

Health and Social Care Bill gains royal assent

The Health and Social Care Bill this week gained Royal Assent to become the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

[Click here for further information](#)

Public Health Transition Plans

Local public health transition plans are being finalised in collaboration with local government across all parts of the region. These will be reviewed by the SHA and by local government chief executives in the next few weeks to look at where progress is being made and if there are any barriers to making a successful transition. There will be a joint discussion on the key issues when public health and local government colleagues across the North meet with the Public Health England Transition Team in mid April.

Clinical Commissioning Group Resources

A number of resources for Clinical Commissioning Groups have been published on the NHS Commissioning Board's website. They include guidance and process documents, toolkits and other information around authorisation, governance, establishment and commissioning support.

[Click here to access the guidance](#)

Public Health England Chief Executive post

Interviews for the Public Health England Chief Executive post take place at the end of March and it is hoped that an announcement will be made as soon as possible afterwards.

This appointment will support the design work that is underway to set out how the new national organisation will work.

Prime Minister's challenge on dementia

The Prime Minister has launched a programme of work which aims to deliver major improvements in dementia care and research by 2015.

[Click here for further information.](#)

Chief nursing officer appointed

The NHS Commissioning Board Authority has announced the appointment of Jane Cummings as chief nursing officer.

Jane is currently chief nurse for NHS North of England and was previously chief nurse and deputy chief executive for NHS North West.

[Click here for more information](#)

NHS Outcomes Framework 2010/11 indicators

The NHS Information Centre has published new details on 20 of the 30 NHS Outcomes Framework indicators, which measure the care patients receive. The figures provide a regional and local snapshot of how the NHS is performing against the Outcomes Framework and help to illustrate where there are variations in outcomes.

[Click here for more information](#)

Guidance on future ownership and management of PCT estates

The Department of Health has published guidance on the accounting implications of the transfer of primary care trust (PCT) estate when PCTs are abolished.

Last summer the department announced that aspirant community foundation trusts, other NHS trusts, and foundation trusts are to be given the opportunity to acquire parts of the PCT estate deemed "service critical clinical infrastructure".

[Click here to view the guidance](#)

Transforming Public Health - March edition

Please find below the March edition of the Department of Health's Transforming Public Health newsletter.

[Click here to view a copy](#)

Have your say on the public health workforce

A consultation has been launched to help identify and unlock the potential of the people who are responsible for improving the population's health and wellbeing.

Towards a workforce strategy for the public health system covers the challenges and opportunities, wider workforces and local community issues, and how to make sure we get it right for the public health specialist workforce. It is endorsed by the Local Government Association, which is encouraging councils to take part in the consultation.

[Click here for further information](#)

Events

Introduction to service user and citizen engagement and involvement

The Primary Care Commission is offering a two-day course for all subscribers and their CCGs on service user and citizen engagement and involvement. The course is fully accredited with the option to complete a university award of 20 credits at level 4. Aimed at frontline staff, the course will help those involved in patient engagement to understand the issues and build confidence. A limited number of free places for practice staff are available using the code: EDISC267.

- [26 April and 17 May - Stratford upon Avon](#)
- [23 May and 20 June - Nottingham](#)
- [11 October and 8 November - Newbury](#)
- [15 November and 13 December - Stansted](#)