



## Welcome

**Welcome to this week's newsletter**

### **Chairman's Update**

Since my last newsletter update, the Association's Council has been active in taking forward the review of the Association, in addition to its business-as-usual agenda. This edition provides you with an update of what we have been doing.

### **Strategic Review of the Association**

The unparalleled change in the NHS health and social care environment has consequences for the Health Care Supply Association and, at its Visioning Day on 20 September, Council embarked upon a strategic review of the Association's purpose, objectives and structure.

At its last meeting, Council agreed that the first step in the change process was to adopt a statement of purpose:

#### **Purpose**

"To provide a professional network that encourages shared learning, promotes the commercial profession within health care and influences strategic direction"

To underpin this statement of purpose, Council also agreed the following objectives:

- To promote, maintain and continuously improve professional standards and raise the profile of the work of its members
- To deliver learning and development interventions to meet the needs of members in the changing health care environment
- To provide networking opportunities that facilitate the flow of information and knowledge between members and partner organisations

(The above will be incorporated in proposals for constitutional change at the next AGM on 6 November 2008)

Following endorsement by Council and the AGM, responsibility for delivering the change programme rests with the review programme Board under my Chairmanship, and also with five Workstream Leads (each supported by a special interest team). The Workstreams and their Leads are as follows:

Organisation and Governance - [Helena Fuller](#)  
Funding (Income and Expenditure) - [John Smith](#)  
Learning and Development - [Ian Shepherd](#)  
Marketing and Communications - [Beth Loudon](#)  
Relationship Management - [Rachel Hodson-Gibbons](#)

If you have any comments to offer the Workstream Leads or would be happy to participate in the review, or if you would like to help the Association in another capacity, then please either contact the Workstream Leads or let me know.

We will issue regular communications throughout the year to keep members informed of the progress in bringing about this programme of sustainable change.

### **Business as Usual**

Until the strategic review is completed and recommendations implemented, work in other areas continues and I would like to provide you with an outline of achievement so far during 2007-08, as well as an indication of some of the things that we will be doing in the coming months and beyond.

### **Annual Conference and Exhibition**

We are already planning for this year's Conference, which will be held at the Belfry (of Ryder Cup fame) on 6 and 7 November 2008.

This year's theme will be:

World-class – are we capable?  
Meeting the procurement and commissioning challenge

Please put the Conference dates in your diary now and make sure you register early.

### **Summer School**

Planning is underway for this year's School, which will be held in September 2008. Details will follow in due course.

### **Website**

One of our key means of communication is our website and I am delighted to tell you that its redevelopment is almost complete and that it should be launched soon.

### **EU Directives and Freedom of Information Development Workshops**

The Association is in the process of planning a series of six one-day workshops covering the above topics. These will be held in strategic locations across the UK and will be facilitated by BiP's Eddie Regan. These workshops will be free to members and are planned to commence in May. Details will be issued shortly.

### **Membership**

Membership numbers are at an all-time high at around 1000. We are keen to promote the benefits of membership and would be grateful for your assistance in promoting membership to your colleagues. It's easy to register on our website: [www.healthcaresupply.org.uk](http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk)

### **North West Branch Coordinator**

I am pleased to announce that Beth Loudon has been appointed as the Branch Coordinator for the North West Branch.

### **Golf days**

Members within a number of Branches participated in two golf days last year and, due to their success, we are planning two more this year.

The summer golf day is to be held on 19 June 2008 at Ramsdale Park near Nottingham. If you would like to participate (or help on the day), please contact Ian Shepherd.

The second golf day (as last year) is planned for 5 November 2008, the day before the Conference. Details will be circulated in due course.

Finally, as my two-year term as Chair of the Association draws to a close, I am very encouraged by what we have achieved so far during the past year. As always, we are looking to continuously improve what we do, so if you have any constructive suggestions as to how the Association might serve members' interests more effectively in future I would be very pleased to hear from you.

John Effingham

Chair - Health Care Supply Association  
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## News

### **Cancer patients being treated faster than ever**

Health Minister Edwina Hart has praised NHS staff for ensuring that cancer patients in Wales are treated faster than ever before. [More...](#)

### **New antenatal centre for West End of Glasgow**

Antenatal care for women in the West End of Glasgow will be developed on the Western Infirmary site, following an extensive community engagement exercise with local women on what they required. [More...](#)

### **New mutations raise hope for motor neurone disease research**

Researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, led by Professor Chris Shaw, have published new scientific research which heralds a significant advance towards treating motor neurone disease (MND). It shows that the 'TDP-43' protein is directly toxic to motor neurones and causes degeneration of these cells. [More...](#)

### **NHS maintains strong financial position**

The NHS continues to forecast a surplus for this financial year with the vast majority of NHS trusts in balance, the Department of Health has announced. [More...](#)

### **NHS inpatient and outpatient waiting times figures - January 2008**

The number of patients waiting over 26 weeks - for whom English commissioners are responsible - was 99 at the end of January 2008. Of these 99, one was an English resident waiting in a Welsh hospital. [More...](#)

**News can be read at:** <http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk>

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## This Week's Reports

### **[Department of Health Extra Care Housing Fund: bidding guidance 2008-10](#)**

This guidance is intended to advise local authorities with adult social care responsibilities and their partners on the preparation of bids for the Extra Care Housing Fund for 2008-10.

### **[Department of Health: The Quarter - quarter three, 2007-08](#)**

This is a report from the Department of Health on NHS finance and service performance for quarter three, 2007-08.

### **[Code of Conduct for Payment by Results](#)**

This code of conduct establishes core principles, ground rules for organisational behaviour and expectations for the operation of the payment by results system. It also covers guidelines to minimise and resolve disputes.

**Reports can be found at:**

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/reports/>

## Events

### **[Government Opportunities \(GO\) magazine Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2008](#)**

#### **New GO Awards website launched**

The *Government Opportunities (GO)* magazine Excellence in Public Procurement Awards have become the most sought-after recognition within UK public procurement, and every year the quality and number of entries increases. The 2008 Awards promise to be even more exciting with the addition of two contemporary categories:

**Collaborative Procurement (sponsored by Pearl Linguistics)**  
and **Improved Delivery Through Greater Third Sector Involvement (sponsored by the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning).**

Celebrating the role increasingly being played by the third sector in public procurement is crucial given the sector's influential work with public sector organisations and the potential to deliver higher-quality services as a result.

The public sector's acknowledgment of how they can form partnerships with the third sector is part of an increasing emphasis being placed on the importance of collaboration.

By working with one another as well as organisations from both the private and third sectors, local authorities are now working to maximise the potential of collaborative frameworks, demonstrating a commitment to achieving value for money through joined-up services.

The recognition of these two important issues in the *GO* Awards categories demonstrates *GO*'s role as the leading voice on public sector procurement.

The criteria for the two new Awards is detailed below:

**[GO Collaborative Procurement Award](#)** (sponsored by Pearl Linguistics)

**Open to:** All UK public sector organisations, including purchasing consortia.

**Criteria:**

- Can demonstrate a track record of collaboration which has delivered more benefit than would have been achieved by working independently
- Can provide evidence of a partnership approach to procurement
- Can demonstrate innovative thinking
- Can demonstrate measurable benefits as a direct result of a collaborative approach to procurement

**GO Award for Improved Delivery Through Greater Third Sector Involvement** (sponsored by National Programme for Third Sector Commission)

**Open to:** Private sector or third sector/voluntary organisations of all sizes which have delivered a contract requirement in partnership with the public sector.

**Criteria:**

- Have made an effective and tangible contribution to improved public service delivery through greater involvement of the third sector in shaping, designing or calling to account
- Have applied a minimum of one of the eight principles of good commissioning and been consistent with the principles of good commissioning and Compact Code of Funding and Procurement Good Practice (see [www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/6617745](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/6617745))
- Have delivered beneficial outcome(s) to society or a specific community, particularly with those considered hard to reach
- Have demonstrated innovative thinking and/or a fresh approach to involvement of the third sector in public service delivery
- Have set a positive example for other public sector and/or third sector organisations to follow

The deadline for all submissions is **31 March 2008**. For more information on the GO Awards or N3PD 2008 visit our new site: [www.goawards.co.uk](http://www.goawards.co.uk)

**Update your diary by visiting**

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/events/index.htm>

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## Discussion Forum

Do you have a burning issue or a hot topic that you wish to share with members? Then why not post it on the Discussion Forum in the members area of the website.

**To read the current topics, or to begin your own discussions,**

**visit the Health Care Supply Association Discussion Forum by clicking [here](#)**

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Health Care Supply Association [www.healthcaresupply.org.uk](http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk)  
Members Area - Hosts Access to CPV Codes Online, Members Directory, Members Discussion Forum, World-wide Procurement Links & Contract Search Services, as well as E-tendering and Electronic Supplier List Facilities, for further information on these services please visit <http://www.bipsolutions.com/Delta/delta.html>

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We welcome your feedback, comments or suggestions for topics to be addressed, these should be emailed to [media@bipsolutions.com](mailto:media@bipsolutions.com). This email (and any attachment) is intended only for the attention of the addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return email. This email (whether you are the sender or the recipient) may be monitored, recorded and retained by BiP Solutions Ltd. Email monitoring/blocking software may be used, and email content may be read at any time. You have a responsibility to ensure laws are not broken when composing or forwarding emails and their contents.

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