

HRI Ltd Newsletter

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Health news

In a report on the future healthcare of London, Dr Ara Darzai, Professor of Surgery at Imperial College, London has proposed radical changes to the NHS and the services that it offers. This will involve the provision of most GP services and up to 50% of outpatient treatments in ‘polyclinics’ rather than traditional hospital settings and surgeries, freeing up hospitals to concentrate on more complex and specialist work. The idea behind it is to bring healthcare closer to people’s homes thereby saving money and improving access to services. Since making these proposals, Prof. Darzai has been appointed Health Minister to the Labour government so no doubt we’ll be hearing a lot more from him in future.

There has been a mixed reaction by the public and medical professionals to these ideas which are the latest in a seemingly never-ending series of reforms and restructuring which, according to some commentators, patients are heartily sick of. Where London leads, the rest of the country

tends to follow however and if these plans come to fruition and the 150 polyclinics are built and made operational over the next 10 years, it is likely that similar ideas will be rolled out to other large cities in the rest of the country.

Newsflash

Further to the opening paragraph of this newsletter, the target-driven approach to public services which was one of the defining characteristics of the Blair regime has been scrapped as part of a sweeping reform announced recently. Out of 110 targets introduced by the Labour government over the last 9 years, only 30 will be retained and this will effectively mean that control will be handed back to NHS Trusts and other public sector stakeholders. The government seems keen to change the common perception that they are holding a big stick over the NHS; by scrapping so many targets all at once they want to be seen to be adopting a more ‘hands-off’ approach.

One target that is still very firmly on track however is the 18 week hospital waiting time pledge which is due to be implemented by the end of 2008. Primary Care and Hospital Trusts are working diligently towards this as we speak but most, if they want any chance of succeeding in the delivery of this objective, will have to increase staff numbers, thus reversing the trend for downsizing which has dominated reports in the media in recent years. This is where nurses and allied health professionals come in as your skills and experience may well be in demand as the UK’s biggest employer approaches the deadline and workforce planning strategies are found to be woefully inadequate.



Jobs in Scotland

Do you fancy having your CV put forward for a job in Scotland? It's a wonderful part of the British Isles with lots of hospitals crying out for experienced nurses and allied health professionals. See HRI Ltd's newsletter 3, Winter 2006 (available on our website, www.hospitalrecruitment.com) for more information about the Scottish Highlands which may inspire you to consider working there, or elsewhere in Scotland. For more information about what jobs are available, please contact Kate at: kates@hriconsult.com

The Lake District

The Lake District nestles in the North West corner of England just below Scotland and as the name suggests, is rather watery. It is an extremely popular tourist destination and comprises 12 lakes, numerous picturesque villages and towns, woods and beaches. Also very much in evidence are around 214 hills or fells as they are known in this part of the world, one of which goes by the quaint name of Great Cockup! These fells are what attract a large proportion of the many visitors who come here for walking and adventure holidays every year, enjoying the rugged terrain and spectacular scenery afforded by the largest National Park in England.

The Lake District is also closely associated with the arts and literature and a number of very famous poets and writers lived in the area and were inspired by the magnificent views. The 19th century poet William Wordsworth wrote The Daffodils, one of the most well-known poems in the English language, while on a walk around Lake Ullswater where he was entranced by 'a host of golden daffodils'. Beatrix Potter is another famous ex-resident of the area and many of her children's stories were set here including the Peter Rabbit books. In fact the recent Hollywood blockbuster 'Miss Potter' starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor was recently filmed here showcasing the majestic landscapes with which the district abounds.

With the start of the school holidays and many more people staying put this year, taking holidays in the UK rather than abroad, the Lake District is likely to be busier than ever. There are plenty of health jobs available to cater for this seasonal influx, as well as for those who call this delightful part of England home all year round.

Next featured area: The Home Counties in the Autumn issue

Check out our website at: www.hospitalrecruitment.com

