DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NEWS

Nothing new on this site today.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND NEWS

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NHS ENGLAND NEWS

Breaking the mould of loneliness – Paula Bee
As one of the New Models of Care Vanguards – Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group – is tackling social isolation.

Fire service to the rescue of our health – Jacqui White
In the first of a series of blogs, NHS England’s Deputy Director for People with Long Term Conditions gives details of a fascinating new partnership between the NHS and the Fire Service

LOCAL NEWS

Care home tour prior to opening EADT 17/8
The ninth of 10 new care homes to be opened in Suffolk as part of a £60 million investment has been given the once over by its future residents. From October, Hartismere Place will provide nursing, residential and dementia care for up to 60 people in Eye – replacing the town’s Paddock House – with flexible day care provided in the adjacent Hartismere Club. The development is part of Care UK’s project to build 10 new care homes for 60-80 residents after taking over Suffolk County Council’s 16 homes in December 2012.
Ipswich Star report

East of England Ambulance staff praised in patient survey BFP17/8
Nearly 100 per cent of respondents said they were very satisfied, satisfied or fairly satisfied with the care they had received from East of England Ambulance Service staff. The people who handle the 999 calls in the region’s control centres were also praised with 99 per cent of respondents saying their call was very acceptable, acceptable or fairly acceptable.

New ambulance boss is trust’s first permanent leader in three years EDP 17/8
Campaigner says East of England Ambulance Service Trust’s (EEAST) new boss Robert Morton must listen to and gain the confidence of frontline staff. Irishman Mr Morton will start work with EEAST on August 24 and is the trust’s first permanent leader since Hayden Newton resigned in October 2012. Mr Morton’s appointment came yesterday as the EDP and Evening News reveals the trust’s emergency response times have worsened in our area over the last three months.

New operating theatres built at hospital EDP 17/8
Patients at the James Paget University Hospital are set to benefit from a new operating theatre suite which is part of an £8m programme to improve facilities. The investment will see the hospital, in Gorleston, upgrade its existing theatres and comes amid an inspection by health watchdog the Care Quality Commission. Sue Watkinson, the hospital’s director of operations, said: “What this means is that we can admit more patients than before. The facilities are state of the art. It’s a fabulous building.”

For more information on this publication please contact: publichealthlibrary@suffolk.gov.uk
NATIONAL NEWS

Diabetes cases soar by 60% in past decade BBC 17/8
The number of people living with diabetes has soared by nearly 60% in the past decade, Diabetes UK warns. The charity said more than 3.3 million people have some form of the condition, up from 2.1 million in 2005. The inability to control the level of sugar in the blood can lead to blindness and amputations and is a massive drain on NHS resources.

Call for Army to stop using malaria drug mefloquine BBC 17/8
A call has been made for an immediate ban on a controversial anti-malaria drug given to British soldiers. The side-effects of mefloquine, or Lariam, have been linked to severe depression and other mental illnesses. Conservative MP Johnny Mercer says he has received dozens of letters from service personnel claiming they have become affected since taking it.

Government 'chasing headlines on NHS', says doctors' union BBC 17/8
Ministers have been "chasing headlines" instead of tackling the real issues facing the NHS in England, according to the doctors' union. The BMA has published a scathing review of the government's first 100 days in office. It says ministers' main focus has been alienating doctors instead of dealing with the real problems of the NHS.

Alcohol abuse rise sparks minimum pricing call BBC 17/8
More than half of people referred for help with substance misuse in Wales have alcohol problems, prompting calls for a minimum pricing. In 2013/14, nearly 13,500 of the 24,806 referrals were because of alcohol, Welsh government figures have shown. Both figures are up on the previous year. Heroin and cannabis referrals are also up.

NHS spent £116m on gluten-free pizza, cakes and biscuits The Telegraph 17/8
Doctors prescribed gluten-free junk food to more than 200,000 patients. The NHS has been accused of spending nearly £116 million on gluten-free food in one year, including biscuits, doughnuts, pizzas and burger mixes. The health service wrote 211,200 prescriptions for low protein or gluten-free food last year, according to figures from the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

NHS locum doctor paid £11,000 to work a weekend The Telegraph 17/8
Record sum paid by an NHS hospital to a locum doctor to cover a bank holiday weekend revealed in new figures. An NHS hospital paid the record sum of almost £11,000 for one locum doctor to cover a bank holiday weekend, new figures show. The payment comes amid record spending by the health service on agency doctors and nurses, which cost £3.3bn in the last financial year. Patients groups said the sum – more than half the annual starting salary for a nurse - was “outrageous” and could not be justified.

One in 20 underage youngsters on the Pill The Guardian 17/8
Number of underage youngsters on the contraceptive pill has increased 50 per cent in a decade. The number of underage youngsters being prescribed the contraceptive pill has increased 50 per cent in a decade, a new study reveals. Figure reveal one in 20 girls under the age of consent are being prescribed the Pill by their GPs, the Mail On Sunday has revealed. The study has been conducted by researchers at King's College London using official GP prescribing data.

E-cigarette use rising among British youths, campaign group study shows The Guardian 17/8
Action on Smoking and Health survey says use has risen 6% in two years by 11- to 18-year olds, but 11- to 15-year-olds smoking tobacco is at all time low. Experimentation with e-cigarettes is rising among 11- to 18-year-olds in Britain but is most common among those who already smoke or who have done in the past, according to anti-tobacco group Action on Smoking and Health (Ash).

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