

## NEWS

- p1** Celebrating 60 years of nursing
- p1** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference
- p2** Celebrating 60 years of nursing (continued)
- p3** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference (continued)
- p4** Improving nutrition for patients
- p4** Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff
- p5** £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care
- p5** Pilot study into childhood deaths
- p6** Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

## REGULAR

- p2** Voicepiece
- p7/8** News in brief
- p8** Diary
- p8** Latest publications

## NEWS

### Celebrating 60 years of nursing

#### Spotlight on history theme in one trust

**NHS 60 anniversary week is almost here and celebrations are underway across the country.**

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust used Nurses Week (12-18 May) as the perfect excuse to commemorate the historic event. A series of activities publicised both the excellent achievements of nurses

over the past years and emphasised the impact that nurses will have on the implementation of Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review.

Tracy Moran, Deputy Director of Nursing at West Herts Trust, explains: "We wanted to demonstrate the broad area of work covered by nurses. For example, staff visited a local secondary school in Watford and joined a class of students for their health and social care lesson to talk about the role of nurses in the provision of healthcare.

#### We'd like to hear your stories

What's your trust doing to celebrate NHS 60? Email [nhs60@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nhs60@dh.gsi.gov.uk) with stories from patients, staff, or members of the public from the past 60 years. For further information about local celebrations visit [www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/NHS60](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/NHS60)

*Continued on page 2*



#### At-a-glance

- West Herts uses Nurses Week to celebrate NHS 60
- nurses dress in historic uniform
- success stories illustrate themes from the Next Stage Review

### Nursing and AHP views canvassed at primary and community care conference

**The Government's primary and community care strategy will be launched this summer to help implement and deliver the vision set out in the NHS Next Stage Review.**

The input of nurses and therapists is a

central contribution to development and delivery of the strategy and a recent conference was hosted by the Department of Health to generate views and contributions from both the nurse and AHP workforce.

Approaches to health care

delivery, especially in the community, will involve:

- more choice and voice
- care closer to home
- users of services/patients at the centre of decision making
- greater emphasis on prevention and self-care

- improving long-term conditions care
- working in new ways and across sectors
- more opportunities – voluntary, private, social enterprise
- provider freedoms – to innovate and improve services.

*Continued on page 3*

#### At-a-glance

- primary and community care strategy in development
- eight key themes provide foundation for discussion
- focus on community services and establishment of Transforming Community Services Board

## NEWS

- p1** Celebrating 60 years of nursing
- p1** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference
- p2** Celebrating 60 years of nursing (continued)
- p3** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference (continued)
- p4** Improving nutrition for patients
- p4** Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff
- p5** £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care
- p5** Pilot study into childhood deaths
- p6** Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

## REGULAR

- p2** Voicepiece
- p7/8** News in brief
- p8** Diary
- p8** Latest publications

## VOICEPIECE



**Christine Beasley, Chief Nursing Officer, discusses the highlights from a recent conference and emphasises the important role of nurses and AHPs in future healthcare.**

Nursing and allied health profession representatives were nominated by each of the ten SHAs across England and invited to attend the primary and community care conference in May. They were given the opportunity to share views about how local services should be shaped to meet the needs of the communities in their areas. The outcomes

from the event will be used to inform the Government's primary and community care strategy, to be published later this year.

There was great participation on the day and a number of important themes emerged. We now have a good idea of clinician views on areas including staffing, commissioning, IT, strategic development, performance and quality.

As the NHS approaches its 60th anniversary, nurses and AHPs are more important than ever in terms of both dealing with the challenges facing health and social care systems, and developing services for tomorrow.

The primary and community care strategy is set to be a key enabling tool for Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review and recognises that most health care is delivered close to home, in the community. We must

move from a sickness to a health model and from a reactive 'diagnose and treat' concept to a proactive 'predict and prevent'. All of these ambitions have implications for nurses and AHPs, many of whom have the potential to be leaders of the new services delivered.

The intention of the strategy is not to establish a set blueprint to be rolled out nationally but rather to shape services according to the local communities.

A Transforming Community Services Board has been established to help implement the new ways of working and we are setting up a reference group of nurses and AHPs with responsibilities for commissioning and service transformation as part of world class commissioning clinical engagement.

## NEWS

*Continued from page 1*

## Celebrating 60 years of nursing

"We also encouraged nurses to dress up in historic nurses uniforms for our annual 'Celebrating our Success' event, which showcases current projects and initiatives."

Tracy was keen to show how some of the success stories presented during the week illustrated the themes of the NHS going forward, as set out by Lord Darzi in his interim report for the NHS Next Stage Review.

She said: "One example of this was a joint presentation from a paediatric nurse and the mother of an adolescent boy with autism who needed to come into hospital for surgery. The mother and child previously had a very distressing experience in hospital so the mother approached the nursing staff and play therapist on

the children's ward to work with her to improve the experience for all concerned. The mother and ward staff worked together to develop a 'story book' that detailed the process the child would need to go through. The outcome was successful as the child was admitted, anaesthetised, operated on and recovered without incident or undue distress to himself, his mother or the healthcare team."

This is an interesting example of the 'personalised', 'effective' and 'safe' care that the NHS is working towards, and highlighted in the recently published SHA vision documents.

The SHA documents will feed into Lord Darzi's final report on the NHS Next Stage Review, which is due to be published at the end of this month.

### Links and info

- [Download the SHA vision documents](#)
- [Download the NHS Next Stage Review Interim Report](#)

## NEWS

- p1** Celebrating 60 years of nursing
- p1** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference
- p2** Celebrating 60 years of nursing (continued)
- p3** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference (continued)
- p4** Improving nutrition for patients
- p4** Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff
- p5** £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care
- p5** Pilot study into childhood deaths
- p6** Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

## REGULAR

- p2** Voicepiece
- p7/8** News in brief
- p8** Diary
- p8** Latest publications

## NEWS

*Continued from page 1*

# Nursing and AHP views canvassed at primary and community care conference

### Key themes for strategy

Eight key themes have been identified by the Department of Health to form the foundation of the strategy, set out by Richard Lewis, the strategy's project director, at the conference (see box).

Richard introduced the strategy and said: "It's a pleasure to be at the centre of a strategy that has real potential to make a difference. Of the eight themes we've identified, five are focused on patients and three concentrate on how to deliver outcomes.

"We can only make this work by investing in community care champions and ensuring they have the support they require. Opportunities are there for people who want to take them."

### Workshop participation

Nurses and AHPs attending the conference broke off into workshop groups to discuss a variety of issues, including health inequalities, learning disabilities, staying healthy, public involvement and staff training.

Deliberations from the groups have been recorded with a view to using the key points raised to help inform the strategy.

Following the event, Viv Bennett, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer, commented: "The conference was a fantastic opportunity to bring professions together to contribute to this very important strategy. Nurses and AHPs are key clinical professionals in the process of achieving the best health and care outcomes, working in multidisciplinary teams with patients and communities."

### World class commissioning

The role of world class commissioning in implementing the strategy was also stressed at the conference.

Gary Belfield, Department of Health director of commissioning, explained: "PCTs are at the centre of world class commissioning. Community teams have the potential to make a difference to hundreds of thousands of lives and we have to make sure that commissioners spend their budgets in the best way possible.

"We also shouldn't be afraid to learn from others. For example, Tesco puts out identical stores in locations all across the country but they all sell slightly different products, tailored to the needs of the local area. We need to figure out a way to achieve this in healthcare."

Other areas of importance

highlighted at the conference included:

- the need for more leadership opportunities for nurses and AHPs
- the need for more targeted investment
- increased links between health and social care.

Full transcripts from the workshops will soon be available to download and key points and issues raised will be fed into the Transforming Community Services Board to be considered by the board members, which include: Professor David Colin-Thome, National Director for Primary Care; Viv Bennett, Deputy Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health; and Karen Middleton, Chief Health Professions Officer at the Department of Health.

### Links and info

- Go to the conference website and view feedback
- View further information on World Class Commissioning

## Eight themes for progress

- **Empowered patients**  
Ensuring patients are better informed, active partners in care
- **Staying healthy**  
Placing a stronger focus on health promotion
- **Integrated care**  
Co-ordinating care around the needs of individuals
- **Quality assured**  
Providing stronger incentives for high-performing practices
- **Personalised care**  
Tailoring services to the patient
- **Potent commissioning**  
Ensuring PCTs are world class commissioners
- **Transforming community services**  
Strategic commissioning and better integration
- **Promoting equality**  
Reducing health inequalities and providing more equitable services.

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- p1** Celebrating 60 years of nursing
- p1** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference
- p2** Celebrating 60 years of nursing (continued)
- p3** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference (continued)
- p4** Improving nutrition for patients
- p4** Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff
- p5** £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care
- p5** Pilot study into childhood deaths
- p6** Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

## REGULAR

- p2** Voicepiece
- p7/8** News in brief
- p8** Diary
- p8** Latest publications

## NEWS

### Improving nutrition for patients

**Nurses can now access a free online training programme designed to increase their understanding of the importance of nutrition and hydration as essential ingredients of life.**

The programme, produced by the NHS Core Learning Unit to support the Nutrition Action Plan, will help to:

- enhance and update learners' knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and hydration as essential ingredients of life
  - recognise why people become malnourished and/or dehydrated in care settings
  - identify practical ways in which staff can ensure that service users consume their food and drink
  - identify key best practices and benchmarks.
- On completion of the programme nurses will

receive an automatically generated certificate that can be added to their portfolio. The programme is mapped to the Knowledge and Skills Framework, National Occupational Standards, and the Skills Sets for Care. The programme will be launched at the end of May 2008. Registration is free for NHS staff and takes only a couple of minutes.

#### At-a-glance

- e-learning nutrition programme
- to promote the importance of nutrition and hydration
- in support of the Government's Nutrition Action Plan.

#### Links and info

- Access the programme

### Nutritional factsheets

Factsheets on nutrition are available from the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA). The three documents are from the NPSA toolkit which aims to create a common understanding of what good nutritional care should like look in a hospital environment.

The factsheets are:

- food service and safe delivery of nutritional care
  - hospital-wide support for a multidisciplinary approach to nutritional care drawing on staff groups working in partnership with patients and service users
  - implementation of ward protected mealtimes to provide an environment conducive to feeding.
- [Download the nutritional factsheets](#)

### Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff

**Nurses providing healthcare for UK Armed Forces can enter a new national awards scheme launched in May.**

The Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards, established jointly by the Secretaries of State for Health and Defence, will recognise the people who provide excellent healthcare services to the UK armed forces, their dependants and veterans.

There are eight award categories:

- Innovation in Service Development Award
- Education and Training Award
- Deployed Healthcare Award
- Health Improvement and Promotion Award
- Mental Health Award
- Healthcare Reservist of the Year
- Care of Veterans Award

- Team of the Year Award: Military and Civilian.

Health Partnership Awards nominations must be received no later than Saturday 5 July 2008. A national awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 23 October at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London, to announce the winners.

#### At-a-glance

- Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards
- recognising excellence in healthcare services to armed forces
- open for nominations until 5 July 2008.

#### Links and info

- Read more
- How to apply

## NEWS

- p1** Celebrating 60 years of nursing
- p1** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference
- p2** Celebrating 60 years of nursing (continued)
- p3** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference (continued)
- p4** Improving nutrition for patients
- p4** Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff
- p5** £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care
- p5** Pilot study into childhood deaths
- p6** Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

## REGULAR

- p2** Voicepiece
- p7/8** News in brief
- p8** Diary
- p8** Latest publications

## NEWS

### £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care

**Nurses could double the amount of time they spend on direct patient care and slash unnecessary paperwork, as a result of £50 million investment in a project to improve efficiency on wards.**

The Productive Ward programme, designed by the NHS Institute for Innovation

and Improvement, empowers nurses to look at how their wards are organised and make changes that allow them to spend more time with patients.

Evidence from the pilot sites shows that the Productive Ward can:

- double the amount of time nurses spend on

- patient care
- cut handover time by a third
- reduce medicine round time by 63 percent
- cut meal wastage rates from seven percent to one percent.

The North Middlesex University NHS Trust has been the early implementer site for the Productive Ward in London since October 2007. Director of Nursing at the Trust, Flo Panel-Coates, said: "This is one of the most exciting projects I have been involved in since I joined the

NHS, and it has resulted in amazing benefits for patients and their families, as well as staff. The time spent on direct care has more than doubled, and there has been a raft of positive feedback both formally and informally from patients and staff.

"In relation to specific improvements, as a result of implementing the Medicines Management module we have re-organised the way that medicines are administered to our patients. This has released nurses to spend time supporting

### At-a-glance

- programme to improve efficiency on wards
- doubles time nurses spend with patients
- proven to slash unnecessary paperwork.

### Links and info

- [Read more](#)

patients who require assistance at mealtimes and monitor their nutritional intake," she concluded.

### Pilot study into childhood deaths

**The world's first study using confidential enquiry methodology into the deaths of children was published in May.**

The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) conducted the pilot to test whether this research method could identify ways to improve health and social

care outcomes for children.

The research reviewed over 900 child deaths with a detailed panel review of 126 deaths in three regions of England and all of Wales and Northern Ireland in 2006. It found many examples of outstanding care of children but also suggested areas for development.

In particular, the report highlighted:

- the need for children to be cared for by paediatric-trained healthcare professionals, particularly in emergency care settings and primary care
- a risk that serious illness can be missed in children
- more suicides of children and young people were detected than had been previously reported
- a larger enquiry should

provide valuable lessons to improve the care of children.

Chair of the National Advisory Committee for the Child Health Enquiry (NACECH), Professor Deirdre Kelly, said: "We have shown that is possible to carry out such complex enquiries into the deaths of children. We believe this pilot study demonstrates a strong case for conducting a larger study which should improve the quality of care

### At-a-glance

- CEMACH pilot project
- reviewed over 900 child deaths
- need for paediatric training highlighted.

### Links and info

- [View a copy of the report](#)

for many vulnerable or seriously ill children."

## NEWS

**p1** Celebrating 60 years of nursing

**p1** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference

**p2** Celebrating 60 years of nursing (continued)

**p3** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference (continued)

**p4** Improving nutrition for patients

**p4** Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff

**p5** £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care

**p5** Pilot study into childhood deaths

**p6** Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

## REGULAR

**p2** Voicepiece

**p7/8** News in brief

**p8** Diary

**p8** Latest publications

## NEWS

# Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

**Every local authority in England will be able to appoint a dedicated stroke care co-ordinator to support stroke survivors and their carers thanks to millions of pounds of extra funding for stroke services.**

The Government recently announced an investment of £77 million over the next three years to develop innovative new approaches to delivering stroke services and support areas of poor performance. This will help propel the NHS and social services towards meeting key markers in the Stroke Strategy.

The funding will see every local authority receiving a grant worth an average of £100,000 per year to spend on improving stroke care, for example, by appointing a stroke care co-ordinator.

Additionally, every SHA will receive £2.4 million over the next three years to invest in improvements to acute services across the country. This extra money could be used to quicken the response to stroke, which could include reorganising emergency response, stroke teams and radiology units to ensure rapid access to scans, thrombolysis and early multi-disciplinary assessment.

### At-a-glance

- £77 million to improve stroke services
- local authorities decide on services
- new stroke care co-ordinators posts expected.

### Links and info

- [Read more](#)

## Case study: a story of stroke

**“Without blowing my own trumpet, the benefits of stroke coordinators to a stroke patient and their family are huge,” says Denis Shave, stroke co-ordinator for Southampton City PCT.**

Denise has been in the post for four years, and during that time has seen her role extended to cover acute care and rehabilitation as well the community.

Working in collaboration with other health professionals

and agencies including GPs, acute stroke units and carers' associations, Denise's goal is to make the patient's journey after stroke as smooth as possible. “I have multifactor referral agents, too many to mention, but my philosophy is I would rather know about a stroke patient than feel they are struggling,” says Denise.

There is no doubt in Denise's mind of the value of this specialist role: “Stroke co-ordinators can reduce the need for readmission, signpost to correct agencies, offer emotional support and encouragement, and help support the carers. The list of

what they can offer is endless!”

Denise cites her nursing experience, and education as key to her success as a stroke co-ordinator, commenting: “As a nurse I feel we look at a patient as a whole; knowing who they were before the stroke is invaluable information to have, for example, knowing what they liked, how they managed before the stroke. We basically provide total patient care. Education is also a very important aspect of a specialist nurses role and I am a firm believer that unless there is an understanding of the condition then you may not be giving your best to

your patients.”

To that end, Denise has developed a rolling programme of education both for the in-patient staff and also for those working with stroke patients in the community. She work very closely with the practice development team and speaks to all the new students as part of their induction programme, as well as offering mentoring to new staff. She also speaks regularly at local and regional conferences to raise the profile of stroke and, in particular, the role that she has within the trust.

## NEWS

- p1** Making the case for integrated care approach between nurses and pharmacists
- p1** Update on innovative parent support programmes
- p3** NHS 60: a look back on the past 60 years of England's health service
- p4** Practice based commissioning toolkit for nurses
- p5** Increased support for those most at risk
- p5** Impact of mental health nursing review assessed
- p6** NHS staff have their say
- p6** National vascular screening programme
- p7** Recognising and responding to acutely ill patients in hospital: new consultation

## REGULAR

- p2** Voicepiece
- p7/8** News in brief
- p8** Latest publications

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Action on health inequalities

A new health inequalities report has just been launched by the Secretary of State for Health. *Health Inequalities – Progress and Next Steps* looks at the progress that has been made to date and the next steps in tackling health inequalities.

● [Read more](#)

### National debate on the future of care and support

Nurses are encouraged to be part of a widespread consultation on the future of the care and support system for England. The consultation will run from May until November and findings will be used to inform the development of a green paper in 2009.

● [Read more](#)

### Heatwave plan for England 2008

A new traffic light system for alert levels, and more information on long-term planning are just two of the improvements to this year's Heatwave Plan. Other new elements include changes to the threshold for Alert Level Amber (previously Level 2), and regional patterns of the 2006 heatwave. The Heatwave Plan is an important part of overall emergency planning

and will become increasingly relevant in adapting to the impact of climate change.

● [Download the plan](#)

### NHS Chief Executive's report

In the year that the NHS celebrates its 60th anniversary, it is in better shape than at any stage in recent history, according to the NHS Chief Executive, David Nicholson, who published his annual report in May. The report, *The year 2007/08*, details the range of performance measures the NHS is on track to meet, including halving the rates of MRSA, and ensuring a 18 week maximum wait for an outpatient appointment.

● [Read the report](#)

### A new governance structure for the NMC

A new board-like structure for the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) will enable nurses to apply for positions on the Council based on transferable skills and qualities, as opposed to being elected. These changes will bring the NMC into compliance with the White Paper, *Trust, Assurance and Safety – The regulation of health professionals in the 21st century*.

● [Read more](#)

### Employing health care assistants – new toolkit

A new toolkit aimed at supporting the employment of health care assistants is now live on the Royal College of Nursing's website. The toolkit aims to make the process of employing health care assistants easier and is aimed at health care assistants themselves as well as their employers and other stakeholders such as primary care trusts, educationalists and patients. It was originally developed by the Department of Health funded Working in Partnership Programme (WIPP) which was set up to create capacity within GP practices.

● [Read more](#)

### Immunisation programme continues to save lives

More than 3,000 cases of death or serious illness have been prevented as a result of the national immunisation programme, according to a recent report by the Director of Immunisation. The report also reveals that, for the first time, there were no deaths in the under 19's from MenC (Meningococcal C/meningitis) last year. As part of the Government's focus on preventing ill health, the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be introduced into the national immunisation programme. A joint

*Continued on page 8*

## NEWS

- p1** Celebrating 60 years of nursing
- p1** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference
- p2** Celebrating 60 years of nursing (continued)
- p3** Nurses and AHPs attend primary care conference (continued)
- p4** Improving nutrition for patients
- p4** Awards for armed forces' healthcare staff
- p5** £50 million to double time nurses spend on patient care
- p5** Pilot study into childhood deaths
- p6** Cash boost to fund more stroke care co-ordinators

## REGULAR

- p2** Voicepiece
- p7/8** News in brief
- p8** Diary
- p8** Latest publications

## NEWS IN BRIEF

*Continued from page 7*

CMO, CNO, CHPO letter about its introduction was sent to health professionals in May.

- [Read more](#)
- [Download letter](#)

### Mental Health Act 2007

Nurses working in mental health should be aware of a new consultation report. The report covers the consultation exercises on the draft revised Code of Practice to the Mental Health Act 1983 and on the secondary legislation

to be made in the light of the Mental Health Act 2007. It details the process, analyses the responses received and explains which comments were accepted and which discarded and why.

- [Download report on the consultation](#)

### Long-term Neurological Conditions NSF

A new framework to support implementation of the Long-term Neurological Conditions NSF was published in May. A collaborative project involving the Department of Health, Care Service Improvement Partnership

(CSIP) and the third sector, the document gives an overview of resources, tools and initiatives that are/will be available to support local implementation of the NSF.

- [Download the framework](#)

## DIARY

### Death by indifference – national conference

**9 September, Telford, Shropshire.**

The conference follows the 2007 Mencap Death by indifference report into the deaths of six individuals in hospitals. This prompted

an independent inquiry requested by the Health Secretary. Call 01743 261 181 for further information or email [rick.robson@ssft.nhhs.uk](mailto:rick.robson@ssft.nhhs.uk)

### CNO Autumn Business Meetings

**8 September, London.  
10 September, Leeds.**

### CNO 2008 Summit

**5 – 7 November, Bristol.**

Directors of nursing will receive an invitation and further details on both CNO events nearer the time.

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

### Drug Safety Update – June issue

The new issue of *Drug Safety Update* is now available on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MRHA) website. Of interest this month are articles about:

- [natalizumab for multiple sclerosis](#)
- [nicorandil for angina.](#)

- [View the e-bulletin](#)

### Web links

You can access the bulletin online at [www.dh.gov.uk/cnobulletin](http://www.dh.gov.uk/cnobulletin). The electronic version lets you click on web links for direct access to more detail about each of the articles.

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