KENT PUBLIC HEALTH **BSERVATORY**

Health and Social Care Bulletin



Your guide to what's new in public health and social care locally and nationally

29 March 2019

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

https://www.kpho.org.uk/library-services/keeping-up-to-date#tab1

This is the last edition of the current Bulletin. Library services are being evaluated. The Bulletin may appear in a different format at a later date.

A huge thank you to Betty and to the bulletin's previous compilers Jill Rutland, Sally Symon and Gill Colquhoun.

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Children/Young People/Families

Family Resources Survey 2017/18 (28/03/19)

The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is a continuous household survey which collects information on a representative sample of private households in the United Kingdom. Detailed information is recorded on each respondent: their incomes, from all sources including self-employment; housing tenure; caring needs and responsibilities; disability; expenditure on housing; education; pension participation; childcare; family circumstances; child maintenance.

This report, from the Department for Work and Pensions, summarises the key findings from the FRS for the 2017/18 financial year, when over 19,000 households were interviewed.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families indicators 2019 (28/03/19)

'Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families' (April 2017) sets out proposals to improve outcomes for children who grow up in workless families and face multiple disadvantages.

The <u>analysis and research pack</u> sets out the compelling evidence for the strain that worklessness and its associated problems have on families and children.

There are 9 national indicators and underlying measures used to track progress in tackling the disadvantages that affect families and children's outcomes. This document provides the latest 2019 indicator data.

Households below average income: 1994/95 to 2017/18 (28/03/19)

This <u>Households Below Average Income (HBAI)</u> report presents information on living standards in the United Kingdom year on year from 1994/95 to 2017/18.

It provides estimates on the number and percentage of people living in low-income households based on disposable income. Figures are also provided for children, pensioners, working-age adults and individuals living in a family where someone is disabled.

Most of the figures in this report come from the Family Resources Survey, a representative survey of around 19,000 households in the UK.

Children's Society

Supporting young parents to reach their full potential (25/03/19)

Councils have a role in ensuring your parents get the help they need, whether it is through the services they commission or deliver. Health visitors, family nurse partnerships, early years, children's centres, youth services and the voluntary sector all have a key role to play.

The Local Government Association and Public Health England have published these case studies as examples.

Tailored review on the Office of the Children's Commissioner (21/03/19)

This <u>tailored review</u>, from the Department for Education, has provided an opportunity to consider the work and set-up of the Office of the Children's Commissioner, which has a responsibility to promote the rights of children in England.

see also Children's Commissioner framework agreement

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Commissioning and Economics

See Sexual Health

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Communities and Local Government

LGA: Must know (27/03/19)

The Local Government Association (LGA) has published the following new 'Must knows':

Chief executives' 'must know' for children's services

Must knows children: Education

Must knows: Special educational needs and disability

Must knows children: Youth services

Building cohesive communities (25/03/19)

Cohesive communities are about more than just preventing or addressing unacceptable behaviour and hate crime.

This <u>guide</u>, Local Government Association, is intended to be a useful starting point for councils in promoting cohesion and working through their own local challenges.

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Disabilities

NAO: Supporting disabled people to work (28/03/19)

Some 7.6 million working-age people in the UK identify as disabled. Although the number of people with a disability who are employed is rising, disability and long-term health problems continue to be associated with greater poverty, lower educational attainment and reduced access to work. Only 51.5% of people with a disability are in work, compared with around 81.7% of non-disabled people.

The Department for Work Pensions (the Department) has limited evidence of what works when it comes to supporting those with disabilities to work, according to a <u>new report</u> from the National Audit Office (NAO). The number in work has risen by 930,000 (31%) in the last five years, but this has not been matched by a reduction in the number who are out of work.

In an <u>urgent question</u>, Marsha de Cordova, the Shadow Minister for Disabled People asked the Government to make a statement in response.

Local Government Association

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Drugs/Alcohol

Crack cocaine increase: inquiry findings (25/03/19)

Recent evidence suggests that there has been a rise in crack cocaine use in England. The <u>Serious Violence Strategy</u> (<u>June 2018</u>) committed the government to understand more about this rise. Public Health England and the Home Office led an inquiry based on a series of interviews and focus groups. These were held in 6 local authorities across England.

The report's <u>findings</u> can be used by local authorities and their partners to help them understand some of the factors that might lie behind any rise in crack use in their area. It can also be used by policy makers and other people involved in responding to crack and related drug problems.

See also Opiate and crack cocaine use: prevalence estimates by local area and the Alcohol and drug misuse prevention and treatment guidance collection.

Press release

Funding awarded to 23 projects to help those affected by alcohol (22/03/19)

A £6 million capital fund has been <u>awarded to 23 projects</u> across the country enabling local authorities to invest in improving services and facilities for people with alcohol problems, with a focus on helping parents and rough sleepers.

This is the fourth time Public Health England (PHE) has led a programme of supporting alcohol and drug treatment and recovery through capital funding. Alcohol misuse costs society £21 billion each year, and effective alcohol treatment can help to reduce the burden placed on health and social care services.

PHE's treatment figures show that there are 34,000 parents in treatment for alcohol problems, 16,000 of whom live with 28,000 children. Current estimates predict that 120,000 parents with alcohol problems have 200,000 children living with them.

Last year over 2,000 adults in treatment for alcohol had urgent housing problems, and 43% of those sleeping rough in London during 2017 to 2018 were found to have alcohol misuse problems.

Alcohol Policy UK

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Education

Standards for school food in England (26/03/19)

The Department for Education has <u>updated guidance</u> on the standards for planning and providing food in schools.

This also now includes <u>resources</u> to help schools plan and provide healthy food in schools.

Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities (27/03/19)

This <u>guidance</u> from Public Health England provides advice on: preventing the spread of infections, which diseases to vaccinate for, how long to keep children away from school, managing infectious diseases, and cleaning the environment.

The document has been updated with an exclusion table to include new guidelines on Rubella.

See also Legislation/Crime/Prisons

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End of Life/Palliative Care

RCP view on assisted dying (21/03/19)

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has adopted a neutral position on assisted dying following a <u>survey</u> of its UK fellows and members, reflecting their range of views.

Neutrality reflects the decision taken ahead of the survey by the RCP's Council, its main professional decision-making body, to require a supermajority of 60% for a position either supporting or opposing a change in the law. Neutrality also reflects the lack of a simple majority for any particular view.

Neutral means the RCP neither supports nor opposes a change in the law and it will not be focusing on assisted dying in its work. Instead, the group will continue championing high-quality palliative care services.

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Environmental monitoring following the Grenfell Tower fire (28/03/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has been <u>assessing and monitoring air quality</u> in the area surrounding Grenfell Tower since the start of the fire on 14 June 2017. Initial risk assessments carried out in conjunction with partner agencies focussed on the smoke plume which rose upwards rapidly and was carried in a northerly direction by the wind. This meant that there was a low risk of impact on local air quality from the fire. Assessment of data from The London Air Quality Monitoring network was used to confirm the initial risk assessment that levels of particulate matter were low, and remained so over the next 10 days.

PHE started additional monitoring of air quality close to Grenfell Tower on 24 June 2017. Results to date have shown that levels of particulate matter remain low and no asbestos fibres have been found above the limit of detection in areas surrounding Grenfell Tower. Current evidence, therefore, suggests the risk to public health from air pollution remains low.

New <u>research</u> from the <u>University of Central Lancashire</u> finds significant contamination in soil surrounding Grenfell Tower. Soil, fire debris and char samples taken from six locations in a range of 1.2 km from the Tower, up to six months after the fire, have been subjected to further analysis. Based on the level of chemicals discovered, researchers have concluded that there is an increased risk of a number of health problems to those in the local area. The Grenfell Tower Inquiry instructed Professor Anna A. Stec, of the University of Central Lancashire, as an expert witness in September 2018, to undertake an investigation and provide a report of her findings

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has published an <u>update to the community</u> on the publication of research by Professor Anna Stec into environmental contamination following the Grenfell Tower fire.

Nearly 200 pocket parks will help transform the nation (26/03/19)

The Government has <u>announced</u> the winners of a share of an £3.75 million fund to create new pocket parks and refurbish existing parks for people to enjoy right in the middle of our towns and cities. Parks and Green Spaces Minister Rishi Sunak MP confirmed that over 40 unloved, neglected or derelict urban spaces across the country will be transformed into new green spaces for the whole community to use.

In addition, through the Pocket Parks Plus programme over 150 community-led groups will receive funding to help bring parks that have fallen into disrepair back into use.

Two organisation in Medway and Kent submitted successful bids: Medway Plus Chatham, Medway Council and Lenham Meadows Trust, Maidstone Borough Council.

Homelessness Reduction Act Survey 2018 - survey report (25/03/19)

In November 2018 the Local Government Association (LGA) conducted a survey of councils to gather information on their experience of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) since its implementation.

The purpose was to enable the LGA to understand how well the Act is working on the ground, the areas where councils might be experiencing issues in relation to its implementation, and the extent of any funding gaps.

Survey report

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Health Care

An Introduction to Quality Improvement in General Practice (29/03/19)

This <u>document</u>, published by NHS England, is a brief introduction to quality improvement that provides a simple, practical framework to follow for practice-based quality improvement, improvement activities for practices to try out and additional support to those practices who have little experience of undertaking quality improvement activities.

The tipping point: considering the impact of the proposed changes to treatment waiting time targets (27/03/19)

The commitment that patients should wait no more than 18 weeks for planned care is one of the English health service's most widely applied targets. The standard stipulates that at least 92% of patients should wait less than that time. But the NHS is currently failing to deliver this for the 4 million people on its waiting list.

One of the changes floated in the recent review of NHS access targets is to switch from a maximum wait to an average wait target for planned care, as proposed for A&E. This would mean the end of the 18-week target. What would the impact of this be on hospitals and on patients?

Jessica Morris of the Nuffield Trust discusses what a change would mean for hospitals and patients.

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Health Protection/Emergencies

USA: Measles Cases in 2019 (27/03/19)

The <u>CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)</u> confirmed that from January 1 to March 21, 2019, 314 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 15 states. Six outbreaks (defined as 3 or more cases) have been reported in the following jurisdictions: New York State, Rockland County; New York City; Washington; Texas; Illinois; California.

As of March 27, 2019, there are 155 confirmed reported cases of measles in Rockland County. BBC News Health reports that Rockland County has declared a state of emergency. Effective from 27 March, anyone who is under 18 years of age and unvaccinated against the measles will be barred from public places until the declaration expires in 30 days or until they receive the MMR vaccination. Violating the order will be punishable by a fine of \$500 (£378) and up to six months in prison.

These outbreaks are linked to travellers who brought measles back from other countries such as Israel and Ukraine, where large measles outbreaks are occurring. The main <u>message</u> being promoted by the CDC is for people to make sure they are vaccinated against measles, and especially before international travel.

The UK National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) has the latest <u>outbreaks surveillance</u> information on various diseases across the world, including measles in the USA, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

National HIV self-sampling service (26/03/19)

Public Health England and local authorities co-commissioned the national <u>HIV self-sampling service</u> to provide a cost efficient and clinically robust remote HIV self-sampling service for sexually active individuals aged 16 years and over. The service aims to increase HIV testing among the most at-risk groups.

The <u>report</u> for the period November 2017 to October 2018 concludes that the national HIV self-sampling service continues to be successful at engaging key populations most affected by HIV across the nation including those who have never tested for HIV before. It offers a low-cost HIV testing service and will continue as part of a combination prevention programme implemented for the elimination of HIV in England.

National flu immunisation programme plan (22/03/19)

The annual flu <u>document</u>, from The Department of Health and Social Care, describes the national flu immunisation programme for 2019 to 2020, and outlines which groups are eligible for flu vaccination.

See also Education

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Abortion: clarification of time limit (28/03/19)

Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer, and the Department of Health and Social Care have published clarifications on the interpretation of the legal time limit for termination of pregnancy performed under Grounds C or D of the Abortion Act 1967.

Clarification 1 Clarification 2

Compendium: Mortality (28/03/19)

The <u>Compendium mortality</u> collection covers a large number of indicators. ONS mortality data relating to the 2017 calendar year is the primary underlying data source of the indicator set. From 2016 onwards, mortality counts within the Compendium Mortality Indicator set are based on a bespoke extract taken from the Primary Care Mortality Database (PCMD) maintained by NHS Digital. PCMD is updated monthly using a file of death records from ONS and is continually subject to amendment.

This week many of the data sets for each indicator have been updated, for examples cancers by type, stroke, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, see NHS Digital all our publications (scroll down to 28 March 2019)

ONS: Health state life expectancies by national deprivation deciles, England and Wales: 2015 to 2017 (27/03/19)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published information and data on <u>life expectancy</u> and years expected to live in "Good" health using national indices of deprivation to measure socioeconomic inequalities in England and Wales.

In England, the gap in life expectancy (LE) at birth between the least and most deprived areas was 9.4 years for males and 7.4 years for females in 2015 to 2017; for healthy life expectancy (HLE) it was 19.1 years and 18.8 years respectively.

Since 2012 to 2014, there have been statistically significant increases in the inequality in LE in England for males and females at birth and at age 65 years; the inequality in female LE at birth had the largest growth, rising by 0.5 years.

ONS Quarterly mortality report, England: October to December 2018 and year-end review (22/03/19)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published provisional death registration and death occurrence <u>data</u> for England, broken down by sex and age.

Main points include:

- There were 121,147 deaths registered in England in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018, which was 1,068 fewer deaths than the five-year average (2013 to 2017) for this quarter.
- The mortality rate for deaths with an underlying cause of circulatory diseases was statistically significantly lower than all years since 2001 for males and females aged 75 years and over.

- The female over 75 age-standardised mortality rate from dementia and Alzheimer's disease had a statistically significantly higher rate than cancer in 2018 and was second only to circulatory diseases; in contrast, in 2001 it was significantly lower than cancer.
- Provisional estimates of life expectancy show small increases for males aged 65 and 75 years between 2017 and 2018 while males at birth and female life expectancy at all ages remained the same.

Coronial investigations of stillbirths

26 March-18 June 2019

The government is consulting on a number of proposals which aim to:

- bring greater independence to the way stillbirths are investigated
- ensure transparency and enhance the involvement of bereaved parents in stillbirth investigation processes, including in the development of recommendations aimed at improving maternity care
- effectively disseminate learning from investigations across the health system to help prevent future avoidable stillbirths.

Consultation website

See also The investigation of stillbirth, House of Commons Library research briefing

See also End of Live/Palliative Care

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Report of the Chief Inspector of Probation (28/03/19)

In her final Annual Report, Dame Glenys Stacey Chief Inspector of Probation finds that the current model of probation services in England and Wales is flawed and major rethink is needed to create a system that is fit for the future.

Report New release

Link between rise in exclusions and increase in knife crime explored (27/03/19)

In the first two months of this year, there were 41 fatal stabbings in England and Wales, and latest figures show the number of annual fatal stabbings is at the highest since records began.

The session of the <u>Education Committee</u> of the House of Commons examined some of the factors which may have led to the rise, as well as whether there is a correlation between knife crime and school exclusions.

Oral evidence
Parliamentlive.tv

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Long-term Conditions

Type 2 diabetes Prevention Week: 1-7 April 2019

There are currently 3.4 million people with Type 2 diabetes in England with around 200,000 new diagnoses each year and 22,000 deaths. Type 2 diabetes is a leading cause of preventable sight loss in people of working age and is a major contributor to kidney failure, heart attack, and stroke.

Making small changes to lifestyle now can make a big impact on future health. This means the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes can be reduced together with the danger of serious complications that can come with it.

This April, the <u>NHS England Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP)</u> has teamed up with <u>Diabetes UK</u> to raise awareness of the <u>Healthier You Programme</u>.

Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation

See also NHS Digital Compendium – Mortality from diabetes

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Maternity/Infants

Screening tests for you and your baby (29/03/19)

This publication, from Public Health England, sets out the antenatal and newborn screening programmes.

It is available in English and 12 other languages.

See also Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Outcomes for mental health services: what really matters? (27/03/19)

There has been an increasing interest in the concept of value-based health care and how resources are allocated to improve outcomes. However, measuring outcomes in mental health services is often complex and fraught with difficulty, with professionals and service users often having very different perspectives on the nature of mental illness and the role of services in addressing it.

This <u>report</u>, commissioned from the King's Fund by Janssen, challenges those in mental health to find a consensus on the outcomes that matter to people with mental health problems. Services should adopt a broader perspective on outcomes as a basis for collaborating with service users and a foundation for delivering more humane and effective care.

Blog

ONS: Children whose families struggle to get on are more likely to have mental disorders (26/03/19)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published information which shows that healthy family functioning and parental mental health are important elements in understanding the mental health of children.

The <u>analysis</u> of survey results published by <u>NHS Digital</u> in November sought to establish which factors (such as marital status and family type), were most closely associated with mental disorders in children (emotional, behavioural, hyperactivity or other less common disorders). Though it should be noted, that these factors are not necessarily the cause of the mental disorders.

World Happiness Report 2019 (20/03/19)

The 7th World Happiness Report, a landmark survey of the state of global happiness that ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be, was released at the United Nations at an event celebrating International Day of Happiness.

Each report includes updated evaluations and a range of commissioned chapters on special topics digging deeper into the science of well-being, and on happiness in specific countries and regions. Often there is a central theme. The report for 2019 focuses on happiness and community: how happiness has been changing over the past dozen years, and how information technology, governance and social norms influence communities.

Of the top ten the happiest country is Finland, followed by Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, New Zealand, Canada and Austria. The UK placed 15th, up from 19th last year, one above Ireland and four above the USA.

Rachel Kelly writing in the Observer makes a case for the Swedish custom of fika, and the Finnish trait of sisu.

Media round up

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Composition of foods integrated dataset (CoFID) (25/03/19)

Public Health England is responsible for maintaining up-to-date data on the nutrient content of the UK food supply in order to support the National Diet and Nutrition Survey, and funds nutrient analysis of foods commonly consumed in the UK.

The <u>'Composition of Foods Integrated Dataset' (CoFID)</u> brings together all the available data as a single, consolidated dataset. It was originally published in book format as McCance and Widdowson's The Composition of Foods – the UK food composition tables.

Energy drinks and children: government response to Science and Technology Committee report (25/03/19)

The government has set out its <u>response</u> to the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee's <u>report</u> on energy drinks and children.

National Child Measurement Programme: conversation framework (27/03/19)

Public Health England publishes guidance and resources for school nurses, their teams and other professionals running the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

This document provides a conversation framework for talking to parents.

See also the Children's health collection

Child obesity and excess weight: small area level data (27/03/19)

Public Health England publishes <u>trend data</u> from the <u>National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)</u> showing the prevalence of excess weight and obesity in children at small area level. Data is presented up to school year 2017 to 2018.

See also the Children's health collection

See also Education

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

NICE summary safety advice on valproate (28/03/19)

Valproate is licensed for use in epilepsy and bipolar disorder. It is also used off-label for depression, neuropathic pain, dementia and migraine.

Children born to women who take valproate during pregnancy are at significant risk of birth defects and persistent developmental disorders. If valproate is taken during pregnancy, up to 4 in 10 babies are at risk of developmental disorders, and approximately 1 in 10 are at risk of birth defects.

Publication of this summary, by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), on valproate follows the strengthening last year of restrictions on its use by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This effectively banned its use for women of child bearing potential unless they are on a pregnancy prevention programme (PPP).

Summary News article

See also Epilepsies: diagnosis and management CG137

Prescription Cost Analysis - England, 2018 (28/03/19)

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) provides details of the number of items and the Net Ingredient Cost (NIC) of all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England. This <u>report</u> from NHS Digital provides a national overview of prescriptions dispensed during 2018 and includes 10-year trend data.

Key facts:

- In 2018, £8.8 billion was the cost of prescriptions dispensed in the community. A decrease of 3.7% (£336.6 million) from £9.2 billion in 2017
- In 2018, 1.1 billion prescription items were dispensed in the community. An increase of 0.3% (2.9 million) from 1.1 billion in 2017.

News release BBC News Health

See also Sexual Health

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Public Health/Health Promotion

PHE priorities in health and social care: 2019 to 2020 (27/03/19)

Health Minister Steve Brine has written an extended <u>letter</u> to Duncan Selbie confirming Public Health England's (PHE) role across the health and care system and the government's priorities for the financial year 2019 to 2020.

See also Public Health England Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2020, and Duncan Selbie's Friday message.

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Safeguarding

See Legislation/Crime/Prisons

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Screening

Breast screening: surveillance screening of higher risk women (27/03/19)

Public Health England has <u>updated service guidelines</u> for the screening of women who are at a higher risk of developing breast cancer.

Commissioners and providers working in the NHS breast screening programme (BSP) should use these guidelines.

See also Maternity/Infants

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Sexual Health

Pharmacy offer for sexual health, reproductive health and HIV (25/03/19)

This <u>resource</u>, from Public Health England, discusses the capacity and capability of pharmacy teams, in both the primary and community sector, to provide consistent and high quality sexual and reproductive health services.

It aims to help commissioners and providers further embed pharmacy into key sexual health (SH), reproductive health (RH) and HIV work streams.

See also Health Protection/Emergencies

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Social Care/Welfare

Children missing from out-of-area residential care (26/03/19)

The <u>All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults</u> is concerned about the numbers of children who go missing after being placed in residential care away from their home areas. Evidence suggests

that being uprooted and placed a long way from family, friends and social workers leaves children isolated and is often a factor that causes them to run away. It also leaves them in danger of falling prey to paedophiles and drugs gangs.

One thousand more individual children in out of area placements have gone missing from children's homes since 2015, according to new Department for Education figures released by Ann Coffey MP, who chairs the APPG.

The Children's Society and Missing People supply secretariat services to the APPG.

Children and Young People Now

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Workplace

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