



## 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:

#### **Education Committee and Branch Development Programme**

Building on the success of last year's Branch Development seminar programme on the Freedom of Information Act, I am pleased to be able to report that we have now completed a highly successful EC Directives Training Programme in ten locations involving over 250 members. The feedback from all who attended was exceptionally positive and once again demonstrates the value of Association membership.

Continuing the theme of professional development the Association's Education Committee continues to prepare for this year's Summer School, to be held once again at the University of Birmingham, from Sunday 19 August until Friday 24 August. Full details will be issued shortly.

At its last meeting on 8 February, the Education Committee said its farewell to outgoing Chair Colleen Jones who has decided to step down after many years of leading this important committee. Colleen has given exceptional service, with the support of Peter Pollard and Ann Hales, to whom we are also very grateful.

In stepping down Colleen welcomed the unanimous endorsement of Ian Shepherd as incoming Chair of the Committee and agreed to provide support to him and the Committee when required in the future.

In accepting the endorsement and support of members of the Committee, Ian has prepared the following message for Association members:

"In taking the Chair of the Education Committee, I look forward to working with Council and members of the Association so that together we do justice to the legacy of Colleen Jones, in recognition of all that has been achieved during her time at the helm. I trust we will now enter a new era and enhance the provision of Learning and Development opportunities for all and that these are viewed as inspiring and transformational.

"I am delighted to have this new role at a time when the biggest single challenge facing NHS procurement is the development of commercial capacity and capability. I look forward to building a team that will help support Association members to deliver procurement challenges in health and social care provision."

As Chairman of the Association I am very pleased to welcome Ian onto Council and have no doubt that he will bring considerable energy, enthusiasm and ideas to help us continue to deliver what our members and stakeholders require now and in the future.

### **Annual Conference**

The Association's Conference Committee has been very active in planning for this year's Annual Conference, to be held once again at the Holiday Inn, Stratford upon Avon. The Committee is currently designing the programme and inviting speakers.

The theme for this year's Conference is "Can the NHS afford to buy quality?". The event will be held on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 November - so please put these dates in your diary!

### **Website**

One of our key means of communication is our website and I am delighted to tell you that Rachel Hodson-Gibbons has agreed to take charge of this project. Rachel has already developed a robust project plan and is engaging with our media partners BiP Solutions to ensure that we develop this as a joint project as soon as possible.

### **Golf Day**

Members within a number of Branches have suggested that we should stage an Association Golf Day to involve all interested members (men and women). Alan Jones, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust and Ian Shepherd, Chief Executive, re:source Collaborative Procurement Hub have agreed to arrange this with help from other members.

It is believed that this sort of event will help establish and build networks between professionals from different organisations within a

social setting and also act as a potential promotional incentive for new members. If successful this could become a regular event.

Branch members will be emailed within the next few days, so if you are interested and do not receive an email please contact your Branch Coordinator. We are looking to receive expressions of interest by 1 March.

### **Membership development**

We are about to embark upon an active recruitment drive so if you work alongside colleagues who might be interested in benefiting from becoming a member (there is no longer a subscription fee), then please encourage them to register on the Association's website [www.healthcaresupply.org.uk](http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk) as soon as possible.

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

John Effingham  
Chairman, Health Care Supply Association

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## **News**

### **Grampian maternity proposals approved**

Scottish Health Minister Andy Kerr has approved NHS Grampian's revised proposals to develop maternity services in the North East, and asked the Board to now implement plans for birth units in Aboyne, Banff and Fraserburgh. [More...](#)

### **Putting innovative finance in the service of innovative medicine**

Chancellor Gordon Brown has helped launch an international programme which will accelerate the development of new vaccines for diseases afflicting the world's poorest countries. [More...](#)

### **Patients should cc the benefits of doctors' letters**

Patients should be kept informed of their condition and care, said Health Minister Rosie Winterton, as she called on healthcare professionals to make more effort to routinely copy letters to their patients. [More...](#)

### **University of Edinburgh study offers treatment hope for Rett syndrome**

The National Autistic Society (NAS), the UK's leading charity for people with autism, has welcomed robust research which furthers understanding of the causes of autism. [More...](#)

### **New healthy workplace programme**

A new programme to encourage health promotion in the workplace has been launched. [More...](#)

**Mental Health Promotion Action Plan for Wales**

The National Public Health Service for Wales (NPHS) has responded to the Mental Health Promotion Action Plan for Wales consultation.

[More...](#)

**Breast screening service enhanced**

Hundreds more cases of breast cancer will be detected every year due to changes to the Scottish Breast Screening Programme, it has been announced. [More...](#)

**Legal action over Department of Health race failings welcomed**

The campaign group Black Mental Health UK has welcomed the Commission for Racial Equality's decision to launch a formal investigation into the Department of Health's widespread failing under Race Relations law, Black Information Link reports. [More...](#)

**NHS to save millions and improve patient safety with barcodes**

The NHS, patients and industry will benefit from barcoding technology which will increase patient safety, improve efficiency and save the NHS millions in extra bed days, Parliamentary Under Secretary Lord Hunt has announced. [More...](#)

**Local health communities pledge to hit 18-week target early**

Thirteen local health areas have pledged to meet the Government's 18-week treatment target a full year before the rest of the NHS.

[More...](#)

**OFT report recommends reform to UK drug pricing scheme**

The Office of Fair Trading has recommended that the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) should be reformed, to deliver better value for money from NHS drug spend and to focus business investment on drugs that have the greatest benefits for patients.

[More...](#)

**Proposals to safeguard future of Inverclyde and Paisley hospitals approved**

Following public consultation, proposals have been approved for acute services at Inverclyde Royal and the Royal Alexandra Hospitals. These proposals will safeguard the long-term future of both hospitals and end many years of uncertainty for local patients and staff. [More...](#)

**Cancer Reform Strategy board members announced**

The board members who will advise on the development of the new Cancer Reform Strategy have been announced. [More...](#)

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

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## This Week's Reports

**[Primary Care Trusts Operational Capital Allocations: 2007-08](#)**

The Department of Health has announced primary care trusts capital allocations of £382 million for 2007-08. NHS trusts will no longer receive capital allocations and will operate under a new borrowing regime similar to foundation trusts.

**[End of Life care strategy](#)**

This is a letter from Professor Mike Richards, Chair of the End of Life

Care Strategy Advisory Board, about the progress being made in developing a strategy for end of life care to meet the health and social care needs and preferences of all adult patients about where they live and die.

### **[Commissioning Conscious Sedation Services in Primary Dental Care](#)**

This guidance provides advice on the strategic commissioning of sedation services, together with advice on some transitional issues where primary care trusts have sought clarification of existing guidance.

### **[Global Health Partnerships: The UK contribution to health in developing countries](#)**

This is Lord Crisp's report in response to an invitation from the Prime Minister and the Secretaries of State for Health and International Development to look at how UK experience and expertise in health could be used to best effect to help improve health in developing countries.

### **[Progress on the Cancer Reform Strategy](#)**

This letter from National Cancer Director Mike Richards introduces a press notice announcing the membership of a new advisory board of experts who will provide advice and help develop the strategy.

### **[Better Care Better Value Indicators](#)**

This letter invites comments on how the reach of the Better Care Better Value indicators can be improved and extended. The indicators were launched by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, supported by the Department of Health, in October 2006.

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

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

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## Events

### **[Government Opportunities \(GO\) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2007](#)**

#### **Add a new dimension to your excellent performance**

Many organisations claim to be achieving excellence, but if you can prove your organisation really is achieving excellence, and raising the game, then the *Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2007* are the awards for you.

The *GO Awards* celebrate a wide variety of achievements. Finalists are invited to attend the Awards Ceremony, held in conjunction with National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD) on 6 June at the Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, London, where the winners will be announced and Award presentations made.

And if you are one of the winners, you'll be on a PR-driven, fast-track route to recognition of your outstanding commitment to public

procurement, enjoying publicity that will establish you or your organisation's reputation as a proven provider of exemplary levels of service and best value.

So why not enter yourself or nominate someone you know and have procurement excellence and achievement recognised!

For more information on the categories available please click [here](#)

**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](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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