Welcome to Issues brief.

Each week this email provides a summary of news and issues relevant to our external stakeholders. Areas covered include Department of Health consultations or reports, parliamentary questions or debates and news from other regulators and professional bodies. We also provide a round-up of news from within the HCPC and relevant media coverage.

Issues brief can be found on the HCPC website > Publications > Issues brief

1. Parliament

Scotland vote “No”

Scotland has voted to stay in the United Kingdom after voters decisively rejected independence. With the results in from all 32 council areas, the "No" side won with 2,001,926 votes over 1,617,989 for "Yes".

To read online click [here](#)

The House of Commons, House of Lords, Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament and Northern Irish Assembly are in recess

2. Regulation

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has made "substantial improvements"

An independent report has concluded that the NMC has made “substantial improvements” against the four areas outlined by the 2012 strategic review. The review, carried out by KPMG, details the progress the NMC has made against the recommendations made in 2012. It particularly highlights that the NMC’s focus is clearly set on its core purpose of protecting the public.

To read online click [here](#)
Department of Health launch consultation on plans for Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings to be displayed

The Department of Health has launched a consultation on plans to ensure that all providers given ratings by CQC display those ratings to help the public see how they are performing and make more informed choices about their care.

To read online click here

General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) seeks views on draft guidance for registered pharmacies providing internet and distance sale, supply or service provision

The GPhC has launched a consultation on its draft guidance for registered pharmacies providing internet and distance sale, supply or service provision.

To read online click here

General Optical Council (GOC) responds to NHS call to action

The GOC has published its response to NHS England’s “Improving eye health and reducing sight loss – a call to action”, emphasising its commitment to ensuring that regulation enables developments in the delivery of eye care that are to the benefit of patients and the wider public.

To read online click here

General Dental Council (GDC) responds to Dental Protection

The GDC has rejected a recent claim by Dental Protection in a press statement, that the GDC has unnecessarily progressed many of the complaints it receives through its fitness to practise (ftp) processes. The GDC have also rejected Dental Protection’s claim that they see no potential for improving their fitness to practise system.

To read online click here and to read Dental Protection’s statement click here

3. Social care

Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS): “Cuts forcing English councils to limit social care”

Almost 90 per cent of councils in England no longer offer social care to people whose needs are ranked low to moderate, ADASS has said. The group is warning cuts are making the care system "unsustainable". The government says councils have been given an extra £1.1billion to help protect social care this year.

To read online click here
**Care Quality Commission (CQC): “Improvements needed in community mental health care”**

Too many people who use NHS community mental health services are not effectively involved in planning their care and do not know who to contact in a crisis according to the CQC. Following a survey of more than 13,500 people who use community mental health services in England, Dr Paul Lelliott, CQC’s Deputy Chief Inspector of Hospitals has warned services that failure to improve could be reflected in the ratings they receive from next year.

To read online click [here](#)

**New Care Act workforce planning tools launched**

New tools launched by Skills for Care and the National Skills Academy for Social Care, will support employers implement the Care Act, when it comes into effect in April 2015.

To read online click [here](#)

### 4. Health and policy

**NHS staff vote in favour for strike action**

NHS workers in England have voted in favour of striking over pay. Two-thirds of Unison members, which include nurses, healthcare assistants and porters, said they were prepared to take action. Three other unions – the Royal College of Midwives, GMB and Unite – have also balloted members and results are expected in the coming weeks. NHS staff have received a one per cent pay increase, but not for those who get automatic progression-in-the-job rises.

To read online click [here](#)

**NHS England publishes Annual Review**

NHS England has published its first Annual Review. The Review takes a look at some of their highlights over the last year and includes real life case studies which show how they have sought to put patients first.

To read online click [here](#)

### 5. HCPC news round up

**Call for research proposals on newly qualified registrants' preparation for practice**

The HCPC are seeking proposals for research to explore preparation for practice among newly qualified professionals who have completed pre-registration education and training programmes approved by the HCPC.

To read online click [here](#)
Registration renewal update

Since Monday 1 September 2014 27.2 per cent of social workers and 39.3 per cent of operating department practitioners have renewed their HCPC registration. Both professions must renew their registration by Sunday 30 November 2014.

To read online click here