

Action Cerebral Palsy

Political & Parliamentary Monitoring – Week commencing 2nd July 2018

The National Health Service is carrying out planning for a “no deal” Brexit scenario, according to NHS England Chief Executive, Simon Stevens, as Civil Servants have warned of shortages of food, fuel and medicine within weeks if the UK leaves the European Union without a customs arrangement in place.

The UK imports 37 million patient packs per year from the EU, and products are developed in large-scale supply chains which span the continent. The duplication time for the manufacture and quality control testing of drugs and resources should the UK leave the EU without a deal has been estimated at over 42 months and would inevitably cause serious delays to patients in need of urgent treatment. Simon Stevens' openness that the NHS is now preparing for all scenarios will be news to many in the health industry, after he told MPs last October that the NHS had not been asked to prepare any contingency plans for a no-deal Brexit.

Earlier this year the Health and Social Care select committee raised concerns about implications for the future of medical research and development should Britain leave the EU without any customs arrangement in place.

Overview

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Baroness Warnock strikes out at “contradictory” Ofsted

Baroness Warnock, a prominent peer who chaired the 1978 inquiry into the education of handicapped children and young people, which paved the way for statementing, has attacked Ofsted for its lack of focus on the needs of SEND children.

Speaking to the Lamb Inquiry in to children with special needs, Warnock slated the education regulator for failing to acknowledge the roles schools play in supporting SEND children. Warnock told the inquiry that “Schools are described as failing or needing improvement, when actually they are doing very well

by those children. So I think Ofsted needs to take a look at itself, to see what is being inspected". Ofsted, she added, was becoming too obsessed with academic rigour and not with the overall inclusiveness and support offered to pupils.

Warnock's 1978 report created a vision for schools whereby they would adapt to the requirements of children with special needs, integrating them in to learning. The law was amended in 1981 and included the first duty to include pupils with SEND in mainstream schools. Warnock now claims that the intention of the report has been betrayed, with underfunded local authorities seen as the enemies of parents.

Warnock has called for smaller secondary schools in order to create more personable environments for pupils, as well as improved teacher training to ensure that SEND priorities are at the centre of teachers' minds. Whilst Baroness Warnock's comments were received positively by the charity sector, Stephen Kingdom, Campaign Manager at the Disabled Children's Partnership, said that schools shouldn't be incentivised to "lower expectations of a pupil because they have special education needs".

ACP met with officials from the Department for Education recently and discussed the Department's view that, whilst focus on academic rigour continues to be important, new Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds, has indicated that he is interested in looking at inclusiveness and SEND provision as a priority. We will contact Baroness Warnock to suggest a meeting with ACP to discuss areas of mutual interest and our commitment to ensuring that all children have the resources and support available, which help them thrive at school, including making sure that teachers have appropriate training.

NHS turns 70

There were widespread celebrations yesterday across the country to mark the 70th birthday of the National Health Service. To mark the occasion, NHS England has launched its largest ever marketing campaign, '[We are the NHS](#)', to highlight the amazing work the organisation does and recruit more staff. As it stands, there are over 30,000 nursing vacancies in the NHS in England.

Theresa May announced last month that the NHS would receive an additional £20 billion in funding to coincide with its landmark birthday. Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens, has outlined to MPs that the money will be focused on meeting the goals set out in the '[Five Years Forward](#)' review. This includes the option of shared budgets combining health and social care, as well as allowing

different local health communities to choose from amongst a small number of new radical care delivery options.

To mark the birthday a series of events are taking place in hospitals across the country, and the BBC has a series of programmes going behind the scenes at some of Britain's biggest NHS institutions.

Local authority pioneers new action plan for carers

Sheffield City Council has launched an Adult Carers' Action Plan, designed to ensure that people in caring roles get the support they need, especially in the face of reductions in local authority funding.

The Council has collaborated with a variety of local community groups and authorities, including Sheffield's NHS Trust, local CCGs, the Sheffield Carers Centre, and representatives from Sheffield Young Carers, to create a plan which aims to address the key concerns and fears of both carers and vulnerable people. The plan will set out how carers should be treated, what support they should expect to receive, and how they can best access advice and services. Specific recommendations will be drafted every six months to ensure that the document remains relevant and flexible enough to the carers' changing needs.

The Action Plan involves reaching out to those people who do not necessarily see themselves as a 'carer'. The report found that 72 per cent of carers were working age, and so it became a priority, in the words of Emma Dickinson, the Council's Commissioning Manager for Carers, to "place an emphasis on helping them to continue to work – or return to work". There are 6.5 million unpaid carers in the UK, and central government's own Carer action plan for 2018-2020 places, as a priority, ensuring that carers have the freedom to work in order to support themselves and their loved ones.

Bringing together the findings, the final version put forward six principles which local authorities have agreed to respect, uphold and pledge to. This includes: ensuring carers have regular breaks, facilitating for carers to have a voice for both themselves and the person they care for, and that carers are able to return to work where possible. The Plan has been widely welcomed by carers and vulnerable people, who believe that this will represent the start of closer collaboration between services.

The next review meeting is set to take place in November.

This development is significant given the ACP is currently in the process of drafting its own parent guide, which will also detail the rights and entitlements of carers.