

## **Adult social care engagement exercise launched**

On 15 September 2011, the Government launched 'Caring for our future: shared ambitions for care and support' – an engagement exercise with people who use care and support services, carers, local councils, care providers and the voluntary sector about the priorities for improving care and support. The discussion will inform a Government White Paper on social care reform and a progress report on funding reform that will be published in spring 2012.

For further information, go to: [www.caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk](http://www.caringforourfuture.dh.gov.uk)

Following publication of the first national audit of dementia services, the Department is providing £10m of additional support to social care via PCTs for memory services. Following agreement of areas of investment and the outcomes expected, PCTs should transfer the funding to the relevant local authority.

**Link:** [www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/nhs-support-for-social-care-provision-of-support-for-memory-services/](http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/nhs-support-for-social-care-provision-of-support-for-memory-services/)

## **2. Equality Act Specific Duties approved by Parliament**

To help public bodies perform the public sector Equality Duty (PSED) more effectively, regulations were approved by Parliament last week that require public bodies to publish information to demonstrate compliance with the PSED at least annually starting by 31 January 2012 and to prepare and publish equality objectives at least every four years starting by 6 April 2012. Earlier this year, the Equality Delivery System (EDS) was rolled out to the NHS to help it meet the PSED and the two specific duties.

**Links:** [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/2260/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/2260/contents/made)  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-act/equality-duty/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-act/equality-duty/)  
[www.eastmidlands.nhs.uk/eds](http://www.eastmidlands.nhs.uk/eds)

## **3. Protecting children and young people: the responsibilities of doctors**

The General Medical Council (GMC) is consulting on draft guidance entitled 'Protecting children and young people: the responsibilities of doctors'. The consultation closes on 14 October 2011. The GMC is interested in views of organisations, doctors, nurses, social workers, young people, parents, carers and others who have a role in child protection.

**Link:** [www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/news\\_consultation/8411.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/news_consultation/8411.asp)

## **Publications**

### **4. Developing clinical senates and networks**

**The week:** for NHS and social care leaders

Following the publication of the Future Forum report and the Government's response, there has been a great deal of interest in proposals for new clinical senates and the role of clinical networks in the new system. This letter from Kathy McLean, Medical Director, East Midlands, sets out her new role in developing these proposals and opportunities to contribute.

**Link:** [www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/clinical-senates/](http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/clinical-senates/)

#### **5. Release of the 'Ready Reckoner' CCG running costs tool**

The Department has released the 'Ready Reckoner', an interactive running costs tool for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). The tool allows CCGs to consider the financial implications of different commissioning support arrangements and staffing structures and allows them to work through the potential impact that their population coverage has on resources.

**Link:** <http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/reckoner/>

#### **6. Benchmarking of in-patient prescription charts**

**Link:** [www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/guidelines-for-design-of-in-patient-prescription-charts/](http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/09/guidelines-for-design-of-in-patient-prescription-charts/)

#### **7. Publication of Organisation Patient Safety Incident Reports data**

**Link:** [www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/patient-safety-data/organisation-patient-safety-incident-reports/](http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/patient-safety-data/organisation-patient-safety-incident-reports/)

#### **Patient safety alerts**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has sent the NHS the latest medical device alerts in the link below. NHS trusts are expected to take the specified action by the date given.

**Link:** [www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/index.htm](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/index.htm)

[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)