



Welcome

Welcome to this week's newsletter

A note from the Executive Director

This is going to be one of those surreal newsletter contributions, so if you're not in a surreal mood, scroll on down to the next item.

What are the odds on meeting someone on two days' work experience at a hospital in South East London and then, 38 years later, being with the same person on a tropical island in the Andaman Sea, with a bunch of drunken Australians in the middle of a tropical thunderstorm? Well, that's what I was doing last week.

It was 40 years ago at the end of March that The Doors were at number one on the American charts with Light My Fire and, coincidentally, at the end of this March we closed the doors on the South West London SHA for the last time.

Now trust me on this: there is a connection.

Jim Morrison of The Doors wrote some interesting lyrics, and those of you with long memories and little else to do may remember that I've quoted him before.

Well, in 1967 he wrote:

Strange days have found us
Strange days have tracked us down

Now I mention this because – and I must point out that this is my view – I think that these are Strange Days.

I joined the South West London SHA three years ago, not too long after it was established. It was one of five London SHAs which had been set up, following the break-up of the NHS London Regional Office (where I had previously worked) which was coterminous with the Greater London Authority.

Now the South West London SHA and the other four London SHAs have been merged to form NHS London, which is coterminous with the Greater London Authority.

Is it just me? Strange Days indeed!

[Discuss!](#)

John Smith
Executive Director

News

RCN launches campaign for better patient nutrition

Nearly half of nurses (42 per cent) say they do not have enough time during their working day to ensure patients get good nutrition, a new survey from the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) reveals. [More...](#)

Pay Modernisation: A new contract for NHS consultants in England

Under the new NHS consultants' contract, consultants in England are earning on average 25 per cent more than three years ago, but are working the same or fewer hours. Whilst the contract has the potential to improve management of consultant time, it has yet to deliver the full value for money to the NHS and the public that had been expected. [More...](#)

Waging war on hospital superbugs

A new factsheet spells out the bug-busting measures UNISON wants to see introduced to combat MRSA and other hospital-acquired infections. [More...](#)

Independent review to establish way forward for modernising medical careers

Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt has announced an independent review to establish how the Modernising Medical Careers programme will go forward in 2008 and beyond. [More...](#)

RCN's damning report spells out devastating effects of NHS financial crisis

More than 22,300 NHS posts have been lost in the last 18 months because of the financial crisis hitting the health service, according to a new report from the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). [More...](#)

Faster start times for clinical trials mean better treatment for NHS patients

The Department of Health has announced an agreement that will enable approved industry-sponsored clinical trials to start sooner in NHS Primary Care. [More...](#)

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

This Week's Reports

[Independent Review of the Long-term Sustainability of Children's Palliative Care](#)

This letter seeks views on the independent review into the state of children's and young people's palliative care services in England. The review looks at the current provision and considers what more can be done to improve the sustainability and accessibility of services in both the statutory and voluntary sectors.

[Patient Mobility: Advice to local healthcare commissioners on handling requests for hospital care in other European countries following the ECJ's judgment in the Watts case](#)

This guidance aims to help local healthcare commissioners to handle requests from the public to go to certain other European countries for treatment.

[NHS Choices](#)

This letter announces NHS Choices, a new information service that will play a crucial role in making the Choice agenda become a reality for patients and clinicians. NHS Choices is due to be launched in summer 2007.

[Mental Health Policy Implementation Guide: A learning and development toolkit for the whole of the mental health workforce across both health and social care](#)

The purpose of this toolkit is to set out the current learning and development issues for mental health; the priorities local health and social care organisations may wish to consider in developing their own learning and development strategies; and future learning and development issues.

Reports can be found at:

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

Events

[Health Care Supply Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2007](#)

1 and 2 November 2007 - Holiday Inn, Stratford upon Avon

Can the NHS afford to buy quality?

Over the years the Association's Annual Conference and Exhibition has developed in content and reputation. Every year the high-quality debate on key issues attracts a capacity audience of members, other healthcare professionals and representatives of major supply companies from across the UK, and this year will be no exception.

The conference programme will help delegates explore new opportunities, approaches and alternative ways of working which will assist them in achieving their goals.

Speakers already confirmed include:

- Professor Christine Harland, Health Care Supply Association President and Director of the Centre for Research in Strategic

- Purchasing and Supply (CRiSPS), University of Bath
- John Wilkinson, Director General of ABHI
 - Patrick Johnson, Managing Director of NHS Supply Chain
 - Julian Cobbledick, Managing Director of Nottingham Rehab Supplies
 - Peter Sharott, Director of London, Eastern and South East Specialist Pharmacy Services
 - Bob Dredge, Senior Fellow in Financial Management at Keele University
 - John Warrington, Director of Policy and Innovation for NHS PASA
 - Peter Homa, Chief Executive of Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Delegates will again be provided with a unique opportunity to understand and discuss all the latest thinking across the healthcare sector, and particularly in healthcare purchasing and supply strategy and performance. You will also be provided with the opportunity to network with colleagues from across the UK and to meet in relaxed surroundings.

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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