



Personal, Fair and Diverse



Paula Vasco-Knight's EDS Update



It has been a very busy time for the EDS over the last few months. As the landscape has changed we have had to ensure that we keep pace with it whilst also supporting existing and emerging organisations understand the power and effectiveness of the EDS. I would like to thank EDC members who have supported the EDS Programme Office and me. Without your help we would not have made the progress we have.

There has been lots of great engagement across the country at many events and conferences – see the table below with some highlights of what has been accomplished. These events provide us valuable insight and feedback on what is happening on the ground enabling us to focus on where we can make a real impact to support the NHS. For example, our meeting with 150 voluntary and community organisations representing vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, patients and carers has helped to produce an easy read guide in partnership with Mencap to support these groups to engage in the process locally. Also, as the public sector Equality Duty approached there was much call from organisations for advice and support on how the EDS can help to set their equality objectives.

Recent Events	Date
Race for Health and Strategic Seminar - London	15 March
BME Women's Health Seminar - Nottingham	16 March
Women's VCS Event - Newcastle	19 March
EDS & Voluntary Sector Conference - London	23 March
DRD Forum - London	27 March
EDS Train the Trainer Sessions - London	February / March

We have also seen progress in the regions on the implementation of the EDS including four SHA clusters and a number of PCTs moving from amber to green, plus ambulance services making good progress on the EDS dashboard the full version of which is in the annex below.

Next Steps

While much has been achieved, work goes on to integrate the EDS within the new architecture of the NHS, including CCGs, and work to coordinate implementation in the regions will continue apace over the next few months. This includes:

- [The Good Engagement Guide](#) Launch Conference on 10 May 2012 at the Birmingham International Convention Centre.
- EDS evaluation to find out what has worked so far and what needs to be improved in the initial stage of the EDS implementation.
- Compiling a list of EDS GP Champions and hosting a workshop for them, as part of our ongoing work to support CCGs to implement the EDS.
- Collating case studies and best practice stories so that they can be shared with NHS colleagues across the country.

To keep in touch with news about EDS implementation please visit the [EDS website](#) where we keep the EDS documentation, guidance and other information.

NHS Equality Team

Going forward, EDS Policy and Strategy will be led by Helen Limbert and Habib Naqvi from the NHS Equality Team in the Department of Health. Building on the work of Ray Warburton, who was a great advocate for the EDS, Helen and Habib will continue the work he started, embedding EDS in the authorisation of CCGs and Commissioning Support Services. They will also be working closely with colleagues in the NHS Commissioning Board Authority to ensure that EDS is central as the new NHS system becomes a reality.

Contact Details

If you would like further information about the EDS work programme here are the key contacts:

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