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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Links between the human papilloma virus (HPV) and prostate cancer (23/03/18)

A [study](#) carried out by researchers from the University of Catania in Italy has been published in The Ageing Male. [This review summarised](#) existing research on links between the human papilloma virus (HPV) and prostate cancer. The review has not established a definite link between HPV and prostate cancer. While the vaccine may arguably have benefits in terms of reducing risks of other rarer cancers in boys, such as anal and penile cancer, any link with prostate cancer has not been established.

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Children/Young People/Families

Living Wage Foundation: Life on low pay (19/04/18)

This [briefing](#), from the [Living Wage Foundation](#), sets out the findings from their polling of parents working full time but still not earning a wage they can live on. It highlights the difficult choices faced by workers earning little more than the government minimum across all areas of their lives.

Over a third of working parents on low incomes have regularly skipped meals due to a lack of money, and almost half have fallen behind on household bills.

Health visitor role extended as part of £45m initiative (17/04/18)

[Children and Young People Now](#) reports that some children and parents will be seen by health visitors at least eight times before their fourth birthday as part of an early intervention initiative designed to improve outcomes for children. Starting next month families in Blackpool will see the number of visits they get from health visitors rise from the statutory minimum of five to at least eight. It is the first time a town in England has committed to giving families more than the legal minimum of health visits.

The move is part of the £45m Blackpool Better Start programme, which seeks to boost the life chances of vulnerable under-fours in a town where around 30 per cent of children are born into poverty. A total of £1m of the overall programme fund has been set aside to transform the health visiting service.

Blackpool Better Start was founded in 2014 and is a partnership led by the child protection charity the NSPCC and also involves Blackpool Council, the NHS and community groups. It is one of five [Better Start](#) initiatives across England that received a share of £215m from the Big Lottery Fund to explore new ways to give young children a better start in life.

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Commissioning and Economics

Commissioning services for women and girls with female genital mutilation (FGM) (16/04/18)

NHS England has published [recommendations](#) for commissioners to make sure services meet the needs of women and girls with female genital mutilation (FGM) and to safeguard those at risk.

Best start in life: cost-effective commissioning (18/04/18)

An introductory video has been added to [this resource](#) to help local commissioners provide cost-effective interventions for children aged up to 5 and pregnant women.

Falls prevention: cost-effective commissioning (18/04/18)

An [introductory video](#) has been added to this [resource](#) to help commissioners and communities provide cost-effective falls prevention activities.

Integrated Commissioning for Better Outcomes: a commissioning framework 2018 (11/04/18)

The [Integrated Commissioning for Better Outcomes Framework 2018](#) is a practical tool for council and NHS commissioners to support improving outcomes through integrated commissioning.

A joint project of the Local Government Association and NHS Clinical Commissioners, it was developed in consultation with NHS and Local Authority commissioners and tested in workshops across seven NHS/Local Authority areas.

While the framework is primarily designed for use by commissioners in adult social care and the NHS, it is hoped that providers of services, people with personal budgets and other stakeholders are also engaged with locally.

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Communities and Local Government

KCC: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 April 2018

Kent County Council (KCC) has published the [agenda and reports pack](#) for this committee meeting.

Items on the agenda with supporting documents include

Kent and Medway Strategic Commissioner, with STP report
Transforming Health and Care in East Kent
East Kent Out of Hours GP Services and NHS 111
SECamb: Update
Patient Transport Service
Kent & Medway Integrated Urgent Care Service Procurement

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Education

The school curriculum in England (16/04/18)

This [briefing](#) from the House of Commons Library provides an overview of the curriculum in state-funded schools in England. It outlines what schools have to teach and at what ages. It also provides historical information on the development and revision of the national curriculum since its inception.

Home education in England (17/04/18)

This [briefing](#) from the House of Commons Library sets out the current position relating to home education in England and provides brief information on recent issues raised concerning home education.

Following on from earlier announcements, including in response to the Lord Soley's [home education bill](#), on 10 April 2018 the Government published a [call for evidence](#) on issues connected with home education which seeks views on a number of areas. The consultation closes on 2 July 2018.

The Government has also published draft versions of two guidance documents about home education for consultation, one intended for [local authorities](#) and the other for [parents](#).

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Young and Homeless 2018 (04/18)

A new report [Young & Homeless report 2018](#) explores the reasons why young people become homeless, the support available to them and areas that need to be improved.

The report is funded by Comic Relief and LandAid and published by Homeless Link.

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Health Care

Personal health budgets and integrated personal budgets: extending legal rights

Consultation 06 April to 08 June 2018

The Department of Health and Social Care is seeking views on giving more people the right to have personal health budgets and integrated personal budgets.

[Consultation document](#)

[Consultation survey](#)

See also Communities and Local Government

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Avian influenza: guidance, data and analysis (17/04/18)

The symptoms, diagnosis, management and epidemiology of avian influenza (bird flu). [Updated](#) to include a link to a new risk assessment under the heading 'Epidemiology': 'Avian influenza A(H7N4): risk assessment'

The [World Health Organization](#) has confirmed the first ever case of human infection with Avian Influenza A(H7N4) which has been detected in a person from China. This document provides further information and advice for clinicians and the public. The risk to UK residents within the UK is currently considered to be very low.

Imported malaria in the UK: statistics (17/04/18)

Epidemiological data for imported malaria in the UK. Data correction to [annual data table 1996 to 2016](#).

MRHA1 reference unit: reference and diagnostic services (17/04/18)

AMRHAI (antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infections) is the [national reference unit](#) for investigating AMR in healthcare-associated bacteria. A note has been added to the guidance for bacterial isolates requiring molecular screening for carbapenemase genes.

Clean-up work underway in Salisbury in next phase of recovery (17/04/18)

[Work](#) has begun in Salisbury to decontaminated sites potentially affected by the nerve agent attack. In total nine sites, three of which are in the city centre, have been identified as requiring some level of specialist cleaning.

Work to clean each site will involve a process of testing, removal of items which may have been contaminated, chemical cleaning and retesting. Sites will not be released back into use until test results and the work undertaken has been reviewed and approved by the government's decontamination science assurance group.

The current scientific assessment is that the remainder of Salisbury is safe for residents and visitors. Public Health England have reaffirmed that the risk to the general public is low.

[Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons \(OPCW\), findings](#) 12 April 2018

Women and HIV: Invisible no longer (09/04/18)

This [report](#), from Sophia and the Terrence Higgins Trust, outlines the findings of a study which aimed to explore the needs and experiences of women affected by HIV. It calls for improved opportunities for women living with HIV to participate in local service design and to reach senior HIV policy-making positions at a local and national level.

Terrence Higgins Trust [press release](#)

See also Sexual Health

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Inequalities/Minorities

Health equity (17/04/18)

PHE Evidence, resources and guidance from Public Health England and partners to help support national, regional and local areas to reduce health inequalities.

[Added public sector equality duty](#) reports to the collection.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Accessing Public Health England data (19/04/18)

[Details](#) of the services offered by the PHE Office for Data Release (ODR) and guidance on how to access PHE held data. You can book on the next webinar on [20 July](#)

ONS: Avoidable Mortality in the UK 2016 (18/04/18)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published a [release](#) on deaths from causes that are considered avoidable in the presence of timely and effective healthcare or public health interventions. Data are based on a revised definition of avoidable mortality (introduced in data year 2014) and a separate indicator for children and young people.

Main points include:

- In 2016, approximately 24% of all deaths in the UK were considered avoidable (141,101 deaths out of 597,206).
- Scotland had the highest rate of avoidable deaths for males and females compared with the other constituent countries of the UK, whereas England had the lowest rate.
- In 2016, deaths from neoplasms (cancers and other non-cancerous tissue growths) continued to be the leading cause of avoidable deaths in the UK.
- Amongst children and young people (aged 0 to 19 years) 34% of all deaths in the UK were considered avoidable in 2016.
- The highest number of avoidable deaths in children and young people in the UK in 2016 were from maternal and infant causes.

[Local Government Association](#)

Retrospective Review of Surgery for Urogynaecological Prolapse and Stress Urinary Incontinence using Tape or Mesh: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Experimental Statistics, April 2008 - March 2017 (18/04/18)

This [report](#) has been produced by NHS Digital, to investigate activity, summarised within Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data, for the NHS, in England, of patients who have had a urogynaecological procedure for the treatment of urogynaecological prolapse or stress urinary incontinence, including those where mesh, tape or their equivalents have been used.

The report has been undertaken to assist the NHS and others in establishing a clearer national picture of patients who have had such procedures. These statistics are classified as experimental and should be used with caution.

[A statement from NHS Digital on the vaginal mesh report](#)

Multimorbidity: a priority for global health research (18/04/18)

The [Academy of Medical Sciences](#) has published a first policy report which explores the growing challenge of multimorbidity in an international context.

Currently there is no commonly used framework for defining or understanding multimorbidity. Most health related research is focused on the prevention and management of disorders in isolation. It is therefore difficult to compile a coherent body of research in this area or develop evidence-based strategies for use in healthcare systems.

The [report](#) calls for a standardised definition and reporting system for multimorbidity, and recommends a series of research priorities to better understand: trends and patterns; the determinants and burden caused by common clusters of conditions; prevention; maximising benefits and limiting risks of treatments; organizing healthcare systems to better manage patients.

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Developing new models of care in the PACS vanguards (19/04/18)

This [independent report](#) was commissioned by NHS England as part of a package of support provided to primary and acute care system (PACS) vanguard sites by The King's Fund. The PACS model is an attempt to bring about closer working between GPs, hospitals, community health professionals, social care and others.

[An international perspective](#)

[Related material on new models of care](#)

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

NSPCC: Facebook tops list of sites used for online grooming (16/04/18)

In the first 9 months since it became a criminal offence to have sexual communication with a child there were 1,628 offences recorded by the police. For offences where the method of communication was known, apps owned by Facebook were used in over half of these cases as a way to contact and groom children. Figures show that since April 2017:

32.6% of grooming cases involved the use of Facebook
18.8% of grooming cases used the Facebook owned apps Instagram and WhatsApp
the second most-used app in grooming cases was Snapchat.

The [NSPCC](#) has started a new campaign, Wild West Web, and calls on Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, to tackle this problem by bringing in mandatory safe guarding rules which protect children online.

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Long-term Conditions

24-hour blood pressure monitoring 'better than one-off clinic checks' (19/04/18)

A [large cohort study has been published](#) in [New England Journal of Medicine](#) (abstract only). The study in Spain recruited patients over 10 years from 2004 to 2014 and followed them up until the end of 2014. The aim was to see how well 24-hour monitoring and one-off clinic measurement predicted risk of death.

The researchers found that 24-hour monitoring was much better than one-off clinic readings for predicting risk of cardiovascular death.

They also found that people with high blood pressure on the 24-hour reading but not the clinic reading (masked, or "missed", hypertension) had the highest risk of death. Most GP surgeries now offer a 24-hour blood pressure monitors you can borrow.

Exercise interventions and patient beliefs for people with hip, knee or hip and knee osteoarthritis: a mixed methods review (17/04/18)

Chronic peripheral joint pain due to osteoarthritis (OA) is extremely prevalent and a major cause of physical dysfunction and psychosocial distress. Exercise is recommended to reduce joint pain and improve physical function, but the effect of exercise on psychosocial function (health beliefs, depression, anxiety and quality of life) in this population is unknown.

Researchers conducted a review of the effect of exercise on physical, emotional and mental health for people with long lasting (chronic) knee or hip joint pain from osteoarthritis. The studies examined were from Europe, North America, Asia and Australasia, and included clinical settings, home exercise and sessions at leisure facilities. Studies included men and woman aged 45 years and over.

This major [review](#) of interventions is published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

COPD National Audit Programme (12/04/18)

The National Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Audit Programmes have published three new reports:

[Time to integrate care](#)
[Working together: Secondary care clinical audit 2017](#)
[Pulmonary rehabilitation, an exercise in improvement](#)

The reports are hosted by the [Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership \(HQIP\)](#).

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Maternity/Infants

Most UK women 'not nutritionally prepared for pregnancy' (16/04/18)

A [3-part series of reviews on worldwide preconception health, published in The Lancet](#), estimated that most younger British women are not nutritionally prepared for pregnancy due to their unhealthy lifestyles. The researchers said the preconception period is a good opportunity for healthcare professionals and others to encourage a healthy lifestyle, including a better diet. They also found that pregnancy planning is more common than previously thought, with around 60% of pregnancies worldwide being intentional.

Antenatal screening programmes: annual standards data collection (19/04/18)

[Data collection template](#) for the annual collection of data to measure performance against programme standards. Updated wording for consistency across all 3 antenatal programmes.

Guidelines for newborn blood spot sampling 2015 (19/04/18)

The [summary of the consultation's final outcome](#) has been added to the consultation webpages.

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health data and analysis: a guide for health professionals (17/04/18)

Explains how commissioners and health professionals can use data and analysis for decisions about mental health services and interventions.

[Updated guidance](#) to include a link to 'Children living with parents in emotional distress: 2010 to 2016'.

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

NIHR Signal: Swimming in seawater is linked with an increased chance of some illnesses (17/04/18)

People who swim in seawater have almost double the odds of experiencing any illness than people who avoid it. The specific illnesses linked to seawater exposure were ear and gastrointestinal illnesses, but the exact or absolute rates of infection are not available.

This [NIHR signal](#) is based on the first [systematic review](#), published in the International Journal of Epidemiology, to look at infection risk from swimming in seawater. The review gathered data from 40, mostly observational, studies. Studies were conducted in high-income countries; eight came from the UK.

The study does provide useful data to support public health information on the potential infection risk from swimming in seawater. For individuals, it will be important to put these small risks into context of the wider health benefits and enjoyment they may get from swimming.

[See also Maternity/Infants](#)

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Older People

Home safety: How to spot risks and prevent accidents (20/04/18)

[Independent Age](#), the older people's charity, has launched a new, free [advice guide](#) to help older people and their families identify and reduce some of the most common safety risks in their homes. More accidents happen in the home than anywhere else, and people over the age of 65 are most at risk of severe injury.

The guide (52 pages) is suitable for people who either own or rent their home and offers advice about simple and effective ways to tackle some of the most common safety hazards at home. It provides practical information on safety across a range of domestic areas such as fire, electricity, fuel, food and water.

Falls are the most common cause of accidents at home, and almost three-quarters of falls among people aged 65 and over result in arm, leg and shoulder injuries. 'Home safety' provides advice and information on minimising the likelihood of having a fall, including the installation of grab rails, and activities which can help improve strength, balance and flexibility.

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Safeguarding

Home Secretary announces measures to combat child sexual exploitation (18/04/18)

The Home Secretary Amber Rudd has [announced](#) nearly £2.6 million of funding towards tackling child sexual exploitation in the UK and across the globe. The announcement was made during a speech at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Summit.

Thinking about adolescent neglect - Luton review (04/18)

These [reports](#) were written by the Children's Society for the Luton Safeguarding Children Board as part of a review of research and practice around adolescent neglect.

The [full review](#) report describes the challenges for defining and working with adolescent neglect, looks at the impacts of neglect, and explains how it can be identified, assessed and responded to in practice.

The [briefing for professionals](#) provides a summary of key points on why adolescent neglect is important, when it is more likely to happen, what to look for and how to respond. It is aimed at all frontline practitioners whose work may bring them into contact with young people and parents or carers.

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Screening

Cervical screening: professional guidance (16/04/18)

Standards and guidance for healthcare professionals, managers and commissioners working in the NHS cervical screening programme.

[New guidance added](#): the role of the cervical screening provider lead.

Updated Health Guidance (19/04/18)

Information to help healthcare professionals; guidance updated with new statement on use of personal data and copyright.

[Baby at risk of having sickle cell disease: description in brief](#)

[Baby at risk of having thalassaemia: description in brief](#)

[Baby carries a gene for unusual haemoglobin: description in brief](#)

[Delta beta thalassaemia carrier: description in brief](#)

[Haemoglobin lepre carrier: description in brief](#)

[Haemoglobin E carrier: description in brief](#)

[Baby carries a gene for sickle cell: description in brief](#)

[Haemoglobin D carrier: description in brief](#)

[Beta thalassaemia carrier: description in brief](#)

[Sickle cell carrier: description in brief](#)

[Haemoglobin O Arab carrier: description in brief](#)

[Early pregnancy scan: brief description](#)

[Haemoglobin C carrier: description in brief](#)

Newborn and infant physical examination: programme handbook (19/04/18)

This [document](#) brings together all the guidelines that relate to the NHS newborn and infant physical examination (NIPE) screening programme

Updated: Minor correction to neonatal hip risk factors under Standard 4.

See also [Maternity/Infants](#)

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Sexual Health

Multi-drug resistant gonorrhoea in England: 2018 (20/04/18)

Microbiological and epidemiological information relating to multi-drug resistant gonorrhoea (MDRGC) in England, the first case being reported in March 2018. [Updated](#) to include HPR 12(14) first update report.

Public Health England (PHE) also [reports on its investigations](#) into a UK case of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* acquired abroad, with high-level resistance to azithromycin and resistance to ceftriaxone which are currently recommended for first-line treatment. The case has now been successfully treated with another antibiotic, ertapenem. It demonstrates the importance of safe sex.

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

Tobacco and smoking: policy, regulation and guidance (16/04/18)

[These documents](#) support local healthcare systems dealing with the harm of tobacco and provide guidance for manufacturers and importers on UK regulation.

Contents:

- England's policy on tobacco and smoking
- UK tobacco products regulation
- Tobacco and smoking data and statistics
- Evidence reviews
- Guidance for commissioners and stop smoking services
- Information and advice for healthcare professionals
- Guidance to support a smokefree NHS
- Guidance to support smokefree prisons and secure settings
- PHE protocol for engaging with the tobacco industry

Commissioners, service providers and the NHS can use these resources to help identify need and plan interventions to reduce smoking in their communities. Manufacturers, importers and retailers of tobacco products can find information to support compliance with UK regulation.

Visit the [E-cigarettes and vaping policy, regulation and guidance collection](#) for information and other resources on e-cigarettes and vaping.

E-cigarettes and vaping: policy, regulation and guidance (16/04/18)

Evidence on the impact of e-cigarettes, information on government policy and regulation, and guidance for organisations on vaping policies.

[This collection](#) includes information and guidance on e-cigarettes, including:

- Public Health England's (PHE) expert independent evidence reviews
- UK product and advertising regulation
- advice on developing vaping policies that maximise the potential of e-cigarettes in supporting smokers quit, while managing risks

Visit the [Tobacco and smoking policy, regulation and guidance collection](#) for information and other resources on tobacco and smoking. See above.

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Workforce Development

UKPHR Public Health Register: updates (04/18)

A [webinar](#) on the developments of the new Specialist Registration by Portfolio route.

Revised [supporting information](#) for those seeking registration via Defined Specialist route.

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Workplace

Workplace health: applying All Our Health (20/04/18)

This PHE evidence and guidance aims to help healthcare professionals encourage people to live healthy lifestyles at work.

It has been updated: 2013 sickness absence figures updated to 2016 statistics.

Undocumented Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK (19/04/18)

The UK Visas and Immigration section of the Home Office has [updated information](#) for Commonwealth citizens who are long-term residents of the UK and do not have documents to demonstrate their status. It explains their position and what they need to do.

Recent changes to the law mean that if you wish to work, rent property or have access to benefits and services in the UK then you will need documents to demonstrate your right to be in the UK.

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