

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

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A connected society: A strategy for tackling loneliness (15/10/18)

Tackling loneliness matters to everyone - to individuals, employers, communities, educators and to health professionals. Supporting people to have meaningful social relationships is not just crucial to people's physical and mental health. It also affects their engagement in the workplace and wider community cohesion.

Prime Minister Theresa May has launched the Government's first [loneliness strategy](#). It marks a shift in the way we see and act on loneliness, both within government and across society. The strategy sets out commitments from 9 departments, as well as commitments to work with businesses, employers, local authorities, health and the voluntary sector. This includes:

supporting all local health and care systems to implement social prescribing connector schemes across the country by 2023: encouraging health and social care professionals to refer patients to nearby support programmes that inspire friendships and reduce feelings of loneliness

increasing the number of spaces for community use: working with local groups to pilot ways to utilise space - including an additional £1.8m of funding to test how community spaces can support social connections

[Tackling loneliness collection](#)
[News release](#)

[Campaign to End Loneliness](#)
[Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness](#)
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Children/Young People/Families

Welfare reform and Universal Credit (17/10/18)

The Department for Work & Pensions (the Department) is introducing Universal Credit to replace six means-tested benefits for working-age households: Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. The programme began in 2010 and was originally scheduled to be completed in October 2017. Following problems, the Department for Work and Pensions reset the programme in 2013 with a revised completion date in 2022; this subsequently slipped to March 2023.

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons has examined the Universal Credit programme twice since 2015. The latest round of evidence gathering is available [here](#).

House of Commons Library debate pack [briefing](#) and [debate](#) details, 17 October 2018
Correspondence on Universal Credit and managed migration, 15 October 2018

[National Audit Office report, June 2018](#)

[Local Government Association](#)
[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)
[Policy in Practice](#)

Policies to limit marketing of unhealthy foods to children fall short (15/0/18)

A new [report](#) from WHO Europe finds that many existing policies and regulations aimed at tackling food marketing to children are insufficient, meaning children continue to be exposed to commercial messages promoting foods high in fats, salt and sugar.

The report, which reviews best available evidence on policy implementation in the WHO European Region, finds that around half of the 53 countries in the Region have taken some steps to limit marketing of high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) foods to children. A few countries have adopted legally binding rules, which specifically restrict HFSS food marketing in certain media, at certain times. Others are attempting to address the challenge of digital marketing. However, many countries still report no action, and an overwhelming preference for self-regulation by the food and advertising industries remains – an approach that is often found wanting by independent review.

[News release](#)

See also [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) and [Safeguarding](#)

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Commissioning and Economics

Air pollution: a tool to estimate healthcare costs (17/10/18)

Public Health England has updated [guidance](#) materials to help local authorities estimate the burden of air pollution on the health care system.

The cost of air pollution tool quantifies the potential costs to the NHS and social care due to the health impacts of particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in England and separately for each local authority.

An introductory video has been added

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Communities and Local Government

Regional allocation of adult social care winter funding (17/10/18)

Local authorities in England are to receive a share of a [£240 million fund](#) to help local areas ease winter pressures on the NHS. The extra funding is aimed at reducing delayed transfers of care and could pay for the following:

- home care packages to help patients get out of hospital quicker
- reablement packages, which support workers to help patients carry out everyday tasks and regain mobility and confidence
- home adaptations, including new facilities for personal care, such as adapting a shower room if a patient has limited movement.

Kent is to receive £6,164,434. Medway £997,871.

[News release](#)

Methods of measuring health related community resilience (2018)

Community resilience is the ability of communities and groups to adapt and thrive in response to external stressors. Building resilient communities as a strategy for population health requires assessment of personal and collective capacities alongside vulnerabilities.

This [report](#), from WHO Europe, examines what quantitative and qualitative methods can be used to measure health-related community resilience at national and local levels. Evidence from a rapid review of 33 studies highlighted various methodological challenges. Measurement strategies, mostly drawn from the field of community disaster resilience, include population-level frameworks, mixed methods assessment tools, and qualitative and participatory case studies.

The main conclusions are that measurement of health-related community resilience should cover multiple domains (economic, social, health, skills, political and environment) and consider local context and assets

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Disabilities

See [Nutrition/Physical Activity/Nutrition](#)

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Drugs/Alcohol

Alcohol Charter calls for evidence based national strategy (16/10/18)

[Alcohol Policy UK](#) reports on [Alcohol Charter](#) has been released by a cross-party parliamentary group and thirty organisations calling for the forthcoming national alcohol strategy to reflect the Public Health England [evidence review](#) for reducing alcohol harm.

The Charter includes a call to increase alcohol duties by 1% above RPI in order to provide £100 million ring-fenced for alcohol treatment services. It also makes key calls to improve support for those in need, measures to protect public health and actions to address alcohol-related crime and disorder.

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Education

Education: alternative provision and exclusion (17/10/18)

The government has published a [response](#) to the recommendations of the House of Commons Education Select Committee's report [Forgotten children: alternative provision and the scandal of ever increasing exclusions](#).

See also [Investigative research into alternative provision](#) which has also been published this week.

[News release](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Public health advice following the Grenfell Tower fire: update (15/10/18)

[Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) has responded to reports of toxins in the soil around Grenfell Tower. PHE has asked [Professor Anna Stec](#) for the data and evidence so that it can be carefully reviewed and appropriate action taken if necessary.

Professor Stec is an expert in fire chemistry and toxicology and runs a team at the University of Central Lancashire. She was recently appointed as an expert witness to the [Grenfell Tower fire inquiry](#).

[The Guardian](#)

Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region (2018)

Noise is an important public health issue. It has negative impacts on human health and well-being and is a growing concern.

The main purpose of these [guidelines](#), published by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, is to provide recommendations for protecting human health from exposure to environmental noise originating from various sources: transportation (road traffic, railway and aircraft) noise, wind turbine noise and leisure noise. They provide robust public health advice underpinned by evidence, which is essential to drive policy action that will protect communities from the adverse effects of noise.

Impact of home energy efficiency interventions and winter fuel payments on winter- and cold-related mortality and morbidity in England (16/10/18)

England, and the UK more generally, has a large burden of winter- and cold-related mortality/morbidity in comparison with nearby countries in continental Europe. Improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock may help to reduce this, as well as being important for climate change and energy security objectives.

This research set out to evaluate the impact of home energy efficiency (HEE) interventions on winter- and cold-related mortality/morbidity, including assessing the impact of winter fuel payments (WFPs) and fuel costs.

The mixed-methods study found that the impact of home energy efficiency programmes on population health has been modest, and changes to the housing stock are required to realise the potential benefits for improving health.

The [results](#) of the research are available to download from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Journals Library.

See also [Commissioning and Economics](#)

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Health Care

Primary care is crucial to preventing ill health (18/10/18)

Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, gave a [speech](#) at the [National Association of Primary Care \(NAPC\)](#) Conference. He spoke on three points:

- how GPs are at the heart of primary care
- how primary care fits within the whole NHS
- how primary care is a crucial part of our wider prevention agenda

Lessons from the history of NHS reform (16/10/18)

Since 2000 the NHS in England has seen at least six major national plans, accompanied by at least ten reorganisations at various levels. Now the NHS is once more being asked to draw up a master plan for its future – one which will last for 10 years and will be backed by £20 billion a year in extra funding on top of the largest budget of any public service.

This collection of [six essays](#) from the Nuffield Trust brings together their research and analysis of the key questions that should inform the new plan.

[Blog](#)

The future of healthcare: vision for digital, data and technology in health and care (17/10/18)

This [document](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, proposes a modern technology architecture and a set of guiding principles that will together be the foundation for a new generation of digital services designed to meet the needs of the workforce and for patients and people who use care services.

Innovators and suppliers of digital technology, health and care providers, and other organisations in the sector are invited to provide comments and feedback via a [questionnaire](#).

[News release](#)

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Cold Weather Plan for England (17/10/18)

The cold weather alerting period begins on 01 November 2018. Public Health England has published [updated guidance](#) on the preparedness programme of the Cold Weather Plan for England.

The plan aims to raise both professional and public awareness of the health impacts of cold temperatures and is a key component of emergency planning. It provides advice for professionals, organisations and individuals to enable them to plan for and respond to cold temperatures.

Additional resources and links are available in the collection [Cold weather plan for England](#).

Raw pet foods: handling and preventing infection (17/10/18)

Some types of pet food, including pet chews or treats, are made of raw meat and other unprocessed animal products. It may not always be obvious that products contain raw meat.

In addition, some pet foods, such as those which are described as being lightly steamed or lightly cooked may not have been fully pasteurised and may still potentially contain harmful bacteria.

People can become unwell after handling raw pet food and treats. It is therefore important to take the [correct precautions](#) before, during and after feeding pets.

Public Health England has published information on the heightened risks to young children, hygiene, safe storage, and the handling of frozen or live rodents fed to reptiles. A poster and infographics are also available.

50 years of measles vaccination in the UK (15/10/18)

This year marks 50 years since the UK started vaccinating against measles, the most infectious illness known to humankind. During this time, this highly cost-effective vaccine has prevented 20 million cases of measles and saved thousands of lives. This also means that countless GP visits and hospital admissions have been avoided, freeing up NHS resources.

Public Health England have published a [timeline history](#) of the vaccine.

ROSPA: Safe and Active at All Ages (11/10/18)

Accidents are a leading preventable cause of death, serious injury and long-term disability, which devastate individuals, families, communities and businesses and place a huge burden on our health and social care system, and on society as a whole. There were an average 12,435 deaths from accidents each year in England from 2013-16, with a 15 per cent increase in the number of accidental deaths during the period.

The [Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents \(ROSPA\)](#) has published its National Accident Prevention Strategy for England, [Safe and Active at All Ages](#). The strategy advocates an important role for public health at national and local level, as well others such as the NHS, local authorities, employers, housing providers and a number of government departments.

Whilst the report recognises that the rates of injuries and deaths from many types of accidents has fallen, other types of accidents have increased and overall there are still very high numbers of people who lose their lives or have their lives permanently affected by avoidable accidents.

[Press release](#)

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE): guidance update (18/10/18)

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), known as mad cow disease, is a fatal brain disease that affects cattle. Affected cattle do not usually show signs of BSE until they're at least 4 or 5 years old.

Since the link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or "mad cow" disease) and variant CJD ([Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease](#)) was confirmed in 1996, strict controls have been in place to stop meat from infected cattle entering the human food chain.

The [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Animal and Plant Health Agency](#) have reissued guidance on what needs to be done if a case is suspected, together with updated contact details for reporting a notifiable disease.

BBC News [reports](#) that this week a case of BSE has been confirmed at a farm in Aberdeenshire.

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Inequalities/Minorities

Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (17/10/18)

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 is continuing an [inquiry](#) from the previous Parliament, taking forward evidence previously received. In this [latest session](#) the Committee will focus on:

- Where discrimination exists and what is driving it
- How public services are dealing with discrimination where it exists
- The barriers that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have to enforcing their rights
- What more needs to be done by government to tackle discrimination
- How Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people are reporting or not reporting hate crime to the police
- Relationships between Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and the police
- How the police are supporting victims of hate crime.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Regional research and practice workshops: reports (17/10/18)

The Research, Translation and Innovation (RTI) division has been working with PHE centres to strengthen links between public health academics and others across the public health system via research and practice workshops to explore public health research needs and priorities in their local areas.

Over the last 18 months it has held six research and practice workshops. [Slide-sets](#) of presentations and [reports](#) of the workshops are available for use.

Child death review: statutory and operational guidance (England) (15/10/18)

The Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education have published [guidance](#) which sets out the full process that follows the death of a child who is normally resident in England. It builds on the statutory requirements set out in [Working together to safeguard children](#) and clarifies how individual professionals and organisations across all sectors involved in the child death review should contribute to reviews.

NHS England has published [information for families](#) following a bereavement, including information about how to comment on the care your loved one received and what happens if a death will be looked into by a coroner. A further document "When a child dies: a guide for parents and carers" is to be issued.

The collation and sharing of the learning from reviews will be managed initially by NHS Digital and then by the [National Child Mortality Database](#) when it becomes operational on 1 April 2019.

[Children and Young People Now](#)

National Centre for Rural Health and Care formal launch (10/18)

This week saw the formal launch of the [National Centre for Rural Health and Care](#), a pioneering initiative to focus on the health and wellbeing of the nine million people who live in rural areas in England.

Around 86% of the land mass is rural and people living in these areas are ageing at twice the rate of those in urban areas. There is good news in that people in rural areas live on average two years longer and infant mortality in these areas is better. However good jobs are harder to find and infrastructure, such as transport and good broadband, can be sparse and of course loneliness is also a key factor.

The centre is up and running and will be developing its work programme with a focus on what works. [Current partners](#) in the centre are: East Midlands Academic Health Science Network, Health Education England, Public Health England, Lincolnshire County Council, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, University of Lincoln, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership, the private sector and the voluntary and community sector.

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Interface between health and adult social care (19/10/18)

There is widespread consensus that integration and joint working is the right way forward for the health and social care system to deliver the best and most effective outcomes for people and their families.

Financial pressures and an ageing population have increased the need for joined-up working, with local authorities reducing real-terms spending on adult social care by 5.3% between 2010–11 and 2016–17, while the number of people in England aged 85 and over rose by 28% between 2006 and 2016.

There are examples across England where integrated working has been successfully applied. But it is a long way from being in place everywhere, with a range of longstanding legal, structural and cultural barriers hindering the pace and scale at which change can happen.

The Committee of Public Accounts of the House of Commons has published this [report](#) on the prospects of progress.

[Local Government Association](#)

Sustainability and transformation partnerships in London: An independent review (16/10/18)

This independent report was commissioned by the Mayor of London and is published by the King's Fund. The views in the report are those of the authors and all conclusions are the authors' own.

The development of sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) is central to the NHS policy agenda, and it is expected that they will continue to play an increasingly prominent role in planning services and managing resources around places and populations.

London's health and care system differs from systems in other parts of England because of its size, diverse population and the presence of major teaching hospitals with national and international roles. Place-based working in London needs to reflect these distinctive characteristics as well as the organisational complexity of the NHS and the contribution of local authorities.

[Full report](#)
[Key messages](#)
[Press release](#) and [blog](#)

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

LGA on Modern slavery (17/10/18)

Modern slavery can take many forms including the trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude and slavery. Councils have a key role to play in tackling modern slavery, including in identifying and supporting victims and working in partnership locally.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has collated [information](#) on the subject, and includes links to the [Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner](#), [Anti-slavery partnership toolkit](#), and [Tackling modern slavery: a council guide](#) published in December 2017.

Crime in England and Wales: year ending June 2018 (18/10/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published a [bulletin and data tables](#) from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime.

The latest figures show no change in the total level of crime but variation by crime types. The assessment from the Crime Survey is that the level of lower-harm violent offences are stable. However, police recorded crime data and NHS data give more insight into the lower-volume but higher-harm violence that the survey does not capture well. These data sources show:

- a continued rise in the number of police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments
- the number of admissions to hospital in England for assaults involving a sharp instrument has been increasing
- the number of homicides increased following a long-term decline
- a decrease in the number of police recorded offences involving firearms.

Many of these lower-volume, higher-harm types of violence tend to be concentrated in London and other metropolitan areas.

Hate crime, England and Wales, 2017 to 2018 (16/10/18)

This publication from the Home Office provides information on the [number of hate crimes](#) from police recorded data in England and Wales from April 2017 to March 2018. The bulletin covers the extent and trends in hate crime for all forces, with additional analysis based upon more detailed data supplied by 24 police forces on the types of offences associated with hate crime.

Hate crime is defined as 'any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.' There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime: race or ethnicity; religion or beliefs; sexual orientation; disability; transgender identity.

[BBC News](#)

Serious violence inquiry (16/10/18)

The Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons [launched](#) an inquiry into serious violence in June 2018. The Government published its [Serious Violence Strategy](#) in April this year. The Committee will assess the effectiveness of the approach in combatting knife crime, gun crime and homicide.

This week the Committee heard evidence from parents who have lost their children as a result of knife and gun crime and from clinicians on the scale and nature of injuries. The proceedings are available to watch on [Parliament TV](#) or in [written](#) format.

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Maternity/Infants

A framework to address key issues of neonatal service configuration in England (18/10/18)

There is an inherent tension in neonatal services between the efficiency and specialised care that comes with centralisation and the provision of local services with associated ease of access and community benefits. This study builds on previous work in South West England to address these issues at a national scale.

The researchers set out to (1) develop an analytical framework to address key issues of neonatal service configuration in England, (2) investigate visualisation tools to facilitate the communication of findings to stakeholder groups and (3) assess parental preferences in relation to service configuration alternatives.

The [results](#) of the study are available to download from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Journals Library.

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

One in three secondary school pupils 'has mental health problem' (18/10/18)

[Children and Young People Now](#) reports on a survey by [Action for Children](#) which finds that a third of secondary school pupils are suffering from mental health problems.

The children's charity surveyed 5,555 secondary school pupils across the UK aged between 13 and 18, and found that 33 per cent have mental health and emotional problems such as depression, or a lack of sleep, motivation and focus.

Those surveyed took part in a research exercise for the charity's ["Blues Programme"](#), which offers mental health support to pupils.

[Local Government Association](#)

Reducing stigma around eating disorders (16/10/18)

Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses that can have severe psychological, physical and social consequences. They typically involve disordered eating behaviour, which might mean restricting food intake, binge-eating, purging, fasting or excessive exercise, or a combination of these behaviours. They are associated with negative perceptions of body image, and while men and women of any age can develop eating disorders, they most commonly affect young women.

This [research briefing](#) was prepared by the House of Commons Library for a debate in Westminster Hall sponsored by Wera Hobhouse MP.

[Hansard written record of debate](#)

The Anatomy of Loneliness (16/10/18)

55,000 people completed the [BBC Loneliness Experiment](#). Researchers from the Universities of Manchester, Brunel and Exeter, supported by Wellcome, developed a questionnaire asking people what they thought loneliness was, when they felt lonely and for how long.

Over [3 programs](#) on BBC Radio 4, Claudia Hammond presents early analysis of the findings, and looks more closely at different aspects.

Please note that you will need to sign in/register with the BBC to listen.

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

What are the barriers to eating healthily in the UK? (12/10/18)

This [research](#), from the [Social Market Foundation](#), examines the economic barriers to healthy eating in the UK. In particular, the report focuses on three barriers to healthy eating in the UK: food affordability, food prices and access to food stores selling healthy groceries at a good price.

Everybody active, every day: framework for physical activity (17/10/18)

[Everybody active, every day](#) is a framework for physical activity published originally by Public Health England in 2014. The evidence-based approach for national and local to address the problem of physical inactivity has been added to since then.

The latest addition is an evidence review on [Physical activity for general health benefits in disabled adults](#). Concern around safety is often cited as a major barrier to disabled people undertaking physical activity, but the review shows that when performed at an appropriate level and intensity, this should not hinder them being more active and will lead to health benefits.

There are 11.5 million disabled people in England and nearly half (42%) of them are inactive per week compared to 21% of those with no disability, a two-fold difference.

Duncan Selbie introduced the evidence review at the International Society for Physical Activity and Health Congress (ISPAH) this week together with the new digital [Moving Medicine](#) tool which will help healthcare professionals advise patients on how physical activity can help to manage their conditions, prevent disease and aid recovery.

[News release: Evidence review](#)

[News release: Moving Medicine tool](#)

Active Lives Adult Survey May 17/18 (11/10/18)

Sports England has published the results of the latest [survey](#) of adult physical activity.

Based on a sample of almost 185,000 respondents to the survey, 297,400 more people in England, aged 16 and above, are meeting the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines of doing at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity a week - relative to the previous 12 months.

As well as this, the report shows 116,400 fewer people are now classed as inactive and are therefore doing more than 30 minutes of physical activity a week, with a particular change being noticed in older adults aged 55-75.

[News release](#)

#GirlsGetOot campaign launched (10/10/18)

Freshspace, a partnership between Scottish Natural Heritage and [Young Scot](#), has been working with teenage girls to design [#GirlsGetOot](#), a social media campaign aimed at breaking down the barriers to getting outdoors.

Visiting the outdoors can improve physical and mental health but surveys have shown that girls aged 15-17 are significantly less likely to be active outside than their male counterparts. Research with young volunteers found that issues such as gender expectations, social pressures, body image and perceptions about the cost can all prevent young women from experiencing nature.

Animations designed in collaboration with teenage girls highlight how simple activities such as going for a walk with friends, listening to music outdoors or sharing photos of nature are free, fun and can help relieve the stress experienced by many young women.

[Freshspace report](#)

NIHR Signal: A football programme for overweight men achieves sustained weight loss (16/10/18)

A 12-week weight management programme for men, centred on football, achieved 4.9kg weight loss at 12 months. Modest weight loss of 2.9kg was maintained at 3.5 years.

Rates of overweight and obesity are higher for men than women in the UK, and there is little evidence that interventions are effective in the longer term. This NIHR-funded study followed 488 of 747 men (65%), average age 47 years, originally allocated to a programme of behavioural advice and football training with a professional coach or to a waiting list control. In this follow-on study, the control group also received the intervention after 12 months.

Improvements in self-reported physical activity and diet were also maintained. The programme was estimated to be an effective use of NHS resources. It indicates that tailored programmes can work beyond the trial setting.

This [NIHR Signal](#) looks at the research and offers expert commentary.

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

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

CAR Update: EpiPen and EpiPen Junior (adrenaline auto-injector devices) - Supply Disruption (15/10/18)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued an [update](#) via the Central Alerting System (CAR) to update the previous alert of 28 September 2018 regarding the supply of adrenaline auto-injector devices. Whilst all the information on this alert should be reviewed and actioned as appropriate, the changes from the 28 September alert are highlighted in red text.

EpiPen and EpiPen Junior Supply issue (17/10/18)

NHS England has published a [questions and answers](#) document for pharmacies and dispensing GP practices about the EpiPen and EpiPen Junior Supply issue.

In addition there is a [letter of advice](#) to parents and guardians on the junior EpiPen shortage from expert in children's allergies Dr Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety at NHS England.

Saving money as a patent ends on a costly drug (16/10/18)

[Adalimumab](#) is the single medicine on which hospitals spend the most, at a cost of more than £400 million a year. More than 46,000 patients are prescribed the drug, which was only available under the brand name Humira®, for hospital treated, serious conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis.

[NHS England](#) is asking doctors to also consider equally effective, safe, 'biosimilar' versions of Adalimumab after the exclusive patent on the drug expires on Tuesday 16th October. Biosimilar versions of Adalimumab are expected to be available to NHS patients from December this year, and could help save at least £150 million per year by 2021 depending on the price agreed for the drugs. The ongoing use of Humira® may also continue where clinically appropriate and where it is best value.

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Safeguarding

A Crying Shame: Children's Commissioner on vulnerable babies in England (17/10/18)

A report published by the Children's Commissioner for England, suggests there are 15,800 babies under the age of 1 considered by local authorities to be vulnerable or highly vulnerable and at risk of harm, but still living at home.

The report, '[A Crying Shame](#)' looks at how many babies might be vulnerable to severe harm. It shows how in March 2017, the last comprehensive local authority data available, there were 19,640 babies under a year old identified by local authorities as being 'in need', largely due to risk factors in the family home. 3,820 of these babies under 1 were being looked after by local authorities, with a further 640 babies under 1 placed under special arrangements with someone other than their parents and a further 300 adopted over the year. This leaves 15,800 babies under 1 considered by local authorities to be vulnerable or highly vulnerable but still living at home in March 2017. This amounts to around 100 babies per local authority. Babies appear disproportionately in Serious Case Reviews.

See also [Estimating the number of vulnerable babies](#)
[News release](#)

United Nations agencies call for ban on virginity testing (17/10/18)

Virginity testing — a gynaecological examination conducted under the belief that it determines whether a woman or girl has had vaginal intercourse — must end, says UN Human Rights, UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO). The practice is a violation of the human rights of girls and women, and can be detrimental to women's and girls' physical, psychological and social well-being.

"Virginity testing" has no scientific or clinical basis. There is no examination that can prove a girl or woman has had sex — and the appearance of girl's or woman's hymen cannot prove whether they have had sexual intercourse, or are sexually active or not.

The [interagency statement](#) underlines that virginity testing has been documented in many places, being a long-standing tradition in a number of countries. Elimination of the harmful practice will require a collaborative response from across society, supported by the public health community and health systems, including health professionals.

[Summary and links](#)

See also [Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics](#)

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Screening

Medway: breast screening programme (18/10/18)

Public Health England (PHE) has published an executive summary of [quality assurance \(QA\)](#) visit to [Medway](#) held on 7 February 2018. Visits are carried out by the PHE screening quality assurance service (SQAS).

The NHS Breast Screening Programme aims to reduce mortality from breast cancer by finding signs of the disease at an early stage. The Medway breast screening service has an eligible population of 108,577 women aged 47 to 73 years. Breast screening is normally offered to women aged 50 to 70 years. Medway is part of the national randomised age extension trial which means that Medway offers screening to women aged 47 to 49 years and women aged 71 to 73 years in addition to those aged 50 to 70 years.

The finding is that this is a well-led programme which meets most national standards and has made significant improvements in the last 2 years. Uptake for 2016-17 was 71.91% which is above the minimum standard of more than 70%.

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Social Care/Welfare

The importance of effective medicines recording as part of a home care service (15/10/18)

Keith Lowe, Consultant, NICE Quality Standards committee member and former regulator, has written a [feature article](#) on the need for robust record management and good communication between the different staff and carers for the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). The article includes links to a webinar and the NICE/SCIE quick guide [Effective record keeping and ordering of medicines](#), published August 2018.

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