

This bulletin brings together the latest public health and social care news, publications and information with direct links to full content. For more documents and previous issues of the Bulletin, go to

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Accident and Emergency

Is your call a genuine emergency? Make the right call (27/11/18)

[South East Coast Ambulance Service \(SECAmb\)](#) is urging people to remember to make use of all the alternatives to calling 999 if the situation they face is not a life-threatening or serious emergency.

SECAmb has been preparing for winter and is looking for support from the public. People are asked to make use of options for non-emergencies including calling NHS 111, making a GP appointment, visiting a minor injuries unit, speaking to a pharmacist or simply acting on a concern before it becomes more serious.

In the last two weeks, (12-25 November), SECAmb handled approximately 36,000 calls. Making use of all available NHS services will help ease the pressure on the 999 service and, in turn, the wider health system as activity rises towards Christmas and the New Year.

SECAmb has produced advice on when to call 999, and a winter preparedness check list.

Health and Social Care Secretary commits £12 million to South East Coast ambulances (29/11/18)

Matt Hancock, the Health and Social Care Secretary, has [confirmed](#) that patients in South East England will benefit from £12.28 million in new funding to support paramedics to get on the road faster. The South East Coast Ambulance Service will benefit from government capital funding, including £6.52 million for Medway, £5.52 million for Brighton and £0.24 million for Worthing.

The 'make ready hubs' allow ambulance trusts to improve turnaround times for their ambulance fleets by using specialist staff and facilities to quickly restock, refuel and clean ambulances, getting them back on the road faster and maximising paramedic time with patients.

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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Unfinished business: the national approach to improving cancer services in England 1995–2015 (27/11/18)

A new [report](#), from the Health Foundation and former National Cancer Director Professor Sir Mike Richards, looks back to the launch of the NHS Cancer Plan in 2000, which noted that England had poorer survival than in other European countries and promised that by 2010 'our 5-year survival rates for cancer will compare with the best in Europe'.

It finds that progress has been made on reducing mortality and improving the chances of survival and the experience of care, for people in England diagnosed with cancer. However, the gap in survival rates has not been closed.

The report sets out recommendations to help bring about radical improvements in early diagnosis and detection of cancer. It concludes that the disruption caused by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 led to a loss of momentum that is only recently being rebuilt.

[News release](#)
[Cancer Research UK](#)

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Children/Young People/Families

Evidence-based early-years intervention Report (14/11/18)

The [Evidence-based early years intervention Report](#) urges the Government to capitalise fully on the opportunity that early intervention provides to transform the lives of those who suffer adversity in childhood, while also saving long-term costs to Government.

The report, by the House of Commons, Science and Technology Committee, identifies examples of early intervention working well around the country, but also the challenges that local authorities and their partners currently face in delivering effective, evidence-based early intervention. It concludes that the overall provision of early intervention in England is fragmented, with varying levels of support, focus on evidence, and success.

[News release](#)
[Inquiry sessions and documents](#)

Statutory Guidance to Improve Young People's Well-being (16/11/18)

This [guidance](#) sets out the statutory duty placed on local authorities to provide appropriate local youth services to improve young people's well-being.

It is published by the Department for Education and Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

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Commissioning and Economics

National chlamydia screening programme (NSCP) standards (28/11/18)

Public Health England has published the 7th edition of [NCSP Standards](#), with links to latest British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) guidelines.

The NCSP standards support an evidence-based and cost-effective approach to delivering chlamydia screening. This document outlines the minimum standards for local implementation and should be used by commissioners and providers to form the basis for local screening plans.

See also Legislation/Crime/Prisons

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Communities and Local Government

A councillor's guide to civil emergencies (28/11/18)

The legal framework for responding to emergencies sets out clear roles and responsibilities, and emergency planning work relies heavily on established guidance and procedures which broadly apply across different types of emergency.

The Local Government Association has published this [document](#) to provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of councils, cabinet members, and ward councillors, in terms of ensuring preparedness and resilience, responding to, and recovering from emergencies.

Self care: councils helping people look after themselves (30/11/18)

The Local Government Association has published [case studies](#) on the promotion of self care. Self care is defined as being about giving people choice and control by helping them to decide how best to protect, maintain or improve their health and wellbeing.

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Drugs/Alcohol

Statistics on Drug Misuse, England, 2018 (29/11/18)

This [report](#) presents a range of information on drug use by adults and children drawn together from a variety of sources. It focuses on England only where possible although some statistics are only readily available at GB or UK level or for England and Wales combined.

The topics covered include: hospital admissions related to drug misuse; deaths relating to drug misuse; prevalence of drug use; drug dependence and treatment; drug seizures.

Key facts:

- 7,358 hospital admissions for drug related mental and behavioural disorders

- 17,032 hospital admissions for poisoning by drug misuse
- 2,503 deaths related to poisoning by drug misuses
- 9.0% of adults ages 16-59 took an illicit drug last year
- 19.8% of young adults aged 16-24 took an illicit drug last year.

[News release](#)

Drinkaware Monitor 2018: insights into UK drinking and behaviours (28/11/18)

[Drinkaware](#), the industry funded alcohol awareness charity, has published new findings from its series of Monitor reports aiming to explore drinking behaviours, attitudes and other insights amongst drinkers in England.

The latest [Monitor 2018 report](#) focuses on drinking behaviours, lifestyle and moderation. Whilst other national statistics and various research explores a range of drinking prevalence and attitudes, the 2018 Monitor report gathers insights based on an online sample of 8,906 UK adults aged 18 to 85, using segmentation and other measures not used elsewhere.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#) analyses the results.

Alcohol before 18 - What's the harm? (24/11/18)

Parents in the North East are being warned about the risks to their children from alcohol as a new campaign encourages them to delay the moment when their child first starts to drink.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#) looks at the campaign run by [Balance Getting the measure of alcohol](#), and the wider context of prevention.

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Kent awards new contracts for homelessness support services (29/11/18)

[Kent County Council \(KCC\)](#) has joined forces with several major providers of homelessness support to create a more accessible and consistent service for vulnerable people.

Following a competitive tender process, KCC has awarded homelessness charity [Porchlight](#) the contract to deliver support services in East and Mid Kent, while housing association and care provider Look Ahead has been awarded the contract for North and West Kent.

Similarly, in line with the council's corporate parenting duty, new contracts were also awarded to [Look Ahead](#), [Sanctuary Supported Living](#) and [YMCA Thames Gateway](#) to lead on the delivery of support services focused on homeless care leavers and 16/17-year-olds.

Each organisation will be leading a network of other homelessness support providers in their areas and working with KCC to develop services and provide a wrap-around approach to supporting homeless individuals. This may include help with tenancies, managing finances and accommodation.

Homelessness in Great Britain - The numbers behind the story (22/11/18)

New [analysis](#) from Shelter reveals that 320,000 people are recorded as homeless. This total consists of four elements:

- Homeless and living in temporary accommodation
- Rough sleeping
- Single hostel spaces

- Homeless and in temporary accommodation that has been arranged by Children's Services under the Children Act.

In the last year, the overall number increased by 13,000 people. This means one in every 200 people in Britain are homeless and sleeping on the streets or stuck in temporary accommodation, including hostels and B&Bs.

London reported the highest levels of homelessness, with almost 170,000 people or 1 in 52 without a place to call home. Other areas outside the capital are feeling the impact of the housing crisis too, including Brighton (1 in 67), Birmingham (1 in 73) and Manchester (1 in 135).

[Press release](#)

Prospect of disruption at ports (28/11/18)

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons expresses concern about the Department of Transport's readiness for a no-deal Brexit in its latest [report](#). The slow progress and poor communication around work to avoid this through schemes such as Project Brock (a replacement for Operation Stack which manages congestion of the M20 to Dover when ferry or rails services are disrupted) may lead to disruption at UK ports.

Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) safety review (22/11/18)

Earlier in 2018 there was a consultation on ways to make cycling and walking safer while supporting the government's ambition to increase cycling and walking. A number of ground-breaking initiatives have been announced, by the Department for Transport, as part of a 2 year action plan to improve [road safety](#):

- review the existing guidance in the Highway Code to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians
- invest £100,000 to support police enforcement by developing a national back office function to handle dash-cam footage
- improve enforcement against parking in cycle lanes
- appoint a cycle and walking champion
- encourage local authorities to increase investment in cycling and walking infrastructure to 15% of total transport infrastructure spending
- engage with cycling and walking bodies to develop a behaviour change campaign.

[News release](#)

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Health Care

Understanding the health care needs of people with multiple health conditions (11/18)

The NHS long-term plan needs to identify and address the complexity of the needs of people with multiple health conditions is the conclusion of a new [briefing](#) from the Health Foundation.

Key points:

Analysis of data from 2014 to 2016 for 300,000 people in England found that one in four adults had two or more health conditions, equating to approximately 14.2 million people in England.

Over half of hospital admissions and outpatient visits and three quarters of primary care prescriptions are for people living with two or more conditions.

In the least-deprived fifth of areas, people can expect to have two or more conditions by the time they are 71 years old, but in the most-deprived fifth, people reach the same level of illness a decade earlier, at 61 years of age.

[News release](#)

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Tuberculosis (TB) regional reports (30/11/18)

Public Health England has added 3 new reports to its [collection](#) of annual regional reports for the recent epidemiology of TB.

[Tuberculosis in London: annual review \(2017 data\)](#)

[Tuberculosis in the South East: annual review \(2017 data\)](#)

[Tuberculosis in the South West: annual review \(2017 data\)](#).

The rate of TB in London continues to decline. The 1,919 people notified with TB in London in 2017 was the lowest number since 2000; a rate of 21.7 per 100,000 of the population. This represents a 12% decline in numbers from 2016, and a 45% decrease from the peak in 2011, but remains over twice the rate across all of England in 2017. The biggest decline was in the highest burden areas: rates more than halved in Newham and Brent, which were the only boroughs with rates above 40 per 100,000.

The rate of tuberculosis (TB) in the South East continues to decline. In 2017, 539 people with TB were notified, a rate of 6.1 per 100,000 population. This was a small but continuous year-on-year decline from the peak of 9.7 per 100,000 in 2011, which followed a decade of increasing case numbers and rates. Out of the 9 PHE centres, the South East had the third lowest TB notification rate (below the England average of 10.2 per 100,000 population) and accounted for 10% of the 5,664 notifications in England. Most of the South East has very low rates of TB. In all but 4 upper-tier or unitary authorities (Slough, Reading, Southampton, and Windsor and Maidenhead), TB notification rates were below the national average.

HIV in the United Kingdom (29/11/18)

Public Health England has published [Progress towards ending the HIV epidemic in the UK: 2018](#) report, summary and appendix.

An estimated total of 102,000 people were living with HIV in the UK in 2017, with 8% (8,200) unaware of their infection. As a result of treatment, 87% of all people living with HIV have an undetectable viral load and are unable to pass on their infection to other people (this is widely known as 'Undetectable equals Untransmissible' or 'U=U').

The UK is one of the first countries to meet the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets, highlighting that prevention efforts are working in the UK.

[News release](#)

[House of Lords Library Briefing](#)

Seasonal influenza: guidance, data and analysis (28/11/18)

Public Health England has updated its [collection](#) on the symptoms, diagnosis, management, surveillance and epidemiology of seasonal influenza (flu).

The latest document is [Point of care tests for influenza and other respiratory viruses](#) to support hospital trusts considering testing during winter 2018 to 2019.

The Green Book: updates (26/11/18)

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

The most recent update is:

[Tetanus, chapter 30](#)

See also International

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Excess winter mortality in England and Wales: 2017 to 2018 (provisional) and 2016 to 2017 (final) (30/11/18)

In the 2017 to 2018 winter period, there were an estimated 50,100 excess winter deaths (EWD) in England and Wales. The number of EWD observed in 2017 to 2018 was higher than all years since the 1975 to 1976 winter period when there were 58,100 EWD.

Other points in this [release](#) from the Office for National Statistics:

- Excess winter mortality in 2017 to 2018 significantly increased from 2016 to 2017 in all English regions and Wales, with Wales having the highest regional index.
- Excess winter mortality continued to be highest in females and people aged 85 and over.
- Excess winter mortality doubled among males aged 0 to 64 years between 2016 to 2017 and 2017 to 2018.
- Over one-third (34.7%) of all excess winter deaths were caused by respiratory diseases.

Why are medical devices not regulated like drugs? (29/11/18)

How much is known about the safety and effectiveness of the implanted devices patients are offered? We may assume that pacemakers, neurostimulators, joint prostheses, and breast implants have been tested rigorously before being licensed for widespread use. But this week a major international investigation, involving 59 organisations and including The BMJ, finds device regulation unfit to protect patients from harm.

[BMJ Editorial](#)

[International Consortium of Investigative Journalists](#)

[BBC News](#)

[BBC One Panorama](#) (sign in or register)

National Record Locator Service (27/11/18)

NHS Digital has taken a step towards a more joined-up health and care system with the launch of the new [National Record Locator Service](#).

The service will enable triage personnel such as mental health nurses and paramedics, who are called to a patient in distress, to find out whether a patient they are treating has a mental health crisis plan. This will enable them to transport that patient to a more appropriate care setting than A&E or offer alternative, community-based care as indicated in the crisis plan.

This will improve patient safety and mental health outcomes, reduce duplicate care costs (within A&E and mental health services) and improve staff safety.

The launch is with selected partners, the most local of which are London Ambulance Services, and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. The scope of the National Record Locator Service will evolve over time but

demonstrating the capability through this first-use case is an important step in assisting NHS organisations in their plans to move towards better integrated care models.

Homelessness and rough sleeping research (19/11/18)

This [document](#) explains why the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is doing research to evaluate the effectiveness of rough sleeping interventions and provide estimates of the costs connected with homelessness.

It also explains what will happen to the information individuals provide as part of this study and their data protection rights.

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Primary care home and social care: working together (11/18)

The National Association of Primary Care (NAPC) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) have launched a joint publication on how adult social care and primary care can work more closely together through the primary care home (PCH) model, an established primary care network.

At a time when the health and social care community await both the new NHS 10-year plan and a green paper on social care, [Primary care home and social care: working together](#) leads the way in highlighting the opportunities for a more joined up approach to enhance support for those in the greatest need, enabling them to live as healthily and independently as possible.

Based on evidence and experience from across England, the guide examines barriers and challenges for integration and provides a toolkit for addressing the most common difficulties. It describes opportunities for collaboration and integration at the level of the individual patient, the local population and the wider system.

[News release](#)

See also Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

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International

Progress Toward Regional Measles Elimination — Worldwide, 2000–2017 (30/11/18)

Reported measles cases spiked in 2017, as multiple countries experienced severe and protracted outbreaks of the disease. This is according to an article published by leading health organizations in [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#). (open access).

Because of gaps in vaccination coverage, measles outbreaks occurred in all regions, while there were an estimated 110 000 deaths related to the disease.

Using updated disease modelling data, the authors provide the most comprehensive estimates of measles trends over the last 17 years. Since 2000, over 21 million lives have been saved through measles immunizations. However, reported cases increased by more than 30 percent worldwide from 2016.

The Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and Europe experienced the greatest upsurges in cases in 2017, with the Western Pacific the only World Health Organization (WHO) region where measles incidence fell.

[World Health Organization](#) news release

See also [Confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella in England and Wales: 1996 to 2017](#)

WHO: Why the HIV epidemic is not over (30/11/18)

1 December 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day – a day created to raise awareness about HIV and the resulting AIDS epidemics. Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 70 million people have acquired the infection, and about 35 million people have died. Today, around 37 million worldwide live with HIV, of whom 22 million are on treatment.

The theme of this World AIDS Day is Know Your Status. One in four people with HIV do not know that they have HIV. To bridge some critical gaps in the availability of HIV tests, WHO recommends the use of self-tests for HIV. WHO first recommended HIV self-testing in 2016, and now more than 50 countries have developed policies on self-testing. WHO, working with international organizations such as Unitaid and others, supported the largest HIV self-testing programmes in six countries in southern Africa. This programme is reaching people who have not tested themselves before, and is linking them to either treatment or prevention services. This World AIDS Day, WHO and the International Labour Organization will also announce new guidance to support companies and organizations to offer HIV self-tests in workplace.

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) summarises the history of HIV, and the work being done now.

See also [WHO Europe](#) which reports that new HIV diagnoses are at a high level in the region.

[World AIDS Day](#) website

Health at a Glance: Europe 2018 (22/11/18)

This [report](#) from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presents comparative analyses of the health status of EU citizens and the performance of the health systems of the 28 EU Member States, 5 candidate countries and 3 EFTA countries.

Part I includes a chapter focusing on the need for concerted efforts to promote better mental health. Mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety disorders and alcohol and drug use disorders, affect more than one in six people across the European Union in any given year. Besides the impact on people's well-being, the report estimates the total costs of mental ill-health at over EUR 600 billion – or more than 4% of GDP – across the 28 EU countries.

In Part II, the most recent trends in key indicators of health status, risk factors and health spending are presented, together with a discussion of progress in improving the effectiveness, accessibility and resilience of European health systems. It notes a slowdown in life expectancy gains in recent years in many European countries, including France, Germany and the United Kingdom. A slowdown in reducing cardiovascular deaths is part of the explanation, possibly linked with rising levels of obesity and diabetes.

[News release](#)

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Continuity of care for prisoners who need substance misuse treatment (30/11/18)

Public Health England has updated its audit toolkit and guidance on data recording, for prison and community treatment providers and commissioners. The [update](#) is a report on the London 'deep dive' into the topic.

Global study on homicide: gender-related killing of women and girls (25/11/18)

Around 87,000 women were killed around the world last year, some 50,000 - or 58 per cent - at the hands of intimate partners or family members. This amounts to some six women being killed every hour by people they know, according to new [research](#) published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The study, released for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, examines available homicide data to analyse the gender-related killing of women and girls, with a specific focus on intimate partner and family-related homicide and how this relates to the status and roles of women in society and the domestic sphere.

[UNODC press release](#)
[BBC News](#)

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Long-term Conditions

Tackling Type 2 diabetes with very low calorie diets (30/11/18)

Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England has [announced](#) that people will receive NHS help to battle obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

Very low calorie diets that have been shown to put Type 2 Diabetes in remission in those recently diagnosed with the condition will be trialled as part of the NHS long term plan, which will increase the focus on prevention as well as treatment.

This move to improve the health of patients should also save the NHS money that can be reinvested in frontline care. Currently, the health service in England spends around 10% of its budget on treating diabetes.

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Maternity/Infants

Health visitor service delivery metrics (28/11/18)

Public Health England published [quarterly and annual datasets](#) and commentary for local authority health visits to pregnant women, children and their families during pregnancy and early childhood.

It has now added [documents](#) present metadata including the definitions of health visitor service delivery metrics and associated outcomes as calculated from the Community Services Dataset (CSDS).

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Personal well-being in the UK: July 2017 to June 2018 (28/11/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published [estimates](#) of life satisfaction, feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK and country level.

Between the years ending June 2017 and June 2018:

- The average life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and anxiety ratings showed no overall change in the UK; however, fewer people reported low happiness ratings and more people reported very low anxiety ratings.
- The proportion of people reporting very low anxiety ratings in England increased.
- Compared with the UK, a larger proportion of people in Wales reported “poor” personal well-being ratings across all measures.
- Compared with both the UK and the other countries, people in Northern Ireland continued to report better average ratings across all personal well-being measures.
- There were no overall changes in Scotland across the measures of personal well-being.

Latest mental health services statistics for England published (29/11/18)

Statistics on people who have been referred for treatment or assessment with mental health services in England have been published by NHS Digital.

[Mental Health Bulletin 2017-18](#) provides the most detailed picture available of people who used NHS funded secondary mental health, learning disabilities and autism services in England during the financial year.

2,510,745 people were known to be in contact with secondary mental health, learning disabilities and autism services at some point in the year. 525,326 of these were under 18 years of age.

Policing and mental health: picking up the pieces (27/11/18)

In 2017, HMICFRS (Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary, and Fire and Rescue Services) inspected all 43 police forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police on their effectiveness, as part of the PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) inspection programme.

One of the main areas looked at for effectiveness is how well the police protect those who are vulnerable, and support victims. For the first time within this area, how police respond to and support people with mental health problems was inspected. This [report](#) sets out the findings.

[News release](#)

Admissions for eating disorders by sex and ethnic category, England (22/11/18)

[NHS Digital](#) has published data on admissions for eating disorders. Eating disorders are one of the biggest mental health issues for young people in the UK and while there are still many more girls going into hospital than boys, the number of boys asking for help is rising more quickly.

[CBBC Newsround](#)
[Beat Eating disorders](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

[See Long-term Conditions](#)

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Regional funding announced for electronic prescribing (28/11/18)

Thirteen trusts will be the first to receive a share in [funding](#) to support electronic prescribing and medicines administration (ePMA) to improve patient safety.

The roll-out of full ePMA across healthcare organisations will improve efficiency in the healthcare system by making the most effective use of medicines and increasing the use of digital systems to generate additional data sets. This will help clinicians gain a greater understanding of the management of diseases.

The first regional allocations include:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, £1,450,000

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, £1,170,000

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, £1,700,000

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Public Health/Health Promotion

A vision for population health: Towards a healthier future (27/11/18)

Population health is an approach that aims to improve physical and mental health outcomes, promote wellbeing and reduce health inequalities across an entire population. This [report](#) outlines the King's Fund's vision for population health. It proposes a framework centred on four pillars: the wider determinants of health; health behaviours and lifestyles; places and communities where people live; an integrated health and care system.

It calls for action at national, regional and local levels. This should include: ambitious and binding national goals to drive progress; a cross-government strategy for reducing health inequalities; stronger political and system leadership; greater clarity on the roles and accountability of national bodies and local organisations; and increased investment in prevention, public health and spending that supports population health.

[What does it mean to be healthy?](#) blog by guest author Carina Crawford-Khan, Citizens UK

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Safeguarding

See [Social Care/Welfare](#)

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Screening

NHS Health Check quarterly statistics: November 2018 (28/11/18)

Public Health England has published the NHS Health Check [offers and uptake data](#) update for July to September 2018.

This update contains data from 152 local authorities for quarter 2 and cumulative data from 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2018.

Cervical screening programme 2017-18 (27/11/18)

Women between the ages of 25 and 64 are invited for regular cervical screening under the NHS Cervical Screening Programme. This is intended to detect abnormalities within the cervix that could, if undetected and untreated, develop into cervical cancer.

This [report](#), published by NHS Digital, presents information about the NHS Cervical Screening Programme in England in 2017-18 and includes data on the call and recall system, on screening samples examined by pathology laboratories and on referrals to colposcopy clinics.

Please note: An incident has been identified in relation to invitation letters sent. An investigation is underway which should clarify the impact on the invitation statistics and a short update will be provided once this has been clarified.

[News release](#)

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

Smoking in the home (20/11/18)

A new [report](#) by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) calls for action to address smoking closer to where people live.

High levels of smoking in poorer communities reduces the likelihood that smokers living in those communities will successfully quit, increases the likelihood that children will be exposed to smoke in the home and that they will take up smoking themselves. As a result, smoking-related illness is much more common among both adults and children in these communities.

This report was developed in collaboration with health, housing and academic experts, informed by tenant focus groups and is backed by 35 organisations. It looks across all types of housing to identify practical actions to reduce smoking in the home. It does not call for a ban on smoking in the home but rather calls for greater engagement of housing and health professionals in the communities that need the most support.

[Press release](#)

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Social Care/Welfare

Using social media to find evidence on service users (28/11/18)

A vast majority of local authority policies covering the use of social media by social workers are not mentioning guidance or law regarding the surveillance of social media accounts, including those of service users, which could leave social workers liable to committing a criminal offence, a [Community Care](#) investigation has found.

A freedom of information request by Community Care to every local authority in England, answered by 134 councils, asked for their written policies around the use of social media – both council-wide and specific to social workers. It reveals that just six of those that responded gave guidance around the surveillance of service user social media profiles.

While it is common for councils to have independent guidance documents mentioning the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) and how it should be used, most of the policies around the use of social media sent to Community Care did not mention the act or practice around covert surveillance of profiles.

See also [11 ways social workers have used social media to gather evidence](#) in safeguarding.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman: Review of Adult Social Care Complaints 2017-2018 (28/11/18)

Over the past year, the Ombudsman has become increasingly concerned about the way some authorities are handling the need to balance the pressures they are under with the way they assess and charge for care.

This [report](#), which looks at the data behind every adult social care complaint the Ombudsman has received over the 12-month period, shows there has been a nine per cent increase in complaints about charging. And of those complaints, it is upholding 67% - higher than the average uphold rate for adult social care of 62%, and greater still than the 57% uphold rate for all complaints the Ombudsman investigates.

[Care Quality Commission](#)

What is a strengths-based approach? (11/18)

Two new films from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) look at how people strengths and talents can be recognised to promote wellbeing. The first is on supporting [young people](#) through transition, the second on what a strengths-based approach means for [adults](#).

The Care Act 2014 puts a strengths-based approach at the centre of someone's assessment, care and support, highlighting 'What is strong' rather than simply 'What is wrong'. This means that strengths and talents are identified so that things that are important to people are taken into account. This will help to promote individual wellbeing.

SCIE has an area of its website dedicated to on [strengths-based approaches](#). Please note that all SCIE resources are free to download. However, to access some items you will need to register for a free MySCIE account.

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Workforce Development

Health Education England - New Resource for dementia training (11/18)

Health Education England (HEE) have launched a free online [Managing Success in Dementia](#) resource.

The resource designed to support managers, training leads and others responsible for dementia training in health, social care and housing to consider the methods and resources they can use to train staff to achieve the learning outcomes at Tier 2 of the [Dementia Training Standards Framework](#) (core skills and knowledge for people who regularly work directly with people living with dementia).

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Workplace

Working for the NHS (29/11/18)

[Health Education England](#) and [South East Coast Ambulance Service \(SECamb\)](#) are both launching social media campaigns from 1 December 2018 which will highlight the differing job roles available in the NHS. The campaigns use the countdown to Christmas featuring a role/career for each day.

Look out for #Openadoor and #SECambAdventCalendar18

Health and social care sector: impact of Brexit withdrawal agreement examined (27/11/18)

The Health and Social Committee of the House of Commons this week questioned the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the CEO of NHS England and academics and experts, on the likely [impact](#) of the withdrawal agreement and political declaration on the health and social care sector.

Voluntary reporting on disability, mental health and wellbeing (22/11/18)

The [voluntary reporting framework](#) has been developed by the government in partnership with leading businesses and third sector organisations to support employers to voluntarily report information on disability, mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. The government believes that transparency and reporting can support the cultural change required to build a more inclusive society.

It is aimed at organisations with over 250 employees but can be used by employers of any size.

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