

***Policy News – Edition 6***  
***12<sup>th</sup> October 2006***

**1. Medical experts launch global campaign against salt**

Nearly 200 medical experts from 48 countries around the world have joined up to launch a new global organisation, WASH - World Action on Salt and Health - in a concerted effort to reduce dietary salt intake to less than 5g per day per adult (the WHO target), in order to lower blood pressure globally. Read more at:

<http://www.hyp.ac.uk/cash/preview/wash/media/docs/launch%202006/internationalwashlaunchreleasefinal.doc>

*Forwarded by Angela Towers, NW Food & Health Task Force*

**2. Launch of Women Against Lung Cancer campaign**

The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation has launched one of its biggest campaigns - Women Against Lung Cancer. British women are being asked to join the fight against the disease which is the biggest cancer killer amongst women in the UK.

Launched on Tuesday 26th September, fronted by actress Dame Judi Dench, the campaign's Patron, and honorary head of Campaign Dame Gill Oliver, who is a trustee of the Foundation.

Women Against Lung Cancer has been set up because of the alarming rise in the number of young women who are contracting the disease and aims to raise awareness of the lung cancer, increase funding and tackle issues such as blame and stigma.

Women Against Lung Cancer's first priority will be to put pressure on government to address chronic under funding.

Its aims are:

- To raise awareness of the lung cancer epidemic
- To increase funding for lung cancer research, and in particular, research into the early detection of lung cancer
- To ensure that lung cancer patients receive the best treatment and care
- To free lung cancer patients from blame and stigma

Women are being urged to go onto the new website [www.walcuk.org.uk](http://www.walcuk.org.uk) to sign a petition and to email politicians in support of the campaign. Please look at this website and add your support!

Dame Judi Dench, who lost her actor husband Michael Williams five years ago to lung cancer has written to nearly 200 leading women, calling on them to join her in leading the campaign.

*Forwarded by Tina Williams, National Clean Air Aware manager, The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation*

**3. Urgent Care Direction of Travel Discussion: Speech by Lord Warner**

This is a transcript of the speech made by Minister for Reform (Lords) Lord Warner to the Direction of Travel for Urgent Care Stakeholder Event on 4 October 2006. He talks about the need for change and the wider context of the consultation that is looking at how to improve people's experience of urgent care.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=30790&heading=e-mail+alert>

4. **Health Challenge England** - next steps for Choosing Health sets out how the Department has been developing this new approach to public health, which aims to ensure that all sectors of society can contribute to the nation's health.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=30786&heading=e-mail+alert>

5. **Health Profile of England**

The Health Profile of England provides a collection of national and regional data to provide a yardstick against which people can compare data from their own local health profile.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=30785&heading=e-mail+alert>

6. **Practice-based Commissioning: An introduction for a local authority audience**

This pamphlet, designed specifically for a local authority audience, contains an introduction to practice-based commissioning and illustrates its potential through examples of how it is already being used in a care services context.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=30801&heading=e-mail+alert>

7. **Action on Stigma: Promoting mental health, ending discrimination at work**

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/searchreport.asp?id=30800&heading=e-mail+alert>

8. **In the news...**

#### **North-south health divide remains**

There is still a significant north-south health divide in England, government data has revealed.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6033023.stm>

#### **Firms urged to help mentally ill**

Employers are far less likely to employ people with mental illnesses than those with physical ailments, a report shows.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/6034193.stm>

#### **Dentists quit after new contract**

More than 1,600 dentists in England quit the NHS in the first three months since a new contract was introduced, according to official figures.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6035791.stm>

The following items have been forwarded by ChamPs Health Network:

**Smokers' babies.** Pregnant teenagers are deliberately smoking in the hope of having smaller babies so giving birth is easier, it has been reported.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uklatest/story/0,,-6123947,00.html>

**Exercise surprise.** Giving young children more physical exercise does not stop them becoming obese, a new study has shown.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,,1888963,00.html>

**Cancer bias.** Some cancer patients are facing unfair dismissal and discrimination at work, a BBC investigation revealed.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/5402554.stm>

**Jabs GP accused.** A doctor accused by a senior judge of peddling "junk science" as an expert witness" for child immunisations is facing action by the General Medical Council.  
<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/news/0,,1885378,00.html>

**Trials - why wait?.** Waiting for the results of randomised trials of public health interventions can cost hundreds of lives, especially in poor countries with great need and potential to benefit. If the science is good, we should act before the trials are done  
<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/short/333/7570/701?ehom=>

**Fitness bus.** Football stars have helped give schoolchildren across Liverpool a one-way ticket to healthier lifestyles. Everton striker Andrew Johnson and England women's goalkeeper Rachel Brown were at the launch of a new schools fitness bus.  
[http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/liverpooldailypost/news/regionalnews/tm\\_headline=everton-stars-team-up-to-help-youngsters-get-fit%26method=full%26objectid=17875698%26siteid=50061-name\\_page.html](http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/liverpooldailypost/news/regionalnews/tm_headline=everton-stars-team-up-to-help-youngsters-get-fit%26method=full%26objectid=17875698%26siteid=50061-name_page.html)

**Bad piggy.** The BLT sandwich is an icon, the ultimate symbol of convenience culture. Tesco alone sells 5 million a year. This is what the £1.80 you pay for your BLT buys...  
[http://www.theecologist.org/archive\\_detail.asp?content\\_id=622](http://www.theecologist.org/archive_detail.asp?content_id=622)

**Pub smoking ban "has improved health"** The ban on smoking in public places will improve health, if a study in the Irish Republic is any guide.  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,8122-2377002,00.html>

**Disney to advertise on fruit.** Mickey Mouse, SpongeBob and the Tasmanian Devil are coming to a produce aisle near you.  
<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060912/HEALTH/609120303/1242>

**Brace yourself!** Autumn is upon us and the common cold is ready to inflict its misery. Is there anything we can do?  
<http://lifeandhealth.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,1882665,00.html>

**Scientists find a dirty way to fight hay fever.** Allergies could soon be treated using new drugs that trick the immune system into thinking it is under attack, according to scientists.  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,13509-2378103,00.html>

**Epidemic could be key to bird flu**  
The 1918 "Spanish" that killed up to 50 million caused an over reaction in immune system.  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,8122-2378101,00.html>

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