



Health E-News Bulletin

ISSUE 05 - MAY 2009

Health Improvement - Keeping you informed

Welcome to the monthly issue of the Health E-News Bulletin. We aim to keep you updated with national, regional and local news, events and other relevant information which relates to the six key areas of the Department of Health's White Paper "Choosing Health: Making Healthier Choices Easier". We will also include more broader public health information. This is being produced collaboratively by the Halton & St Helens Health Improvement Library Service and the Health Improvement Network.

ALCOHOL

Consultation on how alcohol is sold and supplied

Have your say about the proposed changes in law on the sale and promotion of alcohol. Consultation launched by the Home Office and closes on the 5th August 2009.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-alcohol/>

Alcohol Concern and leading health organisations launch survey on alcohol sales

Alcohol Concern, the Faculty of Public Health, the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Physicians have today (13.5.09) launched a survey for public sector workers to have their say on the Government's proposed code of practice for alcohol sales. The proposed mandatory code, published today by the Home Office, bans drinks promotions which encourage irresponsible drinking and aims to help drinkers make healthy choices.

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/servlets/doc/1455>

24 Hour drinking has not cut crime and disorder – Committee of MPs

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Sixth Report of Session 2008-09 – 'The Licensing Act' published 14 May 2009, showed concern that 'the relaxation of rules on premises' closing hours have not diminished law and order problems, but have merely moved them on or two hours later than previously'. It also criticised the licensing process as 'too bureaucratic, complicated and time consuming'

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/servlets/doc/1457>

Report:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmcmums/492/492.pdf>

Drinking in the UK: An exploration of trends

Rising alcohol consumption is a cause for concern. This evidence review summarises interesting trends in drinking in the UK and discusses possible causes.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/drinking-in-the-uk>

CANCER

Government pledges £1.6m for Macmillan's National Cancer Survivorship Initiative

The Department of Health is to provide £1.6 million to Macmillan to improve services and support for those living with and beyond cancer, Health Minister, Ann Keen announced today. <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=400620&NewsAreaID=2&NavigateFromDepartment=False>

Credit crunched Brits swap holidays for sunbeds

As the credit crunch continues to hit UK adults hard in the pocket, a new survey, released by Cancer Research UK to raise awareness of its annual SunSmart campaign, reveals that some sun seekers are planning to swap their summer holidays for increased sessions on a sunbed. <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/pressreleases/2009/may/547236>

Number of women dying from breast cancer hits record low

The number of women dying from breast cancer has fallen to less than 12,000 for the first time in almost 40 years, Cancer Research UK reveals today. New figures published on the charity's website found that in 2007, 11,990 women in the UK died from breast cancer. In 1971 – the first year these UK statistics were collated – 12,472 women died from the disease. <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/pressreleases/2009/april/dying-breast-record-low>

CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE

fpa responds to Sir Alasdair Macdonald's Independent Review of PSHE

Reacting to Sir Alasdair Macdonald's Independent Review of the proposal to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education statutory, including Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), Julie Bentley, Chief Executive fpa said: "To hear more independent recommendations for making PSHE a statutory subject in primary and secondary schools is an overwhelming vote of confidence for sensible and responsible education of our young people, reflecting the wide ranging support for statutory SRE from young people, parents, and the general public.

<http://www.fpa.org.uk/News/Press/Pressreleases2009/17April2009-1>

Independent Review:

http://www.aceg.org.uk/ac_ind19.pdf

UK adopts new growth charts based on breast-fed babies

New growth charts launched for National Breastfeeding Awareness Week. All newborn babies and children up to four years old will have their growth measurements plotted on new charts from this week

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=400626&NewsAreaID=2>

Action plan to ensure every child gets the protection they deserve

The Government has announced a wide-ranging package of measures setting out how it will deliver the step-change in child protection called for by Lord Laming in his recent progress report. The action plan commits to greater openness and public scrutiny of local child protection arrangements, as well as more investment in training and support for front-line social workers.

<http://www.surestart.gov.uk/events/newsevents/whatsnew/index.cfm?news=457>

Action Plan:

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=CM+7589&>

Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children - revised statutory guidance

This guidance is a revised version of the existing guidance, 'Promoting the Health of Looked After Children', which was published by the Department of Health in 2002. The revised guidance will be statutory on PCTs and on Strategic Health Authorities as well as local authorities.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_099046

First frontline children's workers to start using ContactPoint

Online directory will help frontline professionals see other services involved with a child. Frontline professionals will start using ContactPoint - the Government's online directory of children's services - from next week, Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Children's Minister Delyth Morgan announced today (12.5.09). Up to 800 frontline practitioners including social workers, health professionals and head teachers will start using the system from next week. They are based in 17 local authorities in the North West and national voluntary sector partners Barnardo's and KIDS.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0094

Alan Johnson issues call to arms on children's asthma treatment - 10 years of progress on health inequalities

Local health agencies and schools must improve the management of childhood asthma to help children lead full and healthy lives, urged Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health. The call was made during Asthma Awareness Week at a conference on Health Inequalities. Asthma affects 5 million people in this country, including 1.1 million children, and it is one of the leading causes of hospitalisation of children.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_098911

Meningitis cases hit record low

Thousands of lives saved thanks to vaccine success.

Cases of bacterial meningitis in children are at a record low thanks to NHS immunisation programmes, Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_098524

Change4Life survey: too many children not getting enough exercise

See Section: **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Young people want tobacco put out of sight in shops

See Section: **TOBACCO**

New Every Child Matters website now live

See Section: **NEW RESOURCES**

Parentlineplus launches websites

See Section: **NEW RESOURCES**

DRUGS

Drug seizures in England and Wales, 2007/08

In 2007/08, police and HM Revenue and Customs made 216,792 seizures of drugs in England and Wales - an increase of 17% since 2006/07. This figure is the highest since records began in 1973 and also marks an increase in the number of seizures for all classes of drugs.

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-events/latest-news/drug-seizures-england-wales>

DrugScope responds to BBC reports on SOCA successes in combating cocaine

Today (12.5.09) the BBC reports that the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has had significant success in combating the cocaine market in the UK. According to SOCA, the agency's undercover operations have contributed to a rise in the wholesale price of cocaine. New figures obtained by DrugScope's Druglink magazine and seen by the BBC also suggest a fall in the purity of street level cocaine, with almost a third of police seizures less than 9% pure, the lowest recorded purity level.

http://www.drugscope.org.uk/ourwork/pressoffice/pressreleases/BBC_Cocaine_SOCA.htm

Treatment referral scheme aims to get drug users back into work

A drug treatment referral scheme to get drug users off benefits and back into work starts operating across England today (27.4.09). Welfare reform minister Tony McNulty has unveiled a new programme that will allow heroin and crack cocaine users claiming benefits in England to access advice and a referral from their Jobcentre to a drug treatment service.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2009/apr/148-09-270409.asp>

MENTAL HEALTH

The rise in self harm

The number of people harming themselves deliberately has increased by a third in the past five years, according to new figures seen by the Independent on Sunday. The newspaper revealed in March that there were 97,871 hospital admissions for deliberate self-harm in England in 2007-08 - 4,337 of them for children under the age of 14. Meanwhile, last month's annual Psychiatric Morbidity Survey revealed that nearly 12 per cent of women aged between 16 and 24 admitted self-harm in 2007 - a rise of 80 per cent since 2000.

http://www.samaritans.org/media_centre/emotional_health_news/epedemic-self-harm-033.aspx

Survey:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/psychiatricmorbidity07>

New health taskforce to spot signs of violence against women

A new taskforce of health professionals working together to spot early signs of violence and abuse against women and girls, investigate the scale of the problem and ensure victims across the NHS get the support they need was announced today (14.5.09) by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and Health Secretary Alan Johnson

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_099160

Government responds to Bradley report on mental health in the Criminal Justice System

The Government has today published its response to Lord Bradley's report on people with mental health problems and learning difficulties in the Criminal Justice System

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?NewsAreaID=2&ReleaseID=400189>

Recession puts mental health of men at risk

Leading mental health charity Mind today (Monday 11 May) publishes the shocking new report Men and mental health: Get it off your chest presenting evidence that the recession is having an adverse affect on men's mental health. Mind's You Gov survey found almost 40% of men are worried or low at the moment and the top 3 issues playing on their minds are job security, work and money. A small number of men were even experiencing suicidal thoughts - of these, middle-aged men were much more likely than women to have suicidal thoughts. Middle-aged men currently have the highest suicide rate in England and Wales.

<http://www.mind.org.uk/News+policy+and+campaigns/Press/MW2009.htm>

Later retirement 'delays Alzheimer's onset

See Section: OLDER PEOPLE

PSS (Personal Services Society) launches new website
See Section: **NEW RESOURCES**

NUTRITION/OBESITY

The EU School Fruit Scheme

The Agriculture Council Regulation setting up a School Fruit Scheme has been published today in the Official Journal. The Commission is now to prepare an Implementing Rules Regulation which will enable the Scheme to start in the school year 2009/2010.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/fruitveg/sfs/index_en.htm

Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: One Year On

Published April 2009, this report reviews the progress on the delivery of Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England (published January 2008) and sets out the priorities for future work to enable everyone in society to maintain a healthy weight. One Year On builds on the five themes from Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives, but demonstrates how we have developed our thinking over the last year to keep up momentum in tackling unhealthy weight.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_097523

2009 Annual Evidence Update - Obesity - Childhood obesity: surveillance and prevention

This evidence update covers childhood obesity: surveillance and prevention. It is an update of the evidence from March 2008 to March 2009.

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/publichealth/viewResource.aspx?resid=311366>

Expert panel presents report on front-of-pack nutrition labelling

The independent group of experts who have led the front-of-pack (FOP) nutrition signpost evaluation project, today, 3 May 2009, published their final report. The group, known as the Project Management Panel (PMP), is responsible for assuring the integrity and robustness of the study, the aim of which was to evaluate the impact of the various FOP nutritional signposting schemes on consumer understanding and behaviour. The research was conducted by BMRB in association with the Food, Consumer Behaviour and Health Research Centre at the University of Surrey.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2009/may/pmp>

See also:

FPH welcomes final report on single scheme for front-of-pack nutrition labelling.

http://www.fph.org.uk/advocacy/press/archive/2009/May/070509_food_labelling.asp

OLDER PEOPLE

Later retirement 'delays Alzheimer's onset

There are 700,00 people living with dementia in the UK today, the most common form of which is Alzheimer's disease. As the risk for dementia and Alzheimer's disease increases dramatically with increasing age, it can be useful to look at what age a person begins to develop the disease rather than their lifetime risk. Finding out what lifestyle factors affect this age of onset could be useful in the development of new ways to delay or even prevent dementia

<http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/news/default.aspx?id=297&>

See also:

Age Concern and Help the Aged on new research on dementia

<http://press.helptheaged.org.uk/press/Releases/items/Age+Concern+and+Help+the+Aged+on+new+research+on+dementia.htm>

PSS (Personal Services Society) launches new website
See Section: **NEW RESOURCES**

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Change4Life survey: too many children not getting enough exercise

Results from a massive survey of Change4Life families show that almost three quarters (72 per cent) of their children are not getting 60 minutes of daily activity outside of school.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_098521

SAFETY

RoSPA welcomes focus on the safety of vulnerable road users

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has welcomed a focus on vulnerable road users in a report published today by the National Audit Office. The report – entitled “Improving road safety for pedestrians and cyclists in Great Britain” – highlights a fall in the number of deaths among pedestrians and cyclists since the mid-1990s but says more needs to be done to improve their safety

http://www.rospa.co.uk/news/releases/2009/pr684_08_05_09_road.htm

CAPT welcomes Minister's announcement on thermostatic mixing valves to prevent bath water scalds

Housing Minister Iain Wright announced on 13 May 2009 that from October this year all new build homes in England and Wales will have protective devices fitted to baths to limit hot water temperature.

<http://www.capt.org.uk/specialtmvs1/default.htm>

Government announcement:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1230815>

30,000 NHS staff to get personal security alarms

30,000 lone NHS workers are to receive personal security alarms from today, following a commitment made by Health Secretary Alan Johnson to improve the safety and security of staff. The lone worker alarm system is designed for nurses and other healthcare staff who work in isolation from colleagues and may need the ability to call for assistance when their personal security is threatened.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=400472&NewsAreaID=2&NavigateFromDepartment=False>

SOCIAL INCLUSION/HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Making it work: Analysing different ways of tackling worklessness

A new report ‘Making it work: Analysing different ways of tackling worklessness’, published by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) argues that Jobcentre Plus is constrained in its efforts to assist residents to find work by a system that is not wholly responsive to personal needs or to local contexts.

[http://www.cles.org.uk/files/103791/FileName/Makingitwork\(web\).pdf](http://www.cles.org.uk/files/103791/FileName/Makingitwork(web).pdf)

Ed Balls announces extra £3.1 million to help families cope with recession

Ed Balls today announced £3 million – including £1million for Relate – so organisations can offer more services such as relationship and family counselling to those affected by the recession. The announcement comes after Ministers visited some of the 3,000 Sure Start Children’s Centres which are now helping families cope with the impact of the recession by providing services such as advice on training and seeking work.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0096

Government response to Households Below Average Income figures

The latest Households Below Average Income figures were published today. The statistics cover the UK income distribution in 2007/08, including the latest figures for the number and percentage of children, pensioners and working-age people in the UK living in relative and absolute poverty.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0086

Tackling health inequalities: 10 years on

This report reviews developments in health inequalities over the last 10 years across government - from the publication of the Acheson report on health inequalities in November 1998 to the announcement of the post-2010 strategic review of health inequalities in November 2008.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098936

See also:

10 years of progress but the real test awaits 10 years from now – FPH response to Tackling Health Inequalities, 10 Years On

http://www.fph.org.uk/advocacy/press/archive/2009/May/070509_tackling_health.asp

TOBACCO

Smoking gene link in pregnancy

A gene can explain why some women find it more difficult to stop smoking during pregnancy, say UK researchers. In a study of 2,500 women who smoked before falling pregnant, the "addictive gene" was associated with a lower chance of quitting once pregnant. Overall, 28% of pregnant smokers quit in the first three months compared with 21% of those with two copies of the gene and 31% without the gene. The findings appear in the journal Human Molecular Genetics.

http://www.ash.org.uk/ash_kz5f469o.htm

Impact of smoking on mortality and cardiovascular disease: 30-year follow-up study

Non-smokers live longer and have less cardiovascular disease than those who smoke, according to a 30-year follow-up study of 54,000 men and women in Norway. Smoking, say the investigators, is "strongly" related to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality from various causes. The results, presented in Stockholm at EuroPREvent 2009, reflect what many other studies have indicated, but, says investigator Professor Haakon Meyer from the University of Oslo and Norwegian Institute of Public Health, these results provide a picture of the long-term, absolute "real life" risk

http://www.ash.org.uk/ash_sfnhb4mm.htm#7286

Young people want tobacco put out of sight in shops

Young people overwhelmingly support putting tobacco products out of sight in shops according to new research released today (Monday) by Cancer Research UK. Almost two thirds (64 per cent) of 11 to 16 year olds want cigarettes put out of sight in shops. Only 16 per cent do not agree with the proposal. Researchers interviewed more than 1,400 youngsters from across the UK.

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/pressreleases/2009/may/kids-support-out-of-sight>

See also:

Lords vote to put tobacco out of sight of children

http://www.fph.org.uk/advocacy/press/archive/2009/May/070509_tobacco_advertising.asp

Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2008 to December 2008 (Quarter 3)

This quarterly report presents provisional results from the monitoring of the NHS Stop Smoking Services (NHS SSS) in England during the period April to December 2008.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/nhs-stop-smoking-services/statistics-on-nhs-stop-smoking-services-in-england-april-2008-to-december-2008-quarter-3>

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Swine flu updates visit:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

Also:

Update on confirmed swine flu cases

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1242630064965?p=1231252394302

Also:

Influenza A(H1N1) - update 32

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_05_18/en/index.html

Agreements secured for pre-pandemic vaccine for the UK

Agreements have been signed between the UK Government and vaccine manufacturers to secure supplies of up to 90 million doses of pre-pandemic H1N1 vaccine before a pandemic begins, the Department of Health announced today (15.5.09). The deals signed between Secretary of State for Health, Alan Johnson, GlaxoSmithKline, and Baxter, will enable production of pre-pandemic vaccine to begin as soon as possible. The agreements could provide enough vaccine to protect the most vulnerable in our population before a pandemic is likely to arrive, without affecting our supply of seasonal flu vaccine

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Flu/Swineflu/DH_099248

First step towards Swine Flu vaccine prototype achieved

The first step towards producing a European prototype of a swine flu vaccine has been achieved by the Health Protection Agency (HPA), Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced today

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=400885&NewsAreaID=2&NavigateFromDepartment=False>

£10m to encourage new health innovation and education clusters (HIECS)

The Department of Health is inviting applications for partnerships between health, social care, education and business sectors to become Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIECs), which will deliver high quality care to patients, it announced today. The £10million cash injection will fund the cost of setting up these new clusters, which will bring together organisations from across the NHS, higher education, industry and other public and private sector organisations.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=401077&NewsAreaID=2&NavigateFromDepartment=False>

London locals help to overcome global epidemic

BHF announces research into new treatments for high blood pressure on World Hypertension Day

Around 200 London volunteers will be taking part in a major new research study which could unearth new ways of diagnosing, preventing and treating high blood pressure which currently affects 16 million adults in the UK.

<http://www.bhf.org.uk/default.aspx?page=9984>

Health and Lifestyles in the North West

The results of the North West Regional Lifestyle survey, which took place between June and December 2007, has now been published.

<http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/Publications/Forms/DispForm.aspx?ID=183>

Report:

<http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/HealthandLifestylesNorthWest.pdf>

NEW RESOURCES

NHS Evidence

NHS Evidence is a new service within the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The principle aim of the NHS Evidence service is to provide easy access to a comprehensive evidence base for everyone in health and social care who takes decisions about treatments or the use of resources – including clinicians, public health professionals, commissioners and service managers – thus improving health and patient care. It provides access to a range of information types, including primary research literature, practical implementation tools, guidelines and policy documents.

<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

New Every Child Matters website now live

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) is pleased to announce that the new Every Child Matters (ECM) website is now live and can be accessed at

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters

Parentlineplus launches websites

www.parentlineplusforprofessionals.org.uk (for professionals in the field of parenting)

www.gotateenager.org.uk (for parents)

PSS (Personal Services Society) launches new website

The site provides information about services that benefit both people with dementia and their carers/

www.dementiacentre.com

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EVENTS 2009 – June

For a full list of Health Events and links please visit:

<http://www.equip.nhs.uk/Events/EventList.aspx>

OTHER LOCAL E-BULLETINS

ChaMPS Public Health Network Bulletin

ChaMPS is your public health network for Cheshire and Merseyside PCTs, NHS Acute Trusts, local authorities and wider health organisations. If you would like to know more about joining ChaMPS and receiving this bulletin contact Viv Martindale, ChaMPS Network Administrator on 0151 643 5369 or email vivienne.martindale@bwwpct.nhs.uk

Cheshire & Merseyside New Documents Bulletin

A weekly review of new documents produced collaboratively by primary care librarians across Cheshire & Merseyside. Contact the Primary Care Library on 0151 676 5650 or email

library.pct@sthk.nhs.uk if you would like to receive this bulletin.

National Library for Public Health e-Newsletter

The library has been developed to provide high quality evidence e-based information on all aspects of public health. It is designed for those working in the field of public health by providing a single source of access to web based evidence on public health.

Your Comments

The content of this bulletin highlights recent articles and/or documents appearing on a selection of websites, which we feel may be of interest to the wider health improvement area. All links are correct at the time of publishing. If you have any comments or suggestions about the Bulletin or would like to forward an item or news of an event, we would love to hear from you. Please forward this bulletin on to people who might otherwise not receive it.

Contact lynda.moss@hsthpcct.nhs.uk.

Bulletin prepared by:

Lynda Moss with contributions from Paula Wright and Linda Gittens,

Library Contact Details:

St Helens Health Improvement Library – Tel. 01744 626667, Fax. 01744 457257

Halton Health Improvement Library – Tel. 01928 593057, Fax. 01928 569532

Library & Knowledge Service – Tel. 0151 676 5650, Fax. 0151 676 5663

Health Improvement Network

If you would like to become a member of the Health Improvement Network or find out more information about the Network, please contact Linda Gittens on 01744 697433 or email

lindagittens@sthelens.gov.uk.