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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Cancer survival in England: national estimates for patients followed up to 2017 (24/01/19)

For the first time the Office for National Statistics has been able to publish robust 1-year, 5-year and 10-year net-survival [estimates](#) for adults diagnosed with cancer between 2012 and 2016 and followed up to 2017, and by stage at diagnosis.

Main points include:

- Adults diagnosed at stage 1 with either melanoma of the skin, prostate or breast (women only) cancer have the same chance of surviving 1-year after diagnosis as an individual in the general population.
- Melanoma of the skin had the highest net-survival estimate for 1-year survival in both men (97.4%) and women (98.6%) and for 5-year survival in both men (89.2%) and women (93.9%).
- Pancreatic cancer had the lowest net-survival estimate for 1-year survival in men (23.7%) and women (25.3%) and for 5-year survival in both men (6.4%) and women (7.5%).

Predicted 10-year survival was also highest for melanoma of the skin for both men and women at 85.0% and 90.9% respectively, and lowest for lung cancer for both men and women at 7.0% and 10.6% respectively

NIHR Signal Lifestyle changes may be more important than drugs for mild hypertension (22/01/19)

Hypertension is the third biggest risk factor for all disease in the UK, closely following smoking and poor diet. It costs the NHS over £2.1 billion every year.

A large NIHR-funded UK [study](#) compared rates of mortality and risk of cardiovascular disease between patients who received antihypertensive treatment and those who did not. There was an increased risk of adverse effects, like low blood pressure. It found no evidence to support starting drug treatment for adults of low-cardiovascular risk with mild hypertension.

This is in line with current NICE guidelines which suggest offering lifestyle advice on several occasions before looking for pharmacological treatment in mild hypertension.

There is an ongoing debate about treatment thresholds for mild hypertension, but overall, considering cardiovascular risk and addressing unhealthy lifestyle habits may be more important than tackling raised blood pressure alone. This study is a helpful contribution to a wider debate on avoiding over-treatment and shows the value of large patient datasets to address uncertainties.

[NIHR Signal](#) (National Institute for Health Research) with expert commentary.

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Children/Young People/Families

RCPCH: State of Child Health: two years on (23/01/19)

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) 2017 State of Child Health report revealed health inequalities between the UK's most disadvantaged children and young people and their more affluent peers. Two years on, the [scorecard](#) for England assesses progress made against the State of Child Health policy recommendations. It reveals achievements in key areas and a more positive picture for infants, children and young people. However, child poverty, cuts to public health services and political uncertainty pose threats to progress.

[RCPCH news release](#)
[Local Government Association](#)

Family spending in the UK: April 2017 to March 2018 (24/01/19)

This [publication](#) from the Office for National Statistics provides data and an insight into the spending habits of UK households, broken down by household characteristics and types of spending.

Main points include:

- Average weekly household expenditure in the UK was £572.60 in the financial year ending 2018; the highest weekly spend since the financial year ending 2005, after adjusting for inflation.
- Transport was the category with the highest average weekly spend of £80.80, equivalent to 14% of households' average total weekly household expenditure.
- Households with heads aged 50 to 74 years spent almost a quarter of their housing expenditure costs on alterations and improvements.
- Average weekly household spending was the highest in London and the South East (over £650), whilst spending in the North East was the lowest, approximately £200 less.
- Households with heads aged under 30 years and those in Northern Ireland spent the most on takeaway meals eaten at home, £7.80 and £8.60 respectively.
- Households' average weekly spend on alcoholic drinks away from the home was less in the financial year ending 2018 (£8.00) compared with 10 years ago (£10.90), after adjusting for inflation.
- Households in London spent the most on alcoholic drinks away from home, spending an average of £9.30 a week.

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Social Care/Welfare**

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Commissioning and Economics

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Communities and Local Government

Social care charging for local authorities: 2019 to 2020 (23/01/19)

This circular, from the Department of Health and Social Care, advises local authorities of the [social care charging arrangements](#) for 2019 to 2020. It includes details about: capital limits, personal expenses allowance, minimum income guarantee, and savings credit.

See also other [Local Authority circulars](#) from the Department of Health and Social Care.

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Disabilities

Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities, Experimental Statistics: 2017 to 2018 (24/01/19)

NHS Digital has published [aggregated data](#) on key health issues for people who are recorded by their GP as having a learning disability, and comparative data about a control group who are not recorded by their GP as having a learning disability.

Key facts:

- 126,475 patients with a recorded learning disability had data included in this publication. That is 44.5% of the QOF Learning Disabilities register
 - 1 in 2015 people were recorded as having a learning disability
 - Females with learning disabilities had a life expectancy 18 years lower than the general population, males had around 14 years lower.
 - Epilepsy is 25.2 times more prevalent in patients with learning disabilities than those without
 - Overall less patients with learning disabilities received screening for various types of cancer than those without learning disabilities.
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Drugs/Alcohol

Talk to FRANK (25/01/19)

In his Friday message this week [Duncan Selbie](#), Chief Executive of Public Health England chose to talk about FRANK: a PHE website that gives honest advice about drugs to young people. [Talk to FRANK](#) also offers help and advice to people worried about drug use by others.

The website was refreshed in December, and traffic to the website has since increased by 43%. FRANK received over 180,000 more visitors in December and the start of January 2019 than it was previously seeing, prompting Google to describe it as one of the best performing sites they have seen for any of their clients – private and public sector.

NHS Long Term Plan commits to Alcohol Care Teams - a genuine pledge? (22/01/19)

The Government recently announced its new NHS Long Term Plan (LTP), which includes a commitment to establish Alcohol Care Teams (ACTs) in hospitals with the highest rate of 'alcohol dependence-related admissions'.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#) examines the state of play in relation to alcohol strategy, prevention, and evidence of action.

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Education

Attitudes to education and children's services (24/01/19)

The Department for Education has published [Attitudes to education: the British Social Attitudes Survey 2017](#), part of [NatCen's](#) British Social Attitudes (BSA) Survey for 2016 and 2017.

The report contains answers to questions seeking to measure public attitudes to: the role of schools, post-16 education, pre-school care and education, special educational needs and disability, and child abuse and child protection.

Small-scale research projects: summaries (24/01/19)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published brief outlines of [recent projects](#) commissioned through the DfE analytical associate pool.

The analytical associate pool consists of more than 150 independent academics and researchers, who carry out small-scale data analysis, rapid literature reviews, primary research and peer review for DfE

[See also Workforce Development](#)

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End of Life/Palliative Care

We need to talk about death (23/01/19)

The question of how we die is a question that all of us must face, and yet we avoid talking about it. Modern medicine is focused on saving lives.

The question is this: are we over-medicalising death and the final years of life at the expense of providing better palliative care that would result in a better quality of life? Is it time to reset the system, and learn how to die a better death?

In this [BBC Two Horizon](#) programme Dr Kevin Fong meets medical professionals who are at the heart of these dilemmas, as well as people who are right now facing up to the question of how to die a better death.

The programme is available for a limited time on BBC iPlayer. Please note you will need to sign in or register to view.

[End of life care NHS Health A-Z](#)
[Dying Matters](#)
[Hospice UK](#)

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Health Care

Primary care networks: work needed to fulfil expectations (24/01/19)

The vision for the NHS set out in the Long Term Plan is predicated on a new model of general practice where traditional standalone practices are grouped into large-scale, geographically coherent primary care networks (PCNs).

The plan expects big things from PCNs, such as seven-day access, delivering multi-professional care for patients with complex problems, as well as providing a rapid response to acute illness.

Dr Rebecca Rosen of the [Nuffield Foundation](#) explains what will be needed for them to be successful.

King's Fund: The NHS long-term plan explained (23/01/19)

On 7 January, the NHS long-term plan (formerly known as the 10-year plan) was published setting out key ambitions for the service over the next 10 years. The [King's Fund](#) sets out the main commitments in the plan and provide a view of what they might mean, highlighting the opportunities and challenges for the health and care system as it moves to put the plan into practice.

For nearly a decade, the NHS has experienced a significant slowdown in funding growth, while demand for services – and the cost of delivering those services – has grown rapidly. This new funding settlement applies to NHS England's budget only. This means that some important areas of NHS spending included in the Department of Health and Social Care's budget – such as capital and education and training – are not covered by it. Local authority public health spending and social care are also excluded.

Analysis of the profile, characteristics, patient experience and community value of community hospitals (22/01/19)

This study set out to provide a comprehensive analysis of the profile, characteristics, patient experience and community value of community hospitals.

The study identified 296 community hospitals with beds in England. Typically, the hospitals were small (< 30 beds), in rural communities, led by doctors/general practitioners (GPs) and nurses, without 24/7 on-site medical cover and provided step-down and step-up inpatient care, with an average length of stay of < 30 days and a variable range of intermediate care services. Key to patients' and carers' experiences of community hospitals was their closeness to 'home' through their physical location, environment and atmosphere and the relationships that they support; their provision of personalised, holistic care; and their role in supporting patients through difficult psychological transitions.

The researchers conclude that patients and carers experience community hospitals as qualitatively different from other settings. Their accounts highlight the importance of considering the functional, interpersonal, social and psychological dimensions of experience. Community hospitals are highly valued by their local communities. Community hospitals enable

the provision of local intermediate care services, delivered through an embedded, relational model of care, which generates deep feelings of reassurance.

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

NAO: NHS financial sustainability (18/01/19)

In this [annual report](#) on the financial sustainability of the NHS, the National Audit Office (NAO) concludes that the existence of substantial deficits in some parts of the system, offset by surpluses elsewhere coupled with growing waiting lists and year-on-year increases in waiting times, does not paint a picture that is sustainable.

The recent NHS long-term plan sets out a prudent approach to achieving the priorities and tests set by the government in return for its long-term funding settlement, but a number of risks remain to the delivery of the plan.

[NHS Confederation](#)

Helping to prevent pressure ulcers: a quick guide (01/19)

A new [quick guide](#) from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is designed to help registered care managers and other health and care professionals to understand why some people are particularly likely to develop pressure ulcers. It offers practical advice on how they can help to prevent them developing in people who have been assessed as at risk.

The guide is available to download from either organisation.

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): UK vision and action plan (24/01/19)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) arises when the organisms that cause infection evolve ways to survive treatments. The term antimicrobial includes antibiotic, antiprotozoal, antiviral and antifungal medicines.

Resistance is a natural biological phenomenon but is increased and accelerated by various factors such as misuse of medicines, poor infection control practices and global trade and travel.

The UK has published a [20-year vision](#) and [5-year national action plan](#) on AMR which was co-developed across government, its agencies, the health family and administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with support from a range of stakeholders.

See also other [documents](#) in the Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) collection

[Speech](#) by Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
[News release](#): launch of vision and action plan

Tackling tuberculosis in under-served populations (23/01/19)

Dealing with tuberculosis (TB) among under-served populations is one of the key areas for action identified in the [Collaborative TB strategy for England](#).

Public Health England has [updated guidance](#) for tuberculosis (TB) control boards and partners outlining ways to design and deliver programmes to reduce TB in under-served populations. This 2019 revision has been updated with

epidemiological data for 2012 to 2017, several additional recommendations and many new exemplars of good practice. These changes have been included across all chapters.

In this resource, under-served populations are:

- some migrants groups
- people in contact with the criminal justice system
- people who misuse drugs and/or alcohol
- people with mental health needs
- people who are homeless

See also [Tackling TB: local government's public health role](#) was published in March 2018 by the Local Government Association in collaboration with Public Health England.

Avian flu: advice for travellers over Chinese New Year (22/01/19)

The Chinese Lunar New Year or Spring Festival begins on Tuesday 5 February 2019 and marks the start of the Year of the Pig. The celebrations end with the Lantern Festival on the 19 February 2019.

Human cases of avian influenza have recently been reported in China. The majority of reported human cases in China have had close contact with wild birds or poultry. Although the risk is very low, [Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) and the [National Travel Health Network and Centre \(NaTHNaC\)](#) are reminding UK travellers to protect themselves from avian flu by minimising exposure to wild birds and poultry.

PHE has produced [clinical guidance](#) for health professionals in England on the assessment and investigation of patients with severe flu-like illness who have recently returned from China. PHE has also published official [prevention advice](#) for travellers in English and Chinese.

[PHE risk assessment for A\(H5N1\)](#)

[PHE risk assessment for A\(H7N9\)](#)

Food labelling: consultation 25 January - 29 March 2019

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Food Standards Agency are [seeking views](#) on changing the food allergen information laws for food prepacked on the premises where it is sold (like sandwiches or salads). There are four options for consideration:

promote best practice (no change in law)

add "ask the staff" stickers to packaging, staff would have to provide information orally and in writing if asked

label food with the name of the food and list allergens

label food with name of food, full ingredients list and with allergens emphasised.

The move follows the death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, the teenager who died after suffering an allergic reaction to a Pret a Manger baguette.

[News release](#)

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Inequalities/Minorities

Digital inclusion project brings healthcare technology to the homeless (24/01/19)

A project has helped 122 homeless people in Hastings by using technology to improve how outreach workers respond to the healthcare needs of their clients. The team communicates with St John's ambulance to get clinical opinions on injuries and symptoms.

The homeless people who were supported through the project became more motivated and confident in managing their health conditions, symptoms and behaviours. By gaining access to online health and medicines information on the NHS website, service users were better at following medication for long-term conditions and managing their side effects.

The project, which is a partnership between [NHS Digital](#), NHS England, [Good Things Foundation](#) and The [Seaview Project](#), has been using digital technology to record and triage health concerns of rough sleepers.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Mapping research into child sexual abuse (24/01/19)

The CSA Connect Community brings together key stakeholders involved in research related to child sexual abuse, including child sexual exploitation. The Community aims to improve knowledge and understanding of child sexual abuse, promoting collaboration and networking to enable more effective identification and confrontation of knowledge and evidence gaps.

The CSA Centre has identified that, while there is a significant level of research activity on topics related to child sexual abuse, there is a lack of coordination across the field. In response, it released a survey in early 2018 in a bid to [map current and ongoing research](#) in this field.

Details of 163 projects were submitted, and additional input was provided via other stakeholder engagement during the survey period; some of the key statistics are now available. A facility for those undertaking or commissioning research on child sexual abuse (including CSE) to input and update information about research projects has also been created.

Incorporating concerns for equity into health resource allocation (21/01/19)

Unfair differences in health care access, quality or health outcomes exist between and within countries around the world, and improving health equity is an important social objective for many governments and international organizations.

This [paper](#), from the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, summaries the methods for analysing health equity available to policymakers regarding the allocation of health sector resources.

See also Education

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2018 (24/01/19)

The Office for National Statistics has published [information and data](#) on crime against households and adults, also including data on crime experienced by children, and crimes against businesses and society.

Recent decades have seen continued falls in overall levels of crime but in the last year there has been no change. The overall figure covers a broad range of crimes and hides variation within different crime types. The last year has seen rises

in vehicle offences, robbery, and some lower-volume but higher-harm types of violence, but decreases in computer misuse, burglary and shoplifting.

Headline figures:

- a 3% increase in vehicle offences, due largely to a 10% increase in the subcategory of “Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle”
- a 17% increase in robbery offences, continuing increases seen in previous years
- an 8% increase¹ in the number of police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments
- a 15% increase in the number of admissions to hospital in England for assaults involving a sharp instrument
- a 14% increase in the number of homicides
- a 4% decrease in the number of police recorded offences involving firearms.

Management and supervision of men convicted of sexual offences (24/01/19)

Improvements are needed to ensure sexual offenders are managed effectively in prison and in the community, according to a new [report](#). Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons conducted a joint inspection into the management and supervision of men convicted of sexual offences in England and Wales.

Inspectors found:

- much of the work delivered with sexual offenders in custody is poor
- the National Probation Service is not doing any work to address the sexual offending behaviour of four in 10 sexual offenders on probation
- in one in three inspected cases, not enough was done to protect children
- assessments of offenders were not completed to a good standard in a third of inspected cases, and were sometimes seen by staff as “a box to tick”.

[Report pdf](#)

[Press release](#)

Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act (22/01/19)

In July 2018, the Home Secretary, at the request of the Prime Minister, announced a review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The members of the review are Frank Field MP (chairman), Maria Miller MP and the Baroness Butler-Sloss.

This is the [second interim report](#) from the review. The report looks at the question of increasing transparency in supply chains. It includes findings and a summary of recommendations.

See also [other documents](#) relating to the review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The economic and social costs of domestic abuse (21/01/19)

The Home Office has published a report into the [economic and social cost of domestic abuse](#), which reveals the crime cost England and Wales £66 billion in 2016 to 2017.

According to the research, the vast majority of this cost (£47 billion) was a result of the physical and emotional harm of domestic abuse, however it also includes other factors such as cost to health services (£2.3 billion), police (£1.3 billion) and victim services (£724 million).

Government publishes landmark domestic abuse bill (21/01/19)

A draft Domestic Abuse Bill has been published following on from a public consultation held in March 2019. It is aimed at supporting victims and their families and pursuing offenders. It comes as it is revealed domestic abuse issues cost the country £66 billion a year.

To help tackle the crime, new legislation will:

- introduce the first ever statutory government definition of domestic abuse to specifically include economic abuse and controlling and manipulative non-physical abuse - this will enable everyone, including victims themselves, to understand what constitutes abuse and will encourage more victims to come forward
- establish a Domestic Abuse Commissioner to drive the response to domestic abuse issues
- introduce new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to further protect victims and place restrictions on the actions of offenders
- prohibit the cross-examination of victims by their abusers in the family courts.

[Domestic Abuse Bill](#) and associated documents
[News release](#)

[Barnardo's](#)

See also Safeguarding

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Long-term Conditions

Annual Asthma Survey 2018 report (22/01/19)

Young people in the UK are more likely to be at high risk of having an asthma attack and the least likely to get life-saving basic asthma care than any other age group, according to a new report launched by Asthma UK.

Asthma UK's [annual survey](#) of more than 10,000 people with asthma reveals that:

- Two thirds (67%) of those aged 18-29, are not getting basic asthma care, higher than any other age group
- this age group are more likely to have uncontrolled asthma, putting them at a higher risk of an asthma attack
- They are twice as likely to need emergency care compared to those over 60 years old
- The National Review of Asthma Deaths found two thirds of asthma deaths would have been prevented if people had had basic asthma care.

Basic care includes, among other things, a written asthma action plan, a yearly review with your doctor, and an inhaler check.

[News release](#)

See also Health Protection/Emergencies

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

New App helping people in Kent and Medway (25/01/19)

A new app designed to help people in Kent and Medway who may be having thought of suicide and those concerned about someone else has been [launched](#).

The app was put together by a charity, [Grassroots Suicide Prevention](#), with input from young people and adults with mental health problems and from mental health professionals. It is funded locally by the Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP).

Suicide Prevention: guidance and resources (22/01/19)

The first cross-government [suicide prevention workplan](#) has been published. It will be led by the new Suicide Prevention Minister Jackie Doyle-Price.

It sets out the actions being taken up to 2020 to carry out the [suicide prevention strategy for England](#) (2012).

As well as policy and annual reports, the [resources and guidance collection](#) includes suicide prevention tools, and details guide to providing local services of support after a suicide

NIHR Signal: Aerobic exercise as an effective treatment for depression (22/01/19)

Depression is a common disorder, affecting around 10% of adults in England in 2017–18, amounting to about 4.5 million people. Almost a quarter of a million new cases are diagnosed each year.

Exercise has long been recognised as beneficial for physical health, but its effects in supporting mental health are less clear. A newly published [systematic review](#) and meta-analysis of 11 randomised controlled trials compared aerobic exercise to antidepressants or usual care in 455 adults with a clinical diagnosis of major depression. Only studies that recruited participants through inpatient or outpatient mental health services were included.

Aerobic exercise varied from walking, jogging, running or swimming to using cardiovascular gym equipment such as step machines and stationary bicycles. On average, exercise was mainly supervised 45-minute sessions three times per week.

Exercise is already recommended as a low-intensity psychological intervention in national guidance. Though the review only included 11 trials of 455 adults, the results are encouraging, especially as it included both inpatients and outpatients. It provides a potential alternative option for people to consider rather than, or in addition to antidepressant medication.

[NIHR Signal](#) (National Institute for Health Research) with expert commentary.

Depression in children and young people: identification and management Consultation 23 January - 20 February 2019

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is consulting on an update of guideline CG28 (published September 2005). The [draft guideline](#) covers identifying and managing depression in children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years. Based on the stepped care model, it aims to, improve recognition and assessment and promote effective treatments for mild, moderate and severe depression.

Children and young people can be offered digital cognitive behavioural therapy (digital CBT, also known as computer CBT) as a first-line treatment for mild depression. Digital CBT is delivered on mobile phones, tablets or computers, meaning users can access help quickly, avoiding waiting lists. Group CBT, group interpersonal psychotherapy and group mindfulness are also recommended as first-line treatments.

NICE says that the choice of treatment should be based on clinical need and patient and carer preferences. The child or young person's history, circumstances and maturity should also be considered.

[News release](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

National Diet and Nutrition Survey: time trend and income analyses (23/01/19)

Public Health England and the Food Standards Agency (NDNS) have published the [National Diet and Nutrition Survey](#) results from 2008 to 2017 assessing time and income trends for diet, nutrient intake and nutritional status for the UK.

The survey is designed to collect detailed, quantitative information on the food consumption, nutrient intake and nutritional status of the general population aged 1.5 years and over living in private households in the UK. It covers a representative sample of around 1000 people per year. Fieldwork began in 2008 and is now in its eleventh year.

Key findings include:

- There was little change in intake of fruit and vegetables over the 9-year period. All age/sex groups had a mean fruit and vegetable intake below the 5 A Day recommendation over the 9-year period
- Over the 9 years, the proportion of children consuming sugar-sweetened soft drinks dropped by 26, 35 and 17 percentage points for those aged 1.5 to 3 years, 4 to 10 years and 11 to 18 years respectively. For those children who drank sugar-sweetened soft drinks, intake also fell significantly over time. For example, sugar-sweetened soft drink intake among consumers aged 11 to 18 years dropped from approximately 285g/day to 185g/day over the 9 years
- No trend over time was seen in total fat or saturated fatty acid intakes as a percentage of food energy and average intakes exceeded the current recommendation of no more than 11% of food energy from saturated fatty acids over the 9-year period. Adults and children showed a significant reduction in trans fatty acids intake as a percentage of food energy over time
- There was a small decrease over time in AOAC fibre4 intake in all child age/sex groups, however this decrease was only significant for children aged 4 to 10 years. Men aged 19 to 64 years showed a significant increase in AOAC fibre intake of 2.4g/day over the 9 years. Average intakes over the 9 years remained well below current recommendations in all age/sex groups.

[BBC News Health](#)

Differences in child obesity by ethnic group (23/01/19)

The NCMP is an annual programme that measures the height and weight of over 1 million children in Reception (aged 4 to 5 years) and Year 6 (aged 10 to 11 years) in state-maintained schools in England.

This ad hoc [statistical publication](#), from Public Health England, presents analyses of National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data collected in the 2016 to 2017 school year. It shows how child obesity prevalence varies by ethnicity, after adjustment for other explanatory variables.

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Getting medication (18/01/19)

The government is working with pharmaceutical companies, suppliers, and the NHS to make sure patients continue to receive the medication they need if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Around three-quarters of the medicines and over half the devices and one-use medical products (such as syringes) that the NHS uses, come into the UK via the EU. The government has analysed the supply chain, made plans to reduce the risk of disruption, and given instructions to pharmaceutical companies to ensure that they have adequate stocks to cope with any potential delays at the border. If there are any shortages of particular medicines after EU Exit, the usual system that applies to temporary shortages will be in place – your doctor will advise you of the best alternative to treat your condition.

This is a UK-wide policy. The Department of Health and Social Care in England is working with counterparts in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales to deliver the uninterrupted supplies people expect. It forms part of more [detailed guidance](#) for industry and organisations involved in health and care about contingency plans for a no-deal Brexit.

[Getting medication](#)

See also [Health Protection/Emergencies](#)

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Public Health Outcomes Framework: indicator updates (23/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published the [tables of indicators](#) to be updated in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) data tool due for quarterly publication in February 2019.

PHE is also [proposing changes](#) to the Public Health Outcomes Framework indicators for 2019-2022. PHE would like feedback from users on this proposal to ensure the changes are helpful and appropriate. You can have your say by completing the [online survey](#). The survey will run for 4 weeks from 21 January 2019 and close on 17 February 2019.

See also [Workforce Development](#)

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Safeguarding

Child death review: statutory and operational guidance (England) (25/01/19)

The Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education have published [statutory and operational guidance](#) for clinical commissioning groups and local authorities as child death review partners.

The guidance 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

Serious Case Review – Medway Secure Training Centre (STC) (21/01/19)

[Medway Safeguarding Children Board](#) has published the results of a Serious Case Review (SCR) it commissioned in response to the identification of abuse of children by staff at the Medway Secure Training Centre (STC), then managed by G4S, in a television documentary broadcast in January 2016.

The review involved 14 agencies or organisations who all had involvement with Medway STC, either as commissioners of services within the STC or as local statutory agencies who had safeguarding responsibilities for the children.

This SCR is unusual in that it relates to abuse within an institution and to services that are commissioned and provided both locally and nationally. The process has been complex but has aimed to extract the key issues and areas of learning from the analysis of each of the individual organisation's reviews and other processes in the public domain and has additionally been informed by discussions with key partners, practitioners and children who responded to the request for them to contribute to the SCR.

[Serious Case Review report](#)
[Press statement](#)

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

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Sexual Health

Sexual and reproductive health in England: local and national data (22/01/19)

Public Health England has updated [guidance](#) to help health professionals including local government, service providers and commissioners understand the sexual health data available across England and how the data can be accessed. It includes data collected by Public Health England and other organisations.

This information provides an overview of the information available on sexually transmitted infection (STIs), HIV, contraception, conception and abortion and where to access it.

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Social Care/Welfare

NAO: Pressures on children's social care (23/01/19)

Local authorities in England have statutory responsibility for protecting the welfare of children and delivering children's social care. In extreme cases they may use their statutory powers to place children in need on protection plans or even take them into care. Local authorities are also responsible for delivering non-statutory services for all children and young people, such as children's centres. The Department for Education provides statutory guidance on delivering these functions. It also has overall policy responsibility for children's services, and has the strategic vision that all vulnerable children, no matter where they live, should have access to high-quality support by 2022.

This [report](#), from the National Audit Office (NAO), sets out recent trends in pressures on children's social care demand and activity and the response of both national and local government to these pressures. It also sets out analysis conducted on what is causing variations in children's social care demand and activity between different local authorities.

The analysis suggests that local authority characteristics may account for 44% of the variation between different local authorities over time in how they respond to demand for children's services. Different levels of deprivation could explain 15% of the variation between local authorities and a further 10% of this variation may be accounted for by changes which affect all local authorities equally at the same time, such as the introduction of a new policy. The relevant characteristics of local authorities and their areas will include custom and practice in children's social care, local market conditions, and historical patterns of demand.

The NAO recommends that the Department for Education promptly improves its understanding of children's social care and builds on the NAO's own research and modelling to help it explain demand and local variations and improve the effectiveness of its decisions.

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Workforce Development

Fit for the future: public health people (22/01/19)

Public Health England published [Fit for the Future](#), its review of the public health workforce in May 2016.

This [2016 to 2018 review](#) reports on progress to date, against the recommendations in the original and details the activities that have been carried out across the public health system by stakeholder organisations.

Early Years Sector Skill Survey (21/01/19)

[Children and Young People Now](#) reports on a new survey which shows that more than half of early years employers have reported skills gaps in their staffing, and training is set to decrease.

Sector researcher [Ceeda](#) sets out the findings in its [About Early Years Sector Skills Survey](#), based on research with 557 childcare providers employing 8,511 staff.

Some 55 per cent of private, voluntary and independent sector bosses are short of employees with the desired skills, compared with 13 per cent of employers in wider industry. An estimated 35,600 early years staff (11 per cent), have skills gaps, compared with four per cent across all sectors.

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Workplace

Settled and pre-settled status for EU citizens and their families (21/01/19)

EU citizens and their families will be able to apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. Successful applicants will be granted either settle or pre-settled status depending on how long they have been in the UK.

The EU Settlement Scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019.

The deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021, unless the UK leaves the EU without a deal in which case the deadline will be 31 December 2020.

On 21 January the Prime Minister [announced](#) that there will be no fee when the scheme opens fully on 30 March 2019.

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