



Issued monthly, NPAG News provides information on recent NPAG activity and forthcoming events. Please forward NPAG News to all of your colleagues who may have an interest in any of our activities.

THIS MONTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HAPPY NEW YEAR
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wider and Deeper Public Reform
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deep Clean
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Short but Sweet?
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Snippets
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NPAG Activity Programme
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Murphy's Law

Happy New Year!!!!

All the NPAG staff wish all our contacts a very happy and healthy 2008!

WIDER AND DEEPER PUBLIC REFORM

The Prime Minister has promised to deliver "wider and deeper" reform across public services such as health and education. Speaking to the cross-party Liaison Committee in Parliament ON 13TH December 2007, Mr Brown said the next stage of reform would focus on providing services "tailored to people's needs" with greater "one-to-one contact" between providers and the public.

The PM cited personal tuition for school pupils and targeted assistance for the long-term unemployed as examples of best practice, and suggested that the voluntary sector could play a greater role in the future. Failure in public service delivery would no longer be tolerated, he said.

The PM said: "The next stage is to combine the diversity of supply with greater attention to diversity in demand. In other words, services that meet the personal needs of the individual citizen. The culture of the second best is not acceptable to me. It is a culture of excellence that we want to achieve. Therefore we have got to root out failing schools, we have got to deal, as we will, with failing hospitals and failing trusts."

The PM was making his first appearance before the Liaison Committee, a cross-party group that questions the Prime Minister on policy issues twice a year.

DEEP CLEAN!

Following the announcement by the Health Secretary, Alan Johnson, on detailed regional funding for deep cleaning and that all Trusts will have to submit detailed deep clean plans, including costs, to their Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), the following request for information has been received on the NPAG *NetWork*:

"How is each Trust approaching the 'deep clean' by year end? I am interested to know: -

- Have they already planned
- How big is the plan, all areas? walls? equipment? etc
- Is anyone using an external company and if so who?
- Have costs been identified and if so how much?

I am equally interested in finding out if Trusts are NOT going to carry out any additional stuff please."

If you can help please respond to Becky Coulson: becky@npag.org.uk attaching any relevant documents. Becky will collate all responses. Copies of any documents will also be held in the NPAG library.

If you wish to know more about NPAG *NetWork*, or other NPAG services, please email Becky.

SHORT BUT SWEET?

Apologies, but partially due to the holiday season, to technical difficulties and to a multitude of other issues – mostly work pressures! We regret that NPAG News is probably not as long as normal. However, to paraphrase the immortal words of a former film star, currently starring in a 'Governing' role in California – WE'LL BE BACK!

SNIPPETS**Boozy Patients Drink NHS hand rub, report BBC**

Hospitals may need to keep their hand rub under lock and key to stop patients drinking it for its alcoholic content, say doctors. Poison experts at London's Guy's and St Thomas' hospital received 19 reports of intentional ingestion over 16 months. Accidental ingestion by children, and elderly and confused patients, was also a problem, they told the British Medical Journal.

CBI Presses Health Minister on NHS Reform

CBI Director of Public Services, Neil Bentley, pressed health minister Lord Darzi to be clear about the government's intentions on the future role of the private sector in the NHS at a meeting last week. Lord Darzi is carrying out a wide-ranging review of the NHS to be published next year. Neil expressed concerns about the recent scaling back of the independent sector treatment centre programme and the impact this might have on any future role in the NHS for the private sector and in particular in the reform of GP services Policy contact: <mailto:melanie.greenall@cbi.org.uk>

Latest Local Authority waste statistics published

Defra has published municipal waste statistics for all English local authorities in 2006/07. These show how individual local authorities are contributing to national goals to reduce waste, recycle more and landfill less:

- 83 per cent of local authorities collected less household rubbish (residual waste) than in 2005/06;
- 94 per cent of authorities recycled and composted more of their household waste than in 2005/06; and
- 88 per cent of disposal authorities landfilled less of their municipal waste than in 2005/06.

Local authorities have collectively boosted national recycling and composting rates to 31 per cent and disposed of 1 million tonnes less waste in landfill in 2006/07, compared to 2005/06.

There continues to be variations in household recycling and composting rates between different regions with regional recycling rates ranging from 22 per cent in London to **over 35 per cent in the East, East Midlands and South West.**

Healthcare Commission: Publication of State of Healthcare 2007 report

The Healthcare Commission's fourth annual State of Healthcare report, setting out the main improvements in healthcare in England and Wales during 2006/2007 and six key challenges for service providers, was presented to parliament today (4 December). At the launch of the report Healthcare Commission Chairman, Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, said: 'Let's be clear that healthcare has improved. Cuts in waiting times have been genuinely dramatic and millions more people are seeing their doctors sooner. People are living longer because of improvements in health and in the quality of care. We should acknowledge and celebrate these successes. 'But we should also be clear that there is still some way to go before everyone gets world class care.'

NHS Operating Framework 2008/9

The Department of Health has published *The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2008/9*, which sets out a brief overview of the priorities for the NHS next year. It is accompanied by annexes which provide more detail on the priorities, how they are measured and how the new arrangements for managing the system will work.

Nuffield to sell General Healthcare nine hospitals

Nuffield Hospitals has agreed to sell rivals General Healthcare Group nine hospitals. The hospitals will form part of BMI Healthcare, General Healthcare Group's acute private hospital division.

The two parties plan to transfer ownership on 1st February 2008. The sale portfolio includes the Nuffield Hospitals in Birmingham, Bury St Edmunds, Gerrards Cross, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Lancaster, Lincoln, North London and Nottingham.

David Mobbs, Nuffield Hospitals Group Chief Executive said: "We will focus on our remaining hospitals and on new markets and opportunities in line with our intention to provide a broader range of health services."

The contract negotiation process was concluded rapidly, with the buyer having been selected from a shortlist of interested parties.

NPAG ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**TRAINING WORKSHOPS** Programme of forthcoming NPAG training workshops (CPD Approved): -

- **BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANS**

Tuesday 22nd January 2008 in LondonFor further information, please contact Gemma Bergamini: gemma@npag.org.uk

- **MAJAX – The Hospital Major Incident Teamwork Experience**

Monday 11th February 2008 in LeicesterFriday 14th March 2008 in South East Coast, EnglandFor further information, please contact Marie Baldwin: marie@npag.org.uk

- **Clinical Professional Development for Occupational Health Nurses**

A series of six practical training modules over 6 months, commences April 2008: –

- Spirometry
- Sickness Absence Management Referrals
- Health and safety
- Management of Physical Hazards
- Pre Employment Clearance
- Audiometry

For further information, please contact Gemma Bergamini: gemma@npag.org.uk

NATIONAL EVENTS Programme of forthcoming NPAG events (CPD Approved): -

- **SUSTAINABILITY Workshop 2**

Winter 2008

- **Facilities Management – Experts in Supporting the Experts**

Winter 2008

- **Building Community Resilience and Reassurance (EPDN 2 Workshop)**

Winter 2008

- **Patient Safety Workshop**

Spring 2008

- **Implementing NICE Guidance Workshop**

Spring 2008

- **The Productive Ward Workshop**

Winter 2008

- **LEAN – Workshop**

Winter 2008

- **Waste Management – Meet the Contractors Workshop**

Winter 2008

- **4th NPAG National EBME Workshop**

Winter 2008, London (Postponed from 13th December 2007)

- **Preparing for WEEE Workshop**

Winter 2008

- **Waste Management in Community Healthcare Workshop**

Spring 2008

- **EPDN 3 Workshop**

Spring 2008

For further information on all NPAG events please e-mail: marie@npag.org.uk

BEST VALUE GROUPS

NPAG facilitates a series of national benchmarking clubs/best value groups within the NHS. Each programme of meetings enables peer groups of like-minded managers to have the opportunity to network; benchmark and compare services; review processes; provide networking opportunities; share experience; identify innovative and good working practice; and continuously develop and improve their services.

January 2008 to March 2008 meeting calendar: -

9 th January 2008:	Occupational Health meeting 1 of 4 (2008 round)
17 th January 2008:	Bank & Agency Staff meeting 1 of 4 (2007/2008 round)
18 th January 2008:	EBME (North) meeting 4 of 4 (2007/08 round)
23 rd January 2008:	NPTMG meeting 2 of 6 (200/08 round)
28 th January 2008:	District Nurses meeting 2 of 4 ((2007-/08 round)
31 st January 2008:	Community & Mental Health Facilities meeting 1 of 4 (2008 round)
19 th February 2008	Health & Safety / Risk Management meeting 2 of 4 (2007/08 round)
21 st February 2008:	Facilities meeting 1 of 6 (2008/09 round)
6 th February 2008:	Non Patient Hospital Transport meeting 4 of 4 (2007/08 round)
7 th February 2008:	Catering meeting 3 of 4 (2007/08 round)
7 th February 2008:	Community Hospital Services meeting 1 of 4 (2007/08 round)
7 th February 2008:	Waste Management meeting 1 of 4 (2008 round)
26 th February 2008:	Telecoms meeting 4 of 4 (2007/08 round)
6 th March 2008:	Sterile Services meeting 4 of 4 (2007/2008 round)
11 th March 2008:	Shared Services Development Network meeting 4 of 4 (2007/2008)
12 th March 2008:	Theatre Services meeting 3 of 4 (2007/2008 round)

For further information please e-mail: gemma@npag.org.uk or marie@npag.org.uk

BENCHMARKING

Many NPAG Best Value Groups are conducting national benchmarking surveys to identify areas for potential improvement and financial benefits. If you are interested in participating in any of the following exercises, please contact the named BVG Facilitator.

TOPIC	BVG	CONTACT
Catering Costs & Trust Profiles	Catering	fwj60@hotmail.com
Restaurant Prices	Catering	fwj60@hotmail.com
Hospitality & Functions	Catering	fwj60@hotmail.com
Sickness	Catering	fwj60@hotmail.com
Transport Costs	Non Patient Transport	fwj60@hotmail.com
Insurance Costs	Non Patient Transport	fwj60@hotmail.com
Duties & Responsibilities	Non Patient Transport	fwj60@hotmail.com
Activity Profile & Response Times	EBME (North)	fwj60@hotmail.com
Quality Control Information	Facilities (Community & MH)	fwj60@hotmail.com
Community Hospital Services	Community Hospital Services	john.king@npag.org.uk
Health & Safety/Risk Management	H&S/Risk Management	john.king@npag.org.uk

NPAG MEMBERSHIP

Full details of NPAG Membership options and fees can be obtained from gemma@npag.org.uk or marie@npag.org.uk or telephone **01245 544 600**.

Murphy's Law: **The repair man will never have seen a model quite like yours before.**

Telephone enquiries to: 01245 544 600

Fax: 01245 544 610

The NPAG (National Performance Advisory Group) is an NHS organisation that promotes benchmarking and best value within the NHS, throughout the UK. The NPAG operates as a self-financed, trading unit within the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust. If you would prefer not to receive future copies of NPAG News, please reply to this e-mail and write **REMOVE** in the header.