

POLICY UPDATE

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

May 2015

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 Christopher Smith, Policy and Partnerships Officer, on 020 7091 2222 or email christophersmith@macmillan.org.uk.

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United Kingdom

Health service faces GP exodus.

The NHS faces an exodus of GPs, with one in three considering retirement in five years. This is one of the key findings from the BMA survey with ICM of 15,560 UK GPs, which also reveals how three in 10 full-time GPs are thinking of going part-time.

BMA GPs committee chair Chaand Nagpaul said the survey results lay bare the stark reality of the recruitment and retention crisis in general practice, with one in five trainees hoping to move abroad before 2020.

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England

How is the NHS performing? April 2015: Quarterly monitoring report.

The Kings Fund quarterly monitoring report details the results of an online survey of NHS finance directors carried out between 26 February 2015 and 12 March 2015.

It shows 75 per cent of trust finance directors and over two-thirds of commissioner finance leads thought there was a high or very high risk of not achieving the Five Year Forward View's efficiency targets of 2 to 3 per cent. It also shows staff morale is the top concern for Trusts, with cancer waiting times the 6th highest concern. The top concern for CCGs is the A&E 4 hour wait, with cancer waiting times in fourth and staff morale in fifth.

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Workforce planning in the NHS.

Using national statistics, key publications and insights gained from interviews with expert stakeholders, the Kings Fund paper 'Workforce planning in the NHS' describes what is happening in the NHS workforce now in three key areas: mental health, general practice and community nursing. This analysis is presented alongside data that highlights providers' reliance on agency staff. It looks at how workforce issues have been addressed across the system so far, explores the main challenges, and makes recommendations to improve workforce planning.

The report finds that there are major disconnects between strategic goals and workforce trends. For example, despite long-standing ambitions to raise the level and range of community services provided, it is difficult to see any increases among key staff groups, and any such increases have been limited to areas with specific national targets.

To remedy these problems, the report recommends a more joined-up approach to workforce planning today, with a national strategy that covers all NHS-commissioned services.

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Scotland

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer appointed.

Professor Rose Marie Parr has been appointed as the Scottish Government's new Chief Pharmaceutical Officer.

Professor Parr has held the post of Director of Pharmacy at NHS Education for Scotland (NES) since its inception in April 2002 and has worked in the pharmaceutical profession since 1982. As Director of Pharmacy at NES, she was responsible for providing leadership, management and advice to the NES Board on all pharmacy educational matters.

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Breast cancer screening call.

Health Secretary Shona Robison has encouraged women across Scotland to take up their invitation to be screened for breast cancer. The call comes as new figures show that over half of invasive breast cancers detected in 2013/14 would have been unlikely to have been found by a physical examination alone.

In the period 2011-2014, 72.9 per cent of eligible women attended a breast screening appointment, with cancer detected in 6.8 of every 1000 women screened.

The Scottish Breast Screening Programme invites all women aged between 50 and 70 to a breast screening appointment approximately every three years.

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The Role of Third Sector Interfaces.

The note 'The Role of Third Sector Interfaces' makes clear the Scottish Government's intention that Third Sector Interfaces (TSI's) have a key role as advocates of the third sector, in relation to the role of the third sector and integration of health and social care, as set out in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

Building on the work of TSI's to provide a catalyst to the Scottish Government's ambitions for the third sector to play a greater role in public service reform, not least in planning, design and delivery of services, TSIs are positioned to act as the conduit for the third sector in relation to integration activities.

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Melanoma skin cancer on rise.

Cases of skin cancer in Scotland have increased by more than 30 per cent in a decade, prompting calls for the Scottish public to take more care in the sun.

Incidence of malignant melanoma rose by 30.3 per cent from 2003 to 2013 according to the latest cancer statistics published by ISD Scotland. This is the largest increase of the ten most common cancers in Scotland. There were 1,172 diagnoses of melanoma in 2013, making it the 6th most common cancer in Scotland.

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Cancer Incidence in Scotland (2013).

'Cancer Incidence in Scotland' is the annual publication of cancer incidence statistics for Scotland. This release updates the number of cancer registrations in Scotland from 1989 to 2012 and adds registrations for 2013. Approximately 45 types of cancer are included, broken down by age group, sex, NHS Board and Cancer Regional Network.

The report finds that over the last ten years, age-standardised incidence rates of cancer in Scotland have fallen by 4% in males but increased by 7% in females. For both males and females in Scotland combined, lung cancer is still the most common cancer overall, with 5,124 cases diagnosed in 2013 (17% of all cancers), compared to 4,697 cases (15%) of breast cancer and 3,812 cases of colorectal cancer (12%).

It is estimated that two in five people in Scotland will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime. The report also estimates that there are 176,000 people in Scotland who have been diagnosed with cancer over the last 20 years and who are still alive. This is approximately 3% of the population of Scotland.

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Health Bill consultation response.

Measures to regulate e-cigarettes and smoking in NHS hospital grounds are to be included in a forthcoming Health Bill. Responding to a consultation into the proposed legislation, Maureen Watt, Minister for Public Health, set out plans for the Bill, which will be introduced later this year.

Following the consultation, the Scottish Government proposes to ban the sale of non-medicinal e-cigarettes to under 18s, and to also make it an offence for an adult to buy them for a minor. E-cigarette retailers will be required to be registered on a central register, as tobacco retailers in Scotland currently are.

Smoking in the vicinity of hospital buildings will be made a statutory offence as part of the Health Bill. Currently all NHS boards operate a policy banning smoking on their grounds.

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Northern Ireland

Partnership working key to improving health and well being for all.

Health Minister Jim Wells and Environment Minister Mark H Durkan have highlighted opportunities for partnership working on health and well being initiatives by health and social care organisations and the 11 new Councils under the new Community Planning responsibilities.

Speaking before the 2015 Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Care (NICON) conference, Health Minister Jim Wells said: “Both I and Minister Durkan want to ensure that we make best use of the opportunities afforded through Community Planning to improve the health and well being of the citizens of Northern Ireland. This means working with a number of partner organisations to implement the new Public Health Strategy – Making Life Better. It is only by working with the new local Councils to create the conditions for good health and well being by providing access to green spaces, opportunities for walking, cycling etc that can we provide a good quality of life to local communities. This focus on promoting well being and adoption of health living was at the heart of Transforming Your Care (TYC).”

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Wales

Rise in delays to patients leaving hospital.

The number of patients waiting to leave acute wards in Welsh hospitals has reached its highest level since March 2010. Latest figures from the Welsh Government show that 181 patients were experiencing a delayed transfer of care on acute wards in February — up from 179 in January. The total number of patients experiencing a delayed transfer of care was 518.

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E-cigarette use more common among under 15s than tobacco, research finds.

New research published in BMJ Open shows that primary school-aged children in Wales are more likely to have used e-cigarettes than tobacco. The research, which was carried out by Cardiff University on behalf of the Welsh Government, used data from two national surveys undertaken in 2013-14 among primary and secondary school pupils. It finds that 6% of 10-11 year olds and 12% of 11-16 year olds have used an e-cigarette at least once.

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Partnership working key to improving health and well being for all.

Major changes to the way people's needs are assessed to decide if they need a package of care and support in Wales have been unveiled by Health and Social Services Minister, Mark Drakeford.

The current approaches to eligibility and assessment of people across Wales are often inconsistent. The new model is designed to bring these processes under one framework while recognising the different needs of children and adults.

It is hoped that the new eligibility model will remove the current cliff-edge decisions where people receive care and support services only when their needs are at or near crisis point. This will be replaced with a more individualised approach that will require local authorities to put in place an appropriate and, wherever possible, preventive response for each individual.

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