



Weekly Update

NUMBER 105 | 21 APRIL 2008

Events Diary

29 April

IHM Scotland/Association of CHPs

Community Health

Partnerships

9.30-4.30, Airth Castle Hotel

Programme and booking form attached for this joint event. *The content of the day is very varied and will appeal to senior and middle managers, clinical and non clinical, with examples of good practice from throughout the country and excellent opportunities for networking.*

22 & 23 May

Scottish Conference for Practice Management

Sustaining Quality

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld

Annual conference designed by practice managers for practice managers. See attached flyer for full programme and booking.

4 June & 18 June

IHM Scotland

Project Management

9.30-4.30, Huntingtower Hotel, Perth
2 day workshop. See attached flyer for details.

10 June

IHM Scotland

'How to increase your power and influence'

9.30-4.00, Airth Castle Hotel
See attached flyer for details and booking.

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This week in Parliament

Wednesday

10:00 Health and Sport Committee

The Committee will take evidence from Craig Brewster, Manager, Inverness Caledonian Thistle on its Pathways into Sport inquiry and consider its response to the Scottish Government's Consultation on Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland.

14:30 Ministerial Statement: Hepatitis C

Thursday

11:40 General Question Time

Mary Scanlon (Con, Highlands & Islands): what plans does the Scottish Government have to review the Scottish Ambulance Service; Rhoda Grant (Lab, Highlands & Islands): when did the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing last meet the Scottish Ambulance Service and what issues were discussed.

12:00 First Minister's Question Time

Public Health Bill passes first stage

MSPs unanimously agreed to the general principles of the Public Health etc (Scotland) Bill following its first stage Scottish Parliament debate last week. Public Health Minister, Shona Robison, introduced the debate by saying that Scotland's existing public health legislation dates from 1889 and is no longer fit to deal with modern public health threats. She said that the new legislation would allow public authorities to take protective action without having to resort to using more extreme emergency powers. Ms Robison said that the Scottish Government had struck the right balance between the need to protect the public and the rights of individuals and that the Bill is fully compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Although all the parties in the chamber supported the Bill's general principles, there were concerns raised during the debate about a lack of detail on court procedures and vague definitions of terms such as 'clinically significant pathogens' and 'health risk states.' Ross Finnie MSP argued for the Liberal Democrats that the Bill is not in fact ECHR compliant at present and will have to be amended in order to make it so, although he commended the Minister's openness in working to resolve such issues. Ken Macintosh MSP indicated that he intends to bring forward amendments at Stage 2 to strengthen the Bill's provisions on sunbed use, including one to set a minimum age of 18 for the use of commercial tanning salons.

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Sturgeon and SFA to pilot athlete heart screening

Work is underway to pilot a free health screening programme for amateur athletes and sportspeople in Scotland, Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon announced this weekend. In her address to delegates at the SNP's spring conference, Ms Sturgeon said that the death of Motherwell FC captain, Phil O'Donnell, had highlighted the fact that, although very rare, Sudden Cardiac Death "does claim too many fit, active young lives." The Health Secretary went on to say that professional opinion was divided on the effectiveness for screening and that there is "a real need to develop a proper evidence base." She pointed out that there is virtually no access to screening programmes for non-professional athletes.

"I can announce today that the government is working with the Scottish Football Association to establish a pilot programme that will provide, for the first time, a free screening service for amateur athletes in Scotland.

"The pilot will involve Scottish government investment in the sports medicine centre at Hampden stadium, to create the extra capacity needed to offer this screening service to over-16s who are active in amateur sports."

Ms Sturgeon said that although she had been proud to host a recent international conference on health inequalities in Edinburgh, she was "ashamed" to tell the visiting public health experts that Scotland has the lowest life expectancy in Europe. She said that the Scottish Government would not "fail to act" to address this, citing a forthcoming anti-poverty strategy and the Ministerial Taskforce on Health Inequalities, led by Public Health Minister Shona Robison, which Ms Sturgeon said will report next month."

Ms Sturgeon's other big announcement in her speech was of the provision of £25m to local authorities to build a new generation of council houses. "In the last ten years, homelessness in Scotland has been on the rise," Ms Sturgeon said. "...That's why we've set a new target of 35,000 new houses to be built each year by the middle of the next decade"

First Minister, Alex Salmond, announced in his conference speech that Dundee University has been given a £10m grant for a new life science institute specialising in research into cell signalling.

Applicants sought for new Executive support post

A new executive assistant post is being introduced to promote better co-ordination of the work of the NHS Boards Chief Executives' Group and Directors' Groups (Finance, HR, Planning, Nursing and Medical.) The postholder will work closely with chief executives and board directors to co-ordinate the business of their respective Groups and take forward elements of work within the service in NHS Scotland, most likely on a part time basis.

Interested candidates should make contact with Fiona Mackenzie, chair of the chief executives' group, by the end of this month, by calling 01786 457 248 or emailing fmackenzie@nhs.net. Further details can be found in the attachment with this edition of Update.

Survivors of sexual abuse guidance

New guidelines have been published to help health and care professionals feel more confident, informed and able to provide support when working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The booklet, *Yes You Can! Working with Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse*, is part of the national strategy, SurvivorScotland, which was launched in 2005.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/07143029/0

Unions to consult on pay deal

Members of NHS trade unions will be asked to vote on whether to accept the Agenda for Change pay deal announced by Health Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, last week. If the deal is accepted it will be implemented "as soon as practicable."

The IHM is the leading UK professional organisation for managers in health and health-care. Its purpose is to enhance and promote high standards of professional management in order to improve health and healthcare for the benefit of the public.