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Accident and Emergency

A&E attendances increase by 22 per cent in the last decade (13/09/18)

There were 23.8 million attendances to Accident and Emergency departments in England during 2017-18, which is an increase of two per cent compared with 2016-17 and 22 per cent since 2008-09, according to official figures.

The [Hospital Accident and Emergency Activity 2017/18](#), published by NHS Digital and created in partnership with NHS England, shows that the average growth per year over the period since 2008-09 is two per cent, compared with the England population average growth of one per cent per year over a similar period.

[News release](#)

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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Chronic heart failure in adults: diagnosis and management, NG106 (09/18)

Around 920,000 people in the UK today have been diagnosed with heart failure. Both the incidence and prevalence of heart failure increase steeply with age, and the average age at diagnosis is 77. Improvements in care have increased survival for people with ischaemic heart disease, and treatments for heart failure have become more effective. But the overall prevalence of heart failure is rising because of population ageing and increasing rates of obesity.

This [guideline](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers diagnosing and managing chronic heart failure in people aged 18 and over. It aims to improve diagnosis and treatment to increase the length and quality of life for people with heart failure. The guideline updates and replaces NICE guideline CG108 (August 2010).

The [quality standard QS9](#) has been updated in line with the new guideline.

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Children/Young People/Families

One in five children in England carry out some care for sick and disabled family members (14/09/18)

New figures from BBC News and the [University of Nottingham](#) reveal that the extent of caring by children is much higher than had been thought, with 22% of children, who responded to a questionnaire, admitting to being young carers.

The secondary school pupils, who responded, lived with a family member who had an illness or disability and carried out caring duties. Nearly a third (32%) of those children are responsible for a high level caring.

If the results reflect the country as a whole, it would mean that over 800,000 secondary school children (aged 11-16 years) in England are having to care for someone at home...with nearly 260,000 regularly doing domestic work, household management and emotional care.

[Being a young carer](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

30 hours free childcare: evaluation of the national rollout (11/09/18)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published [findings](#) from the evaluation of the first year of the national rollout of 30 hours free childcare. The evaluation collected data from 12 local authorities, which included surveys, interviews and census returns.

It aimed to:

- understand how the policy was implemented
- whether it is working as intended
- understand the effects of the policy
- consider whether it is achieving its objectives of supporting working families and helping parents to work.

[DfE news release](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

iHV publishes its 10-year plan for health visiting (03/09/18)

The Institute of Health Visiting (iHV) has published its preferred [plan](#) for the relationship of health visiting with the NHS in the next 10 years.

As the NHS writes its new 10-year plan, with a specific focus on children, prevention and mental health, the Institute of Health Visiting has published its own recommendations for strengthening health visiting services.

See also [Health Visiting: thinking back, moving forward](#), guest blog by Dr Karen Whittaker, Reader in Child and Family Health, School of Nursing, University of Central Lancashire, and Trustee of iHV (11 September 2018).

[Children and Young People Now](#)

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Commissioning and Economics

See [Legislation /Crime / Prisons and Public Health / Health Promotion](#)

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Communities and Local Government

Inspecting local authority children's services from 2018 (14/09/18)

Ofsted has updated the [framework and guidance](#) for inspecting local authority services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers.

30 hours free childcare: local authority evaluation and monitoring toolkit (11/09/18)

The Department for Education has [published](#) best practice guidance and a spreadsheet tool is for local authorities and childcare providers.

Carers action plan 2018 to 2020 (13/09/18)

This [policy paper](#) sets out the cross-government programme of work to support carers over the next 2 years.

It is structured around the following themes:

- services and systems that work for carers
- employment and financial wellbeing
- supporting young carers
- recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society
- building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers.

Cuts to contraceptive care services (12/09/18)

Almost half of councils in England have closed sites providing contraceptive services since the in-year public health budget cuts of 2015, new research from the [Advisory Group on Contraception \(AGC\)](#) reveals.

The AGC issued a Freedom of Information request to all 152 upper tier local authorities in England. 74 councils (49%) confirmed that they have reduced, or plan to reduce, the number of sites commissioned to deliver contraceptive services in at least one year between 2015/16 and 2018/19. The number of councils closing services each year has accelerated from 12 out of 138 councils (9%) in 2015/16 to 33 out of 140 councils (24%) in 2017/18. This means that more than 6.2 million women of reproductive age (15-49) live in an area where the council has reduced the number of sites delivering contraceptive services.

[Local Government Association](#)

Childcare and early years survey of parents: 2017 follow-up survey (11/09/18)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published [findings](#) of a follow-up telephone survey with respondents to the 2017 childcare and early years survey of parents.

Key findings include:

- Most children aged 3 or 4 (and not at Reception) (83%) were receiving Government funded hours of childcare, under either the 15 or 30 hours offers, in a typical term-time week.
- Over two-thirds of parents (71%) using the 30 hours offer had some flexibility: 35 per cent could choose when to use the hours, with no restrictions; 36 per cent could choose but had some restrictions; and 29 per cent could only use the hours on days and times specified by their provider.
- Most parents (69%) using the 30 hours offer said the weekly amount they were spending on their child's formal childcare fees had fallen, compared to before they took up the offer. Over four in five parents (84%) using the 30 hours offer said these hours were making a difference to their family finances.
- Among parents using the 30 hours offer, 13 per cent had entered work since the main survey. Of those using the 30 hours offer and in work at both surveys, 16 per cent had increased their working hours, and around two in five (41%) had made an additional change to their working patterns (aside from changes to hours worked).
- Around seven in ten parents (71%) said the hours available under the 30 hours offer were making a difference to their ability to balance their work with their childcare needs, including 46 per cent who said the hours were making a 'great deal' of difference.

New Suicide Prevention Funding for Community Groups (10/09/18)

Figures for 2017 show there were 141 suicides in Kent and Medway which shows a year on year reduction since 195 suicides in 2014 but is still higher than the national average.

On World Suicide Day (10 September) new funding was [announced](#) for community-based Kent projects to help reduce the numbers of people who take their own lives. Led by health providers and local authorities from the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP), groups are being offered between £500 and £5000 to support projects designed to prevent suicide and reduce self-harm.

The fund is being overseen by the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Steering Group which produced the 2015-20 suicide prevention strategy and action plan, following national priorities to reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups and tailor approaches to improve mental health and wellbeing in the county.

Applications need to be submitted through the Community Grants Funding Page on www.kent.gov.uk/savinglives and applications must be received by 11th October 2018. Funded projects need to be delivered by 31st March 2019.

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Disabilities

Government response to the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme 2nd annual report (12/09/18)

A [joint response](#) has been published from the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England to the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) [2nd annual report](#). It accepts the recommendations and sets out a plan of action for each one.

The actions will help address the inequality in life expectancy between people with learning disabilities and the wider population by ensuring that staff supporting people with a learning disability understand their needs and can adjust the way care is provided, to help people reach their full potential.

Other measures announced include:

- sharing the learning from the [named social worker pilot](#), which explored one-to-one support for people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs
- plans for a long-term study of the impact of integrated community support for people with learning disabilities
- testing and developing a quality-of-life standard for people with learning disabilities that can be used to measure the effectiveness of support

See also [Consultation announced to improve learning disabilities staff training](#)

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Drugs/Alcohol

Public Health England and Drinkaware launch Drink Free Days (10/09/18)

Working together for the first time, Public Health England and alcohol education charity [Drinkaware](#) have jointly launched a new campaign '[Drink Free Days](#)' to help people cut down on the amount of alcohol they are regularly drinking.

The campaign will be encouraging middle-aged drinkers to use the tactic of taking more days off from drinking as a way of reducing their health risks from alcohol.

The more alcohol people drink, the greater their risk of developing several serious potentially life limiting health conditions, such as high blood pressure and heart disease, as well as 7 types of cancer. Regular drinking also increases the number of calories consumed and can contribute to weight gain and obesity.

See also Duncan Selbie's [blog](#)

[Drink Free Days app](#)

[Drinkaware unit and calorie calculator](#)

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Education

Pupils and their parents or carers: omnibus survey (07/09/18)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published [findings](#) from research on pupils and their parents or carers and responses to questions asked in the survey. DfE gathered data from pupils aged 11 to 17 who attend state-funded secondary schools in England and their parents or carers.

Topics covered in the survey include:

- parental involvement in pupils' learning
- changes to the school day
- mental health and wellbeing
- changes at school
- plans for the future

- bullying
- life outside of studies
- pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

A better relationship with learning: an evaluation of the Young Carers in Schools Programme (03/09/18)

The charity [Coram](#) has published an evaluation of the [Young Carers in Schools \(YCiS\) Programme](#). The scheme is a free England-wide initiative delivered by Carers Trust in partnership with The Children's Society.

YCiS equips schools to support young carers and awards good practice. The [summary](#) includes an overview of findings such as how well young carers have been able to improve their relationship with education and their academic progress.

Anti-Bullying Week: resources for schools 12 - 16 November 2018

[Anti-Bullying Alliance \(ABA\)](#) has developed [primary](#) and [secondary](#) school packs which include lesson and assembly plans, cross curricular ideas and films. ABA also has a range of [animations and videos](#) available.

ABA's partner, [Restorative Thinking](#), has written a resource [Restorative practice and Anti-Bullying Week](#) to help schools.

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End of Life/Palliative Care

Island: one year, four lives (13/09/18)

Island, a documentary directed by Steven Eastwood, follows four different people in their last days – and in one case, during his very last seconds – of their lives. The film is an honest, unblinking, unsentimental look at the process of death.

The documentary came about after Fabrica, a gallery in Brighton, commissioned a film about end of life. The London-based film-maker's proposal was accepted, and he managed to get access to film in a hospice on the Isle of Wight.

Island is released in UK cinemas on Friday 14 September.

[BBC interview](#) (written) with Steven Eastwood
[Island review](#), The Guardian

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Environment/Transport/Housing

The future for food, farming and the environment: policy statement (2018) (14/09/18)

This [policy statement](#) sets out the expectations of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs for agricultural policy for England over the next 10 years. It also outlines how the Agriculture Bill will set the foundations to achieve this.

The document focuses on policy for England. The department be working with the rest of the UK to develop any necessary UK-wide legislation and administrative common frameworks.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs: guidance on 'no deal' (13/09/18)

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has published guidance on certain issues should the EU leave the EU in March 2019 with 'no deal':

[Funding for UK LIFE projects](#)

[Industrial emissions standards \('best available techniques'\)](#)

[Upholding environmental standards](#)

[Using and trading in fluorinated gases and ozone depleting substances](#)

New data shows drop in bovine TB as further measures to fight disease unveiled (13/09/18)

England has the highest incidence of bovine TB in Europe and the disease costs taxpayers over £100million every year. In 2017 more than 33,000 cattle had to be slaughtered in England to control the disease, causing devastation and distress for farmers and rural communities.

However, Farming Minister George Eustice has [announced](#) reductions in new outbreaks of bovine TB have been recorded in Gloucestershire and Somerset following the completion of their licensed four-year badger culls.

TB in cattle is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis* (M. bovis). Cattle, buffalo and bison are the natural hosts of M. bovis, but nearly all mammals are susceptible to the infection to a variable degree. The organism also has the capacity to infect and cause TB in humans. However, the [risk of infection](#) for the general public remains very low in industrialised countries with long-standing bovine TB control programmes and where pasteurisation of cows' milk is either mandatory or commonly practised.

Government [control cost](#) and [value for money analysis](#)

[Advice to Natural England on setting numbers of badgers to be controlled in 2018](#)

[Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme 2 \(BEVS 2\)](#)

[Cage-trapping and dispatch of badgers guidance](#)

[Controlled shooting of badgers guidance](#)

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Health Care

Acute medical care in England: Findings from a survey of smaller acute hospitals (13/09/18)

The Nuffield Trust conducted a [survey](#) of smaller hospitals to assess the current state of acute medical care. They interviewed medical directors and lead clinicians for acute/emergency medical care over a six-month period and found evidence of the huge challenges faced by smaller acute trusts in England, particularly in maintaining sufficient numbers of medical staff.

[Caring for acute medical patients in smaller hospitals](#) blog

Quality improvement in hospital trusts: Sharing learning (11/09/18)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published a [report](#) that explores how a number of high performing hospital trusts have used a systematic approach to quality improvement (QI) to ensure better patient outcomes and performance.

[CQC news release](#)

Pancreatitis, NG104 (09/18)

This [guideline](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers managing acute and chronic pancreatitis in children, young people and adults. It aims to improve quality of life by ensuring that people have the right treatment and follow-up and get timely information and support after diagnosis.

Acute pancreatitis is acute inflammation of the pancreas and is a common cause of acute abdominal pain. The incidence in the UK is approximately 56 cases per 100,000 people per year. Around 50% of cases are caused by gallstones, 25% by alcohol and 25% by other factors.

Chronic pancreatitis is a continuous prolonged inflammatory process of the pancreas that results in fibrosis, cyst formation and stricturing of the pancreatic duct. The annual incidence in western Europe is about 5 new cases per 100,000 people. The male to female ratio is 7:1 and the average age of onset is between 36 and 55 years. Alcohol is responsible for 70–80% of cases of chronic pancreatitis.

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Health Protection/Emergencies

New flu vaccine available this winter for those aged 65 and over (12/09/18)

A [flu vaccine](#), available for the first time this year in the UK for those aged 65 and over, could reduce GP consultations by 30,000, hospitalisations by over 2,000 and prevent over 700 hospital deaths from flu in England, alleviating some of the health burden that seasonal flu places on the population, workplaces and the NHS.

The 'adjuvanted' vaccine is expected to significantly boost effectiveness by improving the body's immune response to the vaccine. This is important because typically, older adults' bodies do not respond as well to the flu vaccine due to their naturally weaker immune systems. Older adults are also more likely to suffer complications from flu.

The flu vaccine will be available from early October. Public Health England's annual flu marketing campaign will launch on 8 October and will target at-risk groups. People who are eligible for the flu vaccine this year include: adults aged 65 and over; adults aged 18 to 64 with a long term health condition; children aged 2 to 3 at their GP practice; school children in years reception, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; pregnant women; health and social care workers; carers; morbidly obese people.

Measles: resources for local government (11/09/18)

Public Health England has published guidance to help local authorities to respond to outbreaks of measles in their areas and support greater uptake of the MMR vaccine.

This [guidance](#) includes information on: measles infection; MMR vaccine; measles elimination; inequalities in vaccine uptake and disease burden; strategies to address inequalities in vaccine uptake in under-vaccinated communities; MMR immunisation programme and outbreak health check; case studies; links to resources.

Monkeypox (12/09/18)

Public Health England has published [guidance](#) on the epidemiology, symptoms, diagnosis and management of monkeypox virus infections.

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with monkeypox virus. The first human case was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and since then the infection has been reported in a number of central and western African countries.

On 8 September 2018, an imported case of monkeypox was reported in the UK. A second imported case was [reported](#) on 11 September 2018. The first person had travelled in Nigeria, the second is a visitor from Nigeria.

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Inequalities/Minorities

Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (12/09/18)

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.

The Women and Equalities Committee of the House of Commons took [oral evidence](#) this week as part of the [inquiry](#) into this subject.

[Children and Young People Now](#)

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Talk Health and Care (10/09/18)

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock is setting out plans to give 3.1 million health and care staff in England a voice in the day-to-day creation of policy.

He has [launched](#) a new digital platform called '[Talk Health and Care](#)', which staff can use to post ideas, questions and challenges for government. This follows feedback from staff that too often they do not feel valued at work.

The platform will be available on computers, phones and tablets. It will continually update to reflect the views and ideas of staff. The platform will also include events, forums and webinars for staff across the country.

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

NAO: Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales 2018 (11/09/18)

There are 43 territorial police forces (forces) in England and Wales. The ability of police forces to provide an efficient and effective service is the defining test of their financial sustainability. The Home Office's (the Department's) role in ensuring that forces are financially sustainable is complex. Local accountability gives commissioners and chief constables greater control over spending decisions, but consequently, the Department has less oversight over forces' financial sustainability and how the funding it has provided is used.

This [report](#) from the National Audit Office (NAO) follows up a previous report published in 2015. It finds that the Home Office's light touch approach to overseeing police forces means it does not know if the police system is financially sustainable. It lacks a long-term plan for policing and significant gaps remain in its understanding of demand for police services and their costs. The way the Department chooses to distribute funding has been ineffective and detached from the changing nature of policing for too long, and it cannot be sure overall funding is being directed to the right places.

Child arrests in England and Wales reduced by more than two-thirds in seven years (10/09/18)

Figures published by the Howard League for Penal Reform reveal that arrests of children in England and Wales have been [reduced](#) by more than two-thirds in the last seven years. Police made 79,012 arrests of children aged 17 and under last year, down by 68 per cent from almost 250,000 in 2010.

The statistics, compiled from responses to Freedom of Information requests, show the continued success of a major Howard League programme, which involves working with police forces to keep as many children as possible out of the criminal justice system.

The charity's research briefing, [Child arrests in England and Wales 2017](#), explores some of the changes that police forces have made to reduce arrest numbers, while also shining new light on areas where further progress can be achieved.

Self-harm by adult men in prison: a rapid evidence assessment (13/09/18)

This [research summary](#), published by the Ministry for Justice, presents the findings of a Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) of the international research evidence and published literature on the distinct characteristics and motivations of adult men (over the age of 18) who self-harm in prison.

Further to the characteristics and circumstances of the men themselves, staff knowledge and understanding were also identified as a factor and the review concludes there is ongoing need for training and support for prison staff on this issue.

Good multi-disciplinary communications, early identification of risk and support for men in prison to solve daily problems as they arise are also identified as factors likely to reduce the incidence of self-harm.

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

World Suicide Prevention Day – engaging communities (10/09/18)

World Suicide Prevention Day is marked each year to draw attention to the large and avertable burden of self-harm and suicide. Based on WHO's newly released Global Health Estimates for 2016, close to 800 000 people died by suicide in 2016, equivalent to 10.8 suicides per 100 000 population. The rate of suicide in the WHO European Region is even higher, reaching 13 per 100 000 for both sexes combined, and more than 20 suicides among males.

According to the WHO Mental Health Atlas 2017, just over half of the European Region's Member States now have an articulated suicide prevention strategy – an increase of more than 50% since 2014. To further assist local implementation efforts, WHO has published a community engagement toolkit for suicide prevention, which provides a step-by-step guide for communities to engage in suicide prevention activities.

[WHO Europe news release](#)
[Preventing suicide: a community engagement toolkit](#)

Minister for Loneliness addresses delegates at Public Health England Annual Conference (13/09/18)

Tracey Crouch, Minister for Loneliness gave a [speech](#) at the Public Health England Annual Conference. She acknowledged the work being done and called for further work on the evidence base on loneliness. She indicated the ways in which the Department of Health and Social Care is contributing to tackling loneliness through social prescribing, building dementia friendly communities, and through the Carers Action Plan.

She said:

"We know loneliness is highly stigmatised. The Mental Health Foundation found that one in three adults (30%) are too embarrassed to admit they are feeling lonely, while 42% of young people are too embarrassed to tell their peers."

"Government can't solve loneliness alone. We need to take this on together. The wellbeing of one person is the same as the wellbeing of the wider community. Loneliness is everybody's issue and everybody is responsible for solving it and I look forward to working together with you in tackling this challenge."

Mental health and well-being trends among children and young people in the UK, 1995–2014 (11/09/18)

There is a growing concern about the mental health of children and young people (CYP) in the UK, with increasing demand for counselling services, admissions for self-harm and referrals to mental health services. This research investigated whether there have been similar recent trends in selected mental health outcomes among CYP in national health surveys from England, Scotland and Wales.

In 1995, just 0.8% of 4-24 year olds in England reported a long-standing mental health condition. By 2014 this had increased to 4.8%. Looking across England, Scotland and Wales using data between 2008 and 2014, reports of a mental health condition in England and Scotland, and reports of treatment for one in Wales, grew by 60%, 75% and 41% respectively.

Researchers analysed data from 140,830 participants aged between 4 and 24 years, in 36 national surveys in England, Scotland and Wales over time. The results are published in [Psychological Medicine \(open access article\)](#).

Nuffield Trust [press release](#) and [blog](#)

Preventing suicide in community and custodial settings, NG105 (09/18)

This [guideline](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers ways to reduce suicide and help people bereaved or affected by suicides. It aims to:

- help local services work more effectively together to prevent suicide
- identify and help people at risk
- prevent suicide in places where it is currently more likely.

It does not cover national strategies, general mental wellbeing, or areas covered by other NICE guidance such as self-harm or mental health conditions.

This guideline should be read in conjunction with Public Health England's [Local suicide prevention planning: a practice resource](#) (October 2014, updated October 2016).

See also

Communities and Local Government

Legislation / Crime / Prisons

Workplace

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

National child measurement programme: operational guidance (13/09/18)

The National child measurement programme (NCMP) is part of the government's commitment to dealing with the public health challenge of excess weight. The following [guidance](#) has been revised and or updated:

- Information for schools and Pre-measurement letter for head teachers
- The NCMP Operational guidance 2018 and chapter 3

Calorie labelling for food and drink served outside of the home: consultation

14 September - 07 December 2018

The government is [seeking views](#) on its plans to make places serving food and drink outside of the home display calorie information.

The purpose of calorie labelling is to make sure that people have clear and accurate information about the calorie content of the food and drink that they and their families are eating when dining out, so that they can make informed and healthy choices for themselves and their children.

Evidence shows that overweight children are more likely to become overweight adults, who have a high risk of developing health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, strokes and heart disease. Calorie labelling forms part of the government's wider strategy to halve childhood obesity by 2030.

[Consultation website](#)
[News release](#)

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Department of Health and Social Care: guidance on 'no deal' (14/09/18)

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published guidance on the following issues should the UK leave the EU in March 2019 with 'no deal':

[Batch testing medicines](#)
[Ensuring blood and blood products are safe](#)
[How medicines, medical devices and clinical trials would be regulated](#)
[Labelling tobacco products and e-cigarettes](#)
[Quality and safety of organs, tissues and cells](#)
[Submitting regulatory information on medical products](#)

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Health profile for England: 2018 (11/09/18)

Public Health England has published the second annual report combining data and knowledge with information from other sources to give a broad picture of the health of people in England in 2018.

The [Health Profile for England](#) report covers life expectancy; major causes of death; mortality trends; child health; inequality in health; wider determinants of health; and current health protection issues.

As a society, people are living longer – life expectancy in England has reached 79.6 years for men and 83.2. However, stubborn inequalities persist – in the richest areas people enjoy 19 more years in good health than those in the poorest areas.

[10 facts about the Health of England](#)
[News release](#)

Mental health data and analysis: a guide for health professionals (11/09/18)

Public Health England (PHE) brings together and analyses data on mental health conditions from across the health and care system and produces resources to help improve services and outcomes.

This [guidance](#) is written for commissioners, public health professionals and others involved in the local planning and provision of services that support people with mental health conditions.

Early years profile: 2018 update (04/09/18)

The [early years profiles](#) bring together a range of indicators on the health of children aged 0 to 5 years by local area.

Developed by Public Health England's National Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network with NHS England, the indicators provide information on public health outcomes for children in their early years.

The early years profiles are designed to help commissioners and providers of health visiting services to assess the priorities and outcomes of the transformation of health visiting services programme.

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Safeguarding

Sexual safety on mental health wards (11/09/18)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is [calling](#) for new national guidance to improve the sexual safety of people and staff on mental health wards, following analysis of how mental health trusts in England report sexual incidents. In its [Sexual Safety on Mental Health Wards](#) report the CQC shares its findings and recommendations after reviewing patient safety incidents reported to the NHS National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS).

The review was initiated following concerns from CQC inspectors about sexual safety on mental health wards. Those admitted to a mental health ward may include people vulnerable to sexual abuse and people who may lack the mental capacity to make informed decisions about sexual relationships. This combined with a high number of detained patients on many mental health wards - some in old and unsuitable buildings - staff shortages and few staff trained in how to promote sexual safety, can put patients and staff at risk of harm.

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Social Care/Welfare

Country matters: inequalities in children's social care (11/09/18)

New research reveals huge disparities in levels of children's social care intervention between the four UK nations, explains Paul Bywaters writing in [Community Care](#).

The [Child Welfare Inequalities Project](#), funded by the [Nuffield Foundation](#), has established that children's chances of being looked after or on a child protection plan in the UK vary greatly and that family socio-economic resources, ethnicity and local authority funding are three key factors.

This evidence of inequalities in children's social care has fed into a wider debate about the case for more funding to avert a crisis of demand. But questions need to be asked about the pattern of services as well as the scale of expenditure.

[CWIP summary](#)

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Workforce Development

Public health skills and knowledge framework: tools and guidance (12/09/18)

Public Health England has published [tools and guidance](#) to support colleagues using the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (PHSKF).

It is envisaged that the self-assessment and mapping tools will support individual workers and teams; employers; and education providers; assisting colleagues in personal, career, or workforce development.

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Workplace

Poor mental health at work (11/09/18)

[Mental Health at Work](#) is a gateway to documents, guides, tips, videos, courses, podcasts, templates and information from organisations across the UK, all aimed at helping people get to grips with workplace mental health.

Mind, with support from The Royal Foundation, Heads Together and 11 other organisations, has created the UK-wide portal as a free resource for both employers and employees.

A study into workplace wellbeing by [Mind](#) has revealed that poor mental health at work is widespread, with half (48 per cent) of all people surveyed saying they have experienced a mental health problem in their current job.

The survey of more than 44,000 employees also revealed that only half of those who had experienced poor mental health had talked to their employer about it, suggesting that as many as one in four UK workers is struggling in silence.

See also

[Healthy workplaces, QS147](#)

[Mental Health toolkit for employers](#)

Front of Mind: prioritising workplace health and wellbeing (10/09/18)

The social conversation around people's mental health and the effect of the UK's ageing society on workplaces has increased over the past five years. This, alongside increasing evidence that healthy, happy and engaged staff improve company performance, makes proactively managing and supporting staff's health and wellbeing an ever more important business issue.

This [report](#), from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) supported by Bupa and HCA Healthcare, offers good practice guidance to help employers improve health and wellbeing in their workplaces.

[CBI new release](#)

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