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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

World Cancer Day, 4 February 2019

[World Cancer Day](#) has been marked annually on 4 February since 2000. The day's focus is on reducing preventable deaths from cancer through education, raising awareness and by urging governments and individuals across the world to take action.

The [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) has stated that 9.6 million people worldwide are estimated to have died of cancer in 2018. The theme for World Cancer Day 2019 is 'I Am and I Will', a call for individual action to reduce the behaviours and risk factors, such as obesity and tobacco consumption, that contribute to a third of preventable cancer cases.

[Global Cancer Observatory](#)

[House of Lords Library briefing](#)

[House of Commons Library](#) debate packs, briefing papers, and links to statistics.

What not to say when talking about cancer (28/01/19)

A new poll by Macmillan Cancer Support finds that cancer patients do not want to be described as fighters, heroes or victims. Some 2000 people were surveyed and calling a person's cancer diagnosis a "war" or a "battle" and saying they had "lost their battle" or "lost their fight" when they died, were other unpopular descriptions. Most said this was because it implied somebody was defeated by cancer while many thought it undermined a person's strength and courage.

Almost one in three people living with cancer said they struggle to find the words to talk about the disease. The survey found a preference for factual words to describe people with cancer, their diagnosis, and when someone with the illness dies.

[Talking about cancer](#) guidance from Macmillan Cancer Support
Poll results reported by [ITV](#) and [BBC News](#).

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Children/Young People/Families

Supporting fathers in early parenthood (30/01/19)

A Westminster Hall debate on Support for fathers in early parenthood was scheduled for 30 January 2019. The Member initiating the debate is Tracey Crouch, MP for Chatham and Aylesford.

The House of Commons Library has produced a [debate pack](#). A [Hansard report](#) also available

Support for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families (28/01/19)

The House of Commons has published a [debate pack](#) containing a summary of the issues, relevant reports, press and parliamentary coverage, and links to further reading. The paper looks at health services in England, principally palliative care, and outlines local authorities' duties towards 'children in need.' Links to guidelines in the devolved administrations are also provided.

A Westminster Hall debate on the subject was scheduled for this week, sponsored by Jim Shannon MP. The [Hansard report](#) is also available.

[Together for Short Lives](#)

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Commissioning and Economics

Dental epidemiology toolkit for local authorities (30/01/19)

This [toolkit](#), published by Public Health England, provides guidance and advice for local authorities as commissioners and users of oral health surveys to inform oral health improvement.

The document contains:

- an overview of the dental epidemiology survey process for local authority stakeholders
- the many uses of survey data through examples
- advice on the variations of survey sampling for local requirements
- tools for procurement and contract management.

See also Maternity/Infants

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Communities and Local Government

Going the Extra Mile project: case study (31/01/19)

The ['Going the Extra Mile' \(GEM\) project](#) is a partnership of approximately 70 community organisations, managed by Gloucestershire Gateway Trust on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. It aims to help individuals within Gloucestershire who are facing multiple barriers to employment, and who are furthest from the labour market.

The aim is to build confidence, overcome barriers and help people move towards education, employment or training. It does this by tailoring programmes to every individual, through a personalised action plan offering dedicated and specialised help, guidance and support.

In its first 2 years, GEM has supported around 750 people, half of whom had a disability or limiting health condition. Outcomes have been impressive, including 281 people going into training or education, 182 finding a job, 217 actively looking for work and 133 receiving financial inclusion support.

The case study is published by Public Health England and is part of the [Health matters: public health issues](#) collection.

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Consumer Participation

Participation: its impact on services and the people who use them (31/01/19)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has published Insight 45 [Participation: its impact on services and the people who use them](#).

Key points

- Participation is a priority in many health and social care policies which encourages practice to encompass consultation, engagement, co-design and co-production
- There is evidence that projects and services which use co-production methods, such as co-delivery of services, are beneficial for people
- People who use services make valuable contributions to the design and delivery of health and social care
- There is still a need for more evidence on costs savings, social return on investment and impact on health and wellbeing, developed and delivered through participation
- The long-term effects of participation, particularly indirect effects, can be difficult to measure and attribute to participation approaches
- Key implications for practice: participation approaches such as co-design and delivery of training and more formalised roles must be prioritised to encourage an assets-based approach in everyday practice
- Evaluation of participation should consider the impact on the people who use services which have been developed through participation.

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Drugs/Alcohol

SIGN 156: Children and young people exposed prenatally to alcohol (01/19)

Alcohol consumption in pregnancy has the potential to cause significant fetal damage. In 1973, a cluster of birth defects resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE) was first described as the clinical entity fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS).

It is estimated that approximately 3.2% of babies born in the UK are affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

This guideline, from the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), provides evidence-based recommendations on measurement of alcohol consumption in pregnancy and consensus-based recommendations on: identification of children at risk of FASD; criteria for diagnosis and use of FASD as a descriptor; the medical assessment; physical examination; sentinel facial features; neurodevelopmental assessment; the multidisciplinary assessment team; special considerations in the neurodevelopmental assessment; management and follow up of children and young people affected by PAE.

[Full guideline](#)

[Summary](#)

[Alcohol Policy UK](#)

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End of Life/Palliative Care

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

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Rough sleeping in England: autumn 2018 (31/01/19)

This [release](#), from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, provides information for autumn 2018 on the single night snapshot of rough sleeping that is taken annually in England using street counts, evidence-based estimates, and estimates informed by spotlight street counts.

Key figures include:

- The total number of people counted or estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night was 4,677.
- This was down by 74 people or 2% from the 2017 total of 4,751 and was up 2,909 people or 165% from the 2010 total of 1,768.
- The number of people sleeping rough increased by 146 or 13% in London, and decreased by 220 or 6% in the rest of
- England, since 2017.
- London accounted for 27% of the total number of people sleeping rough in England. This is up from 24% of the England total in 2017.
- 14% of the people recorded sleeping rough were women, the same as in 2017; and 6% were aged 25 years or under, compared to 8% in 2017.

[Table 3](#) lists the local authorities with the ten largest increases and ten largest decreases in the number of people sleeping rough between autumn 2017 and autumn 2018 in England. In this table Medway is listed as having 44 in 2017 down to 19 in 2018, and Maidstone as having 41 in 2017 down to 9 in 2018.

[Figures fall BBC News](#)

Radon exposure: passive remediation in UK homes (31/01/19)

Radon in the home is the largest source of exposure to ionising radiation for the UK population and accounts for 48% of the total exposure on average.

The effectiveness of passive remedial systems to reduce radon levels in homes has been analysed using data from the UK National Radon Database to establish whether passive remedial systems are effective compared to 'fan powered' systems.

Passive remedial systems are environmentally friendly, sustainable and generally have a lower installation and maintenance costs. Passive systems are generally not as effective as 'fan powered' systems but could be used as a viable alternative when radon levels in homes require reduction when the annual average is around 300 Bq m⁻³.

This [document](#) is published by Public Health England.

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Health and Wellbeing Boards

Kent Health and Wellbeing Board: Meeting 07 February 2019

The [agenda and reports pack](#) has been published for the next meeting of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.

Documents in the report pack include:

Learning Disability Commissioning: Transforming Care Report
Kent Better Care Fund Annual Report
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Exceptions Report 2018/19
0-25 HWB update and Forward Plan
Kent and Medway Mental
Health Crisis Care Concordat 2017/2018 Annual Report
Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Updates and Supplementary Statements

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Health Care

Five-year deal to expand GP services (31/01/19)

A new five-year contract for general practice across England will see extra investment for improved access to family doctors, expanded services at local practices and longer appointments for patients who need them. NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens said it is the first major pillar implementing the NHS Long Term Plan.

[NHS England](#) will fund 20,000 more staff to help GP practices work together as part of a local 'primary care network'. The new recruits – pharmacists, physios, paramedics, physician associates and social prescribing support workers – will free up GPs to spend more time with patients who need them, most as well ensuring patients have access to a wide range of services at their local practice.

[GP Contract](#)

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Malaria prevention guidelines for travellers from the UK (31/01/19)

The [guidelines](#), from Public Health England's Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention (ACMP), are for healthcare workers who advise travellers, but may also be of use to prospective travellers who wish to read about the options themselves.

Occasionally, there may be a need to issue temporary recommendations. Please see the temporary recommendations from the [National Travel Health Network and Centre](#) for the latest updates for Bangladesh, Cape Verde and South Africa.

UK One Health Report: antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance in animals and humans (31/01/19)

A joint report, from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Food Standards Agency, and Public Health England, has been published on antibiotic use in animals and humans and antibiotic resistance in the UK between 2013 and 2017.

The [report](#) aims to:

- support joint working between the animal, human, environment and food sectors
- assess the occurrence of resistance along the food chain
- identify the current antibiotic resistance levels in four key bacteria in animals, in humans and in retail meat
- present available data from humans, animals and retail meat side by side
- add context to the surveillance data by providing information on control measures in place to reduce the risk of bacterial transmission and on policy decisions taken to tackle antibiotic resistance
- provide progress updates on the ten recommendations made in the previous One Health Report (2015).

HIV prevention projects reached 170,000 people in 2018 (30/01/19)

Projects working towards preventing HIV across England, which were funded by the Public Health England (PHE) HIV Innovation Fund, reached around 170,000 people at-risk of, or living with HIV - as well as the general public in 2017 to 2018.

The projects provided community-led interventions, through online campaigns, outreach, testing, support and media and art projects. The news comes as Public Health England [announced](#) the 14 local pioneering projects that have been awarded a share of the £600,000 fund available in 2018 to 2019.

Cold weather health warnings issued (29/01/19)

An incoming band of cold weather, with the potential for snow, has prompted warnings from [Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) to look out for those most at-risk.

Over the past few weeks temperatures across the country have been low. Now Met Office forecasters say that this week some parts could see snow and everywhere will continue to see cold temperatures.

These warnings have prompted PHE scientists to warn people to prepare for the bad weather now and to keep a careful eye on forecasts. Every winter thousands of people die from illnesses linked to exposure to the cold when indoor and outside.

[Stay Well This Winter](#) contains useful advice on staying warm this winter.

See also [Kent urged to keep warm and well](#)

Meningococcal ACWY immunisation programme: vaccine coverage estimates (25/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published the 2018 [vaccine coverage data estimates and commentary](#) relating to the national Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) immunisation programme.

School leaver booster (Td/IPV): vaccine coverage estimates (25/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published the 2018 [annual report and data tables](#) from the national school leaver booster (tetanus, diphtheria and polio, Td/IPV) vaccination programme for adolescents.

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

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Evidence database for children's social workers launched (31/01/19)

The [What Works Centre for Children's Social Care](#) is a new initiative that seeks better outcomes for children, young people and families by helping practitioners and decision makers across the children's social care sector to inform their work with the best possible evidence. The Department for Education is funding the Centre's development.

This week it [launched](#) its new [store of evidence](#) for social care professionals about how effective different interventions are so that they can make informed decisions in policy making and service design. The evidence database at this point holds 11 summaries on a range of interventions and practice areas, including Foster and kinship care support, Family Drug and Alcohol Courts, Sexual abuse recovery, Prevention of child mental illness, Solution-focused Brief Therapy, Kinship Care, Intensive Family Preservation, and Mellow Parenting programmes.

[Community Care](#)

A collaborative resolution to build a healthier society (30/01/19)

The Health Foundation has been working in partnership with nine other organisations to set up a collaboration to raise awareness in the UK of the Evidence on the social determinants of health and what can be done to address them. In November 2018, the Health Foundation's board agreed to invest up to £15m in the collaboration over the next seven years to help deliver the ambition co-created over the previous 18 months.

The [Collaboration for Wellbeing and Health](#) is part of wider work to promote healthy lives for all, a core part of the Foundation's new strategy for 2019 to 2021. The Collaboration brings together a range of organisations from different sectors based on the premise that a complex issue such as creating a healthier society, with multiple, interrelated moving parts, requires joined up action. It is informed by Collective Impact, which is an established cross-sector approach to addressing large-scale, complex social issues.

The Collaboration for Wellbeing and Health is made up of:

Local Government Association (LGA)

The National Lottery Community Fund
Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Institute for Health Equity
New Philanthropy Capital (NPC)
What Works Wellbeing
People's Health Trust
Race Equality Foundation
Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH)
The Health Foundation.

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

What incentives work in prison? A Prisoner Policy Network Consultation (31/01/19)

People in prison need meaningful incentives which both motivate and allow them to take responsibility for their behaviour, according to a new report published by the Prison Reform Trust.

The report is the result of an extensive consultation exercise with over 1,250 people with experience of prison. It presents the findings from an emerging network of current serving prisoners, ex-prisoners and connected organisations who want to share their expertise and experience with policy makers. The Prisoner Policy Network (PPN) aims to provide solutions to the challenges currently facing our prisons, and a greater voice for prisoners in influencing the policies that affect them.

Ensuring basic standards of decency in prison conditions; restoring trust in the incentives scheme; developing supportive prisoner and staff relationships; providing meaningful incentives; and giving prisoners the opportunities to rebuild trust, were all identified as key solutions by people responding to the consultation.

[Report](#)
[News release](#)

Strengthening Prisoners Family Ties Policy Framework (31/01/19)

The Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service have published [rules and guidance](#) for prison staff on supporting the maintenance and development of prisoners' relationships with family, significant others and friends.

There is growing evidence that family support and maintaining family ties is not only important for the well-being of prisoners but may also aid reintegration into the community following release from prison. Supporting prisoners' relationships outside of prison is considered to help prevent reoffending, reduce intergenerational crime and improve the safety and security of the custodial environment.

HC Committee examine 'county lines' drug distribution networks (29/01/19)

As part of [its inquiry into serious violence](#), the Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons (HC) has heard evidence on the 'county lines' drug distribution methodology and its role in driving serious violent crime. Members also heard from policing authorities responding to the issue.

The evidence session is available as [minutes](#), and may also be watched on [Parliament TV](#).

See also [County Lines drug supply, vulnerability and harm 2018](#), National Crime Agency, January 2019 and [news release](#)

[Community Care](#)
[Children's Society](#)

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Maternity/Infants

Child development outcomes at 2 to 2 and a half years: 2018 to 2019 (30/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published the latest [quarterly local authority metrics](#) on outcomes for children at 2 to 2 and a half years as measured by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 (ASQ-3).

Local authority commissioners and health professionals can use these resources to track to what extent children aged 2 to 2 and a half years in their local area are achieving the expected levels of development.

Health visitor service delivery metrics: 2018 to 2019 (30/01/19)

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

The data and commentary show variation at a local, regional and national level. This can help with planning, commissioning and improving local services.

Breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks after birth: 2018 to 2019 quarterly data (30/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published the latest [quarterly data](#) on the number and proportion of infants who have been fully, partially or not at all breastfed at 6 to 8 weeks after birth.

Information is presented at local authority of residence, PHE Centre and England level.

Breastfeeding and dental health (30/01/19)

Public Health England has published an [evidence summary and infographic](#) for dental teams and healthcare professionals provides information on the dental and general health benefits of breastfeeding for the first year of life.

Maternity services survey 2018 (29/01/19)

Findings from the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) national survey of more than 17,600 women who gave birth in February 2018 show that many had a good experience, particularly in relation to interactions with staff, access to midwives and emotional support during pregnancy.

However, for some women the care they received fell short of expectations with issues highlighted around continuity of care, choice in antenatal and postnatal services and access to help, information and support after giving birth.

The findings highlight women's views on all aspects of their maternity care from the first time they saw a clinician or midwife, during labour and birth, through to the care provided at home in the weeks following the arrival of their baby.

[Survey](#)
[News release](#)

See also Drugs/Alcohol
Screening

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Impact of social media and screen-use on young people's health (31/01/19)

Figures produced by Ofcom indicate that 70% of 12–15-year olds have a profile on a social media, while the OECD reports that 94.8% of 15-year olds in the UK used social media sites before or after school.

The Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons has released its latest [report](#) which while highlighting the benefits of social media, also reveals the potential risks children face when accessing social media. The report suggests what can be done to protect young users when they are online.

The Committee has concluded that social media companies must be subject to a legal duty of care to help protect young people's health and wellbeing when accessing their sites.

See also

[Children's Commissioner
Children and Young People Now](#)

Social prescribing 'link workers' to support family doctors (28/01/19)

NHS England plans to recruit 1,000 social prescribing 'link workers' as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. The link workers will be recruited to help patients live fitter, healthier lives and combat anxiety, loneliness and depression under plans to ramp up [social prescribing](#) launched by NHS England this week.

Around half of GP appointments are not directly related to medical conditions, according to experts. Growing evidence shows that referrals to community services such as exercise or art classes, history groups and even ballroom dancing can boost health and wellbeing more than prescribing pills or other treatments. By 2023-24, social prescribers will be handling around 900,000 patient appointments a year.

King's Fund [What is social prescribing?](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Effect of breakfast on weight and energy intake (30/01/19)

This study set out to examine the effect of regular breakfast consumption on weight change and energy intake in people living in high income countries, using systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised control trials.

The researchers concluded that the study suggests that the addition of breakfast might not be a good strategy for weight loss, regardless of established breakfast habit. Caution is needed when recommending breakfast for weight loss in adults, as it could have the opposite effect. Further randomised controlled trials of high quality are needed to examine the role of breakfast eating in the approach to weight management.

The results have been published in the [British Medical Journal \(BMJ\)](#) (open access article).

Sugar reduction: Achieving the 20% (29/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has [published](#) the Sugar Reduction: achieving the 20% report which sets out guidelines for all sectors of the food industry on how to achieve a 20% sugar reduction across the top 9 categories of food that contribute most to intakes of children up to the age of 18 years.

The Fermented (yogurt) drinks report is a supplementary report covering the yogurts and fromage frais category of the sugar reduction programme.

Childhood obesity: time for action report – government response (30/01/19)

This [command paper](#) sets out the government's response to the conclusions and recommendations in the Health and Social Care Select Committee's report '[Childhood obesity: Time for action](#)' published in May 2018.

The committee's report covered the following areas: a whole systems approach; marketing and advertising; price promotions; early years and schools; takeaways; fiscal measures; labelling; support for children living with obesity.

The government's response addresses each of these areas.

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Older People

Age UK's Personalised Integrated Care Programme: Evaluation of impact on hospital activity (31/01/18)

Age UK's [Personalised Integrated Care Programme \(PICP\)](#) is a scheme that aims to improve the lives of older people through practical support, underpinned by a change in the way that the health and care system works together for these people locally. The scheme is targeted at older people who are deemed to be at risk of a future emergency admission.

Age UK commissioned the [Nuffield Trust](#) to determine whether the programme has been able to reduce cost pressures on health and care systems and whether there has been any impact on the levels of hospital use of the older people referred to Age UK's programme.

Measuring ageing: An introduction to the Ageing Better Measures Framework (31/01/19)

A compendium of 63 measures, survey scales and their associated data sources looking at outcomes at the individual level related to ageing and later life has been developed by the Centre for Ageing Better.

The [Ageing Better Measures Framework \(ABMF\)](#) is designed as an accessible tool to help individuals and organisations working in this area. The Centre is already using the framework in their own work and are sharing insights and learnings with colleagues at the Office for National Statistics, Public Health England, and the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy. It is also being used at a local level through our partnerships with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Leeds City Council and Leeds Older People's Forum.

[News release](#)

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Oral Health

Oral health: research and statistics (30/01/19)

Public Health England has published several new reports on surveys of different age groups. These include:

[Oral health survey of mildly dependent older people 2016](#)
[Oral health survey for older dependent people: North West](#)
[Oral health survey of adult subgroups](#)
[Oral health survey of 3-year-old children 2013](#)
[Oral Health survey of 12-year-old children 2009](#)

See also Oral health guidance, research and statistics [collection](#)

See also **Commissioning and Economics**

Maternity/Infants

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Dental prescribing dashboard 2018 (30/01/19)

This [dashboard](#) is designed for dental public health consultants and local dental networks. It aims to help identification of outlying activities and trends that could improve best practice for prescribing among primary care dentists.

Analysis is based on data from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) information services database and includes prescriptions submitted by pharmacy contractors and dispensing doctors in England.

Efficacy and safety of statin therapy in older people (01/02/18)

Statin therapy has been shown to reduce major vascular events and vascular mortality in a wide range of individuals, but there is uncertainty about its efficacy and safety among older people. In this study published by [The Lancet \(open access article\)](#) the researchers undertook a meta-analysis of data from 28 randomised controlled trials to compare the effects of statin therapy at different ages.

They concluded that statin therapy produces significant reductions in major vascular events irrespective of age, but there is less direct evidence of benefit among patients older than 75 years who do not already have evidence of occlusive vascular disease. This limitation is now being addressed by further trials.

[Royal College of General Practitioners](#)

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Safeguarding

See **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

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Screening

NAO: Investigation into the management of health screening (01/02/19)

There are currently 11 national screening programmes in England. During 2017-18, more than 7.9 million people were screened under the four programmes covered by this report: abdominal aortic aneurysm, bowel cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

In this [report](#) the National Audit Office (NAO) has found that the proportion of eligible adults receiving health screening is inconsistent across different areas in England and that services are not operating to the 'agreed standards'.

In 2018, two events (on the breast and cervical screening programmes) raised concerns about the management and understanding of screening programmes in England. Many patients are also experiencing delays in getting their results after screening. In October 2018, the number of cervical screening samples waiting to be tested stood at 97,628.

[Press release](#)

Breast screening: professional guidance (28/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published new guidance for [Clinical nurse specialists in breast screening](#).

This forms part of the [Breast screening: professional guidance](#) collection.

Cervical screening: primary HPV screening implementation (31/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published [guidance](#) is to aid local providers of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme in implementing high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) testing.

Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening: 2017 to 2018 data (31/01/19)

Public Health England has published 2017 to 2018 [data tables and reports](#) for the local abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programmes in England.

Two slide sets include charts for the standards by local screening provider for the 2017 to 2018 screening year and the trend in performance for the past 3 years.

Congenital heart disease: description in brief (30/01/19)

This publication, from Public Health England, explains congenital heart disease, a condition screened for using an ultrasound scan as part of the NHS fetal anomaly screening programme (FASP).

The [document](#) explains: what the condition is, how it is diagnosed and confirmed, what treatment is available, what the outlook for the baby is, and how likely it is to happen in future pregnancy.

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

Smoking prevalence in young adults aged 18 to 34 years (31/01/19)

This [document](#), from Public Health England (PHE), shows trends in smoking prevalence calculated from the Annual Population Survey for young adults age 18 to 34 years, by sex and region.

It is published as an addition to PHE's official statistics on smoking prevalence.

Further information on smoking prevalence data is provided by the [Local Tobacco Control Profiles](#).

Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England April 2018 to September 2018 (31/01/19)

This [quarterly report](#), from NHS Digital, presents results from the monitoring of the NHS Stop Smoking Services in England during the period April 2018 to September 2018. NHS Stop Smoking Services offer support to help people quit smoking. This can include intensive support through group therapy or one-to-one support. The support is designed to be widely accessible within the local community and is provided by trained personnel, such as specialist smoking cessation advisors and trained nurses and pharmacists.

This report includes information on the number of people setting a quit date and the number who successfully quit at the 4-week follow-up. It also presents in depth analyses of the key measures of the service including pregnant women, breakdowns by ethnic group and type of pharmacotherapy received. The results are provided at national, regional and local authority levels.

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Social Care/Welfare

Transforming children's services inquiry launched (28/01/19)

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons has launched an [inquiry](#) into transforming children's services. The first meeting is to be held on 4 February 2019.

It will look at the current pressures on children's social care and examine the Department for Education's understanding of demand and local variation. The Committee will investigate how the Department plans to achieve its programme of reform by 2022.

[News release](#)

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Workplace

Health matters: health and work (31/01/19)

As adults in employment spend a large proportion of their time in work, our jobs and our workplaces can have a big impact on our health and wellbeing. In fact, employment can impact both directly and indirectly on the individual, their families and communities. Therefore, work and health-related worklessness are important public health issues, both at local and national level.

This edition of [Health matters](#), from Public Health England, brings together in one place the most informative data, toolkits and the best evidence of what works in addressing and removing health-related barriers to gaining and retaining employment.

Working Well: an approach to work and health (31/01/19)

Of Greater Manchester's total working age population of 1,781,000, 236,000 people are out of work. Of these, 64% (150,000) are out of work due to a health condition. Greater Manchester lags behind both the national employment rate and the employment rate for those with long-term conditions.

Reducing inequalities and increasing productivity are at the heart of the strategic intent of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP).

Working Well is Greater Manchester's whole population approach to health, skills and employment.

The [case study](#) is published by Public Health England and forms part of the [Health matters: public health issues](#) collection.

Empowering staff to make informed wellbeing choices: case study (31/01/19)

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust has 2 main sites and various outreach clinics serving a population of 750,000. The trust has approximately 6,500 staff with a sickness rate of 3.95% and a turnover rate of 14.46%.

The occupational health and wellbeing service (OHWB) realised that creating the right environment can empower and support people to make informed, balanced choices for a healthy lifestyle. They established a dedicated Health and Wellbeing team to provide a wide variety of programmes.

The trust created a weekly timetable with activities for staff to participate in, both on and off site. This offered various health initiatives from Monday to Friday such as netball, Pilates, aerobics, yoga, full body workout and legs, bums and tums classes. In addition, staff were encouraged to take to the 'Healthy Hike', a walk around both sites with signposts listing steps walked, calories burned on both foot or bike.

The local catering team have completely transformed the on-site restaurant for more healthy choices, and a fruit stall outside the main entrance, offers fruit and vegetables at reasonable prices for staff, visitors and patients.

The [case study](#) is published by Public Health England and forms part of the [Health matters: public health issues](#) collection.

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