

Weekly Political Update

26 June 2019

For further information on any of the parliamentary terms used in this document, please click [here](#).

Hearing Loss

Click on link for source

<p>NHS England – JSNA Guidance</p>	<p>NHS England has published its '<i>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</i>' guidance developed by Action on Hearing Loss in partnership with NHS England, the National Community Hearing Association and the National Deaf Children's Society. This guidance has been endorsed by the Local Government Association (LGA), the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) and Public Health England (PHE) and can be utilised by commissioners and local authorities to help them include hearing loss and deafness within their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs).</p> <p>The guidance presents data and evidence on the prevalence and impact of hearing loss, with the aim of supporting local authorities in assessing the needs of local populations. In addition to helping commissioners and local authorities to take account of inequalities in the way different groups access services; and to promote the commissioning of high quality services.</p> <p>A data tool has also been developed, giving commissioners and local authorities hearing loss population estimates, future population projections and graphs for each local authority area and NHS commissioning area. It can also be used to compare hearing loss population estimates and projections between areas and regions.</p> <p>To read the guidance please click on the link on the left.</p> <p>To use the data tool, please click here.</p>
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Healthcare - legislation

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<p>Report – 'NHS Long-Term Plan: legislative proposals'</p>	<p>The Health and Social Care Select Committee has published its 15th report into '<i>NHS Long-Term Plan: legislative proposals</i>.'</p> <p>The report makes a number of recommendations – most of which, are broadly supportive of plans to amend parts of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which health and social care professionals believe creates competition and impedes integration. The Committee recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Calls to repeal s.75 of the Act on procurement, patient choice and competition.- Removing the role of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to adjudicate where referrals/ objections are made by NHS Improvement to CMA regarding the national tariff. The Committee notes, that to date no
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	<p>such referrals have been made and recommends that an independent adjudicator is appointed, in the event of referrals being made in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Also – with respect to the national tariff the Committee agreed with calls to make the national tariff system more flexible. It stated that <i>“more flexibility will help local providers and commissioners to remove perverse incentives, especially in managing patients with multiple long-term conditions. One of the benefits of a national tariff system is that it has helped to ensure that providers compete on the quality, rather than the price, if the care they deliver.”</i> <p>To read the report in full please click on the link on the left</p>
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Employment

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<p><u>Statement – “new cross-government approach on disability”</u></p>	<p>The Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Justin Tomlinson MP (Conservatives, North Swindon) has announced a <i>“new cross-government approach on disability”</i> led by a team which sits within Cabinet Office.</p> <p>As part of this work, the Minister announced a package of measures to support disabled people and remove barriers. The measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A consultation published jointly by the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Work and Pensions on how to support those with long-term health conditions in the workplace. - A consultation on reforms to Statutory Sick Pay – a measure, previously announced. - A Green Paper, published by the Department for Work and Pensions on health and disability support <p>To read the statement in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
<p><u>Written question on compulsory disability awareness training for employers and employees</u></p>	<p>Paul Farrelly MP (Labour, Newcastle-Under-Lyme) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent discussions he has had with the Minister for Women and Equalities on compulsory disability awareness training for all employers and employees.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility, Kelly Tolhurst MP (Conservatives, Rochester and Strood) responded:</p> <p><i>“BEIS Ministers and Officials talk regularly with OGD colleagues and disability and employment is part of those discussions. BEIS Ministers sit on the Inter-Ministerial Group on Disability which is chaired by the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work.”</i></p>

Social Care

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<p><u>Written question on the long-term funding of adult social care for working aged disabled people</u></p>	<p>Diana Johnson MP (Labour, Kingston Upon Hull North) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the adequacy of long term adult social care funding settlements for the care and support needs of working age disabled people.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>“Social care funding for future years will be settled in the Spending Review, where the overall approach to funding local government will be considered in the round.</i></p> <p><i>The Government is also undertaking a review of the relative needs and resources of local authorities in England, with a view to setting fresh baseline funding levels. The recent consultation on this proposed a specific formula for adult social care that includes cost drivers for both older people and working age adults.</i></p> <p><i>We need a sustainable social care system to ensure services continue to deliver for our ageing population and the increasing number of people of working age who require care services.</i></p> <p><i>This Government is committed to ensuring that the social care system is sustainable in the longer term, which is why we will be publishing a Green Paper at the earliest opportunity, setting out our proposals for reform. We want to make sure that we get it right, which is why we are taking the time to consult with key stakeholders and take their feedback into consideration.”</i></p>
<p><u>Oral question on crisis prevention measures for working age disabled adults</u></p>	<p>Baroness Campbell of Surbiton (Crossbench) has asked:</p> <p><i>“Her Majesty’s Government what crisis prevention measures are in place to address the difficulties of those working-age disabled adults who have lost the support needed to live independently in the community.”</i></p> <p>Baroness in Waiting (Government Whip), Baroness Barron (Conservatives) responded:</p> <p><i>“...it is critical to the vision of the Care Act 2014 that the care and support system promotes well-being and independence rather than waiting until people reach crisis point to respond. Local authorities must provide or arrange services, resources and facilities that maximise independence for those who have or are developing care needs.”</i></p> <p>To read more, please click on the link on the left.</p>

Equalities

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<p><u>Written questions on public appointments for disabled people</u></p>	<p>Baroness Baroness McGregor-Smith (Conservatives) has asked the following questions:</p> <p><i>“Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to implement the recommendations of the review conducted by Lord Holmes of Richmond Opening up public appointments to disabled people, published in December 2018.”</i></p> <p><i>“Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the diversity of public appointees.”</i></p> <p>Lords Spokesman for the Cabinet Office, Lord Young of Cookham (Conservatives) provided the same response to both questions:</p> <p><i>“The Government is committed to improving diversity in public appointments and has made good progress. Between 2015/16 and 2017/18, the number of appointments (including re-appointments) made to women rose from 45% to 48% and to those with a declared disability from 4% to 7%. In 2017/2018 appointments to candidates from a BAME background (where declared) were at 8.4%.</i></p> <p><i>But there is still more to do. We have carefully considered the recommendations put forward by Lord Holmes of Richmond in his review. As I set out in my response to my Noble friend's Oral question in 09 May, we are aiming to publish our response to his review's recommendations, together with a refreshed Public Appointment Diversity Action Plan, around the end of June.”</i></p>
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Parliamentary terms

Early Day Motion (EDM)

Early Day Motions are formal motions for debate submitted by MPs in the House of Commons. There is usually no time available to actually debate an EDM, but they are useful for drawing attention to specific events or campaigns and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view. MPs register their support by signing individual motions.

Oral Parliamentary Question (OPQ) and Written Parliamentary Question (WPQ)

Parliamentary Questions are used by both MPs and Peers to question Ministers in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They are used to seek information, and Ministers are obliged to explain and defend the work, policy, decisions and actions of their departments, oral questions can also be used to make political points. Parliamentary questions are a vital tool in holding the Government to account. The Prime Minister answers oral questions from the House of Commons every Wednesday at midday.

Debates

Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords hold debates in which Members discuss government policy, proposed new laws and current issues. All debates are recorded in a publication called 'Hansard' which is available online or in print.

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal groups composed of politicians from all political parties. They provide an opportunity for cross-party discussion and co-operation on particular issues. All-party groups sometimes act as useful pressure groups for specific causes helping to keep the Government, the opposition and MPs informed of parliamentary and outside opinion.

Select Committees

House of Commons Select Committees exist to scrutinise the work of government departments. Most committees have about 11 members and reflect the relative size of each party in the Commons. They conduct enquiries on a specific issue, and gather evidence from expert witnesses. Findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and published on the Parliament website. The Government then usually has 60 days to reply to the committee's recommendations.

Written ministerial statements

Government ministers can make written statements to announce:

- The publication of reports by government agencies
- Findings of reviews and inquiries and the government's response
- Financial and statistical information
- Procedure and policy initiatives of government departments

Private Members' Bills

Private Members' Bills allow backbench MPs or Peers to introduce their own legislation. There are three types of Private Members' Bills introduced into the House of Commons:

- **Ballot Bills:** A ballot is held at the beginning of each parliamentary year the 20 MPs whose names come out top are allowed to introduce legislation on a subject of their choice.
- **Ten Minute Rule Bills:** The sponsoring MP is given a slot in which they may make a speech lasting up to 10 minutes in support of his or her bill
- **Presentation Bill:** a Member is not able to speak in support of it and it stands almost no chance of becoming law