

North of England Mental Health Development Unit

The Health and Social Care Bill

received Royal Assent just as we published our last edition and as promised we now bring you a summary of the key features of the new Act (see pages 2 and 3).

As some of you may know, we previously published an overview of the Health and Social Care Bill in a road-map presentation format. Many of you told us you found this very useful and we have frequently been asked to present this to diverse groups including service user and carer and health and social care professional audiences.

With the publication of the Act, we have now updated this road-map and you can find it on our website at:

<http://www.nemhdu.org.uk/publications>.

For anyone wanting an overview of the Act and related policy changes this is a good place to start as it also provides hyperlinks to supporting documents and information.

You will see in our Policy News section a link to a new guide published by the

NHS Confederation Mental Health Network about the links between physical and mental health. This '*Guide to service design and productivity improvement for commissioners, clinicians and managers in primary care, secondary care and mental health*' is a recommended read with a foreword by our Non-Executive Director, Dr Hugh Griffiths.

Also in this edition of our newsletter we bring you news as promised of the Service User and Carer Leadership Programme which is being run in Newcastle, starting this August and completing next March.

Next month we hope to be able to bring you news of the Implementation Guide for the national mental health strategy: *No Health without Mental Health*.

With best wishes for a happy and healthy month ahead.

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Supporting better mental health

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Our spotlight this month falls on the new Health and Social Care Act.

Spotlight on... The Health and Social Care Act (2012)

The Health and Social Care Bill, implementing the Government's reforms to NHS commissioning and transferring public health services to Local Authorities, received Royal Assent on 27th March, to become the Health and Social Care Act (2012). The Act is wide-ranging and includes the creation of an NHS Commissioning Board and local Clinical Commissioning Groups, plus the abolition of Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts. The Act also covers the licensing and regulation of health services, public involvement, the role of Local Authorities in public health and the regulation of adult health and social care.

Andrew Lansley introduces the Act

On 4th April, Health Secretary Andrew Lansley set out what the Act will mean for four key health and care organisations and their staff – clinical commissioning groups, NHS foundation trusts, NHS trusts and local authorities. He explained there are two simple principles at the heart of the Act:

that patients should share in every decision about their care; and
those responsible for patient care should have the 'freedom and power to lead an NHS that delivers continually improving care'.

In a letter to clinical commissioning group leaders, he reassured them:
"... the breadth and scope of competition in the NHS is something you will determine, in the interests of your patients. It will not be imposed upon you from Whitehall."

He emphasised to chief executives of NHS foundation trusts and NHS trusts that:
"The Government's ambition is to ensure all providers of NHS-funded care ... are genuinely free from political interference to focus on how best to treat their patients ... to design their services ... and to continuously improve the quality of their services."

And when writing to the chief executives of local authorities, Mr Lansley highlighted that: *"The Health and Social Care Act will help ensure you are no longer bystanders in the decisions that affect your local communities."*

You can read Andrew Lansley's full letters at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_133419

Key Features of the Health and Social Care Act (2012)

Clinically-led commissioning

- Most NHS services will be commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
- An NHS Commissioning Board will provide support to CCGs and hold them to account.

Continued...

The Health and Social Care Act (2012) - continued...

- The Commissioning Board will become a full statutory body in October 2012 and most CCGs are expected to be authorised by the Board to become fully functional by April 2013.
- The Act places shared duties on the Board and CCGs to promote the NHS constitution, ensure effectiveness and efficiency, reduce inequalities and promote patient involvement. It also includes promotion of education and training and innovation and research.
- The National Commissioning Board will publish a Commissioning Outcomes Framework which will be informed by a wide range of guidance developed by NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence).
- NICE's remit has been extended to include social care and it's name will change to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence).

Regulation of service providers

- Monitor will be the economic regulator for all NHS services - including addressing competition, licensing of providers (with CQC), financial regulation and supporting continuity of services.
- Monitor will provide the NHS Commissioning Board with information necessary for price-setting and support the prevention of anti-competitive behaviour.
- Monitor will also have a duty to support struggling providers.
- Accountability and autonomy of NHS Foundation Trusts will be strengthened.
- The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will continue to act as the quality regulator across health and social care. The Act removes the CQCs duty for assessing performance of NHS commissioners - this will be taken on by the NHS Commissioning Board.

Greater voice for patients

- The NHS Commissioning Board, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Monitor and Health and Wellbeing Boards all have duties with regards to involvement of patients, carers and the public.
- HealthWatch England will be established as a statutory committee of the Care Quality Commission. HealthWatch England will be a new national body representing the views of users of health and social care services, other members of the public and Local HealthWatch organisations.
- Local HealthWatch organisations will replace existing Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and will have a representative seat on their local Health and Wellbeing Board.

New focus for Public Health and Local Authorities

The Act restructures public health both nationally and locally:

- Public Health England will be the national body overseeing public health and will be accountable to the Secretary of State.
- Under the Act, Local Authorities will have the responsibility locally for public health and it stipulates they must establish and Health and Wellbeing Board and employ a Director of Public Health.
- Health and Wellbeing Boards will be tasked with leading on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and developing the new joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies which will inform local commissioning plans, and aim to develop agreements to pool budgets.

Service User and Carer Leadership Development Course

Applications are invited from the North East region to participate in this Course which will be held in Newcastle upon Tyne and, for those candidates who are successful in the selection process, will involve attendance of a 'taster' session and a further seven sessions to be held on one day per month

Commencement: August 2012

End by: March 2013

The focus of the course will be to:

- Support and encourage service users and carers to be effective in influencing and contributing to service improvements
- Work together to develop leadership skills - to share ideas and experiences and learn from each other
- Empower users and carers within their own local services
- Encourage participants to create and sustain a self supporting network

The course aims to provide you with time and space to reflect within a structured approach to leadership learning.

Should you require further information and to request an application form please contact:

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Policy News

The next few pages give a quick round-up of recent Department of Health policy announcements and publications, with links to the relevant pages on the Department of Health and partner organisation websites.

Drugs and alcohol recovery launches online bulletin

26 April, 2012

Following the launch last month of 8 payment by results pilot sites for drugs and alcohol recovery treatment services, the Payment by Results for Recovery Pilot Programme has now launched its online bulletin:

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/Pages/publications.aspx>

Health Secretary sets out objectives for NHS Commissioning Board

Authority; 23 April, 2012

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has set out the Government's strategic objectives for the NHS Commissioning Board Authority and the basis against which the Authority will be held to account. The DH will hold the Authority to account for its performance against four strategic objectives, relating to:

- transferring power to local organisations
 - establishing the commissioning landscape
 - developing specific commissioning and financial management capabilities
- developing excellent relationships.

Read more at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/04/authority-objectives/>

Mental health stakeholders meet to discuss long term conditions strategy

23 April, 2012

The Department of Health has met with a small group of mental health stakeholders to discuss the long term conditions strategy it is drafting. Today's meeting focusing on mental health issues follows a wider stakeholder event on the strategy held on 14-15 March. People attending the meeting included individual experts and representatives from organisations including the Centre for Mental Health, The King's Fund, Turning Point, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Loud and Clear and the Mental Health Foundation.

The long term conditions strategy is a cross-government strategy being drafted by the Department of Health. We plan to publish the strategy at the end of this year. Soon we will be asking for the views of people with long term conditions, including mental health conditions, and those who work with them, to help us with the drafting process.

Early implementers sought to test long term conditions year of care funding model; 19 April, 2012

Early implementers are being invited to apply to test a potential new way of funding long term conditions care. The LTC year of care funding model will be tested by six early implementer sites and prescribes a set approach for the purpose of national evaluation. The model is described in 'Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention long term conditions' which is published today alongside an application form and supporting guidance for those interested in becoming early implementers. The deadline for applications is 25 May 2012. Read more at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/04/care-funding-model/>

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Policy News—continued

NHS Confederation Mental Health Network publications

18 April 2012

Guide: Investing in emotional and psychological wellbeing for patients with long-term conditions.

Briefing: Long term health gains: Investing in emotional and psychological wellbeing for patients with long-term conditions and medically unexplained symptoms.

Briefing: Mental health and homelessness: planning and delivering mental health services for homeless people.

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/Pages/publications.aspx>

'Striking the Balance' Guidance on information sharing

16 April, 2012

This guidance has been published jointly by the Department and the UK Council of Caldicott Guardians to assist those who need to share information about individuals involved in domestic violence, for example at a MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) – a local, multi agency victim-focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between different agencies.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/04/striking-the-balance-guidance-on-information-sharing/>

Duncan Selbie confirmed as Chief Executive Designate of Public Health England

April 5, 2012

Duncan Selbie has today been confirmed as the Chief Executive Designate of Public Health England. Mr Selbie, currently Chief Executive of Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, will head up Public Health England (PHE), the new public health body that will be the expert voice for public health, when it is established in April 2013.

<http://mediacentre.dh.gov.uk/2012/04/05/duncan-selbie-chief-exec-designate-phe/>

NICE News - Improving the mental health of prisoners

2 April 2012

NICE will develop guidance aimed at improving the mental health of people in prison, following the latest topic referral from the Department of Health. It is estimated that around 90 per cent of all prisoners have a diagnosable mental health problem, including personality disorders, and/or a substance misuse problem. The government pledged to improve outcomes for all people with mental health problems through high-quality services that are equally accessible to all when they set out their mental health strategy - no health without mental health. Under this latest referral, those working in health, youth and criminal justice, education and social care sectors will be given NICE guidance on the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of interventions for the prevention and early treatment of mental health problems of offenders.

Joint clinical guidelines and public health guidance will be developed alongside this for those working in health, social care and criminal justice sectors on an integrated model for addressing mental health in prisons. Read the full news item:

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