



Welcome

Welcome to this week's newsletter

A note from the Executive Director

It seems a while since I did a newsletter and it probably is, as last time our Chairman, John Effingham, did the honours.

Since my last offering, the anniversary of my joining the NHS on 1 February 1967 has come and gone. We celebrated in the office by my buying cakes (where on earth did that tradition come from?) and my pointing out to the assembled throng (well, actually, there are about six of us left at the SHA) that the cost of the cakes just about equated to a week's wages when I started! I also ascertained that 'I'm a Believer' by the Monkees was at number one in the charts. Things have moved on a bit since then, although I'm not sure if all things have improved (least of all the charts).

It got me thinking about how things have changed in the NHS in that time. Certainly lots of things have improved – treatments have advanced greatly – but somewhere along the way we seem to have lost some of the personal touch that was so evident back in the 1960s.

Some things certainly don't change. A couple of years ago I was preparing a presentation for the Summer School (don't forget the date for this year - University of Birmingham on 19-24 August) and I happened across an old copy of the Health Service Journal dated 27 October 1987 (it had been kept for a reason!). The Assistant Regional Treasurer, North Western Region, was quoted as saying, "It is positive that next year is going to be very difficult without additional funding. The question of service cuts will have to be raised." It could have been written today!

John Smith
Executive Director

Government Opportunities (GO) magazine

GO magazine is widely recognised as the leading authority on public sector procurement. Reaching a wealth of purchasing professionals across central and local government, health, education and defence, it delivers a blend of news, analysis and in-depth feature articles for those working in this constantly evolving market sector.

The magazine currently has an ABC average net circulation of 8223 with an estimated readership of over 30,000. BiP Solutions believes that *GO* has an important role to play in spreading guidance on best practice, as well as information on changes to legislation and other factors which affect the work of professionals in this sector every day. BiP also believes that the magazine should be freely available to those who meet the criteria for receiving it.

Inside the March edition of *GO*, you will find a *GO* request card. If you would like to be assured of continuing to receive *GO*, all you need to do is answer a few simple questions, and then return the card to BiP free of charge.

By completing this simple card and returning it to **FREEPOST BiP**, not only will you ensure that you continue to receive this indispensable publication, but you will assist BiP in ensuring that all advertisers within the magazine are pertinent to you and the area you work in. Put simply, you can trust *Government Opportunities* to deliver high quality advertisers to your desk.

News

National Director for Mental Health announces £1 million in new research funding for mental health

The Government's National Director for Mental Health has announced an estimated £1 million in grants for new research that will help support the implementation of the Mental Health Bill that is currently going through Parliament. [More...](#)

DH announces review of modernising medical careers applications

Following discussion with the medical Royal Colleges and the British Medical Association (BMA), the Department of Health (DH) has announced a review of round one of Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) recruitment and selection into specialist training, made through the Medical Training and Application Service (MTAS). [More...](#)

Report to help improve NHS uptake of medical devices

The Government and the medical devices industry have published their report 'Innovation for health: making a difference'. It sets out plans for acceleration of the use of medical innovation more widely across the NHS for the benefit of patients. [More...](#)

New state of the art ambulances hit Welsh roads

The Welsh Ambulance Service's new flagship vehicles were unveiled before Welsh Assembly Government Health Minister Dr Brian Gibbons at the Senedd in Cardiff. [More...](#)

New centre could 'lead the world' in neuromuscular translational research

Researchers into neuromuscular disease and those affected by these conditions have welcomed a significant Medical Research Council (MRC) grant to create the MRC Centre for Neuromuscular Disease, turning our growing understanding of the mechanisms of neuromuscular disorders into practical treatments and cures. [More...](#)

Let's end the sickness service - Hewitt

Shifting the focus of health care from treating sick people towards prevention and supporting wellbeing is crucial if we are to improve the health of the nation and ensure we deliver NHS services effectively in future, according to Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt.

[More...](#)

Shetland NHS Board reappointments

Health Minister Andy Kerr has announced the reappointments of Mr Ian Kinniburgh and Mrs Ann Williamson as members of Shetland NHS Board.

[More...](#)

Increase in prescription charges

Prescription charges are to rise by 20 pence from 1 April, bringing the cost for a single prescription item to £6.85, it has been announced.

[More...](#)

Plans for £64 million Cynon Valley health improvements a step closer

Plans to replace outdated health facilities in the Cynon Valley with a modern £64 million purpose-built community hospital have been approved by the Welsh Assembly Government.

[More...](#)

Health Minister slams Lords over Mental Health Bill amendments

Health Minister Rosie Winterton has expressed her deep concern about the impact that the amendments the House of Lords has made to the Government's Mental Health Bill will have on patient and public protection.

[More...](#)

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

This Week's Reports

[Supporting Practice Based Commissioning in 2007-08 by Determining Weighted Capitation Shares at Practice Level](#)

The Department of Health has developed a simple toolkit that can be used to determine weighted capitation indicative budgets at practice level. The data files for use in the toolkit have now been updated to include 2006 data.

[Improving Access to Audiology Services in England](#)

This document sets out the aspiration to transform patient experiences of audiology services. It outlines actions which could help the NHS to change service provision to assist with delivering within 18 weeks.

[Managing New Realities 2007](#)

This is a transcript of the speech by Minister for the Cabinet Office and Social Exclusion Hilary Armstrong on 5 March 2007. Ms Armstrong talks about the integrated delivery of health, social care and housing and how to achieve excellence through partnership with other sectors.

[Service Improvement: Quality assurance of major changes to service provision](#)

This letter from NHS Chief Executive David Nicholson to Strategic Health Authority chief executives sets out the findings and recommendations from Sir Ian Carruthers' review of service change and reconfiguration proposals. This short review will ensure that future major service changes are better managed and implemented, so that all major service changes and improvements are conducted to the very best standards.

Communities for Health: Learning from the pilots

This document highlights learning case examples and best practice from the pilot areas of Communities for Health. These pilots detail how communities have addressed a wide range of health issues and tackled health inequalities. Rural and urban deprived areas have worked to address obesity, healthy eating, mental health and sexual health.

Mesothelioma Framework

This framework aims to provide Strategic Health Authorities, cancer networks, primary care trusts and NHS trusts with advice on how to organise services for mesothelioma patients to improve quality of care across the country.

Reports can be found at:

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

Events

The Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards

The *Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards*, held in conjunction with National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD) 2007, are fast approaching and are, once again, proving extremely popular across all categories. With eight Awards available there is a category for you!

Focus on...

GO Sustainability Award

This Award is open to all UK public sector authorities who have demonstrated an original, innovative approach to sustainable procurement issues which satisfies the demands of current legislation and best practice.

Authorities who have delivered quantifiable environmental or social benefits through their procurement activities and who have involved a broad range of stakeholders within their procurement process – for example local communities, interest groups or suppliers – should also consider submitting a nomination for this Award category.

There will be one winner and two highly commended entries in this

category. Previous winners include Leeds Metropolitan University and Warwickshire Sustainable Procurement Initiative.

[GO e-Government Award - sponsored by Open Text Corporation](#)

This Award is open to all UK public sector authorities who have successfully procured and implemented electronic systems resulting in measurable gains in efficiency and/or cashable savings along with end-user benefits. All potential nominees should demonstrate an original, innovative approach to procurement issues which satisfies the demands of current legislation and best practice.

Again, for this category there will be one winner and two highly commended entries. Previous winners include the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and Defra.

The deadline for all submissions is 31 March 2007.

Update your diary by visiting

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

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](#)

Health Care Supply Association 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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