

**Public consultation – The Government’s White Paper:
“Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS”**

The Government’s White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS sets out how the Secretary of State for Health will hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivering better health outcomes through a national NHS Outcomes Framework. A copy of the White Paper can be found at this web address:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_117794.pdf

Since publication, the Department of Health has launched a number of consultation and engagement papers to gain feedback on the White Paper proposals. These are as follows, and each separate consultation can be found by following the appropriate web address:

- Transparency in Outcomes – a Framework for the NHS
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_117583
- Increasing democratic legitimacy in health (11 October 2010)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_117721.pdf
- Commissioning for patients (11 October 2010)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_117705.pdf
- Regulating Healthcare providers (11 October 2010)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_117842.pdf

This is an excellent opportunity for the public to become involved in the future arrangements for the NHS, and we encourage as many local people and stakeholders to become involved and engaged with the proposals. The Government is particularly keen to see that the views of patients, Local Authorities, GPs and practice based commissioners are included in the consultation. The closing date for these consultations is 11 October 2010.

Have your say on pharmaceutical services

NHS Wiltshire is asking people to say what they think in a survey about the provision of pharmaceutical services in their area. The results will help NHS Wiltshire to understand how people use pharmaceutical services in Wiltshire and how they might like to use them in the future.

Ten thousand Wiltshire residents will have received a survey by post asking for their views. The survey has been organised by NHS Wiltshire and recipients have been chosen at random, from a list of all patients registered with a GP in the county. The anonymous results of the survey will be included in a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA), currently being undertaken by NHS Wiltshire, which is due to be published in February 2011. The pharmaceutical needs assessment is a key tool in the process of achieving high quality, accessible services, responsive to local needs.

Test waits down 75% in Wiltshire

Waiting for tests after seeing your GP with a health worry can be a stressful time for patients, but in June 2010 only **two** Wiltshire people had been waiting more than six weeks for any of the 15 most common diagnostic tests – down around 75% on the same month last year.

The total number of patients referred for the tests was 3,736. In the same month last year, the figure waiting more than six weeks was nine out of a total number of 4,354 waiting.

The national (English) figure for patients waiting for these tests was 3,500 – a decrease of 9.7% on the previous year.

Free infant massage sessions for mums and babies!

A Community Nursery Nurse for the Health Visitors Team at Devizes has recently qualified in baby massage and is now able to offer FREE infant massage to mothers - or fathers - and babies through the NHS in conjunction with post-natal group held at Devizes Health Centre. Alternatively, she can provide one-to-one training in the community if the parent is referred by a Health Visitor. Also in partnership with Devizes Children's Centre who sponsored the course.

The Annual General Meeting and Board meeting of NHS Wiltshire will be held on **29 September 2010 at Southgate House**. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Papers are published a week before the meeting on www.wiltshire.nhs.uk or on request from Stacey Saunders, NHS Wiltshire (tel: 01380 733839, email: stacey.saunders@wiltshire.nhs.uk). For further information or copies of documents referred to above, please contact Jo Howes, Community Engagement Manager, 01380 733929 or jo.howes@wiltshire.nhs