



## Welcome

### **Welcome to this week's newsletter**

#### **A note from the Chairman**

Since my last update the Association's Council has been active in taking forward a number of initiatives aimed at modernising and improving the Association's profile and raising its appeal to current and future members. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you 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. At its Visioning Day on 20 September Council embarked upon a strategic review of the Association's purpose, objectives and structure, building upon the two previous workshops held in 2006-07.

The Visioning Day resulted in the development of a high level project plan which, it is hoped, will lead to a more focused and transparent Association, better serving the needs of its members. The key aspects of the project plan were shared with members at the 2007 Annual General Meeting and were unanimously endorsed. We are now about to embark upon the next phase of the review and as it progresses we will issue periodic communications to keep members informed of the progress in bringing about a programme of sustainable change.

If you would like to help the Association and be part of the review process then please let me know.

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 and also an indication of some of the things that we will be doing in the coming months and beyond.

#### **Annual Conference**

The Health Care Supply Association held its 37th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Stratford-Upon-Avon on 1-2 November 2007 and according to comments received it was one of the best so far. We had

a wide range of speakers all addressing the conference theme "Can the NHS Afford to Buy Quality?" and the sessions all stimulated plenty of discussion and thought.

Whether you were at the Conference or not, should you wish to view the presentations they are now available on the website. Thanks go to the organising committee, sponsors, exhibitors, delegates and BiP Solutions for making the conference such a success!

We are already planning for next year's conference which will be held at the Belfry (of Ryder Cup legend) on 6-7 November 2008, so put these dates in your diary now and make sure you register early.

### **Summer school**

Another successful school was held from 19-24 August 2007 at the University of Birmingham. Planning is already underway for 2008's school to ensure that its content and format remain relevant to the development of the profession and to the environment in which it operates.

### **Website**

One of our key means of communication is our website and I am delighted to tell you that its redevelopment is almost complete - it should be launched before the end of 2007.

### **Membership development**

Membership numbers are at an all-time high and will be around 1000 by the end of 2007. 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)

### **Golf days**

Members within a number of branches participated in two golf days this year - one in June in Nottinghamshire and the other in Stratford-Upon-Avon the day before the Association's Annual Conference and Exhibition. Both were a resounding success and more are planned for 2008, with hopefully at least one taking place at the Belfry.

Finally, I am encouraged by what we have achieved so far during 2007, but if you have any constructive suggestions as to how the Association might serve members' interests more effectively in future, then I would be very pleased to hear from you.

John Effingham  
Chairman  
Health Care Supply Association

### **Government Opportunities (GO) magazine**

All Association members should be receiving a copy of *Government Opportunities (GO)* magazine as part of their membership. *GO* magazine is an indispensable guide to all that is happening in the fast-moving world of public procurement.

If you are not receiving your copy of this must-have magazine, please click [here](#) and request your copy today! To take part in the *GO* survey please click [here](#)

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## News

### **Budget - what it means for health**

Patient-focused services and investment aimed at helping Scots live longer and healthier lives with reduced inequalities are at the heart of the Health and Wellbeing spending plans, Cabinet Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said. [More...](#)

### **Government invests £31 million in children and young peoples' psychiatric wards**

Health Minister Ivan Lewis announced £31 million of funding to increase the number of beds and improve facilities in Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services across the country. [More...](#)

### **Measures to reduce infections coming into hospitals**

New measures are being introduced to reduce the number of patients with health care-associated infections entering hospitals. Under the new plans health care settings, including GPs' surgeries, nursing homes, physiotherapists and dental practices, will have to put in place infection control measures to reduce the risk of spreading infections such as influenza, norovirus, MRSA and Clostridium Difficile. [More...](#)

### **David Wright reappointed as non-executive director**

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust Chairman David Prior was pleased to announce that David Wright has been appointed to serve another term as a non-executive director by the NHS Appointments Commission. [More...](#)

### **Great Ormond Street Hospital responds to debate on chickenpox jab**

Many parents think of chickenpox as a mild illness, and for most children it is. However, it can result in serious complications such as blood poisoning and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and even death. This has been confirmed by research published in the Archives of Diseases in Childhood. [More...](#)

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

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## This Week's Reports

### **[Social care Private Finance Initiative](#)**

This gives information about the private finance initiative procurement method, which may be used by local authorities for the development of adult social care.

### **[Chief Nursing Officer's Summit: speech by Alan Johnson](#)**

This is a transcript of the speech by Health Secretary Alan Johnson to the Chief Nursing Officer's Summit on 1 November 2007. He talks about promoting well-being, preventing illness and improving cleanliness and infection control throughout the NHS.

### **[NHS Pay Review Body: review for 2008](#)**

This document gives written and statistical evidence from the health departments for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the NHS pay review.

### **Reports can be found at:**

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

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## Events

### **[When the EU Directive meets the UK Regulations](#)**

This event is designed to provide both suppliers to and buyers within the public sector with an overview of UK Regulations, as well as a more detailed consideration of some of the key aspects affecting procurement processes and practices. It will give guidance on how best to tender and procure compliantly so that all parties affected by the Regulations can use them to their benefit.

An understanding of the legal framework within which public procurement must operate helps both buyers and suppliers achieve their objectives through limiting risk, better use of resources, improved bid quality and better and clearer evaluation techniques. This event is specifically designed to help clarify the requirements of the EU Public Procurement Directive and interpret the UK regulations. The programme addresses all the key elements of the new regime and will focus on the issues of greatest importance and interest to public procurement personnel and their suppliers. It also addresses some of the wider issues that impact on the UK public procurement process.

This event, held at the Marriott Maida Vale, London, on 27 November is not to be missed!

### **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](#)**

Health Care Supply Association [www.healthcaresupply.org.uk](http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk)  
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