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Children/Young People/Families

International comparisons of health and wellbeing in adolescence and early adulthood (20/02/19)

Young people aged 10–24 make up approximately a fifth of the population of most high-income countries and there are strong health and economic arguments for improving their health outcomes. This report, from the Nuffield Trust with the [Association for Young People's Health](#), summarises how 17 key indicators of the health and wellbeing of young people aged 10–24 vary in a selection of 19 similar high-income countries both within and outside of Europe.

The [report](#) provides an indication of where health outcomes for adolescents and young adults in the United Kingdom (UK) could be improved. Despite some successes, the UK's performance on the 17 key health and wellbeing indicators highlighted in this report often lags behind that of the other 18 countries included in the analysis and there is much room for improvement.

[Press release](#) and [blog](#)
[Using DALYs to understand young people's health](#)

Reducing Parental Conflict programme: information for stakeholders (14/02/18)

Parents play a critical role in giving children the experiences and skills they need to succeed. However, children who are exposed to parental conflict can suffer long-term harm.

The Reducing Parental Conflict programme encourages local authorities across England to integrate services and approaches which address parental conflict into their local services for families.

The Department for Work and Pensions has published [documents](#) giving an overview of the programme including funding for training, and planning tool.

Vulnerable Children in a digital world (12/02/19)

This report, published by [Internet Matters](#), provides insight into the potential online risks that different groups of vulnerable children may face online, such as pressure to be sexting, cyberbullying, cyber scams, or seeing content promoting self-harm, anorexia and suicide.

It also offers guidance on ways to support vulnerable children. It advocates the introduction of specialised training and tools across all sectors in order to identify the children at highest risk and trigger early intervention.

The study, in partnership with [Youthworks](#) and the University of Kingston, used a dataset of vulnerable young people's online experiences to identify how they might be more likely to encounter certain online risks.

[Report](#)
[Media release](#)

See also
Mental Health and Wellbeing
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Communities and Local Government

LGA: the cost of caring for unaccompanied children seeking asylum (21/02/19)

The money spent by councils on providing care and support for unaccompanied children seeking asylum has increased. The [Local Government Association \(LGA\)](#) is calling on the Government to complete its review of the cost to councils of supporting unaccompanied children, and for this to provide the long-term funding arrangements that give councils the resources required to offer the care and support that children in their care, and those leaving that care, deserve.

This comes as figures quoted by the LGA show that the number of asylum-seeking children and young people in care in England under 18 rose from 2,760 in 2014/15 to 4,480 in 2017/18.

Councils spent more than £152 million on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in 2017/18 – an increase of 95 per cent on the £77 million spent in 2014/15.

Councils are also seeing an increase of more than 50 per cent in two years in unaccompanied children leaving care when they turn 18 but remaining the responsibility of the local authority. There were 4,660 unaccompanied children leaving care in 2016, which went up to 7,130 in 2018.

[BBC News](#)

See also

[Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018](#)

[Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children: national transfer scheme](#), October 2018

[Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and leaving care: funding instructions](#), October 2018

[An inspection of how the Home Office considers the 'best interests' of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and official response](#), March 2018

[Literature review: Home Office treatment of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children](#), March 2018

GambleAware launches "bet regret" (21/02/19)

Educational charity [GambleAware](#) have launched their latest marketing campaign to raise awareness of the harms of gambling.

Targeted at the audience estimated at 2.4m young men aged 16-34 who gamble regularly on sport, mainly online, the campaign aims to drive self-reflection, as well as help their friends and partners recognise the warning signs of Bet Regret. The campaign was developed after extensive research, consultations with academic experts and several waves of focus groups with frequent sports bettors.

Public Health England have provided social marketing expertise to support the campaign. An evidence review is underway on the health harms of gambling and is expected to publish initial findings later this year.

[Media release](#) and [video clip](#)

LGA: Reshaping financial support to low income households in difficulty (19/02/19)

This study by the Local Government Association (LGA) looked at how 10 councils have been reviewing their approaches so that they can better target their resources on those in greatest need, as well as deliver more holistic responses to support people to become more financially resilient in the longer term.

The councils taking part were selected following an open call for expressions of interest in the project. The majority cover urban areas and operate on a unitary basis. Hastings Borough Council is one of the ten in the study.

[Report](#)
[Executive summary](#)

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Consumer Participation

CQC: Declare Your Care (22/02/19)

New [research](#), published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), has found that almost 7 million people who have used health or social care services, in the last five years, have had concerns about their care but never raised them. Of these, over half (58%) expressed regret about not doing so.

The most common reasons for not raising a concern were:

- not knowing how (20%) or who (33%) to raise it with
- not wanting to be seen as a 'troublemaker' (33%)
- worries about not being taken seriously (28%)
- feeling that nothing would change as a result (37%).

However, when people did raise a concern or complaint, the majority (66%) found their issue was resolved quickly, it helped the service to improve and they were happy with the outcome.

[News release](#)

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Disabilities

Learning Disabilities Health Check Scheme, England, Quarter 3, 2018-19 (21/02/19)

The learning disabilities health check scheme is designed to encourage practices to identify all patients aged 14 and over with learning disabilities, to maintain a learning disabilities 'health check' register and offer them an annual health check, which will include producing a health action plan.

The learning disabilities health check scheme is one of a number of GP enhanced services. Enhanced services are voluntary reward programmes that cover primary medical services; one of their main aims is to reduce the burden on secondary care services.

The learning disabilities health check scheme operates on a quarterly basis. This [release](#), published by NHS Digital, contains data for the third quarter of the 2018-19 reporting year.

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Drugs/Alcohol

[See Pharmacy/Prescribing](#)

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Use of potentially contaminated residential land, gardens and allotments (19/02/19)

As with many other industrialised nations, the UK has a legacy of contaminated sites, including former factories, mines, steelworks, refineries and landfills. At these sites, there can be a variety of potentially harmful substances.

This [document](#), from Public Health England, is intended for local authorities to be used for the management of contaminated land issues. It looks at the legal background, the potential risks, and advises a precautionary approach to the issue.

Health decline and housing (15/02/19)

How much of a role does the home we live in play in our wellbeing? In this [article](#) for Age UK, Sue Adams, Chief Executive Officer of [Care & Repair England](#), discusses the importance of reconsidering the relationship between poor housing and health in older people.

In England there's currently no housing policy to address the poor housing affecting more than 2 million older households (55yrs+). The impact of poor housing on health has significant implications for the NHS. The Building Research Establishment estimate that the cost to the NHS of poor housing is £1.4 billion p.a. in first year treatment costs alone, with close to half of this attributable to impacts on older people. Poor health resulting from cold homes and falls in the home account for the majority of this cost to the NHS.

The [All Party Parliamentary Group on Ageing and Older People](#), who Age UK provide the secretariat for, is currently holding an inquiry into the detrimental impact poor housing has on older people's physical, mental and social wellbeing. The inquiry is due to report later this year.

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Health Care

Kent County Council: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting 01 March 2019

The [agenda and reports pack](#) have been published for the next meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Kent County Council (KCC).

Items on the agenda with additional documents attached are:

Children & Young People's Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Service and All Age Eating Disorder Service
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust – Care Quality Commission Inspection of Children's and Young People's Hospital Services
East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust - Update
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust - Update

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Children's vaccine 87% effective against circulating flu strain (22/02/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published mid-season data on the effectiveness of this year's flu vaccines, alongside data from other countries, in the journal [Eurosurveillance](#).

The data suggest that the nasal spray flu vaccine is 87% effective in children aged 2 to 17 years against the main circulating strain, influenza A(H1N1) pdm09.

The vaccine given to adults aged 18 to 64 in at-risk groups is estimated to be 39% effective against the same strain. Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 has been the main strain circulating this season.

[News release](#)

See also [Seasonal flu vaccine update figures](#) and [UK flu levels according to PHE statistics: 2018 to 2019](#)

Chemical hazards compendium: update (15/02/19)

The [Chemical hazards compendium](#), from Public Health England, provides information on the health effects of exposure to, toxicity of, and material for responding to a chemical incident.

The following documents in the compendium has been updated:

[Pyridine](#)
[Sodium and potassium cyanide](#)
[Sodium chlorate](#)
[Titanium tetrachloride](#)

[Toluene diisocyanate](#)

See also [Maternity/Infants](#)

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Hearing/Sight

Serious eye disorders, QS180 (02/19)

This [quality standard](#), published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) covers the diagnosis and management of cataracts, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and the prevention of sight loss.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Avoidable mortality in the UK: 2017 (22/02/19)

The Office for National Statistics has published a [bulletin](#) presenting figures for avoidable mortality in the UK for 2014 to 2017. Figures are based on a revised definition of avoidable mortality introduced in 2014: deaths from causes that are considered avoidable in the presence of timely and effective healthcare or public health interventions.

Main points include:

- In 2017, approximately 23% of all deaths in the UK were considered avoidable (141,313 deaths out of 607,172)
- In 2017, of all deaths amongst children and young people aged 0 to 19 years in the UK, 34% were considered avoidable (1,653 deaths out of 4,918). Overall, avoidable deaths in children and young people made up 1% of the total number of avoidable deaths.

Children aged under 16 years who have experienced the death of their mother (22/02/19)

The Office for National Statistics has published estimated [data](#) of the number of children born in England and Wales who have experienced the death of their mother before they reach age 16 years. Data are taken from the Longitudinal Study.

Milestones: journeying into adulthood (18/02/19)

This [article and data](#), published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), explores the age at which people in the UK reach important milestones in life, including leaving education, beginning work, living with a partner, and getting married – and how these have changed over time.

ONS: What is the difference between sex and gender? (21/02/19)

Sex and gender are terms that are often used interchangeably but they are in fact two different concepts, even though for many people their sex and gender are the same. This [article](#), published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), will clarify the differences between sex and gender and why these differences are important to understand, especially in research and data collection.

Code of conduct for data-driven health and care technology (21/02/19)

The [code of conduct](#), published by the Department of Health and Social Care, encourages technology companies to meet a set of principles to protect patient data to the highest standards. It has been drawn up with the help of industry, academics and patient groups.

The aim is to make it easier for suppliers to develop technologies that tackle some of the biggest issues in healthcare, such as dementia, obesity and cancer. It will also help health and care providers choose safe, effective and secure technology to improve the services they provide.

[News release](#)

NHSX: new joint organisation for digital, data and technology (19/02/19)

A new joint unit, [NHSX](#), will be created to bring the benefits of modern technology to every patient and clinician. NHSX will aim to create an advanced health and care service to diagnose diseases earlier, free up staff time and empower patients to take greater control of their own healthcare.

Currently, much NHS technology relies on systems designed for a pre-internet age. Patients are not getting the care they need because their data does not follow them round the system. Change has been slow because responsibility for digital, data and tech has been split across multiple agencies, teams and organisations. NHSX will change this by bringing together all the levers of policy, implementation and change for the first time.

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Expansion of budgets for personalised health and care support announced (21/02/19)

The government has [announced](#) plans to give personal health budgets to up to 200,000 people by 2024. Currently over 40,000 people benefit from personal health budgets.

Personal health budgets are planned and agreed between individuals and clinicians, giving people greater choice, flexibility and control over their health and care support. They have also been shown to join up health and social care services in local areas and to help reduce pressure on emergency care.

As well as extending the legal right to wheelchair users and people who access aftercare services under the Mental Health Act, the government will look to give personal health budgets to people with ongoing mental, health needs, veterans, people with autism, people with learning disabilities, and people receiving adult social care support.

This follows on from a [consultation](#) last year by the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England, and ties in to the [NHS Long Term Plan](#).

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

HMP Maidstone inspection report (19/02/19)

HM Inspectorate of Prisons has published a report of an unannounced inspection of HMP Maidstone which took place in October 2018.

HMP Maidstone is a category C prison that holds foreign national prisoners and has done since 2013. At the time of this inspection it held just under 600 prisoners. It had a young population, with some 40% being under 30 years of age. 51% of the population were black and minority ethnic men.

HMP Maidstone was found by prison inspectors to be calm and well-ordered but there are signs of an increasing drugs problem. The number of violent incidents and the use of force by staff had increased since the previous inspection but levels were lower than in most similar category C prisons.

Inspectors found generally good relationships between staff and prisoners. One of the most serious concerns was the decline in terms of the purposeful activity available to prisoners. The prison dates back to 1819. Much of the residential accommodation is old, shabby and in need of refurbishment and the sports hall had been condemned and closed.

[Full report](#)
[Press release](#)

Beyond prison, redefining punishment (18/02/19)

David Gauke has set out his vision for a "smart" justice system to reduce reoffending, protect the public and ensure serious criminals receive the punishment they deserve.

In a landmark speech he challenged the "polarising" view that there is only a choice between "soft" and "hard" justice, arguing that the focus should instead be on a system based on evidence of what actually works. He stressed he did not want to reverse tougher sentencing for serious crimes but urged caution in continuing to increase sentence length as a response to concerns over crime.

On sentencing, he said that the high rate of reoffending for those on sentences of less than 6 months showed that for them and wider society "prison simply isn't working". He urged those who shape the system to "take a step back" and ask fundamental questions such as whether the approach to sentencing reduces crime; if prisons currently maximise the chances of rehabilitation; and if there better alternatives to punish and rehabilitate offenders.

[Speech](#)
[Press release](#)

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Long-term Conditions

Dementia 2020 challenge: progress review (22/02/19)

During 2018, stakeholders from the health and social care system, and the charitable sector, were asked to comment on the progress of the actions set out in the [Challenge on dementia 2020 implementation plan](#) and what else needed to be done to complete them.

This [progress report](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, summarises the responses and sets out revised actions for 2018 to 2020.

See also Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

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Maternity/Infants

TB, BCG and your baby (22/02/19)

Public Health England has added a new leaflet to the [immunisation collection](#) of information for immunisation practitioners and other health professionals.

The [leaflet](#) contains the current information on tuberculosis and the BCG vaccine including the benefits and contraindications for BCG immunisation in infants.

See also

Health Protection/Emergencies

Screening

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

CQC: Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (22/02/19)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out the inspection of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust between 9 October and 29 November 2018. The trust is rated as Good overall. It is rated as Outstanding for caring, and Good for whether its services are safe, effective, responsive and well led.

Kent and Medway NHS Partnership is a large mental health trust that provides mental health, learning disability, substance misuse and specialist to approximately 1.8 million people across Kent and Medway. The trust works in partnership with Kent County Council and works closely with the local unitary authority in Medway.

[Report](#)

[CQC news release](#)

[KMPT news release](#)

NHS Staff and Learners' Mental Wellbeing Report (22/02/19)

The government is setting out new plans to provide better mental health and wellbeing support to NHS staff.

The new support will be based on recommendations by Health Education England (HEE) in its report on the mental health and wellbeing of NHS staff and learners, commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care last year.

The support could include:

- post-incident support for NHS frontline staff, such as peer group support or a more formal psychological assessment
- a dedicated mental health support service giving confidential advice and support 24 hours a day
- fast-tracked mental health referrals for NHS employees if requested as a priority from either a GP or an occupational health clinician
- improved rest spaces for on-call staff and trainees during and after their shifts, providing security, shower facilities and refreshments
- an 'NHS workforce wellbeing guardian' in every NHS organisation, responsible for championing mental health and wellbeing support for staff.

[Full report](#) and [executive summary](#)

[Speech](#) by Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

[HEE news release](#)

[DHSC news release](#)

The epidemiology of trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder in a representative cohort of young people in England and Wales (01/03/19)

Despite the emphasis placed on childhood trauma in psychiatry, comparatively little is known about the epidemiology of trauma and trauma-related psychopathology in young people. This research, published in [Lancet Psychiatry](#) (open access article), set out to evaluate the prevalence, clinical features, and risk factors associated with trauma exposure and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in young people.

The epidemiological study is based on participants from the Environmental Risk Longitudinal Twin Study, a population-representative birth-cohort of 2232 children born in England and Wales in 1994–95.

The researchers found that nearly one in three young people experienced trauma and one in four of those exposed to trauma developed PTSD by age 18 years. Trauma-exposed young people, and particularly those with PTSD, had complex psychiatric presentations, high risk of harm to themselves, and functional impairment. However, only a minority received help from health professionals.

[BBC News Health](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Systematic review compares moderate-intensity continuous training with high-intensity interval training (HIIT) (16/02/19)

Whether physical activity affects weight control has been an ongoing topic of discussion. The majority of physical activity guidelines for the management of obesity recommend high exercise volumes. Guidelines generally recommend 150–250 min/week, and up to 60 min/day, of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise to prevent weight gain or to reduce body mass a little bit (2–3 kg). More than an hour of exercise daily (>420 min/week) is recommended to lose more weight (5–7.5 kg). Few people meet these guidelines.

Interval training may have the potential to promote weight loss as it has some benefits similar to moderate-intensity continuous training (MOD) while requiring less time. The researchers set out to compare the effects of interval training and moderate-intensity continuous training (MOD) on body adiposity in humans, and to perform subgroup analyses that consider the type and duration of interval training in different groups.

The results of the systematic review and meta-analysis are published in the [British Journal of Sports Medicine](#) (open access article).

[BBC News Health](#)

Guide to dementia-friendly sport and physical activity (12/02/19)

[Sport England](#) has teamed up with the Alzheimer's Society to produce a dementia-friendly sport and physical activity guide. The guide, which was produced with National Lottery funding, aims to help the sports sector bring down barriers that prevent people living with dementia from taking part in sport and physical activity.

Dementia is one of the greatest challenges facing society today and there are more than 850,000 people living with the condition in the UK. Yet many people with dementia say they experience barriers to taking part in activity. These could include difficulty in navigating around a sports facility or remembering how to use equipment in a leisure centre.

The aim is to inform and educate individuals and organisations, so they have a better knowledge of dementia and how it affects people. It also provides tools and guidance so that the sector can help more people affected by dementia enjoy the benefits of staying active in a caring and understanding environment.

The guide is available to download from the [Alzheimer's Society website](#). You will need to complete a short registration form before doing so.

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Older People

Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment Toolkit for Primary Care Practitioners(01/19)

The [Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment \(CGA\) toolkit](#) for General Practitioners and medical and healthcare professionals working in primary care settings explains what comprehensive geriatric assessment is, in what circumstances to use it and how it is done together with planning and involvement of social services.

In addition, the series includes guides on specific medical issues that older patients may present with. These CGA guides cover a range of conditions and situations, from bone health to end of life care.

The toolkit is designed to be used either online or may be downloaded in sections or as a complete pdf from the British Geriatrics Society website.

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

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Oral Health

NHS Dental Statistics for England, 2018-19, Second Quarterly Report (21/02/19)

NHS Digital has published [dental activity statistics](#) for England covering July to September 2018 and patients seen data for 24 month period (adults) and 12 month period (children) up to 31 December 2018.

Key facts:

- 22 million adult patients were seen by an NHS dentist, 50.4% of the adult population, in the 24-months to 1 December 2018
- 7 million child patients were seen by an NHS dentist, 58.6% of the child population, in the 12-months to 1 December 2018
- 9.7 million courses of treatments (CoT) in quarter 2 of 2018-19, a decrease of 300,179 on the same quarter in 2017-18

NHS Digital are reviewing the frequency of some statistical publications, including NHS Dental Statistics. After this release, the publication will change from quarterly to twice a year, with the next release in August 2019. Quarterly trends will be included in the publication.

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Widening the availability of naloxone (18/02/19)

Regulations introduced in 2015 and amended in 2019 widened the availability of naloxone, a medicine which reverses the effects of a heroin (or another opiate) overdose.

This [information](#), published by the Department of Health and Social Care, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, and Public Health England, explains the regulations and how they can be implemented.

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Public Health/Health Promotion

RSPH strategic partnership with Future Fit Training (13/02/19)

The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) has [announced](#) a new strategic partnership with [Future Fit Training](#) to provide education and support for people working in health and fitness.

The partnership builds on the work of both organisations to recognise the growing role of Exercise Professionals in improving the public's health. In 2018 RSPH and UK Active published [Going the Distance](#) which highlighted the important role the UK's 57,000 Exercise Professionals can play in improving the public's health.

As part of the new partnership, students who complete Future Fit's new '[RSPH Level 4 award in Nutrition](#)' will gain automatic entry to membership of the RSPH. Launched fully in January 2019, the course is designed to provide students with the knowledge needed to advise a variety of clients on how best to meet their nutritional needs.

[See also Communities and Local Government](#)

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Safeguarding

Child abuse and neglect, QS179 (02/19)

This [quality standard](#), published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers recognising, assessing and responding to abuse and neglect of children and young people under 18. It covers physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

See also [NICE guideline, NG76](#) (published October 2017).

[Guidance links, context and additional resources](#)

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Screening

Review of national cancer screening programmes in England (21/02/19)

In November 2018 NHS England [announced](#) that Professor Sir Mike Richards would lead a major overhaul of national cancer screening programmes as part of a renewed drive to improve care and save lives. Sir Mike, who was the NHS' first cancer director and is the former CQC chief inspector of hospitals, has started work on the review and wants to hear [views and ideas](#) from staff, patients and other groups to inform recommendations for the future of cancer screening.

There are three national cancer screening programmes in England.

- Cervical screening – offered to women aged 25 to 64, with screening offered every three years for women aged up to 49 and every five years from 50 to 64.
- Breast screening – offered to women aged 50 to 70, with women over 70 able to self-refer for screening.
- Bowel screening – offered to men and women aged 60 to 74, and another bowel screening test offered to men and women at the age of 55 in some parts of England.

The review is expected to be published by summer 2019. [Review documents](#).

Fetal anomalies: screening, conditions, diagnosis, treatment (18/02/19)

This [collection](#) of documents, from Public Health England, describe conditions screened for by the NHS fetal anomaly screening programme (FASP), including diagnostic tests and treatment options.

Two new documents have been added:

[Anencephaly: description in brief](#)
[Spina bifida: information for parents](#)

Antenatal and newborn screening quality assurance: local visit reports (19/02/19)

Public Health England publishes [executive summaries](#), including recommendations, from local screening quality assurance (QA) visit reports of antenatal and newborn screening.

The following is now available:

[East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Bowel cancer screening quality assurance: local visit reports (19/02/19)

Public Health England publishes [executive summaries](#), including recommendations, from local screening quality assurance (QA) visit reports of bowel cancer screening services.

The following are now available:

[East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust](#)
[West Kent and Medway](#)

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Sexual Health

Sexual health, QS178 (02/19)

This [quality standard](#), published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) covers sexual health, focusing on preventing sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

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Social Care/Welfare

SCIE: Strengths-based approaches (19/02/19)

Last week the Department for Health and Social Care published a new [Practice Framework and handbook](#) supporting social workers and social care professionals in applying a strengths-based approach to their work with adults. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) supported its development.

Strengths-based (or asset-based) approaches (SBAs) focus on individuals' strengths (including personal strengths and social and community networks) and not on their deficits. SCIE has published [resources](#) describing how SBAs work in a variety of interventions and settings and provides information on how to enable and implement SBAs.

Social media and social service workers (21/02/19)

The [Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services \(Iriss\)](#) has published this Insight guide to [Social media and social service workers](#).

Key points include:

- Social media, when used effectively can be a tool for workers to improve practice, encourage collaboration, create virtual communities of practice, facilitate greater integration and track CPD
- Social media is about more than just Facebook and Twitter; there are a range of other channels to help practitioners develop and improve practice
- Organisations should recognise the potential of social media for practice and be supportive of its use, providing clear guidance to avoid confusion and anxiety about risk
- Lessons on the use of social media can be taken from other disciplines including healthcare and education.

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Workforce Development

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Workplace

Brexit: the implications for health and social care (22/02/19)

Brexit has major implications for health and social care in England. Beccy Baird of the King's Fund [updates](#) a previous article by Helen McKenna and examines the latest developments that could impact the health and care system in England.

The deadline of 29 March 2019, set when Article 50 was triggered, is approaching but many important issues are still to be resolved. Brexit has already had an impact, especially on the recruitment and retention of EU nationals in some parts of the workforce which is contributing to shortages of key staff. In addition, the ongoing debate in parliament and uncertainty about whether a deal can be agreed mean considerable work has gone into preparations for a no-deal Brexit.

See also Nuffield Trust [Hard facts about a soft Brexit and the NHS](#)

Hotdesking and social workers (21/02/19)

More than eight in 10 (86%) of social workers don't believe hotdesking is compatible with their jobs, a survey by [Community Care](#) has revealed.

The survey of over 2,400 social workers found 57% 'strongly disagreed' with the opinion that hotdesking was compatible with their jobs, while a further 29% said they 'disagreed'. With 8% saying they felt neutral on the subject, only 6% of the profession agreed that social work as a job was compatible with hotdesking.

Common problems highlighted by respondents were the wasted time of trying to find a desk, the loss of peer support on both a practical and emotional level, and general untidiness.

The findings come as 96% of those surveyed said their employers used hotdesking in at least one of its bases, and 82% told us they currently hotdesk.

See also [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

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Contact us:

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