

HEALTHIER SCOTLAND

News from the Socialist Health Association Scotland



Welcome to the **June 2017** edition of *Healthier Scotland*, the E-Bulletin of the Socialist Health Association Scotland.

SHA Scotland is a campaigning organisation, which promotes health and well-being and the eradication of inequalities through the application of socialist principles to society and government. We believe that these objectives can best be achieved through collective rather than individual action. We campaign for an integrated healthcare system which reduces inequalities in health and is accountable to the communities it serves. For the latest Scottish health news follow @shascotland on Twitter. We also have a [web site](#) with access to all our publications.

NHS Scotland

The proportion of patients [waiting](#) longer than the legally binding Treatment Time Guarantee has more than doubled in the past year, with 82.1% being treated within 12 weeks, compared with 92.7% last year. Hospitals across Scotland have lost [8000 beds](#) since 2003.

We should be using low interest rates to [buy-out](#) eye watering costs of PFI deals in Scotland. A £10 billion [bill](#) for hospitals that cost only £2 billion.

The number of EU nurses registering in the UK is [down](#) a staggering 96% as the consequences of Brexit hit home. Scotland's birth rate also takes a [dive](#), which does not bode well for the future workforce.

Spending on agency and bank nurses and midwives in Scotland has [increased](#) by just over 5% to £166.5m this year. As UNISON [says](#), headline increases in NHS Scotland staff are of no real benefit if the service still relies on temporary short-term bank workers.

NHS staff are [quitting](#) hospitals to work in supermarkets say NHS bosses! Time to end the pay cap.

NHS Glasgow and Clyde's decision to close Lightburn Hospital is [condemned](#) by community groups and Parkinson's Society as a loss of community rehabilitation and support.

Scotland is lagging behind England in the creation of "robust and dynamic" health service IT systems, a Holyrood inquiry into the recent cyber attack on the NHS has been [warned](#). 13 health boards in Scotland were [affected](#) by the cyber attacks.

One in four GP practices in Scotland has a [vacancy](#) for a doctor, according to new figures - despite Scottish Government recruitment drive. This has led to more practices being [taken over](#) by health boards. The bill for [repairing](#) GP surgeries has now reached £1 billion.

Children should be more [involved](#) in the healthcare decisions that affect them.

Patients in Scotland's most deprived communities are twice as likely to be admitted to hospital with traumatic [eye injuries](#) compared to those from the wealthiest postcodes.

A record [number](#) of Scots received a life-changing organ transplant last year. 348 people got the surgery.

A [consultation](#) on plans to enshrine safe **NHS** staffing levels in law has been launched by the Health Secretary. The legislation is aimed at ensuring the right number of doctors, nurses, midwives and other healthcare staff are working in the health service across the country.

Public Health

As our contribution to the local government election debate, SHA Scotland [published](#) a paper on reducing health inequalities locally. It sets out what local councils can do to reduce inequality and improve the health of communities. We followed that up with a [motion](#) to the Scottish Labour Party conference and a well supported fringe meeting.

The new Chief Medical Officer [argues](#) for "realistic medicine", a model which places the person receiving health care at the centre of the decision-making process. In short, doctors should spend more time listening to their patients in order to avoid unnecessary treatments.

Stirling University academics have [published](#) a report for Food Standards Scotland that calls for a "retail revolution" to help people choose healthier options. Also supports wider Sugar Tax.

Italy has introduced [mandatory](#) vaccinations. Should others follow their lead?

Is Scotland taking its silent killer - [hypertension](#) - seriously enough? It appears not. 30% of stroke victims have another attack. The NHS could do more to [prevent](#) it.

Sex education for children in Scotland is "patchy" and shows a lack of consistency, a parliamentary committee has [said](#). Calls for a review of PSE.

Community weight loss programmes should be more widely available. [Here's](#) why.

UK Supreme Court denies final [appeal](#) in cigarette packaging case.

Social Care

Crippling staff [shortages](#) in social care are at call centre levels and beyond, Scottish Care survey.

While Telecare can help care for the elderly, it's no [substitute](#) for personal contact.

Why do social care staff providing crucial overnight [support](#) to some of our most vulnerable citizens, in their own homes, get paid less than colleagues supporting people during the day?

Mental Health

Adult mental health is often [affected](#) by everyday life stresses and, in particular, personal finances. Only one in four people with a mental illness are in [work](#).

An app to assess how suitable a home is for someone with dementia is being [developed](#) by Stirling University. First of its kind in the world.

Some academics argue that social media is as [harmful](#) as drugs and alcohol for millennials. Other say the [hype](#) is exaggerated. While there are risks there are strong positives as well. Is Instagram the [worst](#) offender?

Healthier Scotland is a Socialist Health Scotland publication

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