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Special points of interest:
• Holiday break and winter preparations

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NASHiCS e-News.

Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year from National Chair:

We are all driven by many demands in the world of care, regularly reading news on the state of care. Funding challenges, capacity concerns and a suitably skilled workforce to mention a few. As we head into 2019 it is good to take stock, consider what we each individually contribute, and how that affects health and safety in our sector.

So often we need to detach from the strategic debates and focus very much on the here and now. We will surprise ourselves, I know I do, when we look back at our achievements and so must give ourselves due praise and support. We can make a difference and we do make a difference. So carry on, ask the questions, check things out, challenge and give solutions.

I trust 2019 will be a good year for yourself whatever occurs. Let us all continue to make the world of care a safer place, promote NASHiCS, and come together at our National Conference in September, and give recognition of all the fantastic work that takes place, so enter our Safety in Care Awards.

May I wish you, your family and friends a very peaceful, Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Chris, National Chair.

Winter is in the air.

So far this month, temperatures across the country have been mild for the time of year, but from next week - it’s going to feel a lot more seasonal. More Winter Gritting/Snow Clearing.

What do I have to do?

What is the correct action to be taken when routes/paths within an organisation’s site become affected by snow and ice. Establish a system for controlling the hazards of snow and ice should be introduced across sites. The guidance below demonstrates reasonable lengths in managing the hazards of snow and ice within the grounds of a site. Details

Clear snow from a road, path or cycleway Government information. Details

Winter Gritting/Snow Clearing.

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Clear snow from a road, path or cycleway Government information. Details

Remember snow from a road, path or cycleway Government information. Details

Hanging baubles on which you might choke,
Electric decorations that could go up in smoke,
Trailing extensions over which you might trip,
A dropped mince pie on which you may slip!

So please take heed as Christmas nears,
We don’t want it all to end in tears,
In 2018 we’d rather have you alive,
Than spend the Holiday’ filling in accident why’s!

Fairy lights with dodgy wires,
Burning tinsel that can cause fires,
Unsafe trees that topple over,
Lots of things that insurance won’t cover!

Now Christmas comes but once a year,
With all the festive lights and cheer,
But stop and have a look around,
How many hazardous items can be found?

Remember Safety at the festive break.

Hanging baubles on which you might choke,
Electric decorations that could go up in smoke,
Trailing extensions over which you might trip,
A dropped mince pie on which you may slip!

So please take heed as Christmas nears,
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Fairy lights with dodgy wires,
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Lots of things that insurance won’t cover!
The Science and Technology Committee publishes its report on the flu vaccination programme in England.

Report summary: Flu vaccination programme in England

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee was shocked by survey results which showed that the flu vaccination uptake in social care settings was at best around 25%. The Committee was prompted to undertake this inquiry as a result of the high disease burden of flu in 2017/18, high hospitalisation rates and discussions on the variable uptake of the flu vaccination.

Uptake of the vaccine in social care settings.

The Committee was shocked to find such a low uptake of the flu vaccination in social care settings, given that 2017/18 saw the worst flu outbreak for seven years. The Committee heard that an ad hoc Public Health England (PHE) survey of care homes had revealed ‘huge variability, with the best [uptake] at 25%’, with a low response rate to PHE’s questions. There should be an expectation of full coverage amongst social care staff. The Committee was also concerned that data on vaccination rates of staff in care homes was not routinely collected due to the “complexity of care homes”, making scrutiny of uptake rates difficult.

Read details

Free flu vaccinations for adult social care staff.

Do not forget that NHS England recently confirmed that free flu vaccinations are available in 2018/19 for social care workers who offer direct care to people using services.

Staff can go to their own GP practice or any pharmacy. To prove that they are eligible they will need to take identification with them that shows their names and the name of their employing organisation, such as an ID card or badge, a letter from their employer, or a recent payslip.

Latest HSE statistics on work-related health and safety in Great Britain released.

The statistics included the following key annual figures (2017/18):

- 1.4 million workers suffering from work-related ill health
- 2,595 mesothelioma deaths due to past asbestos exposures
- 144 workers killed at work
- 555,000 injuries at work according to Labour Force Survey
- 71,062 injuries to employees reported under RIDDOR
- 30.7 million working days lost due to work-related ill health and workplace injury
- £15 billion estimated cost of injuries and ill health from current working conditions (2016/17)

More detail

Good news spot.

For these NASHiCS Members. Stockport care worker raises £1175.

A clinical trainer for Barchester Healthcare from Stockport, Cheshire, put the ‘fun’ into ‘fundraising’ when she took on the Ironman race in Barcelona on the 7 October, completing it in 14 hours, 35 minutes and 26 seconds and raising £1,175 for Barchester’s Charitable Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Support. More

Minister for Care visits WCS Care home and Innovation Hub

The minister met with residents and toured the home that accommodates residents in six open plan households. “It was a pleasure to visit Castle Brook and meet residents,” Ms Dinenage said. “I was particularly inspired by their Innovation Hub and their commitment to harnessing the power of innovative new technologies to improve life for residents and allow carers to spend more time with them. The Hub features a number of technological innovations either in use or planned for use in WCS Care’s developments. More

CQC rate The Links in Broadstone as Outstanding.

The Links a care home in Broadstone, Dorset (run by BUPA) has received an overall rating of Outstanding following an inspection in June/July 2016 by the CQC Inspectors rated the service Outstanding for being responsive and well-led and Good for being safe, effective & caring. More

Essex care home rated Outstanding.

CQC has found the quality of care provided by Manor Lodge in Chelmsford, to be Outstanding. Inspectors found staff were caring and compassionate and people were being provided with safe, responsive, caring, effective and well-led care. Read

Open consultation: calorie labelling for food and drink served outside of the home.

The government is seeking views on its plans to make places serving food and drink outside of the home display calorie information. This could include on menus in restaurants, cafes, pubs, coffee shops and takeaways.

12-week consultation. Read

Care Quality Commission fees consultation – have your say.

CQC has published a consultation document about the fees proposed to charge registered providers in 2019/20. It is inviting you to have your say. You can find the consultation document and respond using their online form. The consultation is open for responses until midday on 17 January 2019. Read
Increased risk of serious bleeding, in line with previous findings. The study also found that aspirin was linked with an increase in fatal heart attacks, coronary heart disease and strokes. Older people in good health may be taking aspirin ‘unnecessarily’, new research suggests. Older people in good health may be taking aspirin ‘unnecessarily’, new research suggests.

Health and Safety Advisor required.

Keys Group provide innovative care and education services to children and young people who have complex needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties or who display challenging behaviour. We are seeking a full time Health and Safety Advisor to participate in an ongoing programme of health and safety monitoring and support across the organisation.

The role involves travel throughout England and Wales, applicants should have either NEBOSH General Certificate or CIEH Level 4 Health & Safety qualifications as a minimum, experience of working in the Health and Social Care or Education sectors, and a full driving licence and use of a vehicle.

Interview date to be confirmed. Closure date 07 December 2018
Contact Gill Lucas 07966 186 264 / gill.lucas@keyschildcare.co.uk

Budget 2018.

What it means for health and social care.

In this joint piece with the Health Foundation and Nuffield Trust, we analyse what was announced in the 2018 Budget and what it means for health and social care.

Details

Consumer law advice sets out obligations for care homes.

The Competition & Marketing Authority (CMA) is providing advice so care homes understand their responsibilities under consumer law. The advice is being published as part of the ongoing consumer protection work into residential care homes and nursing homes for older people (over 65s).

C-Roth
**Why fire doors save lives, the five-step check.**

The British Woodworking Federation (BWF) has produced a series of hard-hitting films about the dangers of smoke, how to check installed fire doors are compliant and the importance of third-party accreditation.

**More**

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**Leadership in health & social care questioned by parliamentary committee.**

Transformational change in health and social care is not being achieved in part due to the leadership in the organisations set up to deliver integration not exercising the powers given to them according to a report by the Health and Sport Committee. The Committee found it unacceptable that integration authorities, who are responsible for spending around £8 billion in public funds, are taking decisions on spend without any link to health & social care outcomes or assessing the effectiveness of their spend.

**Read report**

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**CQC view of the State of Care in England.**

Recently the CQC published State of Care, the annual assessment of health and social care in England.

It’s the CQC’s flagship publication, taking advantage of their unique view of England’s health and social care landscape to help identify trends, share examples of good practice and highlight areas where care needs to improve.

If you haven’t had the chance to check what they found,

**take a look now.**

- 250 more homes rated outstanding
- 89% improved rating from inadequate
- Providers & managers of services which have improved have worked hard to make care better for people by prioritising person-centred care, supporting their staff, seeking help from system partners.
- Staff continued to care for people well, with 91% of services rated as good & 4% rated as outstanding for the caring key question.
- Only 2% of services were rated inadequate and 21% as requires improvement for well-led. Improvement is causing challenges for many services.

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**Amending the 2012 Act: can it be done?**

The Prime Minister has once again opened the door to changes to the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Act is widely seen as dysfunctional, getting in the way of the more integrated care that it in fact seeks to achieve. This new long read from Nick Timmins assesses the need for legislative change in health & care & the prospects for new legislation in the current political context.

You can also read a new blog by Chris Ham which identifies five steps that need to be taken to support STPs and ICSs to continue their journey of transformation. **Read**

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**Looking to keep up-to-date with the latest developments in health and safety?**

Be sure to follow NASHiCS to receive regular news & updates from key figures & organisations in Health & Social Care. LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/nashics/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/NASHiCS

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**Adult social care at a glance.**

This overview updates our report ‘Adult social care in England: an overview (2014)’, highlighting key trends, developments and system pressures.

Adult social care covers social work, personal care and practical support for adults with a physical disability, a learning disability, or physical or mental illness, as well as support for their carers. Our overview report summarises access to and types of adult social care, accountability, developments since 2014, spending on social care, the need, outcomes and market for care. It also summarises the NAO’s reports on adult social care. **Report**

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**Keep your ideas coming.**

The Health and Social Care Secretary has launched a brand new space so that people who work in the health care system across England can tell him how they can improve their time at work, & what he can do better to support them in their jobs.

**Talk Health & Care** is a space for you to talk about working in health & social care & what would make things better for you

NASHiCS would encourage all members to visit the new national digital platform, launched by the Dept. of Health & Social Care, to allow staff to feedback on 5 key challenges, called "Talk Health & Care" It is easy to post ideas, questions and challenges.

**See the offer and Talk to him**

**Contact**

Complete our web form or write to: Ministerial Correspondence & Public Enquiries, Department of Health and Social Care 39 Victoria Street, Whitehall, London SW1H OEU

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**The Health and Social Care Secretary writes again.**

Around one in seven NHS employees have experienced violence in the last year. That is why the Health Secretary Matt Hancock has announced a series of measures to clamp down on violence against NHS staff as part of a zero-tolerance approach.

He announced the first Violence Reduction Strategy to protect the NHS workforce against deliberate violence & aggression from patients, their families & the public, & ensure offenders are punished quickly & effectively. **Read**

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**Extreme weather reveals changing climate.**

1 November 2018

A new report by the Met Office, published today, reveals further details about changes in the UK’s climate since the 1960s. By documenting temperature and rainfall climate extremes, along with the details about changes in the UK’s climate since the 1960s. By documenting temperature and rainfall climate extremes, including periods of warmth, cold and spells of wet or dry weather, the report reveals changes in some types of extreme weather. **Read**

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© 2018 this NASHiCS e-News is for Members only. Please do not forward to others. Membership fees maintain our Association & Benefits.
**The importance of just saying ‘sorry’**
Sometimes what our complainants want most is an apology for the injustice they have suffered. When one woman fell in her care home & there was a delay in seeking emergency medical attention, her family was hugely distressed because the care provider was evasive about the reason for the delay. In another case, a care provider failed to notice an error in its care plan which led to a loss of service for a man hugely distressed because the care provider was evasive about the reason for the delay.

**Registration cancelled.**
The CQC has taken enforcement action to cancel the registration of Viewpark Care Home Ltd and other providers, is seeking to transfer or sell all its contracts to other providers.

**Data Security and Protection Toolkit for care providers.**
NHS Digital has launched a free online Data Security and Protection Toolkit to support social care providers in demonstrating compliance with nationally recognised standards of data security. The toolkit will help care providers show that they are looking after people’s data. It also allows access to NHS mail, a free email service that enables fast and secure information exchange with other health and social care professionals and organisations. NHS mail allows critical information to be shared quickly between organisations, helping to improve quality of care for people accessing services.

**Delirium shouldn’t just be seen as ‘dementia getting worse’.”**
Many people assume delirium is part of dementia or that the two conditions are interchangeable. However, people without dementia can experience delirium and, conversely, not everyone with dementia experiences symptoms of delirium. ‘Physical ill health can have such an impact on mental wellbeing’

Delirium can happen with any illness after surgery, or after people take new medications. It happens quickly, over hours or days, and usually lasts for a short time. Sometimes an illness such as meningitis can trigger delirium. Other reasons people are likely to develop delirium are linked to older age and quite often dementia. It is also very common in patients at the end of their life. According to the Alzheimer’s Society there are many signs that someone can be experiencing delirium, including:

**Elderly told to ‘stock up on cake’ and ‘fry instead of grill’ to reduce malnutrition.**
We are always being told to cut down on sugary and fatty foods but new advice from nutrition experts sees the elderly being told to use cream instead of milk in their coffee and tea, fry instead of grill and stock up on cakes and biscuits.

The British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) has issued the advice as part of the UK’s first malnutrition awareness week, which seeks to raise awareness of the ‘hidden’ problem of malnutrition in older people.

**Your Guide To Making the Most of Your Food.**
This leaflet provides some simple ideas on how to get the most nutrition from the food eaten.
Ombudsman welcomes CMA report on care homes.
Earlier in this e-News you may have read the CMA’s advice for care homes. This is the response form the Ombudsman.
We welcome the guidance, and the emphasis it puts on good complaint systems, that are easy to find and use. The guidance echoes things we have highlighted in recent reports - especially ensuring contracts are fair, clear and transparent. Here

National Trading Standards GRP Fire Door Sets.
Communication through the National Fire Chiefs Council about Glass reinforced plastic (GRP) composite fire door-sets. The National Trading Standards office have been in consultation with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to manage the re-introduction of the GRP fire door-sets on to the market. The local authority trading standards teams will be monitoring the quality of these doors with the manufacturer in their area of authority. To ensure that you purchase a GRP fire door-set that meets the correct standards look for organisations with a connection to the Association of Composite Door Manufacturers. They have worked with the NTS on agreeing the required standards that GRP fire door-sets should meet.

Medical Device Incident Reporting.
NASHiCS received a letter from the MHRA concerning the reporting of incidents. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is an executive agency of the Department of Health. We are responsible for regulating all medical devices and medicines in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. Every report matters and enables us to develop a robust evidence base of device safety, so that we can take action if necessary. We evaluate all incidents reported through the Yellow Card Scheme together with additional sources of information such as clinical trial data, medical literature or data from International regulators. We would be grateful if you would cascade this message to your members and if possible, put a link on your website to the Yellow Card reporting form. We can provide high quality images for you to use and the appropriate web links.

Our response
NASHiCS Response from the Chair and NE members. We are happy to raise awareness for reporting and the Yellow Card. This will be via our e-news and website, and as we have been recipients of Alerts in the past we have been already adding these to our list of news items.

It will be myself (National Chair) as the point of contact in the first instance and also regards any groups or safety related committee. I will discuss with our e-news editor, and website manager regards adding in as you mention, and make the request for suitable images.

Reporting.
The efficacy of our reporting system is largely dependent on the reports we receive. We encourage all persons working with or using medical devices to help to improve safety by reporting incidents to https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk or to nationalchair@nashics.org

Administering medication.
The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 are clear: medication must be accurately administered (Regulation 12); and records must be fit for purpose (Regulation 17).
Anyone administering medication should clearly and legibly record this on the daily care log and the MAR chart. If a box is left blank it creates uncertainty about whether the medication was administered. This may lead us to find fault if we receive a complaint. Inconsistencies in recording could be fault because the records do not paint an accurate picture of what medication was given. If a client refuses medication, this should also be clearly recorded.

MPs highlight the costs of mental capacity bill.
Human rights MPs have warned care home managers about the potential administration costs of proposed new mental capacity legislation.
Human rights MPs say the assumption is flawed that “there will be no net change in costs to providers of authorisations and administration”.

In a new report, human rights joint select committee MPs also raise specific concerns about the statements to be made by care home managers under the draft legislation.
Bill requires further changes

CQC defends its home closure policy.
The CQC has defended its decision to close unsafe care homes as the sudden closure of a West Sussex care home was featured on BBC TV’s Inside Out South East last week. In the BBC TV documentary, distraught relatives recounted how Horncastle House in East Grinstead operated by Sussex Healthcare, was closed “at a moment’s notice” in September due to concerns about residents choking. Residents and staff criticised the CQC for its heavy-handed approach to dealing with the closure.

Joint report looks at healthcare support for people living in care homes in North Wales.
We’ve published a joint review between ourselves and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW). This pilot project considered how well the healthcare needs of older people living in care homes in North Wales were met, and how the two inspectorates might work together on this issue.

Managing work-related stress as part of a prevention culture.

Care Quality Commission Provider Information Return update.
In August CQC gave an update on the development of a new digital system for the Adult Social Care Provider Information Return (PIR) and work being undertaken to understand what is needed to do next …….
If you have any questions on the above contact .