



Weekly Update

NUMBER 106 | 28 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.

Contact us:

Jim Currie, Secretary, IHM Scotland

jim.currie@ihmscotland.co.uk

Hilary Iannotti, Business Manager

hilary.iannotti@bopenworld.com

Website: www.ihmscotland.co.uk

This week in Parliament

Wednesday

10:00 Health and Sport Committee

The Committee will hear evidence from Olympic gold medal winner, Shirley Robertson, as part of its Pathways into Sport inquiry.

Thursday

14:15 Health and Wellbeing Question Time

James Kelly (Lab, Rutherglen): what progress has been made on making efficiency savings in the Health and Wellbeing portfolio; Claire Baker (Lab, Mid Scotland and Fife): what are the targets are for absence rates within the NHS and what efforts is the Scottish Government making to meet them; Ted Brocklebank (Con, Mid Scotland and Fife): are there any plans to extend the availability of Suboxone in the treatment of drug addicts; Liam McArthur (LibDem, Orkney): what assessment has been made of the performance of NHS24 in meeting the needs of patients in remote and rural areas; Bill Wilson (SNP, W. Of Scotland): is the Scottish Government aware of recent UK-wide research by the University of the West of Scotland which indicates that, contrary to reality, most students believe that their peers are smokers, thus revealing the potential for social norms interventions to reduce health-damaging behaviours; Willie Coffey (SNP, Kilmarnock): what steps are being taken to improve centrally available information on the number of patients diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder; David Whitton (Lab, Strathkelvin & Bearsden): when did the Scottish Government last meet the Chief Executive of Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS board and what matters were discussed; Aileen Campbell (SNP, S. Of Scotland): what role can local healthcare provision play in building a healthier Scotland; Hugh O'Donnell (LibDem, Central Scotland): are there any plans to develop managed clinical networks for autism; Jamie Stone (LibDem, Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross): how does the Scottish Government plan to address the length of waiting lists to see dentists in the Highlands; Margaret Mitchell (Con, Central Scotland): what action is being taken to address sickness absence rates in the NHS workforce; Irene Oldfather (Lab, Cunninghame South): what emphasis does the Scottish Government place on improving the quality of care of elderly people in care homes; Kenneth Gibson (SNP, Cunninghame North): what support is provided to health-based community radio stations; Richard Baker (Lab, NE Scotland): how will the Scottish Government support drug and alcohol misuse services in the north east.

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Funding to support dementia, depression and fitness

Public Health minister, Shona Robison, last week announced a new funding package of £1.6m to support sufferers and raise awareness of dementia, which the Scottish Government added to the list of national health priorities on its election last year. Ms Robison has asked the charity Alzheimer's Scotland—Action on Dementia and Stirling University's Dementia Services Centre to work together to come up with proposals for how the funding can be used to provide improved support and care for individuals and families in the period immediately following a diagnosis of dementia. Some of the money will also be used to fund Elderflowers, who provide arts-in-health programmes to support people with dementia in hospitals and hospices. The Scottish Government also plans to run a major public awareness campaign about the disease in order to help people recognise symptoms and secure earlier diagnosis and support.

In addition to the resources earmarked for dementia services, Ms Robison also announced an additional £1m to support people with anxiety and depression. The Minister confirmed that the funding "...is already being invested in pilot projects delivering accessible, user-friendly phone-based cognitive behavioural therapy. In addition, we are looking to invest in new approaches to training and at the delivery of CBT self-help."

In a separate announcement, the Scottish Government unveiled what it described as "record" funding of £12m for physical activity initiatives in workplaces, schools, homes and in communities. The funding will be used to expand a range of programmes including outdoor exercise sessions in parks, lunch time walks for workplaces and walking groups in deprived communities and to create better recreational spaces and improve environments for walking and cycling. It will also be used to launch a public awareness campaign highlighting ways of incorporating exercise into daily life, in a bid to help achieve long term targets for improving physical activity in Scotland.

The Minister confirmed that a joint action plan for Diet, Physical Activity and Healthy Weight will be published within the next few weeks.

Health Secretary will address practice management event

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon will be the opening speaker at this year's Networking and Learning Conference for Practice Management. This annual event is designed by practice managers for practice managers in Scotland, and as well as prominent keynote speakers, the programme includes a wide range of interactive workshops. There is still plenty of time to book for this year's event, which takes place on 22 and 23 May at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld. A full programme and booking form is attached with the Weekly Update.

UK government "wrong" to withhold free care funding

The UK government should not have withheld Attendance Allowance resources from the Scottish budget following the introduction of free personal care. That is one of the conclusions of the independent review of Scotland's free personal and nursing care policy, headed by Lord Sutherland, whose report is published today. If the savings made from no longer having to provide attendance allowance had been allowed to be kept in Scotland, they would today be providing an additional £30m per year to fund care.

The review concludes that free personal care has widespread public support and is genuinely benefiting for thousands of people. However, it agrees that there have been problems with implementation and recommends that there, "should be a clear 'entitlement' for all those assessed as needing personal and nursing care," and that the Scottish Government should not only move to fill the current funding gap but also annually uprate Residential and Nursing Care Fixed Rate Allowances in line with inflation. Read the full report and recommendations at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/25105036/0

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.