

# today

Annual conference and exhibition 2009, 10-12 June, ACC Liverpool

Thursday 11 June, Issue 2

## Opportunity now to prepare for tough times



David Nicholson tells delegates 'now is the time'.

Chief executive of the NHS in England, David Nicholson, told delegates yesterday that now is the time to prepare for the expected reduction in NHS funding from 2011.

He said: "The last few years' extraordinary growth in the NHS is undoubtedly a vote of confidence from both the Government and the British people.

"But don't let's kid ourselves that it's not going to get extraordinarily tough. The worst case scenario is that we talk about future financial challenges now but don't actually do anything. I don't want to see us running around trying to sort out the problem when the money dries up in 2011.

"The NHS and Department of Health have been built for growth but that's not what we need to do now," he continued. "We need to look at each system and process to see if it is capable of taking us through this big challenge. We've got time to plan, organise and invest in people and services now. The worst thing would be to hide in our bunkers and stop driving reform.

"Now is the time to be innovative and adopt and diffuse the well-evidenced things we should all be doing."

Mr Nicholson also told delegates they should be proud of their achievements.

"You've done everything you've been asked to do," he said. "You've met the 18 week target, reduced healthcare-associated infections and improved GP access. These are not just targets but have real human consequence.

"We've also changed the nature of the system, significantly increasing the number of foundation trusts and the nature of choice for patients, and we've relaunched practice-based commissioning. We've not simply done the same old things in the same old way."

But he was clear that NHS managers need to get better at managing how we look after vulnerable people, at dealing with criticism and asking for help.

"There are challenges for the 'centre' but I really need you to look out, not up," he said. "I don't want to see any new national targets or lots of new policies. What we need is the consistency of purpose we've seen in the NHS Constitution."

Please note that Andy Burnham MP's speech is now at 12:20pm today in the main auditorium. For full details of changes to today's timings, please see page 4.

Today – BME Leadership Forum reception. All welcome.

13:10 – 14:10, the Hub.



## WANT TO TRANSFORM CARE?

With our wealth of information covering most clinical conditions, public health and social care services too, The NHS Information Centre can help you to improve services locally. The **Indicators for Quality Improvement** published through The NHS IC provides a resource of robust indicators, assured for both clinical use and design methodology, which can be used to support local improvement and benchmarking.

Meet our clinical experts on stand A63 for an online demo of our quality indicators and find out more about how our information can help you.

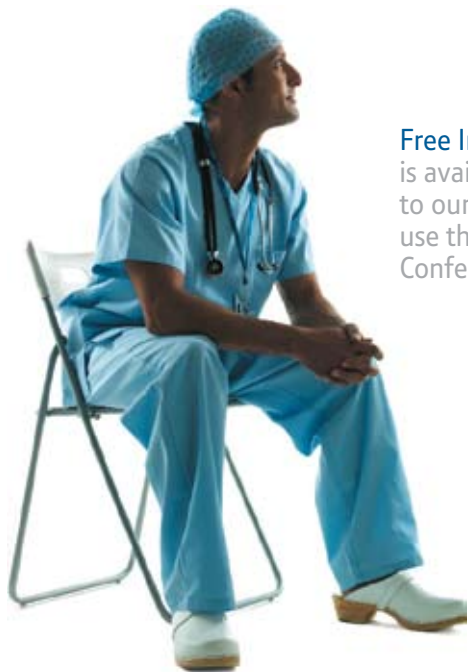
[www.ic.nhs.uk/clinical](http://www.ic.nhs.uk/clinical)

The NHS Information Centre is England's central, authoritative source of health and social care information





BT Health is pleased to be working with the NHS Confederation. We look forward to meeting you on stand H70.



Free Internet Access is available adjacent to our stand for your use throughout the Conference.

BT Health

## From the exhibition

Visit Nortel on stand LG5

Nortel has over 7000 healthcare customers around the world. Their state-of-the-art communications solutions can transform the processes and workflows associated with healthcare delivery – allowing clinicians and staff to collaborate, providing the right information to clinicians at the right time, making them more productive and freeing up more time to spend on patient care.

Their health sector team includes the former Chief Information Officer of a Foundation Trust who is helping to communications-enable the “hospital of the future”. Nortel are offering delegates a free half-day consultation. To register your interest please visit stand LG5.

## Lansley calls for equity, efficiency and excellence

Shadow health secretary, Andrew Lansley CBE MP, addressed conference yesterday and set out his vision for a health service under a Conservative Government based on equity, efficiency and excellence.

Referring to the NHS Confederation’s report *Dealing with the downturn*, he said that his party is committed to real terms growth in the NHS and that the health service needs to rebuild public trust that public money is being well spent.

The shadow health secretary talked about the importance of leadership in the NHS. He said that leadership should not be about command and control and that some of the best led organisations are ones where the people working inside have real freedoms to deliver results and the services.

On targets, he expressed his

commitment to removing process-driven targets and instead focus on health outcomes. A Conservative Government would also give greater freedoms to GPs to control their own budgets and an independent board would prevent political interference in the day-to-day running of the NHS.

Lansley was challenged by conference chair Sarah Montague to explain the difference between targets and outcomes. He assured the audience that a Conservative Government would focus on achieving health outcomes. He stressed that they would be telling the NHS what outcome needed to be achieved, not the process to achieve it. Montague also questioned him on NHS funding and he reiterated his party’s commitment to real terms growth in the NHS and no cuts in the health budget.

## Three events in one day for BME leadership forum



Dr Robina Shah, chair of the NHS Confederation’s black and minority ethnic (BME) leadership forum and equality and diversity board, and of Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, will be busy with three conference sessions today.

Robina is speaking at today’s *On board with safety* session, part of the Leading for quality strand supported by the NHS Institute, and in the afternoon will be part of a panel discussing the key issues for local leaders. She will also be at the BME leadership forum lunch in the Hub, supported by NHS North West.

The forum was established to help ensure that national health services

are meeting the needs of BME communities. Robina said: “We’re currently restructuring the forum to make sure it works collegiately and is consistent with the strategic direction of the NHS Confederation. Our membership is increasing and we’ve recently recruited a medical director and a child and adolescent psychiatrist to the forum.”

Robina is clear that diversity must be an integral part of patient safety and believes it is vital that leaders within the BME community are recognised, valued and supported.

“I really want the forum and the Confederation to operate in a way that delivers positive outcomes for members in real time.”

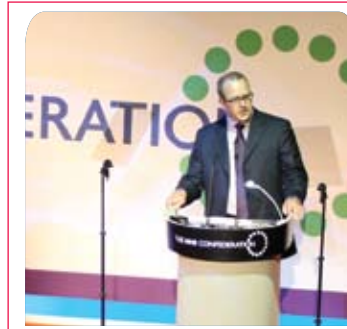
Meet her and other BME leadership forum members at today’s lunch in the Hub, 13:10 – 14:10. All are welcome and no booking is required.



At Wednesday's NHS Choices' reception delegates discussed the impact of the health information website, its development as a tool for healthcare professionals and as a new driver of service improvement through online feedback. Stand H24.



At this packed session yesterday Lloydspharmacy and Ricky Tomlinson recounted their recent experience of working with men to take their "heart health" seriously and demonstrated best practice in providing health checks in the community. Stand A35.



Steve Barnett and Andrew Lansley address conference yesterday

## Challenges for the next Government?

# Have your say



In the run up to a general election, we will be producing a report that will set out the key challenges in health and social care and the potential solutions. We need your help to compile this report. Visit the 'Challenges for the next Government?' display wall at the main auditorium, simply fill out a postcard and let us know your views.

What is the biggest challenge in health and social care that you think an incoming Government should tackle?

Can you think of a single policy idea that would have a significant impact on patient care or system management?

Don't miss your chance to have your say.  
haveyoursay@nhsconfed.org

Department of Health  
presence at Local leadership:  
a national service



Plenary session - main auditorium:

- Andy Burnham MP, Secretary of State for Health  
Thursday 12:20-13:05

Breakfast sessions:

- Preparing the NHS for Swine Flu - A Key Governance Issue  
Thursday 7:45-8:40, Room 11a
- Same-sex accommodation: your privacy, our responsibility  
Thursday 08:00-08:45, Room 3b

Workshop session:

- Quality at the heart of your NHS  
Thursday 11:15-12:30 Room 3a

Please don't forget to visit the DH stand A28, where you can pick up a free memory stick loaded with recent policy documents.

## Future of leadership series

In advance of conference, we published the first three papers in a series designed to stimulate thinking about the future of NHS leadership. We published the fourth paper, on dealing with the downturn, on the first day of conference. Copies of all the papers in the series are available at the NHS Confederation stand (H60).

The first paper, *Reforming leadership development... again*, was based on interviews with members and other health leaders. It explores two important questions: what are the real issues with NHS leadership and what solutions can best be provided by central or regional action?

The second paper, *Developing NHS leadership: the role of the trust medical director*, drew on seminars with current medical directors. It argues

for clearer expectations of the medical director role, increased support and more structured development opportunities.

The third paper, *Leading innovation*, drew on lessons from seminars and interviews with clinicians and managers involved in introducing innovation. It explores internal barriers to adoption and some potential solutions.

*Dealing with the downturn: our greatest ever leadership challenge?* explores the financial situation facing the NHS and suggests how NHS leaders should respond to the most severe contraction in finances they are ever likely to face.

Pick up copies of all the papers in the series from the NHS Confederation stand (H60) or visit our website at [www.nhsconfed.org/leadership](http://www.nhsconfed.org/leadership)

## Don't miss today

Sign up at registration for these three sessions:

- Using evidence based information and population health management to deliver high quality care, supported and delivered by UnitedHealth UK, 9:00 – 10:15 in room 1c
- Leading change through technology, supported and delivered by BT, 11:00 – 12:15 in room 3b
- Meeting the challenge for clinical leadership, supported and delivered by Arup, 16:30 – 17:30 in room 12.

- Sign up for Transforming critical care (room 11a) 09:00 – 10:15 at any information point.
- Turn up to the Hub at 15:30 for the Reputation management session.

## Changes to today's timings

**In the main auditorium:** Health secretary Andy Burnham's speech will now be before lunch between 12:20 – 13:05. Lunch will be served between 13:05 – 14:15.

**All the strand sessions listed in your guide and mini guide for 11:15 – 12:30 will now take place between 11:00 – 12:15.**

**Supporter session:** Leading change through technology (BT session) will now be between 11:00 – 12:15 in room 3b.

**In the Hub:** If you believe... (King's Fund session) will now take place between 10:15 – 11:00. The BME lunch reception will now be between 13:10 – 14:10.

### Cancellation – NHS Wirral site visit

We're sorry to let you know that due to circumstances beyond our control the NHS Wirral site visit on Friday morning has been cancelled. For more information about NHS Wirral or St Catherine's Hospital please contact Amy Sclater on 0151 6513961 or visit [www.wirral.nhs.uk](http://www.wirral.nhs.uk)

### Mike O'Brien MP

We're pleased to welcome Mike O'Brien MP to conference today. He has just become the latest minister to take responsibility for NHS Connecting for Health and NHS IT.

### Nigel Edwards takes to the stage

The NHS Confederation's policy and communications director will now be joining Friday's panel discussion in the main auditorium at 11:30. Be sure to go along and see his take on just how tough it is going to get.

### NHS Employers – your questions answered

Meet Siân Thomas in her new role as director of NHS Employers from 9am today. Room 4.

### Launch of the public health commissioning network

Come and see Dr Tim Riley, chief executive of Tameside & Glossop PCT and Sir Muir Gray, consultant in public health, NHS Evidence, launch the public health commissioning network. Friday morning at 10:30-11:30 in room 3b.

## What do you think of conference?

*"Great location, great contacts – a perfect networking opportunity"*

Fr Paul Mason, Catholic Bishops' Conference in England & Wales

*"Personally it has been a good learning experience to understand about the NHS in its entirety and how the jigsaw fits together"*

Toby Edwards, Search Consultancy

*"I was so delighted to find out that crèche facilities were available. We have been made so welcome it's ideal."*

Dr Qulsom Fazil, Non Executive Director, Birmingham East and North PCT

## What are you thinking?

Your feedback is much appreciated and helps us plan the event for 2010. You will receive an evaluation form on the final day of the event, and also a smaller form at each session you attend. However, should you have any comments or queries in the meantime please visit us at the NHS Confederation stand (H60) or email [annualconference2009@nhsconfed.org](mailto:annualconference2009@nhsconfed.org)

## Q&A with Alastair Campbell

We put a few questions to Alastair Campbell, who will speak at the conference today.



**What is your proudest achievement?**

Helping Tony Blair win three successive elections, which helped changed Britain for the better.

**What was the last book you read?** *Wilt* by Tom Sharpe.

**Do you have any guilty pleasures that you like to watch on television?**

Georgie Thompson on Sky Sports News.

**Who have you worked with that you admire most?**

Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, Bertie Ahern.

**How does politics recover from the recent expenses scandals?**

Obviously the worst abuses have to be severely dealt with but politicians have to do a better job of standing up for politics. There is a danger of all other debate being drowned out so we end up with a form of media-mob rule. There has to be reform of salaries and expenses but from the position that politics matters.

**What are your favourite and least favourite things about the NHS?**

My favourite thing is its very existence, which gives comfort and strength and is one of the things that make Britain a great place to live. My least favourite thing is the state of A and E departments on a Saturday night. That is not the NHS's fault though.

## Get up to 20% off at Liverpool's bars, restaurants, shops and leisure attractions

Visit the NHS Confederation at stand H60 to collect your discount card, exclusively available to 2009 conference delegates. Simply show your delegate badge and discount card at participating venues, and you can benefit from:

- up to 20% off top brands at participating stores
- fantastic food and drink offers at a selection of Liverpool's bars, restaurants and cafes
- 20% discount on entry to the world famous Beatles Story attraction
- money off at a range of cultural and leisure attractions city-wide.

Also on the stand today:

10:15 – 11:15: Find out how our Health Services Research Network is helping to promote the use of health services research across the NHS.

12:30 – 13:30: Elisabetta Zanon, director of our NHS European Office, will be available to discuss the significance of European legislation for the NHS.

15:30 – 16:30: David Worskett, director of our NHS Partners Network, will talk about how the network is supporting independent sector providers to become a vital part of our modern healthcare system.

On the stand tomorrow:

10:30 – 11:30. Find out about our associate membership scheme from Andrew Escott, head of our commercial relations team.

We look forward to seeing you there.