1) Update on NHS reforms

a) National developments

ai) The government’s ‘listening exercise’, asking for views about proposed reforms to the NHS, concluded at the end of May. The exercise was launched following a decision to ‘pause’ the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through parliament and into law. Amongst the changes set out in the Bill is the handover of commissioning of local health services from primary care trusts (PCTs) to GP consortia in 2013.

a ii) The House of Commons Health Select Committee has issued an invitation to submit written evidence for its enquiry into public health. The committee intends to scrutinise the changes to public health that will be legislated for in the Health and Social Care Bill. A range of issues will be considered by the committee during its enquiry including the following:

- the creation of Public Health England within the Department of Health
- the abolition of the Health Protection Agency and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse
- the future role of local government in public health (including arrangements for the appointment of Directors of Public Health, the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies)
- arrangements for public health involvement in the commissioning of NHS services
- arrangements for funding public health services
- how the government is responding to the Marmot Review on health inequalities

The deadline for written responses is 13th June. Visit www.parliament.uk to read about the process in full or how to submit evidence.

b) Merseyside PCT Cluster

Work is on track to establish the Merseyside PCT Cluster, which brings NHS Sefton together with PCTs in Knowsley, Liverpool and Halton and St Helens. The Department of Health has said that all PCTs must cluster by June. This will help organisations ensure continued good performance during the transition period to the new NHS structures. NHS Sefton will still be a separate organisation, and its Board remaining accountable for the commissioning of local health services right through the transition. However, clustering will consolidate skills, maintain capacity and strong leadership through to 2013. It will also allow room for emerging GP consortia and Health and Wellbeing Boards to develop to ensure they are ready to take on their full statutory role in 2013. Chief
Executive of Liverpool PCT, Derek Campbell, took up the role of chief executive of the Merseyside PCT cluster on the 3rd May. Gideon Ben Tovim has been named chair and Paul Acres, vice chair of the cluster.

c) Sefton’s Practice Based Commissioners
Sefton’s two Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) groups continue to prepare to take on the statutory duties of GP consortia in 2013. NHS Sefton is providing support to South Sefton PBC Commissioning Confederation and Southport and Formby PBC Commissioning Consortium, sharing skills and experience. Both PBCs are developing local services that are benefiting their patients by providing better care that is, in many cases, closer to home. Some examples of this work are included later in this bulletin.

2) Re-designed dermatology service brings care closer to home
From 1st April, a re-designed NHS community dermatology service has been operating in Sefton, giving patients more choice while continuing to provide high standards of care. The service treats common dermatology conditions like eczema, psoriasis, acne, rosacea and alopecia. Many conditions will always need to be dealt with in hospital, and complex and serious conditions will continue to be treated at Ormskirk, Aintree and the Royal Liverpool Hospitals as they always have. However, some treatments can be offered safely and more appropriately in community clinics by highly trained dermatology health professionals. Clinicians have led the redesign of the existing community dermatology service and have taken account of the experiences of those people who use it to make it even better. A survey of patients found that while they were very happy with the existing care they received from the community service, they wanted more convenient access. The re-designed service continues to operate from Bootle Health Centre, Southport Centre for Health and Wellbeing, Ainsdale Centre for Health and Wellbeing and Formby Clinic, along with two additional venues - Litherland Town Hall Health Centre and Maghull Clinic. Some clinics will be open longer in the evening, while appointments are now being offered to eligible patients living in care homes, making it more convenient.

3) Children’s ‘hub’ opens
The new children’s health hub inside Southport Centre for Health and Wellbeing welcomes its first patients through its doors this month. The hub brings together a range of different services in one place. Services like community paediatrics, physiotherapy, child and adolescent mental health services and speech and language specialists are moving into the centre in phases during June. This will ensure closer and more effective working between the different services involved in a child’s care. Some outpatient clinics currently provided at Ormskirk Hospital and Alder Hey will be running sessions later in the summer, providing easier access for hundreds of local families each year. The hub follows a major review of children’s services in north Sefton, looking in detail at the health needs of children and young people in the area and the existing health services in the area. Parents’ and patient groups’ views also informed the process. The hub will play a central role in improving care for children and young people with long term conditions, disabilities and complex needs – all priority areas identified in the review.

4) Sefton Quality Awards
The outstanding work of NHS Sefton’s staff was celebrated at the Quality Awards in March. Around 200 staff and guests attended the ceremony at Formby Hall Golf Club. It was an opportunity to pay particular tribute to the 1,300 staff who work in Community Health Services prior to their transfer to new provider organisations.
Chief Executive’s Awards were presented to Sefton Children’s Trust for the development of the new health hub and to Ann Bisbrown-Lee, Chair of Sefton Local Involvement Network. Winners in the eight other categories were:

- **Innovation** - Sefton Intelligence Team and the Service Development Learning Disability Commissioning Team
- **Team of the year** - Business and Estates Team and the Patient Safety Team
- **Working in partnership** - Practitioner Performance Team and NHS Partnership Working
- **Enhancing self care and independent living** - Community Intermediate Care Team South and the Patient and Public Information Team / Psychology Team
- **Enhancing public health and creating healthier communities** - HMP Kennet integrated Drugs Treatment Service and Migration Awareness Development
- **Rethinking the patient care pathway** - Children’s Services Clinical Pathways Group and the Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service
- **Award for leadership** - Human Resources Team and the Primary & Urgent Care Team
- **Chair of Community Services Awards for Patient Experience** – Communications Team and Frances Jones – Children’s Occupational Therapy Team

5) **Award for innovative COPD pilot**

A pilot project helping people in South Sefton who live with severe breathing illnesses was named a winner at the first North West Respiratory Awards. The project is funded by South Sefton Practice Based Commissioning Confederation, the local South Sefton GP pathfinder consortium, and led by NHS Sefton. It focuses on the breathing illness, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), which is the second highest cause of emergency admissions to hospital in Sefton. The team from NHS Sefton devised a programme that supports patients to better manage their condition, and at the same time trains all GP practice staff to spot symptoms earlier, avoiding unnecessary hospitalisation for their patients. It focuses on six practices with the highest number of patients with conditions like chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Initial results of the pilot show it has reduced the number of people admitted to hospital because of their COPD.

6) **Gynaecology services closer to home**

Another pilot developed by South Sefton Practice Based Commissioning Confederation is giving women more choice about where they can go for assessment and treatment of gynaecology problems. Liverpool Women’s Hospital assisted in the development of the service, looking at which treatments could be seen appropriately in a community clinic rather than hospital. It currently runs at the May Logan Centre in Bootle one day a week offering those women referred there easier access to this service.

7) **Consultation: the future of children’s heart surgery in England**

Patients, parents and the public are being invited to have their say on the future of children’s heart services. It is part of a national consultation around proposed changes to the way these vital specialised services are delivered to ensure they are ‘Safe and Sustainable’ for the future. The consultation document, Safe and Sustainable, sets out the introduction of new national quality standards, developing children’s heart networks and pooling surgical expertise. It is proposing four options to reduce the number of hospitals providing children’s heart surgery from 11 to six or seven to improve results for children. The review also proposes that many non surgical services, such as diagnosis, assessments and ongoing care, are provided closer to families’ homes. Consultation event have been organised during the four month period and a texting service will also be available shortly. The consultation closes on 1st July 2011. Visit the Safe and Sustainable...
8) National Bowel Cancer Awareness Month
Sefton residents aged 60 to 74 year olds are being encouraged to simply pick up their post for free bowel cancer screening! During National Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, NHS Sefton reminded people that carrying out the test by using the easy screening kit posted through their letterbox really can save lives. Bowel cancer kills an average of 100 people in Sefton each year but nearly all cases can be treated successfully if they are detected early. For some people it can be an embarrassing subject but the test can be done in the privacy of your own home and then simply sent away by freepost for analysis. Everyone aged 60 – 74 is sent a bowel cancer screening kit to their home address every two years. Those who need a replacement screening kit, or who think they should have received one before now are urged to call freephone 0800 707 60 60.

9) Dying Matters Awareness Week
NHS Sefton and its partners across the North West have been encouraging people to talk with friends and family about their wishes towards the end of their lives. A number of events were held in Sefton during Dying Matters Awareness Week, which aims to support people to talk openly about dying, death and bereavement. Specialist Palliative Care Nurses based at Southport Hospital will join with representatives from Queenscourt Hospice to give advice to local residents at Tesco in Southport. They were accompanied by the i-Van, a special information vehicle. People were encouraged to climb on board for advice and information about having these conversations with their loved ones. Research for Dying Matters has previously found that many people have specific wishes about their end of life care or what they would like to happen to them after their death. However, a reluctance to discuss these issues makes it much less likely that these will be met and despite 70% of us saying that we’d like to die at home, 60% of people currently die in hospitals - illustrating the importance of talking openly about our wishes if we want them to be met. For further information about the Dying Matters Coalition, call freephone 0800 021 4466 or visit the website at www.dyingmatters.org

10) Choose to lose
A new free weight management course, called ‘Choose to Lose’, has been launched running at venues across the borough. The six week course supports weight loss, healthy eating and encourages more physical activity. Participants are offered to be weighed and their waist measurement recorded each week to track progress. The hour long session also looks at setting realistic and manageable goals, shopping for the right foods, better understanding of food labels, cooking healthier meals and information on physical activity. Sefton residents can find out about the course by calling Healthy Sefton on 0300 100 1000 or by visiting the website www.healthysefton.nhs.uk Healthy Sefton can also give information about a range of other courses and support to help them lead a healthier lifestyle, such as stopping smoking and getting active.

Sefton residents with queries about any aspect of their health or health services should call PALS, our dedicated Patient Advice and Liaison Service, on 0800 218 2333

Looking Local is our digital TV health information service for Sefton. Virgin Media and many interactive cable and digital TV viewers can access Looking Local by pressing the ‘interactive’ button. On Sky, go to channel 539 and press the red button. Go online or via a web-enabled mobile phone at www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/nhssefton Download a free Looking Local app for your iPhone