

# POLICY UPDATE

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CANCER SUPPORT

## March 2014

Welcome to 'Policy Update', a monthly bulletin on the latest policy developments of relevance to those with an interest in cancer.

If you are reading this document on screen, the web addresses are hyperlinks which will take you directly to the relevant web pages or documents. If you would like any further information or have any questions or comments about 'Policy Update', please contact Anna Baranski, Policy Analyst, on 020 7840 4984 or email [abaranski@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:abaranski@macmillan.org.uk)

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# UK-wide

## **Personal Independence Payment: early progress**

The Department for Work and Pensions introduced Personal Independence Payment as planned in a small number of areas from April 2013. Since then backlogs have developed in the assessment process, leading to delays and uncertainty for claimants, according to a National Audit Office report.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Cutting-edge drugs to be fast-tracked to patients**

State-of-the-art medicines and advanced treatments will be fast-tracked to patients thanks to a new approach that will make the UK one of the best countries in the world to capitalise on breakthroughs in medical care.

The Government is determined to strengthen Britain's science, research and development industry to as part of its long-term economic plan.

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# England

## **NHS England acts in response to concerns about information sharing**

A statement from Tim Kelsey, National Director for Patients and Information in response to concerns about the care.data programme.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **NHS payment reform: lessons from the past and directions for the future**

In this policy response the Nuffield Trust reviews different approaches to payment for health services in the English NHS. It explores the evidence on whether recent payment initiatives have met their goals.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Public Health England must find a clear direction**

Public Health England (PHE) has not yet shown that it is able to be an effective champion of the nation's public health interests according to a senior committee of MPs.

The Health Select Committee has published its Eighth Report of Session 2013–14 from their Inquiry into Public Health England. The Committee expressed concern that there is insufficient separation between PHE and the Department of Health, saying they believe PHE can only succeed if it is clear beyond doubt that its public statements and policy positions are not influenced by Government policy or political considerations.

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### **Hunt Announces Dissolution of Mid-Staffs trust**

Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, issued a Ministerial Statement announcing that the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust is to be dissolved. He said "local people suffered too much for too long under a system which ignored appalling failures of care in their local hospital."

Stafford Hospital and Cannock Hospital will remain open, and 90% of existing patient visits will remain at the hospitals. However a small minority of services will move away from Stafford hospital once local commissioners are satisfied that there is sufficient capacity available elsewhere.

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### **NHS staff survey published**

NHS England publishes the results of the 2013 NHS Staff Survey which was carried out between September and December 2013. Over 265 NHS organisations and twice as many staff as last year (203,000) responded.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **NHS England launches procurement process to accredit the best commissioning support suppliers**

NHS England is launching the start of the process to create a unique framework agreement for commissioning support services. The lead provider framework will allow Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's), NHS England and others to buy some or all of their commissioning support needs, ranging from non-frontline support services to bespoke services that support local and large scale service design change projects. This is essential to enable commissioners to secure the best outcomes for patients and value for taxpayers.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Patients to benefit from £30 million Nursing Technology Fund investment

Seventy-five NHS Trusts across the country will benefit from £30 million to buy technology for nurses, midwives and care staff.

It is the first round of investment of the £100m 'Nursing Technology Fund' which was announced by Prime Minister, David Cameron. NHS England launched the application process for funding last year.

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## New cervical cancer drug added to Cancer Drugs Fund

Five hundred women every year could benefit from a new drug which has been added to the Cancer Drugs Fund to treat advanced cervical cancer.

The drug bevacizumab (Avastin) is already used in the treatment of other cancers, however this is the first time it will be available on the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) for advanced cervical cancer.

[Click here for more information](#)

## King's Fund report on health and care systems fit for an ageing population

The King's Fund has published a new report, *Making our health and care systems fit for an ageing population*. The report focuses on the relationship between individual components of care, and how to create a truly holistic and effective care experience for older people. The paper aims to give local service leaders a framework to help them examine and improve the services they provide.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Labour - Publication of the Oldham report

The Independent Commission on Whole Person Care for the Labour Party, chaired by Sir John Oldham has published its report *One Person. One Team. One System*. Labour Leader Ed Miliband described it as "a blueprint to bring the [health] system into the 21st Century".

It makes recommendations on areas such as integration, social care and long term conditions, information and support, carers, NHS reorganisation, end of life and patient data.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Improving General Practice – A Call to Action – emerging findings report published**

NHS England has published its emerging findings report on a future strategy for commissioning general practice services. Building on the outcome of engagement with stakeholders in 2013 under Improving General Practice – a Call to Action, the report focuses on the central role NHS England wants general practice to play in wider systems of primary care, and it describes its ambition for greater collaboration with clinical commissioning groups in the commissioning of general practice services.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Northern Ireland**

### **Poots updates Assembly on progress in Transforming Your Care**

The main driver behind Transforming Your Care (TYC) is to reform health and social care services to deliver the right care, at the right time and in the right place.

That was the key message from Health Minister Edwin Poots as he updated the Assembly on progress in implementing TYC.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Publication of ‘Domiciliary Care Services for Adults in Northern Ireland (2013)’**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has published a statistical bulletin summarising information on adults receiving domiciliary care services during a survey week in September 2013.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Publication of ‘Carers’ Statistics for Northern Ireland**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has published 'Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland (quarter ending 31 December 2013)'.

[Click here for more information](#)

# Scotland

## **Women urged to attend their screening appointments**

Not enough women are taking up the offer to protect themselves against cancer by having regular cervical screening, according to figures released this month.

Figures from the Public Health Screening Programmes Annual Report show that only 75.1 per cent of women who are invited for a cervical screening have taken up the offer. And in some areas of Glasgow these rates drop as low as 65.7 per cent.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Joining up health and social care**

The Scottish Parliament has voted to transform the way health and social care services are provided by passing “landmark” legislation.

The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill is the most substantial reform to the country’s National Health Services in a generation, and will also radically transform the way social care services are provided too.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Digital future for the NHS**

Patients in Scotland will have secure online access to their own health information by 2020 said Health Secretary Alex Neil.

During a parliamentary debate Mr Neil also announced a further £10 million to support telehealth and telecare projects that allow patients to better manage their health, care and wellbeing at home.

[Click here for more information](#)

# Wales

## **Welsh Government investing £80m to train healthcare professionals**

Funding announced by the Welsh Government Health Minister Mark Drakeford will pay for more than 2,000 new students and secure the training of more than 6,100 current students in 2014/15.

The £80m funding will support the education and training of the next generation of healthcare professionals including nurses, midwives, radiographers, paramedics and pharmacists

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## **Plaid Cymru unveils plans for a radical restructure of Health and Social Services**

Plaid Cymru has launched a consultation paper for reforming the healthcare system, by proposing options for a more streamlined integration of health and social care. They suggest either scrapping Local Health Boards, replacing them with one National Health Board, or bringing adult social care services under the seven boards' responsibility.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Collectively, rare diseases are not rare**

The Welsh Government has launched its Wales Rare Disease Plan, aiming to ensure the targeted use of healthcare to improve detection, diagnosis and prevention of rare diseases which approximately 1 in 17 UK people will be affected by. This is a Wales-based plan, in addition to the all-UK strategy. A consultation has also been launched.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **New funding to speed up access to treatment**

New funding of more than £5m to reduce waiting times has been announced by Health Minister Mark Drakeford. The funding will go towards cutting waits for diagnostic tests.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Expert group recommends new mortality data system for Wales**

A new Welsh approach to the publication of death rates in hospitals is needed, an expert group has recommended.

The team, led by Dr Chris Jones, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, has concluded that risk adjusted hospital mortality rates (RAMI) cannot be used to compare the quality of care between different healthcare systems.

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# Developments from NICE

## Improving care for children and young people with cancer

Children and young people with cancer should be given the opportunity to take part in clinical trials to increase knowledge about the disease and improve survival rates, according to latest standards from NICE.

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