



NHS Newsweek 23/07/10

Top marks for Liaison in the East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub

Liaison is delighted to announce that we gained the highest ranking of all the bids entered for the East of England Collaborative Procurement Hub Framework. This simplifies the procurement process both for Liaison's clients to renew their contracts and for those Trusts not already using Liaison to procure our VAT services in future. This also makes Liaison the highest ranking preferred VAT supplier in this Framework.

Source of Extract: Liaison

The Independent Woodstock Literary Festival - Liaison Dinner at Blenheim Palace

As part of The Independent Woodstock Literary Festival and in support of the Amani Children's Home in Tanzania, Liaison's Directors are hosting a VIP dinner in the Orangery at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock on Sunday 19th September. The evening will begin with a champagne reception at 6.30pm; a presentation from a celebrated Guest Speaker followed by dinner at 7.30pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Monica Allen: mallen@liaisonfs.com for details.

NHS reform could cost £3bn, says health economist

Government's sweeping NHS reforms, with a leading health economist arguing that the wholesale reorganisation required could cost almost double the £1.7bn set aside by the Government. NHS chief executive Sir David Nicholson revealed that the NHS in England has set aside nearly £1.7bn this year to carry out the Government's ambitious plans for reorganisation, which include abolishing two tiers of NHS management structures and shifting the majority of commissioning budgets to GP consortiums. The Government claims the plans will cut management costs by 45%, but a health economist writing in the British Medical Journal estimated that the total cost of the reorganisation, laid out in last week's White Paper, could be between £2bn and £3bn, with no guarantee of better care for patients.

Source of Extract: Pulse

Fears NHS funding could be wasted on bureaucrats 'eye-watering' payoffs

Fears are mounting that millions of pounds of frontline NHS spending in the West could be wasted on "eye-watering" payoffs following its biggest overhaul in generations. Concern came after it emerged the region's most senior health chief is in line for a redundancy package worth around £850,000 under Government plans to slash bureaucracy. Most of the chief executives of England's 10 strategic health authorities are in line for redundancy payments worth around £340,000, if no job can be found for them in the new structures. Along with strategic health authorities most of those running England's 152 PCTs will be entitled to redundancy deals of more than £200,000, under an NHS deal which gives them one month's pay for every year worked – four times the legal minimum.

Source of Extract: This is Somerset

New chairman at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS

A new chairman has been appointed to Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Jim Whittingham, a current non executive director of the trust, will be in the post for a three-year term. Mr Whittingham, 56, was born and brought up in Scunthorpe, studied at the University of Sheffield and was awarded a PhD in 1979. His appointment follows the retirement of former chairman William Beaumont.

Source of Extract: BBC News

NHS staff offered redundancy deals at Liverpool PCT

All 3,000 staff working for Liverpool Primary Care Trust have been sent letters offering them the chance to take up voluntary redundancy packages. From nurses on the frontline to administration staff, every NHS worker has been offered a number of different deals in a bid to save cash. Other offers include going part-time, paying to take more annual leave and flexible retirement. The PCT said it was "part of an efficiency savings programme".

Source of Extract: BBC News Liverpool

Public health nurses face shift to councils

The majority of public health nurses and some health visitors could be transferred to local authority control under the white paper's proposals. The government said it would transfer the existing health improvement functions of primary care trusts to local authorities when PCTs are abolished in 2013. As a result, the majority of public health nurses may be transferred to local authority employment. Nursing Times has learnt that care services minister Paul Burstow met last week with a group of PCT chief executives who hold dual roles on their local councils to discuss the plans. Tony Hunter, chief executive of North East Lincolnshire Council, which took on 60 public health staff and 130 children's health employees from the NHS in April as part of local integration plans, said the council had ensured public health staff were able to maintain their specialist knowledge when they transferred.

Source of Extract: Nursing Times

Fears over hospital merger plans

An ex-senior civil servant is warning that a new government policy forcing a rethink on hospital reorganisations in England could cost money. Plans to close or downgrade some hospitals in England are facing hold-ups after a review ordered by health secretary Andrew Lansley. Mark Britnell oversaw services moving to fewer hospitals in Birmingham. He believes many of the original plans will go ahead but with delays of up to a year. Mr Britnell held a top job at the Department of Health before moving to the professional service provider KPMG last year. Further details, which were due to have been released last month, have not yet emerged. Moves to downgrade or close local hospitals have often attracted fierce protests and many local campaigners have welcomed the new policy. But leaders at NHS London, which was planning a big reorganisation, have reacted furiously with the chairman and some board members resigning. Proposals to close a maternity unit in Bury have also been put on hold. This was part of a much bigger plan to reorganise maternity and children's services across Manchester, with a new unit being built in the north of the city. Decisions to close a casualty unit in Burnley, which has

already happened, and to move children's services from there to Blackburn will also be reviewed. However, plans to concentrate services for stroke patients in a smaller number of specialist hospitals in London are going ahead this week.

Source of Extract: BBC News

Angry debate on Primary Care Centre plan

Peterborough City councillors and the NHS Peterborough primary care trust have clashed over consultations to close a city care centre. NHS Peterborough was hoping to win approval for an eight-week consultation over the future of the Alma Road Primary Care Centre. However, councillors on the city council's scrutiny commission for health issues reacted angrily to the plans. They felt that NHS Peterborough officials had already made their minds up on the idea, before sending it out for consultation. The committee also accused the primary care trust (PCT) of basing its consultation document on "half truths." As a result, the PCT now has two weeks to come up with a new document, before it will go back before the same committee. Among the issues raised by the councillors is the PCT's decision to close the nearby Millfield Surgery, in Searjeant Street, which has left 2,200 patients looking to join other practices. The care centre opened in April 2009. It opens from 7am to 10pm seven days a week. It was originally commissioned on the basis it would provide services for more than 2,000 registered patients and would also treat 350 walk-in patients a week. Although an average of 500 patients per week are treated at the walk-in, only around 650 people are currently registered on its books. NHS Peterborough says keeping the centre open "duplicates" other similar services in the area. Closing the centre could also save £800,000, which would go towards the PCT's Turnaround Plan to save £20.2m this year.

Source of Extract: Peterborough Telegraph

Cuts "could kill thousands"

A campaign group has been set up to challenge government funding cuts to local services. The newly established Waltham Forest Anti-cuts Union say savings imposed on local authorities, as the coalition government attempts to reduce the budget deficit, will have a devastating effect on society. It claims the cuts will lead to the destruction of the NHS, the loss of 1.3 million jobs nationally, poverty and privatisation.

Source of Extract: Waltham Forest Guardian

HM Stanley Hospital in St Asaph to close in 2011

A community hospital is to close next year, two years after a reorganisation plan was put on hold. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board said HM Stanley Hospital in St Asaph was "no longer fit for purpose" and would be vacated by March 2011. Eye, stroke and outpatient services would be re-provided elsewhere it said. In June 2007, campaigners hoped to keep services at the site after then First Minister Rhodri Morgan called a temporary halt to planned NHS changes. The health board said the closure of the 22-bed hospital and the transfer of its services was recommended in the review, Designed for North Wales in 2007.

Source of Extract: BBC

Health cuts in Harrow hitting vulnerable in community hard

Citizens Advice Bureau staff have been left “devastated” after funding for a support service for people with mental health problems was axed. NHS Harrow has cut off funds for the mental health outreach project run at Northwick Park Hospital as it makes swingeing cuts to funds to the voluntary sector. Gill Harrison, chief executive of Harrow's Citizens Advice Bureau, said the body is struggling to cope under the strain of ever increasing cuts. The NHS Harrow cuts have hit a host of health charities in Harrow, forcing some to have to consider closing down services while other larger groups like Mind in Harrow and Harrow Mencap are reeling after considerable reductions in funding.

Source of Extract: Harrow Times

Hundreds of jobs at risk

Hundreds of jobs are under threat at the trust running Pinderfields. Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust plans to make £55m of cuts in the next two years as part of an overhaul of staffing across its three hospitals in Wakefield, Dewsbury and Pontefract. It will mean slashing the wage bill of the trust's 7,500-strong workforce by £20m by the end of March - equivalent to £39m in a full year - with further pay savings of £12m next year. Chief executive Julia Squire said 500 jobs would “change or disappear” by re-grading posts, natural wastage and making about 150 employees redundant. Around 90% of redundancies will be administrative, facilities and management staff, but a consultation document shows nurses, doctors, radiology and physiotherapy staff also at risk.

Source of Extract: Wakefield Express

Large health projects ‘could be stalled for a year’

Health projects could be stalled for a year while the NHS is restructured under the government’s health white paper, industry figures have warned. There are also fears over the future of frameworks, such as Procure 21 and LIFT, as well as concerns that new foundation health trusts could use their freedom to ditch PFI schemes. The white paper proposes replacing primary care trusts (PCTs) with consortiums of GPs, who would be responsible for procuring services. This was described by one health director as “the biggest change in the NHS since the seventies”. Many industry figures believe that reorganisation will disrupt capital expenditure. The white paper also outlined plans for all hospital and mental health units to become foundation trusts within three years. Ian Greggor, a health project director at Cyril Sweett, said this could give trusts greater power to ignore the PFI route. “Trusts will want to move away from the bureaucracy of PFI, and can streamline the process,” he said. He also warned that LIFT schemes might not fare as well under GP consortiums. “The difficulty for LIFTs is that the new GP consortiums don’t fit with PCT boundaries,” he said. The Department of Health said: “Procurement of health projects will be decided in due course. As far as we’re aware, Procure 21 is continuing.”

Source of Extract: Building

We'll pay £1.2bn for PFI hospital but never own it

Health chiefs are farcing demands for an inquiry after it emerged the NHS will have to pay a total of £1.26 billion for the privately built Edinburgh Royal Infirmary - and still not own it. An Evening News investigation has discovered that while other hospitals built under PFI eventually transfer to NHS ownership, the Little France site will not. It means that by 2028, NHS Lothian will have effectively paid for the hospital seven times over but it will remain the property of private operator Consort.

Source of Extract: Scotsman

Services unite to care for vulnerable people

The NHS and local government are to join forces to provide care for vulnerable people in the face of public sector spending cuts. The plan to integrate health and social services in one of the most deprived parts of Wales was agreed this week. It is hoped the move will provide vulnerable patients in Neath Port Talbot with improved community services and help keep them out of hospital. But integration is also expected to save money at a time when both the NHS and local government in Wales are facing the prospect of having to make savings of hundreds of millions of pounds every year for the next five years. The plans agreed between Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and Neath Port Talbot Council will see a range of community services become fully integrated. Under the proposals three fully-integrated health and social care community network teams would be set up in Neath Port Talbot. These teams would be jointly responsible for delivering services, including home care and social work services, district nursing, therapy and other specialist services. This will be in addition to the supply of equipment patients need in their homes, which is already provided on a joint basis.

Source of Extract: Wales Online

GPs 'could hand' billions of NHS funds to private companies to manage

GPs will be able to employ private companies to decide how to spend billions of pounds of NHS funding, it has emerged. All GPs will be required to be members of a consortium which will take over from primary care trusts and commission care from hospitals and other providers for their populations. New details on how this will work reveal that GPs may not need to do this work themselves and could outsource it to other people or even private companies. It would be controversial as private companies, accountable to shareholders, would in effect control NHS funds.

Source of Extract: Telegraph.co.uk