

National Monthly Bulletin in SRH June 2010

Health Policy 2010

In his first speech since taking up the post, the Secretary of [State for Health Andrew Lansley](#) outlined his vision for an NHS. However the highly anticipated White paper on NHS reform has been delayed at Treasury concerns of transferring the £80billion NHS budget to GPs. It will also see the end of SHAs, and the establishment of an NHS Board.

A revision to the [NHS Operating Framework](#) was also published, outlining plans to make efficiency savings from reducing management costs (possibly by half). It also set out changes to the use of targets in the NHS, moving towards a system of outcomes related measures and quality standards instead. It states that Primary care trusts (PCTs) should continue to work towards their existing commitments in their operational plans, but should be moving to separate PCT commissioning from service provision by April 2011. The framework also sets out plans to alleviate barriers to entry for independent sector providers of community services, with the objective of moving towards an 'Any Willing Provider' model.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, announced details of the [Spending Review \(SR\)](#). The SR will set spending limits for every Government department for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15 and will remove Public Service Agreements, instead asking departments to publish business plans. Despite plans to protect healthcare spending, increasing financial pressures means that we may start to witness rising demand for 'integrated care' between health and social care, as a potential solution.

The [Budget 2010](#) revealed that whilst cuts will not be extended to the NHS, £20 billion efficiency savings will need to be made over the next five years and NHS trusts will find they are "challenged to do more for the money they have". However, there will be some cuts with the health and pregnancy grant to be abolished and child benefit will be frozen for the next three years.

Onto parliamentary changes, it was announced that Stephen Dorrell will be the new chair of the [Health Select Committee](#), whilst new members include; Nadine Dorries, Chris Skidmore, David Tredinnick, and Dr Sarah Wollaston.

Abortion

The first television advert for abortion services, aired by Marie Stopes International, prompted a series of questions tabled by Parliamentarians throughout June. For example David Amess asked about the cost of abortions (£82.1million in 2008-09), and Lord Alton of Liverpool enquired as to the number of abortion carried out by Marie Stopes International in England (57,680 in 2009).

Following the news that in 2008, 0.7% of the women who had become pregnant through donor insemination or IVF then had an abortion, [BPAS' published a statement](#) saying that 'Women and couples who have had to use donor insemination or IVF to become pregnant are unfortunately no more immune from the harsh vagaries of life than others who are lucky enough to be able to conceive naturally'

The fpa released the results of a survey '[Attitudes and practice of gynaecologists towards abortion in Northern Ireland](#)' (2009), which shows that many gynaecologists in Northern Ireland don't support the current abortion law.

Contraception

In Scotland, [Nanette Milne](#) enquired about the Scottish sexual health strategy, and found out that work is being undertaken with stakeholders to determine the future direction of sexual health strategy beyond March 2011. She went on to ask about the [types of contraception used by women in Scotland](#), and the [Scottish social marketing campaign for long acting contraceptives](#) (it reached 67% of the target audience, and 47% of women were more motivated to find out more about longer lasting contraception). She also asked about the [primary method of contraception used by women](#), what assessment has been made of [numbers of health professionals accredited to fit all types of LARCs](#), and finally, what the [Scottish expenditure on contraceptive](#) services is.

Elsewhere in Scotland, [Dr Richard Simpson](#) enquired about the use of computerised administrative registers in the NHS to capture contraceptive data, and abortions.

In Northern Ireland, [Dolores Kelly](#) enquired about the numbers of emergency contraceptive pills that were prescribed or dispensed in the past three years.

PSHE

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, launched a [consultation on draft PSHE guidance](#), which recommends that children from primary school age upwards are given sex and relationships education. Commenting, [a LIFE spokesperson said](#): 'children will be exposed to information that they are unable to cope with'.