

# Information Update 111

20 October 2010

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## Children and Young People's Health

1. The Children's Society has launched its 'Index of Children's Well-being', which it says is a more concise and precise way of monitoring well-being than just using social indicators like income and educational attainment. By pin-pointing the factors that have an impact on a child's satisfaction levels, the new tool provides professionals with a way of monitoring subjective well-being. The plan is to use the index quarterly to measure any changes in the well-being of children. The intention is also to make the tool freely available for other organisations to use.

<http://tinyurl.com/3xg53ka>

2. Alcohol Concern and the Children's Society have published a joint report called 'Swept Under the Carpet'. The report calls for a national inquiry into the impact of parental alcohol misuse on children. The charities say that 2.6m children live with a parent whose drinking puts them at risk of neglect and 705,000 live with a dependent drinker. They argue that a national inquiry into the scale of harm and impact on society could force local areas to act more quickly to protect children.

<http://tinyurl.com/25dcjnf>

3. New guidance on improving the quality of life for children and young people in care has been issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). The mental health guidance recommends a whole systems approach and calls for educational, health and social care organisations, professionals and carers to communicate and collaborate more effectively to improve standards of care.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/NewGuidanceToImproveQualityOfLife.jsp>

## Employment and Health

4. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Office for Europe has published a report called 'Mental health and well-being at the workplace – protection and inclusion in challenging times'. The report is based on presentations given at a WHO meeting on mental health and well-being at the workplace in 2009. It suggests ways to respond to the

challenges that modern working life presents; and ways to overcome barriers to employment for people with mental health problems.

<http://tinyurl.com/3yt75az>

5. Work related stress is a big problem in the UK and can lead to higher absence levels, increased staff turnover and human error. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published a number of case studies in DVD format which show how stress impacts on individuals and how businesses have tackled the problem. The film is available to watch from the HSE website.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/casestudies.htm>

6. A South East roundtable discussion on the Responsibility Deal and Health at Work took place on 1 October in London. The purpose of the discussion was to bring regional business leads and public health professionals together to explore the responsibilities of business and public health in improving the health and well-being of working people in the changing policy landscape of the NHS and Public Health White Papers and the Responsibility Deal. If you are interested in finding out more about this agenda, contact the South East Health Work and Wellbeing Co-ordinator email: [barbara.hawkes@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.hawkes@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

<http://tinyurl.com/2dnb7cl>

## **Health Inequalities**

7. A report which aims to identify and understand the health needs of migrants in the South East has been published. The report, which was commissioned by the Department of Health South (DHSE) and produced by the South East Migrant Health Study Group, finds that many migrants experience barriers to accessing healthcare services due to: failure to understand what services are available and how to use them; confusion around entitlement to NHS care; and language and cultural barriers. It makes a number of recommendations.

<http://www.migranthealthse.co.uk/>

## **Health Policy / Scrutiny**

8. The Chancellor George Osborne announced the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) today. The NHS Chief Executive Sir David Nicholson has consequently written to NHS Chief Executives, Chairs and Directors of Finance to lay out the implications of the Spending Review settlement for the NHS. It is likely that further detailed analysis of what the CSR means for health and social care will emerge over the coming days from organisations such as the NHS Confederation and the Kings Fund.

<http://tinyurl.com/3y51999>

[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend\\_index.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_index.htm)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-11582619>

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/>

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/Pages/home.aspx>

9. The British Medical Association (BMA) has published a detailed response to the NHS White Paper in which it calls for the reforms of the NHS to be based on cooperation, not competition. While the BMA acknowledges what it considers to be the positive aspects of the White Paper proposals, such as devolving responsibility to clinicians and patients, it questions the wisdom of extensive reforms that it says will further widen the purchaser-provider split and increase commercialisation of the NHS.

<http://tinyurl.com/3acwe6c>

10. The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) has written to the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley saying that the upcoming Public Health White Paper represents a pivotal chance to develop a public health system that is fit for purpose, but also warning that implementation of an inappropriate model could irrevocably damage the delivery of public health. The letter draws attention to the three principles of public health and calls on the Department of Health (DH) to consult more widely with the broader public health workforce.

[http://www.fph.org.uk/fph\\_outlines\\_principles\\_of\\_public\\_health\\_to\\_secretary\\_of\\_state](http://www.fph.org.uk/fph_outlines_principles_of_public_health_to_secretary_of_state)

11. The Department of Health (DH) has launched a consultation on 'Liberating the NHS: The Information Revolution'. The consultation document sets out a vision for an information revolution that enables people to have the information they need to stay healthy, to take decisions about, and to exercise more control over, their care. The intention is to transform the way in which information is collected, used and analysed by the NHS and social care services. The consultation ends on 14 January 2011.

[http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/information-revolution/informationrevolution/consult\\_view](http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/information-revolution/informationrevolution/consult_view)

12. The NHS Information Centre has published what it says is groundbreaking report on how much patients benefit from NHS care. The report is based on questionnaires completed by patients before and after undergoing one of four procedures (hernia surgery, hip replacement, knee replacement and surgery on varicose veins) in NHS hospitals in England. According to the IC it is the first time that such a large scale study of patient reported outcomes (PROMs) has been carried out.

<http://tinyurl.com/3xwhr2d>

13. The 'Regional Health Profiles' for 2010 are now available. The profiles give a snapshot overview of health for each local authority and region in England. They are designed to help local government and health services make decisions and plans to improve local people's health and reduce health inequalities. The profiles present a set of key health indicators that show how an area compares to the national and regional average.

<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=95272>

## Later Life

14. The Department of Health South East has published the 'South East Health & Well Being Strategy: Later Life Evidence Review Report'. Its purpose is to review the effectiveness of a range of health and social care interventions aimed at improving the lives of older people. The report is snapshot summary of the available evidence underpinning the actions within the SE Health Strategy. We welcome your feedback so if you have any queries or comments, please contact me: [anh.tran@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anh.tran@dh.gsi.gov.uk)  
  
<http://tinyurl.com/llreview>
15. In 2009, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) launched A Better Life, a new research programme focusing on how to improve the quality of life of older people with high support needs. The first publication from the programme has now been published. 'Older people with high support needs: how can we empower them to enjoy a better life' draws on evidence gathered during the first phase of A Better Life and discusses what is known about the diverse group of older people with high support needs.  
  
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/better-life-high-support-needs>
16. The JRF has also produced a paper summarising the findings from a recent Ipsos MORI poll looking into the views and perceptions of local authorities and service user/carer organisations as they prepare for the economic challenges they face. The paper reveals that many anticipate a dramatic reduction in funding for early intervention, prevention, and respite care in order to ensure continued support to people with the highest levels of need.  
  
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/spending-priorities-adult-social-care>
17. The World Health Organization's WHO Health Evidence Network has produced a policy paper on 'How telehealth can help in the provision of integrated care'. The paper says that while an increasingly solid evidence base is emerging indicating that telehealth can be used effectively to respond to the growing call for improved care, in particular for those with chronic conditions, mainstreaming remains a significant challenge. The paper suggests some ways forward.  
  
<http://tinyurl.com/36fcbkm>
18. The Department of Health (DH) has refreshed its 'Essence of Care' guidance. The new guidance includes 12 benchmarks for the fundamental aspects of care including: bowel, bladder and continence care; care environment; communication; food and drink; personal hygiene; prevention and management of pain; prevention and management of pressure ulcers; promoting health and wellbeing; record keeping; respect and dignity; safety; and self care. The aim of the benchmarking process outlined in 'Essence of Care 2010' is to help practitioners take a structured approach to sharing and comparing practice.  
  
<http://tinyurl.com/3x2ucoa>

## Lifestyles

19. A new report by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Smoking and Health says that tobacco control measures work. The report of the APPG inquiry into tobacco control

says that it was only when a comprehensive tobacco control programme was put in place that smoking prevalence began to decline. It concludes that Government expenditure on tobacco control is excellent value for money providing a net annual revenue benefit of £1.7 billion.

[http://www.ash.org.uk/files/documents/ASH\\_743.pdf](http://www.ash.org.uk/files/documents/ASH_743.pdf)

20. The National Obesity Observatory (NOO) has produced two new resources on 'Adult Obesity and Socio-Economic Status' and 'Child Obesity and Socio-Economic Status'. The data briefings highlight the relationship between socioeconomic status and obesity in adults and in children.

[http://www.noo.org.uk/NOO\\_pub/Key\\_data](http://www.noo.org.uk/NOO_pub/Key_data)

21. 'Obesity and the Economics of Prevention: Fit not Fat' is a publication by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). According to its authors, the book contributes to evidence-based policy making by exploring multiple dimensions of the obesity problem. It outlines an economic approach to the prevention of chronic diseases that provides novel insights relative to a more traditional public health approach. Only the summary of the book is free - the complete publication is priced £24 for the E-book and £35 for the hardcopy.

<http://tinyurl.com/2wa3ob7>

## **Mental Health**

22. NHS Evidence has published the 'Depression Annual Evidence Update 2010' as part of its Mental Health Specialist Collection. The AEU brings together evidence-based guidelines, systematic reviews, evidence summaries, care pathways and service development literature. The Depression AUE covers: diagnosis; risk factors; treatment; population and settings; genetics; depression and anxiety; comorbidity; and dual diagnosis.

<http://tinyurl.com/2w6bfu9>

23. A report by the mental health charity MIND says that people are waiting too long for access to talking therapies. The report called 'We need to talk' reveals that the overall picture of provision is patchy. It says that while choice is a fundamental part of the newly proposed NHS reforms, it is clear that the majority of people accessing psychological therapies have minimal choice in what treatment they have and when and where they receive it.

[http://www.mind.org.uk/assets/0001/0027/Mind\\_We\\_need\\_to\\_talk\\_Report.pdf](http://www.mind.org.uk/assets/0001/0027/Mind_We_need_to_talk_Report.pdf)

## **Events**

24. The Association of Regional Observatories – ARO (not to be confused with regional health observatories) is hosting a free event on 'The role of evidence in decision making: challenges and opportunities' on 15 December in London. The event will look at the essential role evidence plays in decision-making at a national and sub-national level and how it can adapt to new financial and policy realities. You can register your interest to attend online.

<http://www.regionalobservatories.org.uk/evidence-event/>

**Other regional public health news update services:**

**BOB Bulletin**

A fortnightly email update containing public health news, research and information with a focus on practitioners. It includes local news specific to Hants, Bucks, Oxon or Berks.

Available at <http://tinyurl.com/23bnpos> or contact Chrissy Allott, Berks Shared Services, [chrissy.allott@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:chrissy.allott@berkshire.nhs.uk) if you work for the NHS in one of those four counties.

**PH Knowledge Bulletin**

A fortnightly email update containing public health news, publications and information from government and other relevant websites.

Contact Jill Rutland, Kent & Medway Public Health Observatory, [jill.rutland@nhs.net](mailto:jill.rutland@nhs.net)

**SEPHO News**

A two monthly newsletter from the South East Public Health Observatory. It contains data and statistical news from SEPHO and its partners and includes updates on the work of the Observatory and its products.

Contact Carolyn Tasker, South East Public Health Observatory, [carolyn.tasker@sepho.nhs.uk](mailto:carolyn.tasker@sepho.nhs.uk)

The Department of Health - South East is not responsible for the content of external websites.

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