

# Bolton Council

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

**Date:** 1 September 2006

**Report of:** Director of Central Services

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Officer

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**Title:**

## 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)	HIV /Aids rates	Cllr Morgan
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)	Relocation of Cancer Services to Hope Hospital	Hospital Trust
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	1. Government moves to curb number of ineffective treatments in the NHS  2. Caroline Flint kick starts better health services for Teens  3. Warner announces guidelines for mortuary staff  4. Better end of life care for patients - Government announces	DOH Website

	strategy to improve end of life care	
7. Major National Items	<p>5. Government advisers push greater access to sex education</p> <p>6. Spending watchdog to reopen inquiry into NHS computer overhaul delays</p>	<p>Guardian 6 September</p> <p>Guardian 5<sup>th</sup> September</p>
8. Local health issues	<p>7. Cut down on antibiotics, Royal Bolton doctors told</p> <p>8. Low level of spending on key diseases</p> <p>9. Waiting times down at hospital</p> <p>10. Shock rise in HIV Cases</p> <p>11. Doctor's Lung Cancer Warning</p> <p>12. Hospital Acts on food Fears</p>	<p>Report in Bolton Evening News</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> August</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> September</p>

## 2. Description of highlighted items

Brief details of the above items are as follows:

### 1. Government moves to curb number of ineffective treatments in the NHS

NICE proposals to release millions in NHS resources and reduce health inequalities Health Minister Andy Burnham today announced that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will begin a significant new programme of work to help the NHS identify and stop ineffective interventions and make health services more equitable across the country.

## **2. Caroline Flint kick starts better health services for Teens**

Teenagers in four areas of the country will benefit from more accessible health services suited to their needs, thanks to a new programme launched by Public Health Minister Caroline Flint today. The Teenage Health Demonstration Sites Programme, backed with £3.5m, has been developed to test ways in which health services can be geared up to be more attractive to teenagers and to be more receptive to their needs and concerns.

The sites in Bolton, Hackney, Northumberland and Portsmouth will be offering adolescent health advice and information in locations that attract young people such as youth clubs and sports centres in an effort to target more young people in familiar, user-friendly environments.

## **3. Warner Announces new guidelines for Mortuary Staff**

Lord Warner has announced new good practice guidance for NHS mortuary staff to ensure that they deal with the bodies of people who die in hospital, and their friends and family, in a safe, secure and sensitive way.

Care and Respect in Death brings together existing good practice from hospital mortuaries in one document in order to spread it widely across the NHS.

## **4. Better end of life care for patients - Government announces strategy to improve end of life care**

A new long-term strategy for improving end of life care for seriously ill adult patients was announced by health minister Rosie Winterton. The new strategy follows on from a successful programme to train 10,000 district and community nurses in palliative care, which a King's College report out today found had greatly improved the palliative care district and community nurses offered their patients.

## **5. Government advisers push greater access to sex education**

Sex education in schools must be mandatory, and the government needs to focus on getting back to basics to help prevent teenage pregnancies, its advisers said today.

The Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy said statutory sex education in schools was now essential, and family-planning clinics should be set up in places such as shops and sports halls, where youngsters can easily go for help and information.

The most recent National Office for Statistics figures from 2004 show a drop of 11.1% in conceptions among the under-18s and a 15.2% fall among the under-16s since 1998.

## **6. Spending watchdog to reopen inquiry into NHS computer overhaul delays**

The National Audit Office (NAO) is to re-examine the NHS's £6.2bn nationwide computer overhaul just two months after giving the 10-year project - the largest non-military IT programme in the world - a clean bill of health.

The report said: "Deployments of operational systems have begun and Connecting for Health [the NHS's IT procurement arm] has taken on, and in some cases already delivered, several additional tasks which were not within the original brief ... The notable progress and tight control of the central aspect of the programme are to be commended."

## **7. Cut Down on Antibiotics**

Doctors at the Royal Bolton Hospital are being told to stop prescribing unnecessary antibiotics in a bid to cut rates of a potentially fatal superbug.

Training is being given to junior doctors to ensure they only prescribe drugs when they are absolutely needed after the number of cases of the *Clostridium difficile* superbug rose by nearly half at the hospital.

## **8. Low Level of Spending on Key diseases**

A report by health think tank the King's Fund found that some NHS Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) have four times as much as others for dealing with cancer, mental illness and heart disease. The research compiled from government data from 03-04 and 05-06 shows that less money is allocated to bolton PCT for treating the three illnesses.

## **9. Waiting times down at hospital**

Waiting times in accident and emergency at the royal Bolton Hospital are among some of the best in the country. Bosses at the Hospital have completely turned around the situation in the casualty department – which just three months ago was rated as the worst in Greater Manchester and the 15<sup>th</sup> worst nationally.

## **10. Shock Rise in HIV Cases**

The number of new HIV cases in Bolton has doubled. Last year 53 people were diagnosed with the virus, compared to just 27 in 2004. Most of them contracted the condition – which can eventually develop into AIDS – because they did not use protection during sex.

## **11. Doctors Lung Cancer Warning**

Four people every week are told they are dying of lung cancer at the Royal Bolton Hospital. Dr Kevin Jones a consultant chest physician at the Royal Bolton Hospital, said “These figures don’t surprise me because every day we are dealing with the devastating effects of smoking”.

## **12. Hospital Acts on Food Fears**

Health bosses in Bolton have drawn up guidelines to make sure that pensioners do not suffer from malnutrition. A report published this week by age concern claims 60% of older people in hospital are at risk of becoming malnourished as nurses are too busy to assist patients who need help with feeding.