

## Welcome to MHA's June monthly policy bulletin.

### Following the Queen's Speech in May, we offer an update on the Government's legislative programme for 2015/16.

- **Government** - Legislation - Select Committees - Implementation taskforces - Pre-budget lobbying -

### And we bring you the highlights of emerging research and policy in these areas of interest:

- **Ageing**
- **Health**
- **Housing**
- **Regulations** - Duty of candour - Deprivation of Liberty Standards -
- **Religion**
- **Social Care** - Nursing Shortages - End of Life Care -
- **Third Sector**

## Government

### Progress of legislation

The [Charities \(Protection and Social Investment\) Bill](#), which will amend the Charities Act 2011 and give the Charity Commission more powers, is currently being discussed in the House of Lords.



Several Private Members Bills of relevance to MHA and older people have also been launched. Private Members' Bills are Public Bills introduced by MPs and Lords, who are not government ministers. Very few Private Members' Bills become law, however they do frequently generate publicity about an issue and therefore may affect change in other ways.

- [Access to Palliative Care Bill](#) – wants to make provision for equitable access to palliative care services and advance education, training and research in palliative care.
- [Assisted Dying Bill](#) – wants to enable competent adults who are terminally ill to be provided at their request with specified assistance to end their own life.
- [Carers \(Leave Entitlement\) Bill](#) – to entitle employees to take a period of leave to fulfil certain caring responsibilities in respect of dependants.
- [Direct Planning \(Pilot\) Bill](#) - to make provision about direct planning pilot schemes.
- [Medical Innovation Bill](#) - to make provision about innovation in medical treatment.
- [Regulation of Health and Social Care Professionals Bill](#) – to require the Government to regulate health and social care professions.
- [Right to Die at Home Bill](#) – to create a right to die at home

*Comment: The Assisted Dying Bill was originally introduced in the previous Parliamentary session, so we think this is definitely one to watch.*

### Select Committee Chairs announced

A nomination process takes place to elect the Committee Chairs, however in cases where only one MP puts themselves forward, the Chairs are appointed on an uncontested basis. Chairs of committees of interest to us are:

- Communities and Local Government Committee – Clive Betts MP (uncontested)
- Health – Dr Sarah Wollaston MP (elected)
- Public Administration & Constitutional Affairs – Bernard Jenkin MP (uncontested)
- Work and Pensions - Frank Field MP (elected)

The remaining members of the Committees will be nominated by the House of Commons in the coming weeks.

### Implementation taskforces

The Prime Minister has created ten special '[implementation taskforces](#)' to deliver on the Conservative manifesto, including:

1. **Housing** - to drive efforts to increase the supply of new housing; helping first-time buyers onto the property ladder; implementing new proposals for Right to Buy and driving public sector land sales. Chaired by Rt Hon Greg Clark MP.

2. **Health and social care** - to deliver an integrated health and social care system. Chaired by Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP.

3. **Immigration** - to deliver annual net migration in the tens of thousands, including controlling migration from the EU, including through reforming welfare rules and reducing reliance on migrant labour. Chaired by Rt Hon David Cameron MP.

Others include:

4. Earn or Learn (helping businesses create jobs and to tackle youth unemployment)
5. Child care
6. Tackling extremism in communities
7. Troubled families
8. Exports
9. Digital infrastructure and inclusion
10. Returning jihadists from Syria

### Pre-budget advocacy

In the run-up to the publication of the Government's budget, a number of organisations have been highlighting the need for the funding of adult social care.

#### In brief:

- **Social care funding:** [Association of Directors of Adult Social Services](#) (ADASS) published their Annual Spending Survey and warned the government that further cuts to social care would leave vulnerable people in "jeopardy". ADASS reports that social services are facing £1.1bn of real-terms reductions in their budgets this year.
- **Ageing population:** The [Office for Budget Responsibility](#) (OBR) has indicated that the financial cost of Britain's ageing population will require a fresh £20bn wave of spending cuts or tax increases from 2020 to bring the national debt back to pre-recession levels in 50 years' time. The OBR said that by 2065, 26% of the population of England and Wales would be more than 65 years old, up from 18% today, increasing the cost of pensions, health and social care.

- **Strategy for later life funding:** [International Longevity Centre-UK](#) has published a white paper from the Centre for Later Life Funding, urging the Government to develop a long term strategy for the future of later life funding. Some of its recommendations include: secure effective funding for adults secure care, the full implementation of the Dilnot reforms, and incentivising downsizing.
- **Transformation Fund:** The [Local Government Association](#) (LGA) has called for the Chancellor set aside £5.2bn for a transformation fund for health and social care services. Ernst Young (commissioned by the LGA) propose that the government should invest in a transformation fund until the end of the decade to support the development of a health and social care system focused on preventative measures, eventually leading to the pooling of all money for health and social care.
- The LGA have also suggested that Councils could face a £3.3 billion funding reduction in 2016-17, in their annual '[Future funding outlook report](#)'.

## Ageing

### In brief:

- **Inadequate public transport:** Public transport is inadequate for older people, according to a new study by [Age UK and the International Longevity Centre](#). A third of people over 65 said they never use it despite being eligible for free bus passes, while half use it less than once a month.
- **Empowerment through local government:** The Local Government Association has published a report from their [Task and Finish Group on Ageing](#), challenging the commonly-held belief that an ageing population is a burden and sets out the increasing contribution to society and the economy that older people can make through empowered local government.

## Health

### In brief:

- **GP new deal:** [The government](#) has promised a "new deal" for GPs in England with extra investment and help for under-pressure services, if they sign up to seven-day opening. The package includes plans to recruit 5,000 new GPs and another 5,000 support staff, including practice nurses. Financial incentives may even be offered to those willing to work in the most deprived areas.
- **Success regimes:** The NHS has launched three "[success regimes](#)" in Cumbria, Devon and Essex, after it was determined that the hospitals in these areas were failing. The new approach will involve a "holistic diagnosis" of the whole health and social care system, including community based services, social care services and GPs.
- **Local area health profiles:** Public Health England has published updated [health profiles](#) for each region and local authority area. Health Profiles provide summary health information to support local authority members, officers and community partners to lead for health improvement – health indicators such as life expectancy.
- **New nursing CEO:** The [Royal College of Nursing](#) has appointed Janet Davies, its current director of nursing and service delivery, to be its next chief executive and general secretary. She will take over from present incumbent Peter Carter, in July.

## Housing

### In brief:

- **Right to buy:** The Department for Communities and Local Government has published a [booklet](#) for tenants on the right to buy. It confirms that those living in sheltered housing or other housing particularly suitable for elderly or disabled people, are



not eligible for right to buy.

## Regulation

### Duty of candour

Following on from the implementation of the duty of candour guidance in April, the [General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council](#) have issued guidance that applies to individual medical professionals.

Meanwhile, the charity [Action Against Medical Accidents \(AvMA\)](#) has threatened Jeremy Hunt with a judicial review over the duty of candour, as they suggest it will give fewer rights to patients who have visited a GP, are in a nursing home or use private medicine than those who have been in hospital.

### Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)

Community Care magazine reports that the Government has brought forward the deadline for [deprivation of liberty reform plans](#). The accelerated timetable was announced by the Care Minister Alistair Burt MP and will see the commission publish draft legislation and detailed proposals for a new deprivation of liberty scheme by the end of 2016. The project was originally due to report in summer 2017.

#### In brief:

- **Safeguarding information update:** The [CQC](#) have updated their information on how they work with our partners to make sure people are safeguarded from abuse, neglect and maltreatment.
- **Healthier workplaces:** [National Institute of Health and Care Excellence](#) have issued guidelines urging employers to make sure their staff work reasonable hours and take regular breaks. NICE says healthier workplaces will not only benefit staff, but also increase the productivity of businesses.

## Religion

### In brief:

- **Population religion changes:** The landscape of religion in England and Wales is changing according to new analysis of the [Census 2011](#). The decade 2001 to 2011 saw a fall in the number of people identifying as Christian, and an increase in those identifying with minority religious groups and those reporting no religion.

## Social Care

### Nursing shortages:

- The UK could face a 'worst case scenario' shortage of 60,000 nurses in 2020 if nothing is done to tackle staffing issues, according to investment and healthcare advisers [Christie and Co.](#) It has published a report that suggests that in order to close the gap between demand and supply, four things need to happen; the industry needs to significantly optimise the way nurses and care practitioners deliver care; every measure needs to be undertaken to entice nurse to enter, or re-enter the industry and keep them from leaving; the number of funded university places needs to be substantially increased; and immigration needs to be encouraged and the barriers to overseas recruitment reduced. The analysis includes a survey of 12 of the largest nursing home providers.
- In related news, it has been reported that new immigration rules due to come into effect in April 2016 will cause chaos in the health and care services. Under the new rules, non-EU workers who are earning less than £35,000 after six years in the UK will be deported. [The Royal College of Nursing](#) (RCN) is urging the Home Office to add nurses to the list of shortage occupations, exempt from the rules, and reconsider the salary threshold. Research released by RCN suggests that up to 3,365 nurses, who cost £20.19m to recruit, could be affected. But it says that



figure could spiral by 2020, particularly, if workforce pressures lead to increased international recruitment.

- [Health Education England](#) is considering creating a new type of health professional to help nurses cope with their growing workloads. 'Nurse associates' would care for patients under supervision of graduate staff.
- Care England has published its [Five Year Vision](#) detailing how it plans to address issues in health and social care in the next half decade. It calls for the introduction of a new nursing role sitting between a care worker and a nurse to help the nursing recruitment crisis and establishing a sector-wide staff survey in the care home sector.
- The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence have asked to suspend an investigation into safe staffing levels as NHS England are undertaking a similar piece of work outlined in a [letter from Chief Nursing Officer, Jane Cummings](#). However nurses at the Royal College of Nursing's annual conference voted overwhelmingly in favour of supporting an emergency motion to campaign against the decision. Sir Robert Francis has expressed serious concerns over the decision to suspend the programme of work that he recommended to determine safe nurse staffing levels.

### End of Life Care

Public Health England has published [What We Know Now 2014](#), a report which finds that what people require at the end of life is improving within the sector. Home continues to be the preferred place of death for people in England, followed by hospices and care homes. The most important things to people are having effective pain and symptom management, followed by having loved ones present and being treated with dignity.

Meanwhile, [Marie Curie](#) have also published report suggesting that many patients nearing the end of their lives are not receiving the care and support they need because of a lack of training for health professionals, including nurses. The report also suggest that people with conditions such as heart failure, dementia and multiple sclerosis are less likely to receive good end of life care than those with cancer.

### In brief:

- **Filming in care homes:** The [Royal College of Nursing](#) has voted against covert filming in nursing homes, saying CCTV footage would not prevent abuse and could lead to culture of 'remote supervision'.

*Comment: In February, MHA has a new policy regarding surveillance and it is anticipated that a leaflet for families will be available in the near future. For more information contact [Yolanda.wasylo@mha.org.uk](mailto:Yolanda.wasylo@mha.org.uk)*

- **Care Act:** The [National Audit Office](#) reports that while the Government has done well to implement part one of the Care Act, councils are at risk of a funding shortfall because of uncertainties about demand for support and problems in government costings estimates. It suggests that the Department for Communities and Local Government needs to use intelligence better, to improve its understanding of the pressures affecting local authorities' financial sustainability.
- **Saving the NHS money:** Aston University and the [Extra Care Charitable Trust](#) have published research that claims that it has saved the NHS money by providing services such as employing a qualified nurse and holding informal drop-in and advice sessions. The research shows that the NHS saved £1,115 per person per year on residents in Extra Care properties over 12 months. This chimes with independent research commissioned by MHA in 2011 which showed the benefits of

Live at Home and indicated it could relieve strain on local services and enable independence.

- **Delays to hospital discharges have increased:** [Age UK](#) published findings that showed older patients spent a total of nearly 2.5 million days stuck in a hospital over the past five years, with issues ranging from a shortage of care home places to a lack of district nurses to help people in their own home. It estimates that the situation has got worse and the number of people being kept in hospital in 2014-15 increased by 19% on the previous year.
- **Growth of care co-operatives:** Co-operative companies in health and social care (ie owned by employees, customers or other stakeholders) have grown by 50% in the past five years, [according to a report by Co-operatives UK](#). Cumulatively, they are making a £60 million a year turnover, compared to £40 million in 2010.

### Third Sector

#### Compulsory code of conduct

[The Institute of Fundraising's Standards Committee](#) has announced that it will make it compulsory for UK fundraising organisations to comply with its code of conduct. It will also introduce standardisation in wording and presentation for 'opt-out' statements and strengthen compliance with the Telephone Preference Service. It has also set up four specific task-groups, who will report back before the end of July, to consider:

- The frequency and volume of approaches to individual donors so that donors do not feel "bombarded" by correspondence or "pressurised" into giving;
- How individuals can more simply and easily manage their preferences on what fundraising communications they receive from charities;
- What standards charities should have to comply with, over and above legal requirements, in relation to the buying, sharing and selling of data;
- Standards specifically related to telephone fundraising, including the introduction of Telephone Preference Service Certification requirements.

#### Look Ahead

- DOLS: Law Commission consultation launched – 7 July
- Government Budget – 8 July
- Liberal Democrat Leadership: Leader announced – 16 July
- Updated indices of deprivation due to be published - summer 2015