, and was answered by the Minister for Public Health, Ben Bradshaw MP, on behalf of the Secretary of State. To read the Written Question and Answer online click on the following link: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/>

21st April 2009 – House of Commons – Written Question and Answer that asked the Secretary of State for Health about the cost to local authorities of identifying the number of disabled children and adults with autism. The Written Question was tabled by the Shadow Secretary of State for Wales, Cheryl Gillan MP, and was answered by the Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope MP, on behalf of the Secretary of State. To read the Written Question and Answer online click on the following link: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/>

22nd April 2009 – House of Commons – 2009 Budget Statement that announced 50,000 traineeships in social care for young people through the ‘Care First’ scheme. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, stated that:

“We are working with employers to create or support as many as 250,000 jobs.

This will include delivering local services, traineeships in social care, and other high demand sectors.”

Please find below the links to view the statements and the accompanying documents of the 2009 Budget online:

Complete Budget 2009 Report (PDF 2.59MB) - <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>
Budget Statement – <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>
Press Notice - <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>

23rd April 2009 – House of Commons – Written Ministerial Statement that announced the publication of the Government’s Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy. The new Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy replaces the Government’s Putting People First scheme. The strategy is the result of collaboration between the Department of Health and its key partners in the adult social care sector. The Written Statement was tabled by the Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope MP. To read the Written Ministerial Statement online click on the following link: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/>

27th April 2009 – House of Commons – Written Ministerial Statement that announced the publication of the Equality Bill. The Bill outlaws unjustifiable age discrimination against people aged 18 and over by those providing services and exercising public functions. The Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson MP, has ordered that, alongside the publication of the Bill, a national review be undertaken by Sir Ian Carruthers, Chief Executive of the South-West Strategic Health Authority, and Jan Ormondroyd, Chief

Executive of Bristol City Council, to see how the written provisions might be practically implemented in the health and social care sector. The Written Statement was tabled by the Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope MP. To read the Written Ministerial Statement online click on the following link: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/>

Social Care

56. Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy – a route-map to the future

23 April 2009 – ECCA

The English Community Care Association has endorsed the new Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy and hailed it as a route-map to a 21st century care system.

Martin Green, Chief Executive of ECCA, said:

“The foundations of a high quality care system are its staff and we are very fortunate in the quality and commitment of those dedicated people within our workforce. If we are to attract a similar calibre of person in the future and have the resources and energy within our workforce to develop care provision in the 21st century, we must have a strategic and far-reaching approach to further professionalising the social care workforce”.

He continued:

“This strategy presents enormous challenges for the social care sector and especially for commissioners. In order to deliver professionalism and a stable workforce, commissioners must deliver a fair and reasonable settlement for the care sector. Professionalism and commitment cannot be bought on the cheap.

ECCA is pleased that social care has been recognised as an important career choice for young people and we hope that the new scheme to help them into social care apprenticeships will encourage more young people to enter the social care workforce and develop their career to become the leaders of the future”.

57. (DH) Get paid to learn with a social care apprenticeship

23 April 2009

Care Services Minister, Phil Hope, said young people in the West Midlands who enjoy helping people within the community should apply for an apprenticeship in social care.

A health and social care apprenticeship allows candidates to experience first hand the rewards of working with and caring for vulnerable people and provides practical, on the job experience whilst working towards recognised qualifications and being paid at the same time.

Phil Hope said:

“The social care apprenticeship scheme is a great step on the career ladder for young people who want to gain real life experience of the care sector. The opportunity to gain relevant job knowledge and recognised qualifications, whilst earning a salary means that young people have every chance of forging a rewarding career in social care.”

Each trainee is assigned a mentor who will guide candidates through their apprenticeship, tailoring training requirements according to each individual's needs. This support will help to ensure that individuals can progress as quickly as they want to, whilst arming them with the

skills and knowledge they require to take up roles within social care in the future.”

There are two types of apprenticeship scheme; the young apprenticeship scheme aimed at young people under the age of 16, and the Health and Social Care apprenticeship aimed at candidates over the age of 16.”

“Once the apprenticeship has been completed, some candidates will be offered jobs with the companies they have been placed with. Others go on to work with a range of different sectors such as; older people, children, families and people with disabilities, within a variety of different environments such as home care within the community or residential care homes.”

For further information about apprenticeships in health and social care please visit <http://www.socialcarecareers.co.uk/start/apprenticeships.asp>

58. Adult social care workforce strategy

23 April 2009 – DoH

A document outlining the workforce implications of the Putting People First programme and provides a high-level framework to support the transformation of the adult social care workforce.

59. Green Paper on adult social care to be out in June

22 April 2009 – NCF

The Chancellor announced in his Budget Report that the Government will publish the Green Paper on the reform of the care and support system in England in June 2009.

Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope, welcomed the announcement and made the following statement:

“The Green Paper will suggest ways in which we can

create a care and support system fit for the 21st century. It will outline the options for reform and propose a new system that is fair and affordable and meets the changing demands and expectations of society. The stage will then be set for everybody to have their say on our proposals."

"The quality of the debate during the engagement period was incredibly high, and many challenging questions were asked. People from all walks of life really worked to get to grips with the many complex issues around care and support reform and the principles which should underpin it. This inspiring commitment by stakeholders and the public shows that there is a genuine appetite among people in England for this reform. We have responded to this commitment and will produce a Green Paper."

[For full report click here](#)

Workforce

60. People who use home care to benefit from regulation of workers, say GSCC

23 April 2009 – GSCC

The General Social Care Council said that people who are cared for in their home will receive a higher quality of care from better skilled and more competent staff, following the announcement that home care workers will start to register with the regulator from 2010.

For full report go to

http://www.gsc.org.uk/News+and+events/Media+releases/media_release_23-04-09.htm

ARTICLE

Swine flu – brace for impact or perhaps just hype

In this wonderful world of ours of 24 hour news and reporting the latest pandemic scare of swine flu is being thrust on all of us by the media. Are the media reports contributing to the fevered anxiety being felt – or is that slight temperature and irritable mood the prelude of something worse – or just me on a normal day?

At the risk of sounding flippant and enjoying myself too much when Keith is away on holiday I have already asked him not to return from North America with swine flu or indeed any sick porcine characteristics.

It appears that the vast majority of the fatalities in Mexico are erstwhile fit young to middle aged men between 25-45 . So perhaps I have no need to worry too much about the risks to Keith! However lets not forget that the flu pandemic in 1918-1919 also decimated the young, fit and healthy to a much greater extent than the apparently more vulnerable. So whilst old men like Keith may be less at risk the effects on the world could be devastating if significant numbers of economically and reproductively active individuals were suddenly to die.

I have heard some sneering reports today suggesting that industrialised countries will cope far better than Mexico where there are over 1,000 cases and at least 20 deaths confirmed as having originated from the H1N1 swine flu variant and another 60 or so fatalities suspected. This death rate could be as high as 8% of those infected. Other countries appear not to have had many cases so far so an 8% fatality rate

might not yet be apparent.

According to the World Health Organisation the UK and France are the most prepared countries in the world to deal with a flu pandemic. On the basis that my wife is meant to be in the front line for dealing with such events here I do wonder who is kidding whom. I have already made a plan that if she is called upon to administer to the sick I will erect a tent for her in the front garden and feed her through the letterbox if she's lucky!

OK joking aside though – have you even thought about business continuity and the care of the vulnerable if a flu pandemic hits? How would you cope? How would you seek to limit direct human contact? Seemingly those displaying symptoms will be asked to remain isolated and not be permitted to attend GP surgeries. Children will not be able to attend schools, public transport will be curtailed much of modern life will be reduced to what we can do corralled in our own homes. So how will you manage without many from your workforce?

On the basis that we are supposedly amongst the most well prepared I anticipate we all have already worked out what we may need to do as and when and if a pandemic does hit us? Other than erecting a tent for my wife and the need to entertain 3 children and ration supplies I've not given it too much thought yet. Funny – when I put it like that it sounds like a camping trip for all of us – but perhaps a little less soggy.

OK joking aside again, and conscious that this may turn out to be media hype it may be worth starting to plan what you'd need to do when the pandemic does strike.

To discuss anything arising from this article or any of the matters touched upon contact Andrew W Dawson at andrew.dawson@brunswicks.eu or telephone him on 0870 766 8400.



Editor

Keith M Lewin



0870 766 9285



0871 288 4089



keith.lewin@brunswicks.eu

Ass. Publications Manager

Emily Henshaw



0870 766 8400



0871 288 4089



Emily.henshaw@brunswicks.eu

Switchboard

0870 7668400

**Crisis Intervention Line
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