

Welcome to the **November 2014** 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.

**Scottish Labour Leadership Election**

SHA Scotland has nominated Neil Findlay and Katy Clark and would urge members to vote for them in the ballot. Your voting papers should arrive this week.

As Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Neil Findlay has built a close working relationship with organisations like SHA Scotland working on key issues such as health inequalities, social care and strengthening NHS Scotland. The establishment of the Health Inequalities Commission and the Quality Care Commission shows that he is interested in solutions to these major problems. He has also involved a wide range of people from within and outwith the party in this work - demonstrating that he will be an inclusive leader, prepared to look outside the political bubble.

SHA Scotland Chair, Dr David Conway said: “Neil’s future focused ambitious policy commissions, the importance he places on listening and engaging with communities, and his fighting for difficult campaigns – makes a compelling case for Neil Findlay to lead the Scottish Labour Party at this time.”

SHA Scotland also recognises that Katy Clark understands the need for a fundamental redistribution of wealth and power if Scotland’s deep-seated health inequalities are to be seriously tackled.

SHA Scotland Secretary, Dave Watson said: “Katy has a proven track in campaigning on difficult issues. She understands that politics as usual simply wont do. Scottish Labour has to take radical measures to address inequality in Scotland and that’s why we believe Katy Clark is the right choice as Deputy Leader.”

David Conway expands on this in his [blog post](http://www.shascotland.org/blog/why-i-am-supporting-neil-findlay-in-the-scottish-labour-leadership-election). Dave Watson does the same in his [blog](http://unisondave.blogspot.co.uk/2014/11/why-i-am-supporting-neil-findlay-for.html).

  

***Healthier Scotland* is a Socialist Health Scotland publication**

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**NHS Scotland**

Audit Scotland say NHS under financial pressure and it’s going to get worse. Our [blog](http://www.shascotland.org/blog/nhs-scotland-is-under-financial-pressure-and-its-going-to-get-worse) summarises this important report on the financial state of NHS Scotland.

Health Committee [hears](http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/scottish-nhs-missing-as-many-as-1-in-5-consultants-1-3586933) two boards missing one in five consultants. Health economist says always financial pressures, exception to this was in the period 2002-7 when “*the Labour government put resources into the health service at a rate I don’t think we’ve seen before and possibly never will again*”.

Hospitals and health centres will ‘benefit’ from a £409 million [public-private](http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/409m-pledged-to-rebuild-scotland-s-hospitals-1-3591110) funding package. Just in case you thought PFI was dead in Scotland! Dumfries provider [Serco](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-30011338) issues profit warning while UNISON [campaigns](http://unison-lhb.blogspot.co.uk/2014/10/time-up-for-pfi-proiteers-in-lanarkshire.html) to end outsourcing in Lanarkshire PFI hospitals.

Hospitals across Scotland were so full this summer that more than 3,300 patients had to be looked after in the [wrong department](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/hospital-bed-shortages-put-lives-of-3300-patients-at-risk.25886245) for their condition. Boarding increases risk of dying.

Increasing numbers of Scottish patients are [receiving](http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/scots-get-electric-brain-shocks-against-their-will-1-3604496) electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) – despite resisting or refusing the controversial treatment.

NHS Glasgow relying on [temporary staff](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/union-warns-nhs-relying-on-temporary-staff.25688698) with 15% increase last year. 2500 recorded [reports](http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/health/nhs-workers-concerned-at-staffing-1.638145) of understaffing last year.

**Social Care**

Health and care workers support integration, but fear it won’t deliver due to lack of resources. UNISON [survey](http://www.shascotland.org/blog/challenges-of-delivering-care-integration) of staff that will have to deliver integrated services next year.

Glasgow Association for Mental Health is facing possible [closure](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/fear-for-mental-health-charity-over-cash-cuts.25838077) after being warned its annual budget could be cut by up to 40 per cent.

Reports show how [restructuring](http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/inside-track-worrying-threads-emerge-from-social-care-reports.25775442) and merging of services is putting vulnerable groups at risk.

**Public Health**

Deaths in the poorest areas of Scotland were more than three times as common as in the most affluent in 2012. Scottish Government’s latest [update](http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/health-inequality-scotland-s-greatest-challenge-1-3586642) on the health gap.

Anti-smoking [campaigners](http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/e-cigarette-sexing-up-smoking-say-campaigners-1-3600657) have accused TV advertisements, which show e-cigarette use for the first time of “sexualising” vaping. Should be targeted at smokers only.

Almost 50% of people would not want others to know if they had a [mental health](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-29988223) problem. Stigma of mental health still strong in this survey commissioned by Scottish Government.

Bowel cancer cases are expected to soar in [younger adults](http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/young-face-huge-rise-in-bowel-cancer-1-3598500) by up to 90 per cent by 2030.

Why [employers](http://theconversation.com/why-employers-need-to-pay-attention-to-the-business-of-health-33657?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+5+November+2014+-+2056&utm_content=Latest+from+The+Conversation+for+5+November+2014+-+2056+CID_9dcb81d5ff4b995fec8ba72179ab1870&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Why%20employers%20need%20to%20pay%20attention%20to%20the%20business%20of%20health) need to pay more attention to workplace health. Work biggest cause of ill health.