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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Emergency presentations of cancer: quarterly data (12/07/18)

The [quarterly emergency presentations](#) of cancer data has been updated by Public Health England's National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS). This latest publication includes quarterly data for October to December 2018 (quarter 3 of financial year 2017 to 2018) and an update of the one year rolling average.

Data estimates are for all malignant cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) and are at CCG level, with England for comparison. The proportion of emergency presentations for cancer is an indicator of patient outcomes.

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Children/Young People/Families

The relationship between family violence and youth offending (11/07/18)

Councils only want the best for the children and young people in their communities, but many children struggle to cope with the challenges they experience. Facing continuous family violence and without recourse to adequate help when they need it, some young people go on to be involved in the youth justice system.

This [report](#) from the Local Government Association examines the risk factors and commissioning interventions that support the protective factors, the link between family violence and youth offending can be broken.

Growing up neglected: a multi-agency response to older children (06/07/18)

This [report](#) examines the multi-agency response to older children who are living with neglect following 6 inspections of local authority areas. The inspections reviewed practice in children's social care, education, health services, the police, youth offending services and probation services.

This report is part of the programme of joint targeted area inspections which examine how well agencies are working together in local areas to help and protect children.

[Local Government Association](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

JRF: A Minimum Income Standard for the UK 2008-2018: continuity and change (02/07/18)

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) is based on what the public think we all need for a decent minimum living standard. This year's update includes new research on what working-age adults and pensioners say is needed, and looks back at ten years of MIS research.

The research shows that:

- Minimum household budgets have risen by about a third since 2008 for most household types, and a half for pensioners, compared to a 25% rise in the Consumer Prices Index.
- Many costs have remained stable, but some have changed substantially, restricting and restraining families on lower incomes. For example, transport costs have risen from around 10% to nearly 20% of minimum household budgets, other than for pensioners who receive free bus travel.
- Technology is increasingly important as part of a social minimum. A laptop, broadband internet and a basic smartphone cost less today than paying for a landline telephone and a pay-as-you-go mobile did in 2008.

The [report](#) from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) recommends that the Government could help three million low-income families to keep more of their earnings and improve their standard of living by increasing the Work Allowance under Universal Credit.

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Communities and Local Government

Kent County Council: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting 20 July 2018

The [agenda and reports pack](#) for this committee meeting have been published. The reports pack includes document on the following topics:

- Transforming Health and Care in East Kent
- East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust: update
- Getting in Right First Time (GIRFT) Orthopaedics Pilot: East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust
- Wheelchair Services in Kent

- Kent and Medway NHS Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT): update
- East Kent Out of Hours GP Services and NHS 111 (Written Update)

Adult personal social services: specific revenue funding and grant allocations for 2018 to 2019 (09/07/18)

This [letter](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, clarifies local authority specific revenue funding for the financial year 2018/19, which was subject to the 2015 Spending Review.

This includes information on the Local Reform and Community Voices, Social Care in Prisons and War Pensions Disregard grants. It also provides information on funding for the fourth year of Care Act implementation, which comes from a range of sources in 2018/19, as well as details of some elements of the Better Care Fund.

Local Authority Health Profiles: 2018 (03/07/18)

The [2018 Local Authority Health Profiles](#) have been published by Public Health England.

The Local Authority Health Profiles pull together existing information in one place and contain data on a range of health and wellbeing indicators for local populations. They are intended as 'conversation starters' to highlight local issues and priorities for members, and for discussion at Health and Wellbeing Boards.

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Drugs/Alcohol

Drug and alcohol treatment outcomes: measuring effectiveness (12/07/18)

Public Health England (PHE) collects information about users of alcohol and drug misuse services. This includes the outcomes of treatment.

Keyworkers can use the [treatment outcomes profile](#) as a clinical tool to support the treatment planning process. It can help structure conversations with patients and set treatment goals.

Drug health harms: national intelligence (05/07/18)

These [briefings](#), from Public Health England, are for directors of public health, commissioners, drug treatment services and needle and syringe programmes.

They contain information on the health harms associated with drug use from meetings of the national intelligence network (NIN). This includes recent information and intelligence on blood-borne viruses, bacterial infections, mental and physical health harms and drug-related deaths. The briefings are published to help inform commissioning and service provision and to improve practice in local services.

For previous national intelligence network briefings, visit the [UK Government Web Archive](#).

Support unit for family drug and alcohol courts faces closure (09/07/18)

[Children and Young People Now](#) reports that the national unit which supports the work of [family drug and alcohol courts \(FDACs\)](#) is facing closure due to a lack of funding, with an "emergency" meeting due to be held this week in a bid to save it. The unit supports the work of the 10 FDACs, which bring the judiciary and multi-agency services together to help substance-misusing parents involved in care proceedings to quit their addiction and keep their family together.

The [FDAC National Unit](#), which costs around £250,000 a year, is run by the children's charity Coram and Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust. It supports the expansion of FDACs, evaluates their work and provides training as well as helping to coordinate their work on a national level. The unit has relied on Department for Education innovation funding since 2015 but this money runs out in September and a new source of income has yet to found.

A Brunel University [evaluation](#) of FDACs reported that mothers and fathers who go through the FDAC process are more likely to quit drugs and alcohol before care proceedings finish. FDACs are also regarded as saving money by reducing the number of children taken into care, cutting the amount the NHS spends on drug and alcohol treatments for parents, and lowering the number of families who end up in care proceedings repeatedly.

Local Alcohol Profiles for England: July 2018 update (03/07/18)

Public Health England (PHE) has published an [update](#) to Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE).

The LAPE interactive tool presents a range of alcohol-related indicators. This release includes an update of the alcohol-related cancer and alcohol-related road traffic accident indicators.

The Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) provide information to monitor the services and initiatives that have been put in place to prevent and reduce the harmful impact of alcohol.

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Education

Protecting children during outbreaks: immunisation in schools (12/07/18)

This [brief guidance](#) from Public Health England covers:

- the rationale behind offering vaccination in schools during an outbreak
- the evidence of the effectiveness of programmes delivered in schools
- a range of consent advice.

It is suitable for healthcare professionals, headteachers and all school staff.

Meet 'The Byrnes Family' with KFRS (06/07/18)

Families across Kent and Medway look set to live safer lives thanks to the help of a cartoon family called 'The Byrnes Family', which was officially unveiled at the Kent County Show by [Kent Fire and Rescue Service \(KFRS\)](#).

The new approach in helping youngsters understand safety at home, on the road and around water follows extensive research into pioneering techniques into behaviour change, which has helped Kent Fire and Rescue Service develop the new 'family safety' product.

A [website](#) dedicated to the Byrnes family is designed to be a resource for learning about family safety and having fun at the same time. The Byrnes family also has a Facebook page, as well as featuring in a series of live animations, activity books and puzzle sheets.

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End of Life/Palliative Care

End of life care profiles: July 2018 data update (03/07/18)

The end of life care profiles data [update](#) for July 2018 has been published by Public Health England (PHE). The profiles are designed to improve the availability and accessibility of information around end of life care.

The profiles provide a snapshot overview of end of life care across England. They are intended to help local government and health services to improve care at the end of life.

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Homes that help: A personal and professional perspective on home adaptations (06/07/18)

The homes that people live in significantly impact on their wellbeing and their ability to live their lives the way they want to. Older people spend more time in their homes and immediate neighbourhood than any other age group. Most people over 65 live in what is called 'mainstream' or 'general needs' housing (as opposed to specialist housing or residential care), and most own their homes.

While many people will maintain good health and fitness for much of their later life, the majority of us will, at some point, experience some difficulties carrying out day-to-day activities. More than a quarter of men aged over 65 and nearly a third of women struggle with at least one of the 'Activities of Daily Living', such as washing, dressing and eating – approximately 3.3 million people.

This [report](#) by the Centre for Ageing Better is based on interviews carried out by Northumbria University, with older individuals and their families, as well as professionals including Occupational Health specialists, handyman services and local authority staff. It finds that older people with health conditions and mobility issues are delaying making vital changes to their homes, such as installing handrails and ramps, due to the off-putting and stigmatising appearance of products, as well as the complexity in getting support and information.

[Local Government Association](#)

Housing, planning and homelessness: Moving the conversation on (03/07/18)

In life every one of us needs a stable and secure home, it is central to leading healthy, fulfilled and productive lives. But for too many people housing is unavailable, unaffordable, or not appropriate for what they need.

Councils are currently providing temporary housing to over 200,000 homeless people, over half of whom are children. Last year there were 4,751 rough sleepers living on our streets – more than double the number recorded in 2010.

This [paper](#) from the Local Government Association is one of a series, [Moving the Conversation On](#), on local government investment for the future.

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Health Care

The NHS 10-year plan: how should the extra funding be spent? (12/07/18)

The government has announced increases in NHS funding over five years, beginning in 2019/20, and has asked the NHS to come up with a 10-year plan for how this funding will be used. After eight years of austerity, growing financial and service pressures within the NHS and the changes brought about by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, there is now an opportunity to tackle the issues that matter most to patients and communities and to improve health and care.

[Professor Sir Chris Ham and Richard Murray](#) of the King's Fund write that the centrepiece of the new plan should be a commitment to bring about measurable improvements in population health and to reduce health inequalities. Health outcomes in the UK are not as good as those in many comparable countries despite recent progress in some areas such as cancer survival rates. Action is required across government as well as in the NHS to give greater priority to prevention and to tackle the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. Goals for improving health should be set following widespread consultation with the public and stakeholders.

See also [blog](#)

GP partnership review: key lines of enquiry, call for evidence (10/07/18)

The independent review will examine the challenges currently facing the partnership model and look for solutions to reinvigorate the model to support the transformation of general practice.

This [call for evidence](#) sets out the current lines of thinking and describes 4 emerging themes:

- workload issues
- workforce issues
- the role of general practice in the local healthcare system
- the business model of general practice.

The independent review was announced by Jeremy Hunt in May 2018. It is led by Dr Nigel Watson. The review will report to the secretary of state and the chief executive of NHS England, providing interim conclusions in autumn 2018 and a final report at the end of 2018. [Terms of reference](#).

The Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Review: use of pelvic mesh (10/07/18)

In February 2018, the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, announced a review into how the health system responds to reports from patients about harmful side effects from medicines and medical devices. The announcement in the House of Commons followed patient-led campaigns on the use of the hormone pregnancy test Primodos, anti-epileptic drug sodium valproate and pelvic mesh.

The Review is chaired by Baroness Julia Cumberlege and will be independent of the Government, NHS, regulatory and other public bodies, and the pharmaceutical and medical devices industries. This week the review called for an [immediate halt](#) of the use of surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence.

The government and NHS have [accepted](#) the recommendation. The use of vaginally inserted surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence will be paused until a set of conditions to reduce the risk of injury are met.

Brain tumours (primary) and brain metastases in adults, NG99 (07/18)

It is estimated there are around 10,000 new cases of primary brain tumours per year. These tumours come from the brain tissue or its coverings – the meninges. Over 60% of people with primary brain tumours present at, and are diagnosed by, accident and emergency services rather than from conventional GP or specialist referral. This causes a significant demand on these services. Although primary malignant brain tumours represent only 3% of all cancers, they result in the most life-years lost of any cancer. There is concern that the true incidence of these tumours is rising.

This [guideline](#), published by National Institute for Health and Social Care (NICE), covers diagnosing, monitoring and managing any type of primary brain tumour or brain metastases in people aged 16 or over. It aims to improve diagnosis and care, including standardising the care people have, how information and support are provided, and palliative care.

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Measles outbreaks across England (11/07/18)

Between 1 January 2018 and 6 July 2018 there have been 757 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England. This is compared to 587 up to 31 May 2018. Cases were reported in most areas with London (268), the South-East (161), South-West (118), West Midlands (85) and Yorkshire and Humberside (73) reporting the most cases (based on provisional figures).

The increase in measles circulation is mainly associated with travel to and from Europe where there are large ongoing measles outbreaks.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can sometimes lead to serious complications and can be fatal in very rare cases. [Public Health England](#) is advising the public to ensure they have had 2 doses of MMR vaccine. Young people and adults aged 15 and over who missed out on MMR vaccine when they were younger and some under-vaccinated communities have been particularly affected.

Anyone who has not received 2 doses of MMR vaccine is at risk, but young people in environments with close mixing such as festivals are more at risk, as well as unvaccinated people travelling to Romania and Italy, where there are currently large outbreaks. Anyone planning to travel to Europe should check [NaTHNaC travel health advice](#).

See also [Measles: confirmed cases](#)

Amesbury nerve agent incident: update (10/07/18)

Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer [advises](#) that:

"Nobody, adult or child, should pick up any foreign object which could contain liquid or gel, in the interests of their own safety. This in practice means do not pick up containers, syringes, needles, cosmetics or similar objects, made of materials such as metal, plastic or glass."

"You do not need to seek advice from a health professional unless you are experiencing symptoms. If you are concerned, you should call NHS 111 and Wiltshire Police has also established a helpline to offer further advice: 0800 092 0410."

[Home Secretary's update to Parliament on Amesbury incident](#), 09 July 2018

[Home Secretary's initial statement to Parliament](#), 05 July 2018

[What we know so far](#), BBC News, 11 July 2018

The Green Book: updates (10/07/18)

The [Green Book](#) has the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures, for vaccine preventable infectious diseases in the UK.

The most recent updates are:

[Rabies, chapter 27](#)

[Varicella, chapter 34](#)

Malaria in the UK: annual report (06/07/18)

Malaria does not occur naturally in the UK but travel-associated cases are reported in those who have returned to the UK or arrived (either as a visitor or migrant to the UK) from malaria-endemic areas.

This [report](#) presents data on malaria imported into the UK, based on figures reported to Public Health England's Malaria Reference Laboratory (MRL).

See also [Imported malaria in the UK: statistics 2000 to 2017](#)

Precautionary advice on cooking frozen vegetables following Europe-wide listeriosis outbreak (03/07/18)

The [Food Standards Agency](#), Food Standards Scotland, Public Health England and Health Protection Scotland are reminding people that most frozen vegetables, including sweetcorn, need to be cooked before eating. This includes if adding them to salads, smoothies or dips.

Frozen sweetcorn is the likely source of an ongoing outbreak of listeriosis affecting five European countries including the United Kingdom. Listeriosis is a rare but serious foodborne illness caused by the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes* that can be more serious for those individuals who have weakened immune systems and also the elderly, pregnant women and infants.

[List of products](#)
[Update](#)

Meningococcal Working Group report (02/07/18)

The Meningococcal Working Group was established in January 2018 at the request of the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care. The working group was made up of experts in the field and representatives from the relevant Royal Colleges, meningitis charities, and families affected by meningococcal disease.

The group was set up to assess what more needs to be done to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease among parents, young people and healthcare professionals with a view to improved assurance of early diagnosis and treatment.

This [report](#) sets out 12 recommendations aimed at organisations and bodies that have a role to play in improving awareness and early diagnosis of sepsis and meningococcal disease. The report has been sent to these organisations and they have been asked to set out how they plan to respond by the end of September 2018.

Rabies: update (02/07/18)

Rabies is an acute viral encephalomyelitis caused by members of the lyssavirus genus. The disease may be caused by rabies virus genotype 1 (classical rabies) or less commonly by rabies-related lyssaviruses. The presentations are clinically indistinguishable. Rabies-related lyssaviruses implicated in human disease include European bat lyssaviruses (EBLVs) and Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV).

Infection is usually via the bite or scratch of a rabid animal, most frequently a dog. In some parts of the world, other animals are important sources of exposure. In parts of Europe (including the UK) EBLV-1 and EBLV-2 are found in insectivorous bats and have occasionally caused human disease.

[Rabies risks in terrestrial animals by country](#)
[Rabies post-exposure treatment: management guidelines](#)

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Inequalities/Minorities

Understanding well-being inequalities: Who has the poorest personal well-being? (11/07/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published [analysis](#) of the characteristics and circumstances associated with the poorest life satisfaction, feeling the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety in the UK, from 2014 to 2016.

People with the poorest personal well-being were most likely to have at least one of the following characteristics or circumstances: self-report very bad or bad health; be economically inactive with long-term illness or disability; be middle-aged; be single, separated, widowed or divorced; be renters; have no or basic education.

Three groups of people at risk of having the poorest personal well-being were identified as:

- unemployed or inactive renters with self-reported health problems or disability
- employed renters with self-reported health problems or disability
- retired homeowners with self-reported health problems or disability

Measuring socioeconomic inequalities in avoidable mortality in England and Wales: 2001 to 2016 (13/07/18)

The Office for National Statistics presents [figures and analysis](#) for avoidable mortality in 2001 to 2016 for England and Wales using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to measure socioeconomic inequalities.

Main points include:

- In England and Wales, mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases have significantly decreased since 2001 for those living in the most deprived areas; however, the largest declines over time were observed in the least deprived populations ranging from 60% to 73%.
- Mortality rates for respiratory diseases have increased since 2001 in England and Wales for those living in the most deprived areas; the largest increases were observed in Wales of 60% for males and 63% for females.
- In Wales, 351.9 deaths per 100,000 males and 234.6 deaths per 100,000 females could have been avoided had mortality rates in the least deprived areas prevailed in the most deprived areas; similar figures were also observed in England.
- In England in 2016, males and females living in the most deprived areas were 4.5 times and 3.9 times more likely to die from an avoidable cause than those in the least deprived areas.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

CQC annual report and accounts 2017/18 (12/07/18)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its [annual report and accounts](#) for the period 2017 to 2018.

Highlights include:

- Completing more than 17,000 inspections and seeing an overall improvement of ratings, with more services rated as good and outstanding compared with 2016/17.
- Starting our next phase of more targeted and tailored regulation underpinned by our substantial investment in digital technology to transform the way we collect, process and share information.
- Carrying out several local system reviews of how local health and care systems work together
- Issuing 2,283 enforcement actions to hold providers to account where they were found to be putting people at risk of poor care, including five criminal prosecutions in 2017/18.
- Recommending that 720 providers or locations enter special measures because of serious failings in care. Of the 704 providers that exited special measures, 479 did so because they had made enough improvement.
- Publishing principles for regulating new models of care and a report on the quality of online primary care providers
- Encouraging providers to improve through the Driving improvement case study report series that highlights acute trusts, adult social care services, mental health trusts and GP practices
- Rolling out new mobile technology to support staff on inspection.

NHS Apps Library reaches 70 apps in honour of the NHS birthday (06/07/18)

Patients can access a range of new tools on the [NHS Apps Library](#), offering personalised advice, self-care and signposts to health services.

Since the launch of the Apps Library, [NHS Digital](#) has worked with more than 350 developers to include new apps. This inspired the milestone of 70 apps in honour of the 70th birthday celebrations of the National Health Service.

The library will continue to grow and cover many more health and care needs. The new apps cover a diverse range of topics including, among other things:

- support to prevent and manage diabetes including diet, exercise and lifestyle change
- mental health apps offering advice and support on managing thoughts, feelings and behaviour and coping with panic attacks
- apps to support personal wellbeing and a healthy lifestyle
- tools to help manage the symptoms of chronic conditions such as asthma and high blood pressure
- support to cope with the impact of breast cancer.

The therapeutic and medicinal benefits of cannabis-based products: a review of recent evidence (03/07/18)

Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Medical Adviser to the UK government, has [reviewed evidence](#) for the therapeutic benefit of cannabis-based medicinal products.

The review summarises the results of recent reviews and discusses the quality of evidence. This review forms part of a series of measures announced by the Home Secretary on 19 June 2018 looking at the [scheduling](#) of cannabis. Its conclusion signals the start of a second review, which will be led by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD).

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Integrated Health and Social Care

NAO: The health and social care interface (04/07/18)

The population's health and social care needs have changed greatly since the National Health Service (NHS) was established in 1948. People are now living longer, often with multiple and complex conditions that require managing. However, the division of care into two separate systems – health and social care – has not fundamentally changed over that time.

There is widespread consensus among health and social care professionals, the NHS and policy-makers in government that the changing needs of the population require changes to the way health and social care services are organised and delivered.

This 'think piece' from the [National Audit Office \(NAO\)](#) draws on past work, in which it has highlighted the barriers that prevent health and social care services working together effectively, examples of joint working in a 'whole system' sense and the move towards services centred on the needs of the individual. The report also draws on recent research and reviews by other organisations and aims to inform the ongoing debate about the future of health and social care in England. It anticipates the upcoming green paper on the future funding of adult social care, and the planned 2019 Spending Review, which will set out the funding needs of both local government and the NHS.

[Social Care Institute for Excellence](#)

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Long-term Conditions

National Paediatric Diabetes Audit Report 2016-17: Care processes and outcomes (12/07/18)

The National Paediatric Diabetes Audit (NPDA) was established to compare the care and outcomes of all children and young people with diabetes receiving care from Paediatric Diabetes Units (PDUs) in England and Wales. The audit is commissioned by the Health Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), funded by NHS England and the Welsh Government, and is managed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

The 14th Annual Report of the National Paediatric Diabetes Audit report provides an analysis of data submitted by healthcare professionals caring for infants, children and young people with diabetes in England and Wales over 2016/17. It includes details of the prevalence of diabetes, compliance with healthcare checks and clinical outcomes recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, and recommendations for improvements in care for the growing number of children with Type 1 or 2 diabetes

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management, NG100 (07/18)

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an inflammatory disease largely affecting synovial joints. It typically affects the small joints of the hands and the feet. It is a systemic disease and so can affect the whole body, including the heart, lungs and eyes.

The incidence of the condition is low, with around 1.5 men and 3.6 women developing RA per 10,000 people per year. The overall occurrence of RA is 2 to 4 times greater in women than men. The peak age of incidence in the UK for both men and women is the 70s, but people of all ages can develop the disease.

This [guideline](#), published by the National Institute for Health and Social Care (NICE), covers diagnosing and managing rheumatoid arthritis. It aims to improve quality of life by ensuring that people with rheumatoid arthritis have the right treatment to slow the progression of their condition and control their symptoms. People should also have rapid access to specialist care if their condition suddenly worsens.

See also [Rheumatoid arthritis in over 16s, QS33](#), a quality standard published in June 2013 which has been updated.

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Maternity/Infants

See [Screening](#)

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

National Clinical Audit of Psychosis: Core Audit Report 2018 (12/07/18)

This report presents the findings from the core audit of the National Clinical Audit of Psychosis (NCAP). The audit has focused on four issues relating to the quality of care provided for people with psychotic disorders: management of physical health, prescribing practice, access to psychological therapies and outcomes. Twelve audit standards and two outcome measures were developed to address these issues.

People with psychosis often require intensive, long-term treatment and care from a multi-professional team and a range of service types. This means that the quality of care they receive is an indication of the overall quality of mental health services. Thus, this report is a valuable source of information about the quality of NHS mental health care across England and Wales.

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Young people between CAMHS and AMHS (10/07/18)

The [Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch \(HSIB\)](#) has published its second full investigation report to support a new learning culture around mistakes in the NHS.

The investigation reviewed the transition of care from child and adolescent (CAMHS) to adult mental health services (AMHS) to understand how variations in the transition impacts the safe and effective care of young people. Because of the investigation several recommendations have been made to national NHS organisations to make the transition smoother and safer for young people.

It is estimated that more than 25,000 young people transition from child and adolescent to adult mental health services each year, and research has identified that few of those receive an 'ideal' transition. Research suggests that, between 16 and 18 years old, young people are going through significant change and are potentially at their most vulnerable psychologically. Despite this, this is currently the age that young people are either transitioned to adult mental health services or discharged if they do not meet the criteria for adult mental health services.

[Full report and summary](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Healthy High Streets Challenge: case study (29/06/18)

Tasters Fried Chicken Shop in Tottenham, London has been trialling healthier options, with support from Healthy High Streets, a programme initiated by the [Healthy London Partnership](#).

With over a third of children leaving primary school overweight or obese, the [Healthy High Streets Challenge](#) was designed to help children and young people access healthier food options on London's high streets.

Shahid Majeed, owner and manager of Tasters, has been developing and testing a new, [healthier menu](#) for children and learning how to nudge the after-school crowd into giving it a try. The new, healthier menu features grilled chicken, salad and chunky chips (which are generally lower in calories than French fries) in controlled portion sizes and is pitched at the same price point (£1.30 to £2.50) as the existing fried chicken menu for children.

See also [Older People](#)

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Older People

Beyond barriers: how older people move between health and care in England (02/07/18)

'[Beyond barriers](#)', a new report from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), looks at how services are working together to support and care for people aged 65 and over.

Many older people have complex and long-term care needs that need more than one professional and more than one service. Their experience depends on how well services work together with and for them, their families and carers.

The CQC has completed a review of local health and social care systems in 20 local authority areas. It has also have also published a report for each area in this programme.

See also Social Care Institute for Excellence [Local Systems Reviews](#) and [blog](#) by Tony Hunter, SCIE chief executive.

Major health benefits from strengthening and balance activity (04/07/18)

An [evidence review](#) commissioned by Public Health England and the [Centre for Ageing Better](#) has found that muscle and bone strengthening and balance activities continue to have great health benefits for all adults, including older adults aged 65 years and over.

In older adults, poor muscle strength increases the risk of a fall by 76% and those who have already had a fall are three times more likely to fall again. Strengthening and balance activities not only help to prevent this, but also help improve your mood, sleeping patterns, increase your energy levels and reduce the risk of an early death.

For those at risk of falls or fracture, supervised structured exercise is also recommended at a pace that suits the individual to help maintain independence and support healthy ageing.

Activities found to have the most benefit for muscle and bone strengthening include:

- ball games
- racket sports
- dance
- Nordic walking
- resistance training (usually training with weights but including body weight exercises which can be performed anywhere).

[PHE news release](#)

See also [Environment/Transport/Housing](#)

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

NICE: Antibiotics should be restricted for COPD (09/07/18)

Healthcare professionals should consider the risk of antimicrobial resistance when deciding whether antibiotics are needed for treating or preventing a flare up of symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

These draft recommendations come as the National Institute for Health and Social Care (NICE) publishes draft [antimicrobial prescribing guidance](#) and a separate [update](#) to its 2010 clinical guideline on diagnosing and managing COPD in over 16s.

The draft antimicrobial guidance recommends that antibiotics should be offered to people who have a severe flare up of symptoms, also known as a severe acute exacerbation.

However other factors should be taken into account when considering the use of antibiotics for treating an acute exacerbation that is not severe, such as the number and severity of symptoms.

The guidance notes that acute exacerbations of COPD can be caused by a range of factors including viral infections and smoking. Only around half are caused by bacterial infections, so many exacerbations will not respond to antibiotics.

[news release](#)

Immunoglobulin: when to use (12/07/18)

Public Health England's [Immunoglobulin Handbook](#), provides guidance on administering immunoglobulin to prevent serious disease.

Varicella zoster Immunoglobulin (VZIG) is a scarce blood product that is offered to individuals at high risk of severe chickenpox following an exposure. This includes immunosuppressed individuals, young babies in their first week of life and pregnant women. VZIG is centrally procured and issued by Public Health England (PHE). When supplies of VZIG have been short in the past, restrictions have been placed on its use in pregnant women.

In response to a significant shortage of VZIG due to manufacturing issues, from 6 July 2018, VZIG will only be issued to susceptible pregnant women who have had a significant exposure to chickenpox or shingles in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy. This urgent advice has been considered and agreed between PHE experts and the chair of the JCVI varicella subcommittee. This group have also advised that, based on extensive safety evidence, pregnant women who are exposed after 20 weeks, should be offered the oral anti-viral drug, aciclovir (800mg four times a day from day 7 to 14).

Hepatitis B: vaccine recommendations during supply constraints (12/07/18)

Improved supplies of hepatitis B vaccine are expected in 2018. This [update](#) from Public Health England, provides information on the phased reintroduction of monovalent hepatitis B vaccine and advice on accessing vaccine for more patient and health and social care staff groups.

Hepatitis B immunisation recommendations have been developed considering the recent global shortages of hepatitis B vaccine affecting the UK supply.

These recommendations include advice on prioritisation and dose sparing to preserve adult and paediatric monovalent hepatitis B vaccine stock for those at highest immediate need.

Information sheets are also available on the use of combined hepatitis A and B vaccine in travellers, and advice for patients waiting for a dose of hepatitis B Vaccine.

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Public health approaches to reducing family violence (11/07/18)

Although there are different ways to reduce violent behaviour, a public health approach is being increasingly discussed, using an evidence-led methodology to reduce and prevent violence in communities.

This [report](#) from the Local Government Association provides an introduction to the subject, and asks three key questions:

What is a public health approach to reducing violence?

What does a public health approach tell us about violence?

Which public health interventions are promising in reducing violence?

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Safeguarding

Domestic Abuse: A Toolkit for Employers (12/07/18)

An estimated 1.9 million adults aged 16 to 59 experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Two women each week and one man each month are killed in England and Wales by a current or former partner. Domestic abuse is a hugely destructive problem.

Employers have an important role to play in society's response to domestic abuse. Employers owe a duty of care to employees and have a legal responsibility to provide a safe and effective work environment. Preventing and tackling domestic abuse is an integral part of this and the [toolkit](#), published by Business in the Community and Public Health England (PHE), and sponsored by The Insurance Charities offers guidance and support.

[PHE news release](#)

Working together to safeguard children: statutory guidance (04/07/18)

This 2018 version of [Working together to safeguard children](#) replaces the 2015 version. It is published by the Department for Education.

The transitional guidance helps explain how to move to the new arrangements. The statutory framework sets out the legislation relevant to safeguarding and it should be read alongside the statutory guidance.

This guidance is for: local authority chief executives; directors of children's services; chairs of local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs); teachers and education staff; social workers; health service professionals; adult services; police officers; voluntary and community sector workers in contact with children and families.

[NSPCC background and key changes](#)

From DoLS to liberty protection safeguards: proposed amendment of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (03/07/18)

The [Mental Capacity \(Amendment\) Bill](#) has been introduced to the House of Lords and seeks to replace the current system known as 'Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards' (DoLS).

DoLS is an assessment currently carried out on people who do not have the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care, for example because they are living with dementia. It was criticised by a 2017 Law Commission review for being too complex and bureaucratic.

The reforms seek to:

- introduce a simpler process that involves families more and gives swifter access to assessments
- be less burdensome on people, carers, families and local authorities
- allow the NHS, rather than local authorities, to make decisions about their patients, leading to a more efficient and clearly accountable process
- consider restrictions of people's liberties as part of their overall care package
- get rid of repeat assessments and authorisations when someone moves between a care home, hospital and ambulance as part of their treatment.

The reforms will also save local authorities an estimated £200 million or more a year.

Department of Health and Social Care [news release](#)

See also Social Care Institute for Excellence [Mental Capacity Act](#) and [DoLS](#) resources.

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Screening

Sickle cell and thalassaemia: screening handbook (06/07/18)

This [handbook](#), published by Public Health England, includes guidance for healthcare professionals who provide counselling and referral for prenatal diagnosis (PND) to couples and women at risk of having a baby with sickle cell disease or thalassaemia major.

The complete handbook covers all stages of the screening pathway.

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Sexual Health

2018 draft National Guidelines for the Management of Infection with Mycoplasma genitalium Consultation 08 July - 1 September 2018

The [British Association for Sexual Health and HIV](#) have published [draft 2018 National Guidelines for the Management of Infection with Mycoplasma genitalium](#) for [consultation](#).

Mycoplasma genitalium (MG) does not always cause symptoms and will not always need treatment, but it can be missed or mistaken for a different sexually transmitted infection, such as Chlamydia. MG but can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, which can leave some women infertile.

[NHS Choices Behind the Headlines](#)

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

Local Tobacco Control Profiles for England: July 2018 update (03/07/18)

The Local Tobacco Control Profiles data update for July 2018 has been published by Public Health England (PHE).

These profiles have been designed to help local government and health services to assess the effect of tobacco use on their local populations.

This [update](#) contains:

- new smoking prevalence data for 2017
- a new indicator measuring the gap between smoking prevalence in routine and manual and other occupations
- more recent data for lung and oral cancer registrations for 2014 to 2016 and new oesophageal cancer registrations data
- more recent data for smoking related fires and fatalities caused by them for 2016 to 2017

inequalities breakdowns for all these indicators.

Adult smoking habits in the UK: 2017 (03/07/18)

The Office for National Statistics and Public Health England have published this [annual report](#) on cigarette smoking among adults including the proportion of people who smoke, their demographic breakdowns, changes over time, and e-cigarettes.

Main points include:

- In the UK, 15.1% of people aged 18 years and above smoked cigarettes, which equates to around 7.4 million people in the population, based on our estimate from the Annual Population Survey.
- In the UK, 17.0% of men smoked compared with 13.3% of women.
- Those aged 25 to 34 years had the highest proportion of current smokers (19.7%).
- In the UK, around 1 in 4 (25.9%) people in routine and manual occupations smoked, compared with just 1 in 10 people (10.2%) in managerial and professional occupations.
- In Great Britain, 60.8% of people aged 16 years and above who currently smoked said they wanted to quit and 59.5% of those who have ever smoked said they had quit, based on our estimates from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.
- In Great Britain, 5.5% of people in 2017 said they currently used an e-cigarette, which equates to approximately 2.8 million adults in the population.

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Social Care/Welfare

Age UK analysis on unmet need in adult social care (09/07/18)

New [analysis](#) by Age UK highlights the enormous cost to the NHS of delayed discharges due to a lack of social care, and how more older people than ever are missing out on the vital care and support they need.

The numbers of older people in England who struggle without the help they depend on to carry out essential everyday tasks (ADLs), such as getting out of bed, going to the toilet, washing and getting dressed, have increased to a new high of 1.4 million, meaning nearly one in seven older people (14 per cent of the entire 65+ population) now live with some level of unmet need. This equates to a 19 per cent increase since 2015.

Age UK also found that among the 1.4 million people with unmet care needs, 307,581 require help with three or more essential activities, of whom 164,217 receive no help whatsoever from paid carers, family members or friends.

[Local Government Association](#)

What Works Centre for Children's Social Care (05/07/18)

The [What Works Centre for Children's Social Care](#) is a new initiative that seeks better outcomes for children, young people and families by bringing the best available evidence to practitioners and other decision makers across the children's social care sector.

Commissioned by the Department for Education, the Centre is currently being set up under two separate but jointly managed contracts, by a development team – a consortium led by Nesta and its Alliance for Useful Evidence, in partnership with the Social Care Institute for Excellence, FutureGov and Traversum – and its research partner led by CASCADE at Cardiff University.

[Children and Young People Now](#) reports that Sir Alan Wood, architect of recent reforms to local safeguarding arrangements in England, has been appointed the founding chair of the centre.

Storing up trouble - a postcode lottery of children's social care (02/07/18)

In September 2017, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children (APPGC) launched an inquiry into the causes and consequences of varying thresholds for children's social care.

This new report, [Storing up trouble](#), builds on the findings of the APPGC's first inquiry into the state of children's social care in England, [No Good Options](#) (March 2017), which shone a light on a system struggling to manage increasing and more complex demand in the context of dwindling resources. That inquiry heard that approaches to policy and practice varied across the country, with children, young people and families were receiving different levels of support and care.

The APPGC wanted to explore these findings further and find out the extent to which thresholds for accessing services vary across the country and whether thresholds are rising. Both reports are hosted on the [National Children's Bureau](#) website.

See also Social Care Institute for Excellence [resources for children's services](#) and [guest blog](#) by chair of Chair of All Party Parliamentary Group on Children, Tim Loughton MP.

[Local Government Association](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

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Workforce Development

Launch of new master's degree in Evaluation of Health Care Interventions and Outcomes (12/07/18)

A new master's degree in healthcare decision making has been launched by London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in collaboration with the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#).

The MSc, which takes 2 years to complete, will offer skills in health services research, health economics, outcomes research, and health policy.

It is aimed at professionals from a wide range of backgrounds, including the medical professions, pharmaceutical and medical devices industries, healthcare management, government and non-governmental organisations.

The MSc in Evaluation of Health Care Interventions and Outcomes will open for applications from September 2018 and the course will begin in April 2020. [Link for Enquiries](#)

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Workplace

Mencap Court of Appeal case decision on sleep-in shift payments to carers (13/07/18)

[Civil Society](#) reports that the Court of Appeal has reversed an Employment Tribunal judgment which could have cost the care sector £400m in back pay to staff. The ruling relates to social care workers who had been paid a flat rate for shifts where they slept in a patient's house or at a care home to provide support if necessary, known as "sleep-in shifts".

[Mencap](#) and [Care England](#) – the representative body for social care providers - went to the Court of Appeal in March to challenge an Employment Tribunal ruling, made in 2016 and upheld at appeal last year. The tribunal rulings, in favour of a sleep-in shift worker, Clare Tomlinson-Blake, found Mencap should have paid her the full minimum wage during sleep-in shifts.

The ruling would potentially have led to charities having to pay back pay and penalties to large numbers of staff, which care charities estimated would cost the sector £400m and result in some organisations going bankrupt.

[Local Government Association](#)
[Community Care](#)

New Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (09/07/18)

[Matt Hancock MP](#) was appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 9 July 2018.

He was Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport from 8 January 2018 to 9 July 2018. He was previously Minister of State for Digital from July 2016 to January 2018.

Matt Hancock is the MP for West Suffolk, having been elected in the 2010 general election. From 2010 Matt served as a backbencher on the Public Accounts Committee and the Standards & Privileges Committee. Matt entered government in September 2012 and has served in several Ministerial Roles, including for skills and business, and as Paymaster General. He oversaw the expansion of apprenticeships and championed the digital transformation of government.

Before entering politics, Matt worked for his family business, as an economist at the Bank of England, and as Chief of Staff to the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. He holds degrees from Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

[Ambitions for the future of the NHS](#), text of article by Matt Hancock for Health Service Journal 12 July 2018

[NHS Confederation](#)

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Produced by

Betty O'Callaghan, Knowledge Services Assistant

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