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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

13-24-year olds with cancer in England: Incidence, mortality and survival (17/01/19)

Public Health England's National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service in collaboration with [Teenage Cancer Trust](#) has published a new [report](#) examining the latest trends in the incidence, mortality and five-year survival rates for cancer amongst young people.

Key findings, based on an analysis of young people diagnosed in England between 2001 and 2015, include:

- Mortality rates of all cancers combined in 13 to 24-year olds have decreased from 42.9 per million in 2001 to 32.3 per million in 2015.
- The largest reduction in mortality by diagnostic group in England between 2001 and 2015 has been in Leukaemia. There were also reductions seen in mortality from Central Nervous System tumours, bone cancer and in lymphoma.
- Five-year survival rates for cancer in 13 to 24-year olds have risen from 83% females / 80% males in (2001-05) to 87% in females / 84 % males (2007-11).
- There are statistically significant variations in incidence and survival rates of cancer in 13 to 24-year olds based on geography and deprivation.
- The incidence of cancer in 13 to 24 years olds in England has increased from a crude rate of 233.1 per million in 2001, to 299.7 per million in 2015.

Cardiovascular disease profiles: January 2019 update (15/01/19)

The [cardiovascular disease \(CVD\) profiles](#) have been updated by Public Health England (PHE).

The profiles provide an overview of data on cardiovascular and cardiovascular related conditions of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. They are intended to help commissioners and health professionals assess the impact of CVD on their local population, make decisions about services and improve outcomes for patients.

The CVD profiles are one of a range of data and analysis resources produced by PHE's National Cardiovascular Intelligence Network (NCVIN).

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Children/Young People/Families

Timing of parents' split matters for children's mental health, new research reveals (17/01/19)

Children who experience a family break-up in late childhood and early adolescence are more likely to have emotional and behavioural problems than those living with both parents, according to a new study.

Researchers from the [UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies](#) analysed data on more than 6,000 children born in the UK at the turn of the century, who are being followed by the [Millennium Cohort Study](#). The researchers examined reports of children's mental health at ages 3, 5, 7, 11 and 14, including emotional problems, such as feelings of low mood and anxiety, and behavioural problems, such as acting out and disobedience. They compared information on children who experienced a family split with those who didn't.

A fifth of children in the study saw their parents separate between the ages of 3 and 14. Children whose parents broke up in late childhood and early adolescence, between the ages of 7 and 14 had, on average, a 16 per cent increase in emotional problems and an 8 per cent rise in conduct issues in the short-term. Children whose parents separated earlier, between ages 3 and 7, were no more likely to experience mental health problems either in the short-term or later on, by age 14, than those living with both parents.

The research is published in the journal [Social Science & Medicine](#). The article is available with Open Athens login.

NCMP and Child Obesity Profile: academic year 2017 to 2018 update (15/01/19)

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and Child Obesity Profile online data tool has been [updated](#) by Public Health England. The NCMP and Child Obesity Profile displays prevalence of obesity, severe obesity, overweight, healthy weight and underweight at local, regional and national level over time; for children in Reception (aged 4 to 5 years) and Year 6 (aged 10 to 11 years).

Users can compare local authority (LA) data by region or between 'CIPFA nearest neighbours' (LAs with similar characteristics). The tool also presents inequalities in obesity prevalence by sex, deprivation quintile and ethnic group by LA.

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Commissioning and Economics

Weight management: guidance for commissioners and providers (17/01/18)

Public Health England publishes [guidance and research](#) to support the commissioning and delivery of tier 2 weight management services for children, families and adults.

The latest document to be added to the collection is [Key Performance Indicators: tier 2 weight management services for children and their families](#).

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Communities and Local Government

National child measurement programme: briefing for elected members (15/01/19)

Every year more than 1 million children are weighed and measured at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Currently, over one in five reception year children (22.4 per cent) and over one in three Year 6 pupils (34.3 per cent) are overweight or obese.

This [briefing](#) for councillors, published by the Local Government Association, details how the data is then used to engage children, parents, schools and other partners in tackling health inequalities in a selection of local authorities.

NAO: Local authority governance (15/01/19)

Local authorities are accountable to their communities for how they spend their money and for ensuring that this spending represents value for money. Local politicians and officers operate within local governance frameworks of checks and balances to ensure that decision-making is lawful, informed by objective advice, transparent and consultative. Good governance means that proper arrangements are in place to ensure that an authority's intended objectives are achieved. Key elements of the statutory framework ensure that authorities remain financially sustainable.

Authorities have faced significant challenges since 2010-11 as funding has reduced while demand for key services has grown. Not only are the risks from poor governance greater in the current context as the stakes are higher, but the process of governance itself is more challenging and complex.

This [report](#) from the National Audit Office (NAO) looks at whether the local government governance system remains effective, especially when poor governance can make the difference between coping and not coping with financial and service pressures. It finds that in order to mitigate the growing risks to value for money in the sector the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government needs to improve its system-wide oversight, be more transparent in its engagement with the sector, and adopt a stronger leadership role across the governance network.

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Drugs/Alcohol

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Education

Education inspection framework 2019: inspecting the substance of education: consultation

16 January - 05 April 2019

Ofsted has set out proposals for [consultation](#) on how it will inspect schools, early years settings and further education and skills providers, to take effect from September 2019.

The consultation document is accompanied by a draft framework and handbooks as well as a research overview commentary and school inspection update.

[Speech](#) by Amanda Spielman, Chief Inspector, Ofsted
[News release](#)

[Children and Young People Now](#)

e-Bug project 10th anniversary (18/01/19)

e-Bug is a free educational programme operated by Public Health England that teaches children and young people about infection control, hygiene and antibiotics. The e-Bug project was formally established in 2009 by a consortium of 18 European countries, partly funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANCO) and 2019 will mark its tenth anniversary.

e-Bug does fantastic work in the UK and worldwide, with [website and free resources](#) now in more than 30 countries and 27 languages.

<http://www.e-bug.eu/>

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Innovation in council housebuilding (17/01/19)

Council housebuilding must be at the centre of a renewed effort to deliver homes that generate growth and that communities need now and into the future. This was one of the conclusions of the Local Government Association's Housing Commission report '[Building our homes, communities and future](#)' which was published in 2016.

This new [report](#) sets out the broad picture of housing delivery, the context for council housebuilding, and an analysis of the process councils go through to set up active building programmes. The chapters are available individually, each one containing useful information and resources. Chapter eight provides ten case studies of council housebuilding programmes around the country.

Health risks of cold homes: data sources (15/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published guidance to support public health teams and housing professionals in the prevention and management of the health impacts associated with cold homes.

The [guidance](#) will:

- help local areas to estimate the number of people who may be at risk of cold-home-related death and illness in a particular population, using a range of housing, vulnerability and health indicators
- help local areas to identify individuals who may be at risk of experiencing health effects associated with living in a cold home, using data on housing and personal characteristics, as well as opportunistic approaches.

The guidance is part of the [Cold weather plan for England collection](#) of documents.

WHO Housing and health guidelines (2018)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently published [recommendations](#) to promote healthy housing for a sustainable and equitable future. Improved housing conditions can save lives, prevent disease, increase quality of life,

reduce poverty, and help mitigate climate change. Housing is becoming increasingly important to health in light of urban growth, ageing populations and climate change.

Ellington Park in Ramsgate wins £1.64 million of lottery funding (15/01/19)

A park in Ramsgate is one of six UK [public parks and gardens](#) to be rejuvenated with a share of £13.8million Heritage Lottery funding.

Ellington Park in Ramsgate has long been central to the local community, with activities including plays, firework shows, concerts and beauty contests taking place in the park. The 1934 Ramsgate pageant attracted over 4,000 people, and the park hosted an emotional visit from the Mayors of Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk at the end of the Second World War.

This funding will restore the park's dilapidated Victorian bandstand, benches, lamps, gates, terrace walls/balustrades, rockery, original paths and planting and improvements will be made to the wildlife garden and miniature railway. A new café and playground will be installed, to include community space and accessible toilets. Opportunities for community involvement will be central to all of the activities.

[Thanet District Council](#)

Clean Air Strategy 2019 (14/01/19)

A new [strategy](#) sets out the comprehensive actions required across all parts of government and society to improve air quality.

The intention is to:

- protect the nation's health
- protect the environment
- secure clean growth and innovation
- reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry
- monitor progress.

Air pollution is one of the biggest threats to public health in the UK - behind only cancer, obesity and heart disease - and the measures set out in the Clean Air Strategy will cut the costs of air pollution to society by £1.7 billion every year by 2020, rising to £5.3 billion every year from 2030.

[News release](#)

Air quality (14/01/19)

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has published three documents to tie in with the [Clean Air Strategy 2019](#):

[Impact pathway guidance for valuing changes in air quality](#)

[Air quality: economic analysis](#)

[Air quality: explaining air pollution](#)

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Health Care

GP partnership review: final report (15/01/19)

This [report](#) details the findings of the review and makes final recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and to the CEO of NHS England.

The review has engaged with GPs and others with an interest to look for solutions to reinvigorate the partnership model and support the transformation of general practice.

There is also a case studies document has been created to share examples of different business models that general practice partnerships are using at present.

[News release](#) and other [Review documents](#)

NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care (14/01/19)

NHS continuing healthcare is an ongoing package of health and social care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS where an individual is found to have a primary health need. Such care is provided to an individual aged 18 or over to meet needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness.

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [guidance](#) on a national framework and a public information leaflet on this provision.

Handbook to the NHS Constitution for England (14/01/19)

The Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England have updated the [handbook](#) to the NHS Constitution for England. The handbook is designed to give the public, patients, carers, families and NHS staff all the information they need about the Constitution. It covers:

- NHS values and the principles that guide the NHS
- explanations of the rights and pledges in the NHS Constitution
- legal sources of patient and staff rights
- the roles we all play in protecting and developing the NHS.

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Meningococcal B: vaccine information for healthcare professionals (14/01/19)

Public Health England has [updated guidance](#) for healthcare professionals regarding the immunisation against meningococcal B disease for infants aged from 2 months.

Gastrointestinal infections and foodborne outbreaks in humans, England and Wales (11/01/19)

Public Health England publishes routine reports on general outbreaks of foodborne illness and laboratory reports of common enteric infections and other enteric diseases, with cumulative totals.

The most recent [report](#) is for November and December 2018.

See also Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

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Inequalities/Minorities

Ministers questioned on inequalities faced by Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities (09/01/19)

The Women and Equalities Committee of the House of Commons has questioned ministers from three Government Departments about the inequalities experienced by Gypsy Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people are the most disadvantaged ethnic groups in the UK. On average, they have a shorter life expectancy than the rest of the population, poor educational outcomes and often face hostility and discrimination from others in society.

Watch on [Parliamentlive.tv](https://www.parliamentlive.tv) or read the transcript of the [oral evidence](#).
[Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities Inquiry](#)

[Children and Young People Now](#)

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Sources of UK flu data: influenza surveillance in the UK (17/01/19)

Influenza is not a notifiable disease. It can cause a wide range of illnesses, from a very mild or asymptomatic infection to a very serious illness, which can result in hospitalisation and death.

The influenza surveillance section of Public Health England's Respiratory Disease Department coordinates and collates flu surveillance for the UK from a wide range of [sources](#).

For the latest information see [Weekly national flu reports: 2018 to 2019 season](#).

Birth characteristics in England and Wales: 2017 (10/01/19)

The Office for National Statistics has published [analysis and data](#) on annual birth statistics, including birthweight, gestation, ethnicity, place of birth, multiple births and stillbirths. Summary birth statistics for the UK by area of usual residence are also included.

Main points include:

- In 2017, there were 679,106 live births in England and Wales, the lowest number of live births since 2006; of these, 51.3% were boys and 48.7% were girls.
- The average age of first-time mothers was 28.8 years in 2017, unchanged since 2016; the average age of all fathers increased to 33.4 years in 2017, up from 33.3 years in 2016.
- 15.8 out of every 1,000 women giving birth had a multiple birth in 2017; this is the second consecutive annual decline in the multiple maternity rate, decreasing from 15.9 in 2016 and 16.1 in 2015.
- Women aged 45 years and over were the age group most likely to have a multiple birth in 2017, where 77.6 out of every 1,000 women giving birth in this age group had a multiple birth; however, this represents the lowest multiple maternity rate for women aged 45 years and over since 2006.
- 7.0% (47,257) of live births in England and Wales were of low birthweight (under 2,500 grams) in 2017, unchanged since 2011.
- In England, the stillbirth rate in the most deprived areas was 5.5 per 1,000 total births, compared with 3.0 per 1,000 total births in the least deprived areas.

See also [Births by parents' characteristics in England and Wales: 2017](#)

Population projections: UK armed forces veterans residing in Great Britain, 2016 to 2028 (10/01/19)

The primary purpose of this [report](#), from the Ministry of Defence (MOD), is to present projected population estimates for UK armed forces veterans residing in GB to 2028, by age group and gender.

The projections presented will support the [veterans strategy](#) and will provide an indication of the size of demographic changes of the GB veteran population. This will enable MOD, devolved administrations, the NHS, other government departments and the charitable sector to develop policies and service deliveries to continue to meet the needs of veterans in the future.

Tool for mapping governance for health and well-being: the organigraph method (2018)

Improving systems of governance for health and well-being is at the heart of global, regional, national and local responses to public health challenges. The [WHO Regional Office for Europe](#) and expert academic partners developed an [organigraph tool](#) for mapping governance structures and accountability mechanisms within governance systems. The tool is designed to be used in particular by public health professionals, civil servants, and technical staff or different ministries.

This publication aims to help countries and relevant stakeholders to use the tool to identify which areas need strengthening in order to ensure that systems facilitate improved health and well-being for all. It provides background information about the organigraph method, as well as a practical guide to using it, including example organigraphs.

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Are patients benefitting from better integrated care? (17/01/19)

As [QualityWatch](#) (Nuffield Trust and Health Foundation) publishes a scrolling data story investigating whether the drive in recent years to integrate services more closely has resulted in any tangible improvements for patients, [Sarah Scobie](#) of the Nuffield Trust puts the study in context and explains the findings.

See also Health Care

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International

WHO: Ten threats to global health in 2019

The world is facing multiple health challenges. These range from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and diphtheria, increasing reports of drug-resistant pathogens, growing rates of obesity and physical inactivity to the health impacts of environmental pollution and climate change and multiple humanitarian crises.

To address these and other threats, 2019 sees the start of the World Health Organization's (WHO) new 5-year strategic plan – the [13th General Programme of Work](#). This plan focuses on a triple billion target: ensuring 1 billion more people benefit from access to universal health coverage, 1 billion more people are protected from health emergencies and 1 billion more people enjoy better health and well-being. Reaching this goal will require addressing the threats to health from a variety of angles.

[Ten threats to global health in 2019](#)

WHO Europe: Migration and Health programme (2018)

The Migration and Health programme, [WHO Regional Office for Europe](#), was established to support Member States to strengthen the health sector's capacity to provide evidence informed responses to the public health challenges of refugee and migrant health. In 2018 the Office has published 3 technical guides with accompanying policy briefs:

[Health promotion for improved refugee and migrant health \(2018\)](#)

[Improving the health care of pregnant refugee and migrant women and newborn children \(2018\)](#)

[Health of refugee and migrant children \(2018\)](#)

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Prison health inquiry: government response (14/01/19)

This [command paper](#) sets out the government's response to the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry [report](#) into the effectiveness of prisons and prison healthcare services in meeting the physical and mental health, and social care, needs of prisoners which was published in November 2018.

Substance misuse treatment in secure settings: 2017 to 2018 (17/01/18)

Public Health England has published a [report and data](#) for alcohol and drug misuse treatment in prisons and other secure settings from PHE's national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS). Healthcare professionals can use these resources to understand:

outcomes of alcohol and drug treatment services in secure settings in England
the profile of adults and young people accessing alcohol and drug treatment services in secure settings.

The data will help with planning, commissioning and improving services in prisons and other secure settings.

See also [Smoking/Tobacco Control](#)

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Long-term Conditions

Cerebral palsy in adults, NG119 (17/01/18)

Cerebral palsy is a disorder of motor development caused by a non-progressive pathology that affects the developing brain. People with cerebral palsy may also have disorders of communication, learning, feeding and vision, and epilepsy. Cerebral palsy is a lifelong condition and there is not yet a cure for the underlying brain disorder.

There are now more adults living with cerebral palsy than there are children with cerebral palsy. Adults with cerebral palsy have a wide range of abilities – from full independence in everyday life to needing 24-hour care and attention.

This [guideline](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers care and support for adults with cerebral palsy. It aims to improve health and wellbeing, promote access to services and support participation and independent living.

[News article](#)

Hereditary Haemochromatosis associations with common conditions (16/01/19)

One of the most common genetic disorder causes far higher levels of serious disease and disability than previously thought, despite being easy to detect and treat.

Two major studies have revealed that the iron overload condition haemochromatosis, previously thought to be a low-level health risk, actually quadruples the risk of liver disease and doubles the risk of arthritis, and frailty in older age groups. It also causes higher risk of diabetes and chronic pain. The studies in UK Biobank data found that the number of deaths from liver cancer in men with the faulty genes was significantly higher than expected, although the number of deaths was small.

The research, led by a group from the [University of Exeter](#) in the U.K. with the U.S. National Institute on Aging and the University of Connecticut, is published in [The BMJ](#) and [The Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences](#). (both articles are open access)

See also [NHS Health A-Z: Haemochromatosis](#)

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Community Groups Awarded 'Saving Lives' Suicide Prevention Funding (17/01/19)

[Community groups](#) from across Kent and Medway have been sharing their plans for new funding for innovative projects to help reduce the numbers of people taking their own lives.

Led by health providers and local authorities from the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP), the 27 projects have been awarded grants from Government funding of £98,000, to support innovative programmes designed to prevent suicide and reduce self-harm.

"Sandwich" generation (14/01/19)

"Sandwich" carers – those who care for both sick, disabled or older relatives and dependent children – are more likely to report symptoms of mental ill-health, feel less satisfied with life, and struggle financially compared with the general population, according to [analysis and data](#) published by the Office for National Statistics.

Almost 27% of sandwich carers show symptoms of mental ill-health while caring for both sick, disabled or older relatives and children. The prevalence of mental ill-health increases with the amount of care given. More than 33% of sandwich carers providing at least 20 hours of adult care per week report symptoms of mental ill-health, compared with 23% of those providing fewer than five hours each week.

Caring for two generations could have an impact on carers' finances. One in three sandwich carers say they are "just about getting by" financially, while one in ten are "finding it difficult" or "very difficult" to cope. Only 17% say they are "living comfortably", compared with 32% of the general population.

See also [Children/Young People/Families](#)

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EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems (16/01/19)

Food systems have the potential to nurture human health and support environmental sustainability; however, they are currently threatening both. Providing a growing global population with healthy diets from sustainable food systems is an immediate challenge. Although global food production of calories has kept pace with population growth, more than 820 million people have insufficient food and many more consume low-quality diets that cause micronutrient deficiencies and contribute to a substantial rise in the incidence of diet-related obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases, including coronary heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Unhealthy diets pose a greater risk to morbidity and mortality than does unsafe sex, and alcohol, drug, and tobacco use combined.

The absence of scientific targets for achieving healthy diets from sustainable food systems has been hindering large-scale and coordinated efforts to transform the global food system. This Commission brings together 19 Commissioners and 18 co-authors from 16 countries in various fields of human health, agriculture, political sciences, and environmental sustainability to develop global scientific targets based on the best evidence available for healthy diets and sustainable food production.

[Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems](#)

Please note: this article is available free of charge, but you will need to register directly with The Lancet for access.

See also [The diet to save lives, the planet and feed us all?](#) BBC News Health

Portion size and appetite control (01/19)

Nutrition Bulletin (January 2019) has published a Virtual Issue (all papers free to download) on '[Portion size and appetite control](#)', to coincide with the launch of the British Nutrition Foundation's (BNF) practical guide on portion sizes '[Find Your Balance](#)', which complements the UK government's [Eatwell Guide](#). The Virtual Issue comprises nine papers by leading scientists and explores current knowledge about how appetite sensations and portion size choices influence energy (calorie) intake.

Childhood obesity plan: interactions between modelled policies (12/01/19)

In August 2016 the government published a [plan of action](#) to reduce childhood obesity by supporting healthier choices.

This new [document](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, considers 4 of the proposed policies in [chapter 2](#) of the childhood obesity plan.

It looks at the possible interactions between these policies and 3 of the policies in [chapter 1](#).

Restricting promotions of food and drink that is high in fat, sugar and salt: consultation

12 January - 06 April 2019

The government is [seeking views](#) on its plans to restrict promotions of food and drink products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) by location and by price.

[News release](#)

See also [Commissioning and Economics](#)

[Communities and Local Government](#)

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Public Health England and integration with NHS England regional management teams (18/01/19)

In his [Friday message](#) this week Duncan Selbie, chief executive of Public Health England, talks about the role of the Directors of Public Health appointed to the new NHS regional management teams.

See also a previous [blog](#) and article in [Health Service Journal](#) (16 November 2018).

The NHS Long Term Plan – let's stop the 'us and them' (18/01/19)

The NHS Long Term Plan has finally arrived. There is much in the plan that Directors of Public Health would support. However, there are several areas of concern: the plan is 'undeliverable' without a good spending review settlement for public health; bold national policy change is needed to address the social determinants of health; and thirdly, the NHS needs the support and contribution of local authorities and the Director of Public Health to deliver the plan efficiently.

[Blog](#) by Lucy Sutton, policy coordinator at the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH)

Public Health England research: annual review (16/01/19)

The Public Health England (PHE) [research annual review](#) includes information about strategy, funding and peer reviewed publications.

The report profiles research carried out by PHE, often in partnership with academics, clinicians and field researchers from across the globe which was supported by funding from the public and other sectors. It shows how this research has yielded evidence that underpins the development of programmes to protect and improve public health. It also shows how PHE discharges its responsibilities as a public health organisation.

Topics include the effectiveness of vaccination programmes, engaging people to combat antimicrobial resistance, lessons from an international public health emergency (Zika infection), developing skills to embed a new, whole-system approach for brief advice on physical activity into routine clinical practice, benefits of sunlight on blood pressure, and controlling tuberculosis. During 2017 to 2018 PHE published research findings in 910 peer reviewed papers.

Tackling obesity is a shared responsibility for society (14/01/18)

This week the Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock [addressed](#) the [all-party parliamentary group \(APPG\)](#) on obesity at their [International Conference](#) on Obesity.

See also APPG report [The current landscape of obesity services](#), May 2018

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Safeguarding

Briefing on the relationship between contextual, complex and transitional safeguarding (11/01/19)

A new [briefing note](#) (open access) produced by the Contextual Safeguarding Network at the University of Bedfordshire, with [Research in Practice](#) and Rochdale Borough Council, outlines what is meant by the terms 'complex safeguarding', 'contextual safeguarding' and 'transitional safeguarding' and how these approaches overlap and complement each other.

Practitioners, researchers and policy advisors have been developing and testing ways to advance child protection and multi-agency safeguarding practices to better engage with these dynamics of the adolescent experience.

Developing the Learning on Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements: Interim Report (12/18)

The [National Children's Bureau \(NCB\)](#) is working with the 17 projects of the [Early Adopters \(EA\) programme](#) to draw together the lessons learnt as they develop, test and implement their new Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

This [interim report](#) describes the activity of the programme to date, the approaches which EA projects are testing and implementing, and shares some early principles for implementation. It focuses primarily on the activity and emerging solutions in relation to independent scrutiny, local reviews and child death reviews, the role of wider partners, and resourcing new arrangements, alongside some learning examples across the themes.

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Screening

Breast screening: higher risk women (17/01/18)

This [document](#), from Public Health England, explains the NHS breast screening programme for women defined as being at higher risk of breast cancer.

It includes information about: what the term 'higher risk' means, screening procedures, and eligibility for screening.

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Sexual Health

Readiness for first sex is about more than age for many young Britons (14/01/19)

A substantial proportion of young Britons are not ready for their first sexual activity— whatever their age—and lose their virginity “under circumstances that are incompatible with positive sexual health,” reveals research published online in [BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health \(open access article\)](#).

Social inequalities in sexual health are also reflected in the context of first intercourse, such as unplanned pregnancies and higher rates of sexually transmitted infections and are evident across certain social/ethnic groups.

The researchers base their findings on information gleaned from responses to the [Third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles \(Natsal-3\)](#) for residents of Britain, and carried out in 2010-12. Some 2825 sexually experienced 17 to 24-year olds were asked about their experience of losing their virginity.

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

Tackling tobacco smuggling: outputs (10/01/19)

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publishes information on the [outputs](#) of the tobacco strategy, case studies, criminal investigations, civil penalties and high profile multi-agency events.

HMRC and Border Force published a comprehensive [strategy](#) for tackling tobacco smuggling in 2011 to address the source, supply and demand for illicit tobacco products in the UK.

HMRC estimates the size of the illicit market using tax gap data which is reported annually, each autumn.

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Social Care/Welfare

Mental Capacity and 'Best Interest' planning (15/01/19)

The Senior Social Worker and Nursing Clinical Lead in the Staying Home Team, Stoke City Council and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT) have redesigned and implemented a new 'best interests' decision-making process.

The standard of assessments undertaken by the team since the changes has improved, with increased involvement of the service user, their families and carers. The assessment processes now comply fully with the legislation and embrace the person-centred ethos of The Mental Capacity Act (2005). Decisions are made in a person's best interest and are more holistic and person centred which has led to better service user outcomes.

NHS England has published this [case study](#) in [The Atlas of Shared Learning](#).

Fresh approach to Universal Credit (11/01/19)

In a [speech](#) delivered at Kennington jobcentre about the future of Universal Credit Amber Rudd, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, announced several changes:

- further research before the roll out of managed migration for all claimants
- cancellation of the retrospective extension of the two child policy (which was due to be extended to children born before April 2017)
- flexibility for private landlords to receive direct payments of rent.

[News release](#)

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