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Accident and Emergency

Clinical guidelines for major incidents and mass casualty events (28/12/18)

A major incident is any occurrence that presents serious threat to the health of the community or causes such numbers or types of casualties, as to require special arrangements to be implemented.

A major trauma centre (MTC) should expect to receive predominantly (P1) patients, a Trauma Unit (TU) should expect to receive (P2) patients and other medical facilities will be assigned (P3) patients. However, a mix of casualties should be planned for, as there will be little (if any) ability to transfer patients between sites for the first 24 hours.

NHS England has published these [clinical guidelines](#) on emergency procedures for hospitals.

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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Cardiovascular disease prevention: applying All Our Health (09/01/19)

Public Health England has published [evidence and guidance](#) to help healthcare professionals to prevent heart attacks, strokes and dementia and to improve cardiovascular health.

Nearly 7 million people are living with cardiovascular disease (CVD) in England, and it contributes to over a quarter of deaths each year. People from our most deprived populations are nearly 4 times more likely to die prematurely from CVD, compared to those from the most affluent populations.

Health and social care costs in England relating to CVD are estimated at £7.4 billion each year, with wider costs to the economy estimated at £15.8 billion annually.

See also other topics in the [‘All Our Health’ collection](#).

Emergency presentations of cancer: quarterly data (19/12/18)

The quarterly emergency presentations of [cancer data](#) has been updated by Public Health England's National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS).

Data estimates are for all malignant cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) and are at CCG level, with England as a whole for comparison.

This latest publication includes quarterly data for April 2018 to June 2018 (quarter 1 of financial year 2018 to 2019) and an update of the one year rolling average.

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Children/Young People/Families

Local Family Offer pilot: evaluation of phase 1 (10/01/19)

The Local Family Offer was developed from an evidence-based understanding of the importance for child outcomes of supporting current and prospective parents. This research aimed to build learning and best practice on how local authorities can support parental relationships.

The findings and lessons learned from the Local Family Offer have been used to develop the new [Reducing Parental Conflict Programme](#). Through this programme, English local authorities will be supported to introduce services and approaches to reduce parental conflict into mainstream provision.

This [evaluation report](#), published by the Department for Work and Pensions, will provide local authorities and their partners with insights into the successes and challenges experienced by the local authorities participating in the Local Family Offer.

See also Early Intervention Foundation [Reducing Parental Conflict Hub](#).

£2.7 million fund to tackle parental conflict (04/01/19)

A £2.7 million fund to increase support for disadvantaged families at risk of parental conflict has been [announced](#) by the Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, Justin Tomlinson.

Parental conflict can range from a lack of warmth and emotional distance, right through to verbal abuse. If children are exposed to this sort of distress over longer periods of time, their emotional and social development can be significantly affected. It may stop children from doing as well at school or even impact their career chances in later life.

Children most at risk are those with parents who are out of work, on low incomes, or struggling with physical and mental health conditions.

Potential applicants can register their interest from 11 January 2019 and apply between 21 January and 15 February 2019. More information is available on the [Reducing Parental Conflict Challenge Fund](#) website.

Testing Times: Supporting fathers during the perinatal period and early parenthood (16/12/18)

Evidence on the role of fathers and their role in supporting mothers finds that they have a significant influence on healthy behaviours in pregnancy and improve mental health outcomes following birth.

When new mothers are asked about support almost two thirds identify their partner as being their primary source of support, almost three times as much as the next option (their own mother) with only 5 per cent saying health care professionals.

There is also strong correlation between active father engagement and improved childhood outcomes. Substantial and high-quality father involvement from the month following birth are associated with a range of positive outcomes, including higher IQs at 12 months and 3 years.

This [report](#) from the [Centre for Social Justice](#) sets out just how much work there is to be done to promote active fatherhood, especially amongst working class fathers.

The health impacts of screen time - a guide for clinicians and parents (04/01/19)

This [guide](#), from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) provides a summary of existing research on the health effects of screen time on children and young people. It outlines recommendations for health professionals and families on screen time use.

Evidence is weak for a threshold to guide children and parents to the appropriate level of screen time. Families should negotiate screen time limits with their children based upon the needs of an individual child, the ways in which screens are used and the degree to which use of screens appears to displace (or not) physical and social activities and sleep. The practical expert recommendation is that screens are avoided for an hour before the planned bedtime.

[News release](#)

Boosting resilience in children (29/12/18)

Primary school children will be challenged to go on a nature trail, visit a local landmark or make a treasure map through a new 'passport' of activities [launched](#) by the Education Secretary to encourage more family time and help build children's character and resilience.

Endorsed by organisations including the [Scouts](#), [Girlguiding](#) and the National Trust – as well as children's charity [Action for Children](#) - the list of activities is intended to support parents and schools in introducing children to a wide variety of experiences and fulfilling activities.

The '[My Activity Passport](#)' list is designed to be accessible so that every child and family can get involved and include milestones for each primary school year group. Tasks that schools and families can set children include:

- painting a self portrait
- posting a letter
- looking at the stars on a clear night
- playing a board game
- writing and performing a poem
- going hiking
- planning and cooking a meal
- interviewing someone.

[Supporting resources](#)

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Commissioning and Economics

NAO: A review of the role and costs of clinical commissioning groups (18/12/18)

Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are clinically-led statutory bodies that have a legal duty to plan and commission most of the hospital and community NHS services in the local areas for which they are responsible. They were established as part of the Health and Social Care Act in 2012 and replaced primary care trusts on 1 April 2013. Since their formation, there have been eight formal mergers of CCGs, which have reduced their number from 211 to 195 as at April 2018.

Since commissioning was introduced into the NHS in the early 1990s, there have been frequent changes to the structure of commissioning organisations. This looks set to continue, with the role of CCGs evolving as the NHS pursues a more integrated system across commissioners and providers. Following almost three decades of change, NHS commissioning needs a prolonged period of organisational stability. This would allow organisations to focus on transforming and integrating health and care services rather than on reorganising themselves.

This [review](#) by the National Audit Office (NAO) sets out:

- changes to the commissioning landscape before CCGs were established;
- the role, running costs and performance of CCGs; and
- the changing commissioning landscape and the future role of CCGs.

Driving Forward Systems Working: A snapshot of early progress in collaborative commissioning (12/18)

NHS trusts and commissioners are working collaboratively to improve the way they deliver services for their local populations, according to the membership bodies representing both clinical commissioners and providers.

A [joint report](#) from NHS Providers and NHS Clinical Commissioners finds that although progress is at an early stage, the relationship between commissioners and providers is changing significantly. Commissioners are beginning to take a more strategic approach, commissioning for outcomes across larger population footprints, with trusts taking on or supporting activities previously undertaken by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) such as developing pathways and service specifications.

[News release](#)

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Communities and Local Government

Supporting carers: guidance and case studies (18/12/18)

Councils in England receive 1.8 million new requests for adult social care a year – the equivalent of nearly 5,000 a day – and despite some helpful extra funding there is still a £3.5 billion funding gap facing adult social care by 2025 just to maintain existing standards of care.

Key statistics:

- 1 in 10 people are carers
- 40 per cent increase in carers predicted over next 20 years
- £132 billion worth of care provided by carers
- 1 in 5 carers are aged over 65

- 1.4 million carers provide over 50 hours of care a week
- 7 in 10 have suffered mental ill health and 6 in 10 physical ill health from caring
- 166,363 young carers in England – a fifth higher than a decade previously
- 1 in 12 young carers is caring for more than 15 hours a week
- 1 in 20 miss school because of their caring responsibilities
- young carers are 1.5 times more likely to have a long-term illness, special educational needs or a disability
- there are 670,000 unpaid carers of people with dementia in the UK
- two thirds of people with dementia live at home and most are supported by unpaid carers.

In this publication from the [Local Government Association](#) the case studies demonstrate how all this is achieved.

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Disabilities

[See Education](#)

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Drugs/Alcohol

How councils have responded to county lines (21/12/18)

The term 'county lines', which references the phone lines used to sell drugs, has become commonplace in the news and usually implies young people being trafficked far from urban areas to work in lucrative provincial markets. Comparable processes can see them being sent much shorter distances, for instance between neighbouring boroughs. Local young people may also be groomed by out-of-town networks.

Alex Turner writing in [Community Care](#) explores what local authorities doing about it, and how social workers deal with it.

See also collection [County Lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults](#), Home Office, September 2018.

[Children's Society](#)

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Education

Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England, 2018 (08/01/19)

The Department for Education has published [statistics and analysis](#) on statements of special educational needs (SEN) and education, health and care (EHC) plans in England.

In September 2014, the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms came into effect as part of the Children and Families Act 2014. From 1 September 2014, any children or young people who are newly referred to a local authority for assessment are considered under the new Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan assessment process.

There were 285,722 children and young people with statutory Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and 34,097 children and young people with statements of special educational needs (SEN) maintained by local authorities as at January 2018. This gives a total of 319,819, an increase of 32,529 (11.3%) from 287,290 as at January 2017. This is driven by large increases in the 16-19 and 20-25 age groups.

The combined number of children and young people with statements and EHC plans has increased each year since 2010.

Learning life-saving skills in school (03/01/19)

The Education Secretary, Damian Hinds, has said that every child should have the chance to learn [life-saving skills](#) such as CPR and how to get help in a medical emergency. He stressed the importance of the government's plans for all children to be taught basic first aid in schools under proposals due to be rolled out from 2020.

The [British Heart Foundation](#) hailed the plans as a "decisive moment" in improving on the fact that fewer than 1 in 10 people who have a cardiac arrest outside hospital in the UK survive. In countries that already teach CPR in schools, cardiac arrest survival rates are more than double those of the UK.

EIF: Key competencies in early cognitive development (19/12/18)

A new [report](#), from the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF), sets out the evidence on how best to support children's cognitive development in the early years. It highlights the importance of children's early language development, understanding of objects, people and numbers. These four competencies were chosen because they draw from perceptual capabilities that are already present at birth and are widely viewed to represent the building blocks for children's later learning. The report also sets out a range of milestones in children's development in each of the four areas.

See also Mental Health and Wellbeing

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Building for our future: A vision for social housing (08/01/19)

Social housing in England has been provided to support individuals and families who are not served by the private market. Social landlords are generally councils or housing associations. The stock of social homes has declined in recent decades; currently, around 17 percent of English households live in public housing, this is down from around a third of households in the late 1970's.

In January 2018, [Shelter](#) brought together 16 commissioners from across the political spectrum and from different backgrounds and perspectives, to consider the role of social/housing in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire.

An estimated 3.1 million social homes will be needed to address the need for social housing over a 20-year period.

[Full report](#)

[Local Government Association](#)

Particulate air pollution on London Underground: health effects (09/01/19)

This [statement, literature search and 5 other working papers](#) by the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) updates earlier advice (1998) on the evidence for health effects in the travelling public associated with exposure to particulate air pollution in the London Underground.

See all [reports and statements](#) from COMEAP.

Physical activity: encouraging activity in the general population (04/01/18)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a [draft quality standard](#) on physical activity for consultation. The closing date for comments is 01 February 2019, and the expected publication date of the standard is 06 June 2019.

The aim is to get people to be more active in their day-to-day lives by encouraging safe, convenient, active travel that is accessible for everyone, including older people and people with limited mobility.

NICE says planners should develop policies and initiatives to ensure that safe, convenient, inclusive access for pedestrians, cyclists, and people who use public transport is maximised and is prioritised over motorised transports (cars, motorbikes and mopeds, for example).

[News release](#)

Resources and waste strategy for England (18/12/18)

This [strategy](#), from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Environment Agency, sets out a plan to double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050.

The plan is to prolong the lives of the materials and goods that are used., moving society away from the inefficient 'linear' economic model of 'take, make, use, throw'. Instead a more circular economy (re-use, remanufacture, repair, recycle) will keep resources in use for as long as possible. It will allow for the extraction of maximum value from them, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of their lifespan.

As part of the plan a new [Food Surplus and Waste Champion](#) has been appointed by Environment Secretary Michael Gove. Philanthropist Ben Elliot, the co-founder of lifestyle group Quintessentially and chair of the Quintessentially Foundation, the business's philanthropic arm, has been tasked with setting an ambitious direction to cut food waste from all sources, to help drive down unnecessary food waste in the UK which totals 10.2 million tonnes per year.

UK National Radon Action Plan (18/12/18)

Radon is a colourless, odourless radioactive gas. It's formed by the radioactive decay of small amounts of uranium that occur naturally in all rocks and soils. The main danger from high radon exposure is the increased risk of lung cancer. For most people, radon is the single largest source of radiation exposure whether they are at home or at work.

The [UK National Radon Action Plan \(NRAP\)](#) includes:

- information on the health risks from public exposure to radon
- national strategy and arrangements for managing exposure to radon, in homes and workplaces
- arrangements for the government and private industry to communicate radon guidance to the public and local authorities.

Following the public consultation in summer 2018, the comments were considered by the authors, and the draft NRAP was amended and updated.

See also information on [radon and reports](#) from the Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE).

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Health Care

NHS Long Term Plan (07/01/19)

In 2018, the government announced £20.5bn of additional funding for the NHS by 2023/24. The [NHS long term plan](#), published by NHS England, sets out priorities for how this money will be spent over the next ten years. The blueprint to make the NHS fit for the future will use the latest technology, such as digital GP consultations for all those who want them, coupled with early detection and a renewed focus on prevention to stop an estimated 85,000 premature deaths each year.

From publication until the summer of 2019 staff, patients and the public will have the opportunity to help their local NHS work out what NHS Long Term Plan means for their area and how to meet the national ambitions in their community.

NHS Long Term Plan: [online](#) and [downloadable](#) versions, [summary](#).

[Statement to the House of Commons](#) Matt Hancock, Health and Social Secretary

["a ten-year reform agenda with prevention and population health at its heart"](#) Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England

[Health Foundation](#)
[King's Fund](#)

QualityWatch: Combined Performance Summary: November – December 2018 (10/01/19)

Nuffield Trust [QualityWatch](#) examines NHS England [data](#) on key performance measures for November and December 2018.

The statistics cover Accident and Emergency, Ambulance, Bed occupancy, Treatment and diagnostic test waiting times, Delayed transfers of care, and Cancer waiting times.

Musculoskeletal health: applying All Our Health (03/01/19)

This [guidance](#), from Public Health England, will help front-line health and care staff use their relationships with patients, families and communities to promote the benefits of maintaining good musculoskeletal health (MSK) with a focus on prevention, early detection and treatment.

MSK conditions are a group of conditions that affect the bones, joints, muscles and spine, and are a common cause of severe long term pain and physical disability. Each year, 20% of people in the UK see a doctor about a MSK problem.

See also other topics in the ['All Our Health' collection](#).

How is the NHS performing? December 2018 quarterly monitoring report (21/12/18)

This is the 27th [quarterly monitoring report](#) from the King's Fund and aims to take stock of what has happened over the past few months, including the recently announced funding offer for the NHS.

This report once more finds that patients are waiting too long for care and NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) remain under tremendous financial pressure. Midway through 2018/19 the waits for routine and emergency care are more than have been seen for a decade, and half of NHS providers are forecasting a financial deficit.

CQC calls for a change in safety culture across the NHS to reduce avoidable harm (19/12/18)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published a report which finds that too many people are being injured or suffering unnecessary harm because NHS staff are not supported by sufficient training, and because the complexity of the current patient safety system makes it difficult for staff to ensure that safety is an integral part of everything they do.

The report, [Opening the door to change](#) examines the issues that contribute to the occurrence of never events and wider patient safety incidents in NHS trusts in England. The review was carried out at the request of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and sought to help understand the barriers to delivering safe care and to identify learning that can be applied to improve patient safety.

Based on its findings, CQC is calling on the NHS and its partners to promote a change in safety culture across the NHS so that safety is given the priority it deserves.

[News release](#)

FPH: The Role of the NHS in prevention (12/18)

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) has received a grant from the Health Foundation to undertake a policy development and research project examining the role of the NHS in the prevention of ill-health. The project began in August 2018, and the final report is expected in mid-2019.

The Role of the NHS in Prevention project aims to:

- Build a better understanding of how the NHS currently delivers prevention
- Understand what 'good' prevention in the NHS looks like
- Explore the enablers and barriers for NHS organisations seeking to take a more preventative approach
- Determine initial priorities for increased investment and focus.

This [discussion paper](#) draws together the key themes that have begun to emerge from work completed so far.

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Health Protection/Emergencies

UK flu levels (10/01/19)

Public Health England figures confirm that seasonal flu is now circulating in the community but remains at low levels. Seasonal flu usually circulates for several weeks each year. The intensity of circulation depends upon the underlying population immunity, the circulating viruses and external factors such as the weather.

People with flu-like symptoms are advised to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue, bin it, and then wash their hands afterwards with soap and warm water to kill the germs. Practising good hand hygiene and giving eligible people the flu vaccine is the best defence against the virus.

People should frequently clean used surfaces to stop the spread of flu, and avoid having unnecessary contact with other people.

[Weekly national flu reports: 2018 to 2019 season](#)

[News release](#)

Flu vaccination in England: government response (10/01/19)

In October 2018 the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons published [Flu vaccination programme in England](#). This [command paper](#) sets out the government's response.

The two documents together explore the uptake of the vaccine in different groups, and the reasons for geographical variation, as well as the ways that have been used to encourage more people to take up the offer of the flu jab.

Measles and rubella elimination UK strategy 2019 (09/01/19)

Public Health England has published a [report](#) explaining the UK's strategy towards measles and rubella elimination.

The new strategy is clear that partners in the local health economy need to work together to continue to increase uptake of the MMR vaccine in all children, and address immunity gaps across the population by catching up teenagers and young adults who missed out on the vaccine when they were younger.

It includes a number of recommendations to maintain measles and rubella elimination:

Achieve and sustain over 95% coverage with 2 doses of MMR vaccine in the routine childhood immunisation programme.
Achieve over 95% coverage with 2 doses of MMR vaccine in older age groups.
Strengthen measles and rubella monitoring.

See also the collection [Measles: guidance, data and analysis](#).

[News release](#)

HIV: South East annual data spotlight (09/01/19)

Public Health England has published [Annual epidemiological spotlight on HIV in the South East: 2017 data](#).

HIV remains an important public health problem in the South East with high and increasing rates of HIV and evidence of sustained HIV transmission in men who have sex with men (MSM).

Key data includes:

- In 2017, an estimated 405 South East residents were newly diagnosed with HIV, accounting for 10% of new diagnoses in England.
- In 2017, 51% of all new diagnoses in South East residents were in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) (compared to 53% in 2016 and 40% in 2008).
- Heterosexual contact was the second largest infection route for new diagnoses in South East residents in 2017 (44%).
- Injecting drug use accounted for 3% of new diagnoses in South East residents.

Acute flaccid paralysis syndrome (19/12/18)

[Acute flaccid paralysis \(AFP\)](#) is a rare but serious neurological illness which is normally due to inflammation of the spinal cord, known as acute flaccid myelitis (AFM). AFP and AFM causes weakness of the arms, legs or face. In the past, AFP was commonly due to poliovirus infection.

The success of the vaccination programme means that polio is now very rare internationally and has been eliminated in the UK; however, AFP may be linked to other viral infections including non-polio enteroviruses.

Public Health England (PHE) has seen an increase in reports of unexplained acute neurological symptoms, particularly AFP, in 2018 in England. The majority of cases have been in children.

[How to report and investigate a case of AFP/AFM](#)

[Information for patients](#)

[Polio: guidance, data and analysis](#)

Alert: Emollient cream build-up in fabric can lead to fire deaths (18/12/18)

Emollients are moisturising treatments applied directly to the skin to soothe and hydrate it. They cover the skin with a protective film to trap in moisture. Emollients are important treatments, widely used to help manage dry, itchy or scaly skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis and ichthyosis.

People who use emollient creams to treat dry and itchy skin conditions are being warned that residue can build up on fabrics, such as clothing or bedding, and cause them to catch fire more easily. The [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA) is recommending that labelling and product information for these emollient products should include a warning about the fire hazard, with clear advice not to smoke or go near naked flames and information about the risk of severe burn injury or death.

Chemical hazards compendium: update (09/01/19)

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

The following documents in the compendium has been updated:

[Acetic acid](#)

[Acetone](#)

[Aluminium phosphide](#)

[Carbon dioxide](#)

[Ethanol](#)

[Formic acid](#)

[Methane](#)

[Sodium hydroxide](#)

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Hearing/Sight

More children and adults eligible for cochlear implants on the NHS (04/01/18)

More people with severe to profound deafness are expected to be eligible for cochlear implants each year, due to [updated guidance](#) in development from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The update comes after a review of the definition of severe to profound deafness which is used to identify if a cochlear implant might be appropriate.

Severe to profound deafness is now recognised as only hearing sounds louder than 80dB HL at 2 or more frequencies without hearing aids, a lowering of the previous threshold.

[Cochlear implants for children and adults with severe to profound deafness, TA166](#)

[News release](#)

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Inequalities/Minorities

Deaths of homeless people in England and Wales: 2013 to 2017 (20/12/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published the first figures on [deaths of homeless people](#) in England and Wales. Figures are given for deaths registered in the years 2013 to 2017.

Main points:

- There were an estimated 597 deaths of homeless people in England and Wales in 2017, a figure that has increased by 24% over the last five years.
- Men made up 84% of deaths of homeless people in 2017.
- The mean age at death of homeless people was 44 years for men, 42 years for women and 44 years for all persons between 2013 and 2017; in comparison, in the general population of England and Wales in 2017, the mean age at death was 76 years for men and 81 years for women.
- Over half of all deaths of homeless people in 2017 were due to drug poisoning, liver disease or suicide; drug poisoning alone made up 32% of the total.

- London and the North West of England had the highest mortality of homeless people, both in numbers of deaths and per million population of the region.

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Long-term Conditions

National Diabetes Transition Audit 2011-2017 (10/01/19)

Diabetes is a condition where the amount of glucose in the blood is too high because the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin. Supporting lifelong management of the condition is essential for achieving the most positive outcomes for the individual. Patients making the move from paediatric to adult services are at risk of disruption in care, with both short and long-term health effects.

This report examines care provision during the period when young people with Type 1 diabetes move from paediatric to adult-based clinical care in England and Wales. The findings of the report point to deterioration in annual care process completion, achievement of treatment targets and higher rates of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) when young people transition from paediatric to adult services, with considerable local service variation.

The [report](#) sets out recommendations for local specialist services, clinical commissioning groups and health boards. The report may be downloaded from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies for Children and Young People (2018) (10/01/19)

Epilepsy is a condition whereby individuals are prone to recurrent epileptic seizures – abnormal movement or behaviour as a direct result of a change in the electrical activity of the brain. Epileptic seizures affect 112,000 children and young people in the UK.

The National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies in Children and Young People, also known as Epilepsy12, shows incremental improvements in some areas of paediatric epilepsy service provision alongside a considerable need for improvement in others.

The [report](#) may be downloaded from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

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Maternity/Infants

National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (10/01/19)

The National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) has published two reports.

The [Neonatal Report](#) explores the feasibility of linking the NMPA data set, which contains data relating to the majority of women who give birth, to the National Neonatal Research Database (NNRD), which contains detailed information about the majority of babies admitted to a neonatal unit.

The purpose of the [Intensive Care Report](#) is to describe the feasibility of linking the NMPA's maternity data to intensive care data and to evaluate the suitability of rates of maternal admission to intensive care as an indicator of care quality. It also describes the demographics of women admitted to intensive care and the reasons for admission.

Both reports are hosted on the [Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership \(HQIP\)](#) website.

Wide-ranging new maternity plans announced by the government (30/12/18)

Mothers and new babies will be offered better support as part of measures that will improve safety, quality and continuity of care to halve stillbirths, maternal and infant deaths and serious brain injuries in new-born babies by 2025.

At the heart of these plans is a major redesign of neonatal services, led by an expansion in staff numbers – with more expert neonatal nurses and specialists, and new roles for allied health professionals. The measures also include:

- digitising the paper child health record known to parents as the 'red book'
- piloting the digitisation of maternity records for 100,000 women by the end of 2019 to help women make choices about their care in a more convenient way
- improved accommodation for critically ill new-born babies and support from dedicated care co-ordinators from 2021 to 2022
- wider availability of physiotherapy for the 1 in 3 women who experience incontinence after childbirth
- asking all maternity services to deliver an accredited, evidence-based infant feeding programme in 2019 to 2020, such as the UNICEF Baby Friendly initiative.

The plans are backed by the funding increase of £20.5 billion every year by 2023 to 2024 for the NHS in England.

Department of Health and Social Care [announcement](#)
[Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists](#)
[Royal College of Midwives](#)

New standards set benchmark for preterm and sick babies' care (26/12/18)

European Standards of Care for Newborn Health is an interdisciplinary European collaboration to develop standards of care for key topics in newborn health. The project brought together healthcare professionals, parent representatives and selected industry specialists, from more than 30 countries. The focus of the project is the treatment and care of preterm and ill newborn babies in hospital and as they grow up.

[Standards](#) are now available for 11 broad areas of neonatal health. The development project started in January 2013 and reached completion in December 2018.

[Project factsheet](#)
[Video \(09 minutes\)](#)

[Royal College of Midwives](#)

See also

[Children/Young People/Families](#)

[Oral Health](#)

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health services for children and young people (11/01/19)

In 2017–18 only three in ten children and young people with a mental health condition received NHS-funded treatment. There is now a focus on improving NHS mental health services for children and young people, but there are still significant gaps in the data to monitor progress.

Recently published figures have underlined the scale of the task faced: one in eight (12.8%) five to 19 year olds have a mental health disorder. There has also been a marked increase in the number of five to 15 year olds who suffer from an emotional disorder: the figure stands at 5.8% in comparison to 3.9% in 2004.

Work to increase mental health staff numbers and develop the right skills has also progressed more slowly than planned. New and important ways of supporting young people's mental health through prevention and early intervention, particularly in schools, are now being developed.

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons in this [report](#) urges the government to make headway on all these fronts if it is to provide the mental health services and support that young people need.

[News release](#)

[Local Government Association](#)

NHS and schools in England will provide expert mental health support (20/12/18)

One in nine young people aged 5 to 15 had a mental health condition in 2017. Teenagers with a mental disorder are more than twice as likely to have a mental disorder in adulthood.

The first [mental health support teams](#) will begin their training in January 2019 at 7 universities nationwide. The new teams will be based in and near schools and colleges in 25 areas and will start giving support later in 2019. Each designated team will support up to 8,000 children and young people in around 20 schools and colleges in their 'trailblazer' area.

See also

Chapter 3, section 3.28 of the [NHS Long Term Plan, January 2019](#)
[Mental health of children and young people](#) collection

[Children and Young People Now](#)

Health matters: reducing health inequalities in mental illness (18/12/18)

People with severe and enduring mental illness are at greater risk of poor physical health and reduced life expectancy compared to the general population. Mental health problems can affect anyone and have a significant effect on the lives of individuals, their families, communities and wider society. Together with substance misuse, mental illness accounts for 21.3% of the total morbidity burden in England.

This edition of [Health matters](#) from Public Health England (PHE) sets out the scale of the problem and presents actions that local areas can take to reduce health inequalities, improve physical health and life chances of people living with mental illness.

Although the focus is on adults with more severe and enduring mental illness, many of the actions will be of benefit to all people experiencing mental illness.

[PHE blog](#)

The Women's Mental Health Taskforce report (19/12/18)

The Women's Mental Health Taskforce was formed in response to a rise in mental ill health among women. The taskforce's [final report](#) sets out how women's experience of mental ill health can differ to men's. It covers:

- core themes in women's mental health
- the involvement of women with lived experience
- principles for service design
- future strategic priorities.

Mental health: improving employment and health outcomes (18/12/18)

Public Health England (PHE) East of England is brokering and facilitating closer collaboration across the work, public health and mental health systems to improve employment and health outcomes for those with mental health conditions.

In the East of England, there are around 180,000 people in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), 49% of those was due to mental and behavioural disorders. Within the age bracket 18 to 24-year olds, the percentage due to mental health rises to 65 to 70% in some localities.

This [case study](#) explains ongoing work in the area.

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Change4Life: Sugar swaps for kids (02/01/19)

Children in England are eating an extra 2,800 sugar cubes a year, which is more than double the recommended guidelines. Half of the sugar in our children's diets comes from sugary drinks, sweets, biscuits, cakes, puddings, sugary breakfast cereals and higher-sugar yoghurts and puddings.

A new [Change4Life](#) campaign has been launched, with tips and ideas to help families cut back on sugar and to help tackle growing rates of childhood obesity.

See also [Sugar reduction and wider reformulation](#) collection

[News release](#)

Non-sugar sweeteners: new evidence (02/01/19)

It's the time for a fresh set of resolutions. If one of yours is to lose or maintain weight, you might be wondering if it makes sense to use non-sugar sweeteners instead of sugar. Ingrid Toews and colleagues conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of the effects of non-sugar sweeteners on various health outcomes, including weight. The study is published in the [British Medical Journal](#) (open access article and editorial)

For adults, use of non-sugar sweeteners rather than sugar was associated with small improvements in body mass index and fasting blood glucose levels. There was no evidence of beneficial effects on other outcomes, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, mood, or cognition.

In the linked editorial Vasanti Malik says that the preponderance of evidence indicates that replacing free sugar with non-sugar sweeteners, especially in beverages, "could be a helpful strategy to reduce cardiometabolic risk". The ultimate goal, however, is a switch to water or other drinks with health benefits.

Salt targets 2017: progress report (19/12/18)

This [report with appendices](#), from Public Health England, gives a detailed assessment of progress by the food industry towards meeting the salt reduction targets set in 2014 and to be achieved by December 2017.

Excess salt intake can cause high blood pressure, which can lead to cardiovascular disease (CVD), one of the main causes of premature death for adults in the UK.

Since it was established, the salt reduction programme has helped to reduce the nation's salt intake by 11%, to 8 grams per day. If this figure was brought closer to the recommended 6 grams a day, it could help to prevent thousands of avoidable deaths.

[News release](#)

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

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Older People

Partnership to drive improved health outcomes for people in later life (14/12/18)

The Centre for Ageing Better and Public Health England (PHE) have joined forces to promote healthy ageing at a national, regional and local level. The [strategic partnership](#), confirmed through a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), will use evidence-based public health interventions to help people maintain or prevent deterioration in their functional ability as they age.

The Centre for Ageing Better will add its expertise on ageing and in how to create evidence-based change to PHE's evidence-based prevention expertise, data intelligence and insights from its own Productive Healthy Ageing ambition.

It is hoped that the five-year partnership will help drive action required to reach the Government's ambition for everyone to have five extra years of healthy and independent life. Joint projects will include creating a consensus and positive narrative on healthy ageing and co-creating an evidence-based resource with recommendations on how to address midlife risk factors.

[Centre for Ageing Better publications](#)

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Oral Health

Oral health survey of 5-year-old children 2017 (02/01/19)

The oral health survey of 5-year-old children takes place every two years to collect dental health information for children aged 5 years old who attend mainstream, state-funded schools across England. It is carried out as part of the Public Health England [National Dental Epidemiology Programme for England](#).

The aim of the survey is to measure the prevalence and severity of dental caries among 5-year-old children within each lower-tier local authority.

The [results](#) of the oral health survey of 5 year old children 2017 show:

- wide variation at both regional and local authority level for both prevalence and severity of dental decay
- overall 76.7% of 5-year-old children in England had no experience of obvious dental decay.

Breastfeeding and dental health (19/12/18)

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.

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

NICE: New migraine drug not cost-effective (10/01/19)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has said that a new drug for preventing migraine is not a cost-effective use of NHS resources. New [draft guidance](#) looks at erenumab (also called Aimovig and made by Novartis) for preventing chronic and episodic migraine in adults who have 4 episodes or more of migraine every month and where at least 3 other preventive treatments have not worked. Erenumab is given as an injection administered by patients themselves.

Costing around £5,000 per year erenumab is the first treatment to target the process by which proteins cause blood vessels in the brain to swell, leading to the symptoms of migraine.

The closing date for comments on the draft recommendations is 31 January 2019.

[News release](#)

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Public Health/Health Promotion

CMO: Health 2040 - better health within reach (21/12/18)

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Professor Dame Sally Davies, has published her [annual report](#) for 2018. There are 4 main sections in the report, discussing:

- health as the nation's primary asset
- the health environment we live in and build together
- using emerging technologies to improve health for everyone
- effective planning for the future.

Professor Dame Sally Davies's report is independent of government and is aimed at government, regulators, policy-makers and healthcare professionals.

Public health grants to local authorities: 2019 to 2020 (20/12/18)

Local authorities (upper tier and unitary) are responsible for improving the health of their local population and reducing health inequalities.

In the financial year ending 2020, local authorities will receive a £3.134 billion [public health grant](#) for their public health duties for all ages. Kent will receive 65,799,000 down from 67,584,000 in 2018/19, Medway 16,762,000 down from 17,217,000.

The local authority circular sets out the allocations and conditions for using the grant, including a ring-fence requiring local authorities to use the grant exclusively for public health activity.

[Written statement](#) to the House of Commons by Steve Brine, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care.

[Association of Directors of Public Health \(UK\)](#)
[Local Government Association](#)
[Health Foundation](#)

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Safeguarding

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Screening

Breast Screening (18/12/18)

There are several new documents for professional guidance in the [Breast screening](#) collection. These are:

- [Higher risk women surveillance protocols](#)
 - [Information leaflets](#)
 - [Easy read leaflet for people with disabilities](#)
 - [Siemens Mammomat Inspiration VB60 \(evaluation\)](#)
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Sexual Health

Update on the PrEP Impact Trial (11/01/19)

Implementation of the PrEP Impact trial has been a success with over 10,000 participants already enrolled in this important HIV prevention measure. An official request has been made by the researchers to increase the number of participants to the end of the trial in 2020 from 13,000 to up to 26,000.

[NHS England](#) is supportive of the researchers' proposal and will play its part by committing to fund additional places in line with existing trial funding arrangements. It will continue to be for individual local authorities to decide how many additional places they wish to take up and to give the green light to clinics to expand recruitment.

For more information on the PrEP Impact trial and participating clinics visit the trial website: www.prepimpacttrial.org.uk

[Local Government Association](#)

Two cases of resistant gonorrhoea diagnosed in the UK (09/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) is investigating 2 cases of [Neisseria gonorrhoeae](#) in heterosexual females with similar resistance patterns to the antibiotics (ceftriaxone and azithromycin) that are used as the first line treatment for gonorrhoea.

One of these cases appears to have been acquired in Europe and the other has links to Europe but was acquired in the UK. Both cases were successfully treated, and their sexual contacts are being followed up to minimise the risk of any onward transmission.

The cases are a reminder of the need to practice safer sex. Anyone with symptoms of a sexually transmitted infection (STI) or who is concerned they may have an STI should seek advice from their sexual health clinic.

Syphilis epidemiology in London (09/01/19)

Public Health England has published a [data update](#) on the epidemiology of syphilis in London. In 2017, 3,397 London residents were diagnosed with syphilis, accounting for nearly half (49%) of all cases in England.

The rate of syphilis diagnoses in London in 2017 was 38.7 per 1,000 population which is over 200% higher than the rate in England and over 200% higher than any other region.

Since 2013 the number of cases of syphilis in London residents has increased by 98%, with a 16% increase in the year from 2016 to 2017.

Syphilis was diagnosed in residents of all 33 London local authorities (LAs) in 2017, and 23 LAs saw an increase in syphilis cases compared to the previous year.

Sexual health services and the importance of prevention (30/12/18)

In view of the government's confirmation of a 2.6 per cent in the public health grant for 2019/20, Ruth Robertson, of the King's Fund, [examines](#) the outlook for services providing sexual health advice, prevention and promotion which have already been among the biggest losers from the decrease in public health spending in recent years.

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

PHE Health Harms campaign encourages smokers to quit (28/12/18)

Public Health England (PHE) has released a new film showing the harms that come from smoking, as part of the [Health Harms Campaign](#) which encourages smokers to attempt to quit in January.

Public Health England's [personal quit plan](#) is a quick, free and easy-to-use digital tool to help smokers find the right support to help them quit, taking into account how much they smoke, and any quitting support used previously.

The most successful quit attempts use a combination of effective stop smoking support methods. Recent [research](#) suggests that smokers who quit with the help of an e-cigarette are less likely to start smoking again.

See also [Local Tobacco Control Profiles](#)

[News release](#)

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Workforce Development

Funding announced to train 900 new children's social workers (08/01/19)

Education Secretary Damian Hinds has [announced](#) plans to fund 900 places on the [Frontline](#) children's social work training programme up to 2021.

The social work charity, which has cross-party support, has secured £45 million in funding as it recruits growing numbers of trainees to the social work profession, helping to transform the lives of vulnerable children and families.

[British Association of Social Workers \(BASW\)](#)
[Community Care](#)

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Workplace

Information for the health and care sector about planning for a potential no-deal Brexit (08/01/18)

The Department of Health and Social Care has updated its [collection](#) of information and guidance relating to health and care organisations and industry. The collection includes [technical notices](#) on medicines, medical devices, and blood and blood products, contingency planning guidance on operational readiness, and a toolkit for employers to support the EU Settlement Scheme.

The UK's future skills-based immigration system (19/12/18)

On the publication of the [immigration white paper](#), Home Secretary Sajid Javid made a [statement](#) to Parliament.

The proposed new system includes:

- a skilled workers route open to all nationalities
- lowering of the skills threshold on the skilled workers route to include medium-skilled workers
- no cap on numbers on the skilled workers route, meaning that business will be able to hire any suitable qualified migrant
- the abolition of the resident labour market test
- a new time limited route for temporary short-term workers of all skill levels, including seasonal low-skilled workers
- an extension to the post-study period for international students.

It utilises advice commissioned from the independent Migration Advisory Committee on the impact of European migration on the UK economy and society. There will be no cap on numbers and no requirement for the highest skilled workers to undertake a resident labour market test, but there will be a minimum salary threshold.

[NHS Providers On the day briefing](#)

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