

# Bolton Council

**Report to:** Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007

**Report of:** Director of Legal and Democratic Services

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**Title:** Health Scan

## Scanning Report

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

**This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or Members of the public**

**Purpose of report:**

**This report sets out significant new issues referred to or brought to the attention of the Committee.**

**Recommendation:**

**To consider each of the “scanning” items and what further action is required, if any.**

**Note**

The 'scanning report' has been added to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda as a standard agenda item.

**What?**

The report is prepared by the Health Scrutiny Officer referring to a number of sources including the Board Papers of local NHS organisations, Bolton Patients Forum and Health and Social Care research. It highlights matters of relevance to the Committee with brief descriptions of each to enable Members to decide whether further action is required.

**Why?**

It is hoped that the report will assist the Committee by ensuring that it is kept informed of issues that arise or are referred for its attention but which may not warrant further scrutiny. It introduces a means of being selective about which issues are received by the Full Committee and should help to streamline agendas. Issues that are highlighted in the scanning report may simply be noted by the Committee or a decision may be made to take matters further, in which case, the item can be programmed in for a future meeting and a full report and/or presentation received if necessary.

## 1. Scanning table

The scanning table is set out below. Brief details are set out under the table.

Category	Item	Source
1. Matters raised by Scrutiny Members (Chair to inform)	Water Fluoridation	Cllr Sylvester
2. Referrals from Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIF to inform)	N/A	
3. Planned substantial service developments or changes (Local NHS bodies to inform)	N/A	
4. Major local plans or policy initiatives (Local NHS bodies or Local Authority colleagues to inform)	N/A	
5. Other suggestions from NHS bodies (including major completed work) (Local NHS bodies to inform)	N/A	
6. Major new national initiatives	<b>1. NHS guidance to tackle mental health and substance misuse problems</b>  <b>2. Local health communities pledge to hit 18 week target early</b>  <b>3. £33m carer-support plan unveiled</b>	<a href="http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9297/nhs_guidance_to_tackle_mental_health_and_substance_misuse_problems_.html">http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9297/nhs_guidance_to_tackle_mental_health_and_substance_misuse_problems_.html</a>   <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6381207.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6381207.stm</a> <a href="http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=265788&amp;NewsAreaID=2&amp;Navigat">http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=265788&amp;NewsAreaID=2&amp;Navigat</a>

	<p><b>4. New proposals on regulation of doctors to be published by Government</b></p> <p><b>5. Listening to NHS Staff</b></p> <p><b>6. Social Enterprise Fund Unveiled.</b></p> <p><b>7. The future regulation of health and adult social care in England</b></p>	<p><a href="#">edFromDepartment=False</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk/shipman/Story/0,,2017856,00.html">http://www.guardian.co.uk/shipman/Story/0,,2017856,00.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4142553&amp;chk=8/DEIV">http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4142553&amp;chk=8/DEIV</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9217/social_enterprise_fund_unveiled_.html">http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9217/social_enterprise_fund_unveiled_.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/Commissioning/SocialEnterprise/fs/en">http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/Commissioning/SocialEnterprise/fs/en</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/Default.aspx">http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/Default.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/LiveConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4140711&amp;chk=cJg8L/">http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/LiveConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4140711&amp;chk=cJg8L/</a></p>
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7. Major National Items	<p><b>8. NHS 'paying too much for drugs'</b></p> <p><b>9. Unison has accused the government of letting private multinational companies "bleed the NHS dry".</b></p> <p><b>10. Deaths caused by two superbugs soar as health inspectorate accuses government</b></p> <p><b>11. James Johnson, Chairman of the BMA, writes a letter in the <i>Times</i> on GPs.</b></p> <p><b>12. The Department of Health has decided to axe funding given to the Best Treatments website – “the only comprehensive source for the public on which treatments are effective.”</b></p>	<p><a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/6377743.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/6377743.stm</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.epolitix.com/EN/News/200702/e125b443-6d99-482e-97ab-a3e123366c46.htm">http://www.epolitix.com/EN/News/200702/e125b443-6d99-482e-97ab-a3e123366c46.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,2019387,00.html">http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,2019387,00.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/debate/letters/article1342975.ece">http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/debate/letters/article1342975.ece</a></p> <p><a href="http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,2006999,00.html">http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,2006999,00.html</a></p>
8. Local health issues	<p><b>12. Casualty is set for its busiest year</b></p> <p><b>13. Bug Closes three hospital wards</b></p> <p><b>14. Free NHS slimming clubs to fight flab</b></p>	<p><b>The Bolton News</b></p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> Feb</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> Feb</p>

	<b>15. Hospital wins Praise from Blair</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	<b>16. Plans for super Health Centres Put On Hold</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	<b>17. Sexual disease test results will go by text</b>	13 Feb
	<b>18. Smoking Squad to enforce the ban</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	<b>19. Health bosses join evaluation group</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	<b>20. £12 M Health Centre Given the go ahead</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	<b>21. Hospital Gets Extra Cash boost to pay for hear operations</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb

## **1. NHS guidance to tackle mental health and substance misuse problems**

Mental Health Tsar Louis Appleby has highlighted guidance - *Dual Diagnosis in mental health inpatient and day hospital settings* - aimed at improving the care received by people with both a mental health and a drug problem. Mental health patients who have a drug and/or alcohol problem - also known as dual diagnosis – are more likely to be at risk of taking their own lives, in contact with the criminal justice system, or hospitalised. However, they are less likely

to comply with medication and other treatments. In addition, a new resource focused on making patients more aware of the risks of substance misuse and helping them to get their problems under control has been produced. It supports health professionals to discuss drug use with patients and to give them the information they need to reduce their use of cannabis.

[http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9297/nhs\\_guidance\\_to\\_tackle\\_mental\\_health\\_and\\_substance\\_misuse\\_problems.html](http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9297/nhs_guidance_to_tackle_mental_health_and_substance_misuse_problems.html)

## **2. New proposals on regulation of doctors to be published by Government**

The white paper will reveal plans for GPs and consultants to “undergo MOTs every five years to ensure they are fit to practise and are not a danger to patients”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/shipman/Story/0,,2017856,00.html>

## **3. Local health communities pledge to hit 18 week target early**

Thirteen local health areas today pledged to meet the government's 18 week treatment target a full year before the rest of the NHS. The government has said that by the end of 2008, patients can expect a maximum wait of 18 weeks from referral to the start of treatment. Eighteen weeks is the maximum but many patients will be treated more quickly, most in approximately seven weeks.

In the past it was not uncommon for people to wait over 2 years for an operation, now no-one waits longer than six months and the average wait for inpatient treatment is around eight weeks.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=265000&NewsArealID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

## **4. £33m carer-support plan unveiled**

A New Deal for Carers has been unveiled which is aimed at people in England helping elderly or disabled relatives. Some £25m of a £33m budget will go to local authorities to fund emergency respite care for people who need a break from the demands of their role. The government, which has also set up a consultation, said it would relieve the burden on carers if they were sick or had other family responsibilities.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6381207.stm>  
<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=265788&NewsArealID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

## **5. Listening to NHS Staff**

In 2006 Health Minister Andy Burnham spent time with NHS staff finding out what it is like to work on the NHS frontline. He shares his experiences in this report and sets out his recommendations in a letter to the Secretary of State for Health, Patricia Hewitt.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4142553&chk=8/DEIV](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4142553&chk=8/DEIV)

## **5. Social Enterprise Fund Unveiled.**

A £73m social enterprise fund, to be spread over four years, will go towards supporting and encouraging the development social enterprises in health and social care. There are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK and they account for 5% of all businesses with employees and contribute £8.4bn per year to the UK economy - almost 1% of annual GDP.

Social enterprises are dynamic businesses with social and environmental aims. Well known examples include The Big Issue, Cafe Direct and Jamie Oliver's Fifteen, but there are many other social enterprises operating in a wide range of industries from farmers markets and recycling companies to transport and childcare providers.

[http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9217/social\\_enterprise\\_fund\\_unveiled\\_.html](http://www.sourceuk.net/article/9/9217/social_enterprise_fund_unveiled_.html)

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/OrganisationPolicy/Commissioning/SocialEnterprise/fs/en>

<http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/Default.aspx>

## **6. The future regulation of health and adult social care in England**

This document is part of the on-going health reform programme and focuses on the development of a regulatory framework that will support health reform to achieve safety, quality, fairness and efficiency for patients and service users across the health and adult social care system. It is launched for consultation for three months.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/LiveConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4140711&chk=cJg8L/](http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/LiveConsultations/LiveConsultationsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4140711&chk=cJg8L/)

## **7. NHS 'paying too much for drugs'**

Drug companies are being paid hundreds of millions of pounds too much by the NHS for branded medicines, an Office of Fair Trading report has said. The competition watchdog said that the Department of Health - which buys £7bn of branded medicines a year - is not getting the best prices for drugs.



It is recommending an overhaul of the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) that is used to set prices. But pharmaceutical firm representatives insisted that the NHS got a good deal

#### **8. Unison has accused the government of letting private multinational companies "bleed the NHS dry".**

The union said on Monday that companies are "raking in millions of pounds" from the health service, leaving a 'black hole' in NHS finances. It added that the NHS's "very survival" is at stake and called on the government to halt plans for more private sector involvement in the NHS.

In a dramatic escalation of the row between ministers and unions over the public service reform agenda, Unison said that some companies were making "obscene profits at the expense of the NHS". The union cited plans to transfer 45,000 operations from East Lancashire's top four hospitals to a private company, saying it "could cost the NHS £23m". And 360 staff at Preston and Chorley hospitals "face the threat of redundancy" because of plans to set up a private health centre at a cost to the NHS of £16m in income.

#### **9. Deaths caused by two superbugs soar as health inspectorate accuses government**

The number of deaths caused by two superbugs soared in 2005, raising new concerns over the standard of hygiene at hospitals across the country. According to government statistics, the number of deaths linked to MRSA rose by 39% in 2005 and deaths linked to a second superbug, *Clostridium difficile*, increased by 69%. The head of the health inspectorate accused the government yesterday of failing to give enough priority to patient safety while Age Concern accused it of shirking responsibility for cleaning hospitals. Levin Wheller of the Office for National Statistics said cases of superbugs had increased dramatically since MRSA emerged in the 1990s. *C. difficile* is now recorded as the cause or a factor in more than twice as many deaths as MRSA: 1,629 people died after contracting MRSA and 3,807 after *C. difficile* in 2005.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,2019387,00.html>

#### **10. James Johnson, Chairman of the BMA, writes a letter in the *Times* on GPs.**

He says: "Our system of general practice offers an amazingly cost-effective service with a quality of care that is second to none, and I would back British GPs against the US system any day"

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/debate/letters/article1342975.ece>

**11. The Department of Health has decided to axe funding given to the Best Treatments website – “the only comprehensive source for the public on which treatments are effective.”**

The *Guardian* column questions why this decision has been made when it would seem that the website provides “the sort of information patients need to fulfil the Government’s policy of patient-doctor partnership in a ‘patient-led’ NHS”

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,2006999,00.html>

**12. Casualty is set for its busiest year**

The accident and emergency department at the RBH is the second busiest in Greater Manchester new figures reveal. More than 25,000 people were seen in casualty at the hospital in the last three months of last year. It means the hospital is on track to record its busiest ever year, with 78,000 patients – an average of 8,666 every month passing through the doors of A& E in the nine months until the end of December last year.

**13. Bug Closes three hospital wards**

Three wards at royal Bolton Hospital were closed following an outbreak of a winter vomiting virus. A cardiology ward and a short stay ward were reopened yesterday but a third ward the C2 ward is still closed to new admission after nine patients and several members of staff were struck down with the bug.

**14. Free NHS slimming clubs to fight flab**

Residents living in areas of Bolton which have a large number of overweight people will be able to attend the sessions free of charge. Children will also be offered the chance to attend since the latest figures show that one in four children under the age of 11 in Bolton is overweight.

The slimming clubs to be known as community weight management groups are being set up by Bolton PCT as part of a range of services being developed to help children and adults maintain a healthy weight.

**15. Hospital wins Praise from Blair**

Prime Minister Tony Blair has singled out the Royal Bolton Hospital for praise after waiting times have been successfully slashed. The hospital is one of only three nationally to have met government targets a year early.

**16. Plans for super Health Centres Put On Hold**

A £64 million plan to build a series of super health centres in Bolton is under review. It will mean a delay to plans to replace decaying doctors surgeries

with a host of ultra modern facilities, the review is necessary since the proposals were drawn up in 2003 when funding from the private sector had not been secured.

### **17. Sexual disease test results will go by text**

A programme has been launched to reduce soaring rates of Chlamydia, the most common sexually transmitted disease. Simple urine test under the "RU clear" scheme will first be carried out on young people aged 16 to 24 at Bolton's family planning clinics, the Royal Bolton Hospital's centre for sexual health and at the Parallel young peoples centre. But as the initiative expands, the tests will be available at youth clubs and at public events such as carnivals and concerts. It will also be possible to order a home test.

### **18. Smoking Squad to enforce the ban**

A smoking squad is being set up to enforce the smoking ban when it starts in July. The ban will cover pubs, clubs, workplaces and other public buildings open to the public. Between 20 and 30 environmental health and licensing officers from Bolton will be sent on a Whitehall run training course.

### **19. Health bosses join evaluation group**

Bolton has moved a step closer to having fluoride added to its water supply. Health bosses are preparing to sign up to become members of the North West Fluoridation Evaluation Group. The body will decide whether to launch a public consultation into plans to fluoridate Bolton's water.

### **20. £12 M Health Centre Given the go ahead**

A new £12 million health supercentre has been given the go ahead in Brightmet. The Alastair Ross Health Centre, in fold Lane, was unanimously approved by Bolton Council's planning and highways committee. It will replace the current run down facility and will not only house GPs but also a range of services currently only available at the Royal Bolton Hospital.

### **21. Hospital Gets Extra Cash boost to pay for hear operations**

The number of life saving heart operations carried out at the royal Bolton Hospital is to be massively increased. Hospital bosses have been given an initial £1.1 million to build the specialist facilities needed for the surgery.