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Accident and Emergency

Emergency and acute medical care in over 16s, QS174 (09/18)

This [quality standard](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers the organisation and delivery of emergency and acute medical care in the community and in hospital. It covers adults (16 and over) who seek, or are referred for, emergency NHS care for a suspected or confirmed acute medical emergency.

It does not cover the acute clinical management of specific medical conditions that need urgent or emergency care. This will be addressed within the quality standards for the relevant conditions.

Hospitals to receive £145 million to prepare for winter demand (07/09/18)

The government is giving more than £145 million to NHS trusts across the country ahead of winter to improve emergency care. The [funding](#) from the Department of Health and Social Care's existing budget will be spent on 81 new schemes.

It will be spent on:

- upgrading wards
- redeveloping A&E departments
- improving same-day emergency care
- improving systems for managing the number of beds in use

- an extra 900 beds

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust will receive £6.42 million to increase emergency care capacity at the William Harvey Hospital and at the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital.

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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Heart Age Test gives early warning of heart attack and stroke (04/09/18)

Cardiovascular disease (CVD), with stroke and heart attack being the most common examples, is the leading cause of death for men and the second leading cause of death for women.

A quarter (24,000) of CVD deaths are in people under the age of 75, with 80% of these preventable if people made lifestyle and behaviour changes to improve their heart health (around 19,200 deaths per year – the equivalent to 50 deaths a day or one every 30 minutes). Knowing their heart age helps people to find out whether they are at risk and consider what they can do to reduce this risk.

[Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) is calling adults to take a free, online [Heart Age Test](#), which will provide an immediate estimation of their 'heart age'. If someone's heart age is higher than their actual age, they are at an increased risk of having a heart attack or stroke. The results page offers helpful advice on what to do about it.

See also [Public Health / Health Promotion](#)

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Children/Young People/Families

Storing up trouble - a postcode lottery of children's social care (03/09/18)

In September 2017, the [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children \(APPGC\)](#) launched an inquiry into the causes and consequences of varying thresholds for children's social care. The report has now been published and is a joint publication with the [National Children's Bureau](#). The Inquiry found that:

- Vulnerable children face a postcode lottery in thresholds of support
- 4 in 5 Directors of Children's Services say that vulnerable children facing similar problems get different levels of help depending on where they live.
- Children often have to reach crisis before social services step in.
- Decisions over whether to help a child, even in acute cases, are influenced by budget constraints.
- Children and young people in care and care leavers highlighted the difficulty they faced gaining insight into their personal histories. They called for better support in accessing and understanding information contained in official files.

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Summary](#)

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Commissioning and Economics

See [Drugs / Alcohol and Oral Health](#)

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Communities and Local Government

Using a hands-free mobile at the wheel as dangerous as drink-driving ((05/09/18)

Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a [campaign](#) to highlight that using your phone hands-free whilst driving is as dangerous as being drunk at the wheel. A survey carried out by KCC estimated 43% of drivers use hand held mobile phone when driving and 55% use hands free.

During September police officers will be working with partners and using an intelligence-led approach to catch and penalise those who disregard the law and drive whilst distracted by a mobile phone. Last year, Kent Police recorded 1,096 offences of people using their phones at the wheel – up from 824 in 2016.

Prevent duty toolkit for local authorities and partner agencies (05/09/18)

The [Prevent duty toolkit](#), published by the Home Office, is designed to support local authorities and their partners in their work to protect vulnerable people from radicalisation. It supplements the [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales](#), published in March 2015, and will assist in the consideration of existing statutory guidance.

The toolkit supports the delivery of Prevent by local authorities and partner agencies by providing practical information on duty implementation, case study examples on good practice local delivery and a self-assessment framework.

See also [Building a Stronger Britain Together](#)

Creating supportive environments and resilient communities (2018)

WHO Europe has published a [Compendium](#) describing the actions taken by 13 countries to create supportive environments for strengthening resilience and its link to health and well-being outcomes. The publication covers a wide range of topics such as the role of resilience building in addressing human rights, health inequities, and environmental hazards and threats; and health-related topics such as communicable and noncommunicable diseases.

Creating resilient communities and supportive environments for population health and well-being is one of the priority areas of [Health 2020](#). Resilience is also a key element in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Compendium follows and expands on two WHO publications released in 2017: [Building resilience](#) and [Strengthening resilience](#).

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Disabilities

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Drugs/Alcohol

Drug health harms: national intelligence (06/09/18)

These [briefings](#) are for directors of public health, commissioners, drug treatment services and needle and syringe programmes. They are published to help inform commissioning and service provision and to improve practice in local services.

The briefings contain information on the health harms associated with drug use from meetings of the national intelligence network (NIN). This includes recent information and intelligence on blood-borne viruses, bacterial infections, mental and physical health harms and drug-related deaths.

The [September 2018](#) briefing topics include: Chemsex and PHE's HIV Prevention Fund, the IONA study, and cannabis.

Drink drive figures for 2018: will a new national alcohol strategy respond? (29/08/18)

The latest figures for alcohol-related road accidents and casualties, indicate a 7% rise on the previous year and the highest level since 2012. Whilst long term trends show drink driving has declined significantly, more recent rises have led to calls from some groups to revise the drink driving limit.

The [statistics](#) from the Department for Transport (DfT) show that in 2016 an estimated 9,040 people were killed or injured in drink-drive accidents, a rise of 7% from 8,470 in 2015. The total number of accidents where at least one driver or rider was over the legal alcohol limit rose by 6% to 6,070 in 2016. The final estimate of drink-drive fatalities of 230 for 2016 is higher than in 2015, but the rise was reported as not statistically significant and fatalities appear stable since 2012.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#) discusses the subject.

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Education

Supporting children with SEND requires funding (04/09/18)

The [National Association of Head Teachers \(NAHT\)](#) sought the views of members on their experiences in relation to the education of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The online survey received 600 responses.

Key findings:

- Only 2% of respondents reporting that the top up funding they received was enough to meet individual Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) or statements for pupils with SEND.
- 94% of respondents finding it harder to resource the support required to meet the needs of pupils with SEND than they did two years ago.
- 83% not receiving any funding from health and social care budgets to support pupils with statements or EHCPs
- 30% of respondents not receiving services from health and social care to support their pupils.

[Local Government Association](#)

See also [Safeguarding](#)

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Health Care

CQC: East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust: Requires Improvement (05/09/18)

England's Chief Inspector of Hospitals has told East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust that it must continue to make improvements following its latest inspection.

A team of inspectors from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited William Harvey Hospital, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital and Kent and Canterbury Hospital in May 2018 to check the quality of four core services: emergency and urgent care, surgery, maternity and end of life care. CQC also looked specifically at management and leadership.

There has been no change to the trust's overall rating which remains Requires Improvement. Safety, effectiveness, well led and responsive all remain Requires Improvement and caring remains Good.

CQC [report](#)

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust [news release](#)

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Nerve agent incidents and investigation: update (05/09/18)

This week the Prime Minister Theresa May made a statement to Parliament on the progress of Salisbury investigation and the Amesbury incident. Two suspects have been named.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies has made a statement on the safety of the public saying:

"The risk to the public remains low – provided that our advice not to pick up unknown objects is followed. Everyone can be confident that our public transport systems in London and the south are safe, and we can be confident that Heathrow airport, Gatwick airport and the rail services linking them to London are safe."

Public Health England has published safety advice.

[Prime Minister's statement to Parliament](#)

[Statement from Chief Medical Officer](#)

[Statement from Public Health England](#)

Progress in tackling antimicrobial resistance examined (04/09/18)

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee questioned commentators from a range of professional backgrounds and industries on strategy for tackling antimicrobial resistance, as part of the ongoing [Antimicrobial resistance inquiry](#).

The proceedings are available in [transcript](#) and may be viewed on [parliamentlive.tv](#)

WHO: Emergency risk communication (ERC) 5-step capacity-building package (06/09/18)

Emergency risk communication (ERC) is a vital public health intervention. It can save lives during emergency situations and, as such, should be considered an investment in people's health, safety and security.

The five steps engage European countries in an iterative process to develop, test and adopt national health ERC plans and to integrate them into new or existing national action plans for emergency preparedness and response under the [International Health Regulations \(IHR\)](#). The comprehensive package includes tools for multisectoral training, capacity mapping and development, testing and adoption of an ERC plan.

Each step is now available to [download](#) separately.

[WHO Europe news release](#)

HIV: annual data (05/09/18)

Public Health England has published [updated](#) HIV data tables on surveillance in the UK by demographic characteristics and geographical region. A slide set, and Health Protection Report article have also been made available.

Latest data show a total of 4,363 people (3,236 males and 1,125 females) were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2017 in the United Kingdom (UK). New HIV diagnoses have continued to decline over the past decade with a substantial decrease over the past two years; the 2017 figure represents a 17% drop from the 5,280 diagnoses reported in 2016 and a 28% drop from the 6,043 diagnoses in 2015.

[Local Government Association](#)

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) risk assessment (05/09/18)

Public Health England (PHE) has [updated guidance](#) on reducing the risk of getting MERS-CoV for UK residents and travellers to the Middle East.

As of 3 September 2018, 2,241 cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) have been reported to WHO with at least 795 related deaths. The majority of MERS-CoV cases have been reported from the Arabian Peninsula, with one large outbreak outside this region involving 186 cases in the Republic of Korea in 2015.

Cases have been exported to other countries outside of the Middle East, with the most recent being identified in Malaysia in January 2018. This case was a Malaysian Umrah pilgrim who had visited a camel farm while in Saudi Arabia.

On 22 August 2018, PHE reported a laboratory confirmed case of MERS-CoV infection in a resident of the Middle East who had travelled from Saudi Arabia. In response to this, public health measures were implemented including identification of exposed contacts and provision of health advice. This is the fifth MERS case reported by the UK; the last case was reported in 2013.

[WHO Europe](#)

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Hearing/Sight

Roadside Eyesight Test Campaign (03/09/18)

Road safety charity [Brake](#) is teaming up with police forces in Thames Valley, Hampshire and West Midlands to run a month-long campaign on driver vision, revoking the licenses of those who fail to read a number plate from 20 metres. Throughout September, anyone stopped by Road Policing Officers in these areas will be required to take the 20 metres number plate test, with those who fail having their licence immediately revoked. Data will be collected from each test and will be used to gain an improved understanding of the extent of poor driver eyesight on our roads, which is thought to be vastly underreported in Government statistics.

This activity is part of a wider campaign to encourage the public and the Government to take driver vision seriously. An estimated 1.5 million UK licence holders have never had an eye test and crashes involving a driver with defective eyesight are thought to cause 2,900 casualties every year on the UK's roads.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) advises that 5 car lengths or 8 parking bays can be an easy way to measure 20 metres. Alternatively, 20 metres is around 26 steps for a man and around 33 for a woman.

[Driving eyesight rules](#), GOV.UK
[Eyesight awareness campaign](#), DVLA
[Roadside Eyesight Test Failures](#), Licence Bureau

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Inequalities/Minorities

NAO: Tackling problem debt (06/09/18)

Over-indebtedness, or problem debt, is when someone becomes unable to pay their debts or other household bills. Debt problems are detrimental to people's wellbeing and can lead to higher use of public services such as mental health services and state-subsidised housing, with resulting costs to the public purse. Over-indebtedness also results in costs to the wider economy, for example through lost productivity or increased crime.

The [Money Advice Service \(MAS\)](#) estimates that 8.3 million people in the UK are over-indebted, and that 22% of UK adults have less than £100 in savings, making them highly vulnerable to a financial shock such as job loss or large unexpected bills. The ratio of unsecured debt to household income has been increasing since 2014.

This [report](#), from the National Audit Office (NAO), aims to evaluate and conclude on HM Treasury's (HMT) overall approach to over-indebtedness, and how well it brings together government's and other stakeholders' various activities and interventions to meet its objectives.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

NHS and Healthcare Data (06/09/18)

This House of Lords [library briefing](#) begins by describing what healthcare data is and the uses to which it might be put. One is to improve decision-making in patient care. Other examples include monitoring both the success of treatments and the performance of care providers. Outside the NHS, data is sought by, for example, academics for research and commercial organisations for monitoring and developing drugs. The Medical Research Council has stated that the UK could be a global leader in the field of health data research.

However, there are also challenges in using healthcare data. Some of these are technological, but there is also widespread concern about privacy and public trust, partly considering recent breaches of data security. The National Data Guardian for Health and Care oversees these issues.

The briefing was prepared ahead of a debate in the Lords on the subject on 6 September 2018. Transcript available [here](#).

[Parliament news release](#)

Matt Hancock on the use of new technology in the NHS (06/09/18)

The NHS can become the most advanced health system in the world by embracing the best innovations in new technology and artificial intelligence, says Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock.

Speaking at NHS Expo in Manchester, he [announced](#) among other innovations that a new NHS app will be piloted in 5 areas in England from next month, ahead of a national roll-out in December: Liverpool, Hastings, Bristol, Staffordshire and South Worcestershire. Patients in these areas will be able to download a test version of the app, allowing access to:

- booking GP appointments
- ordering repeat prescriptions
- their medical record
- 111 online access for urgent medical queries
- data sharing preferences
- organ donation preferences
- end-of-life care preferences.

Code of conduct for data-driven health and care technology (05/09/18)

This [draft code of conduct](#), published by the Department of Health and Social Care, contains a set of principles that set out what is expected from suppliers of data-driven technologies, and a set of commitments that outline what the government will do to support and encourage innovators in health and care.

The aim of the code is to make it easier for suppliers to understand what is needed, and to help health and care providers choose safe, effective, secure technology to improve the services they provide.

Responses received to a [questionnaire](#) will feed into the next version of the document, which is due to be published in December.

[DHSC news release](#)

The ethics of Artificial Intelligence (05/09/18)

In his Radio 4 series, [Morality in the 21st Century](#), [Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks](#) speaks to some of the world's leading thinkers, together with voices from the next generation: groups of British Sixth form students.

This [episode](#) discusses the benefits of the applied use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Mustafa Suleyman, Co-founder and Head of Applied AI at [DeepMind](#) talks about the use of algorithms in the diagnosis of disease.

Please note you will need to register/login with BBC iPlayer to listen.

Please, write to me. Writing outpatient clinic letters to patients. Guidance (03/09/18)

[The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges](#) has published new guidance for hospital doctors, encouraging them to write directly to the patients they see in their outpatient clinics rather than write about them to their GPs.

The [guidance](#) covers general aspects of letter writing and applies to letters and emails. It recommends the use of plain English and the avoidance of medical jargon.

See also [Plain English Campaign](#)

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Government response to the Health and Social Care Committee's report on integrated care (05/09/18)

This document is the [government's response](#) to a report by the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee on [Integrated care: organisations, partnerships and systems](#), published in March 2018.

This is a joint response reflecting the views of the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, NHS Improvement, the Care Quality Commission and Health Education England.

The response sets out how the government intends to address the committee's recommendations as part of the long-term plan for the NHS.

Local systems reviews – lessons learned (05/09/18)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out a series of '[local system reviews](#)', looking at how local services are working together to meet the needs of people who move between health and care services – with a focus on people over 65.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) commissioned CQC to undertake the 20 of the 'local system reviews' and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to provide independent support to local systems to assist with the development of plans that addressed CQC's findings and recommendations.

SCIE has produced a [summary paper](#) sharing insights from its work with those areas.

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

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Maternity/Infants

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health policy in England (04/09/18)

Around one in four people in the UK suffer from a mental health problem each year. The NHS has set out that it wants to achieve "parity of esteem" between mental and physical health, in terms of access to services, quality of care and allocation of resources. While the achievement of parity of esteem has been a long term-policy goal, since 2010 this aim has increasingly featured in legislation and in Government and NHS policy statements.

This House of Commons Library [briefing](#) on mental health policy in England looks at the current position.

How enhancing patient rights and safeguards is top priority for Mental Health Act review (05/09/18)

Last October, Theresa May announced an independent review into the Mental Health Act (MHA). Chaired by Professor Sir Simon Wessley, the review has been directed to look at how the MHA is used and how practice could be improved. Rising detention rates, racial disparities in detention, and concerns about the act being “out of step” with a modern mental health system were listed as key areas of discussion.

[Community Care](#) looks at 3 topics discussed at a recent workshop held by the review team:

'Nearest relative' to 'nominated person'
Listening to people's wishes
Respecting cultures, improving environments

Suicides in the UK: 2017 (04/09/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published [data](#) on registered deaths in the UK from suicide analysed by sex, age, area of usual residence of the deceased and suicide method.

Main points include:

- In 2017 there were 5,821 suicides registered in the UK, an age-standardised rate of 10.1 deaths per 100,000 population.
- The UK male suicide rate of 15.5 deaths per 100,000 was the lowest since our time-series began in 1981; for females, the UK rate was 4.9 deaths per 100,000, this remains consistent with the rates seen in the last 10 years.
- Males accounted for three-quarters of suicides registered in 2017 (4,382 deaths), which has been the case since the mid-1990s.
- The highest age-specific suicide rate was 24.8 deaths per 100,000 among males aged 45 to 49 years; for females, the age group with the highest rate was 50 to 54 years, at 6.8 deaths per 100,000.

[Local Government Association](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Is a healthy diet affordable in the UK? (05/09/18)

New analysis “[Affordability of the UK's Eatwell Guide](#)” from independent think tank the [Food Foundation](#) finds that around 3.7 million children in the UK are part of families who earn less than £15,860 and would have to spend 42% of their after-housing income on food to meet the costs of the Government's nutrition guidelines, making a healthy diet most likely unaffordable.

The estimated cost of the Eatwell healthy diet guidance from Public Health England (PHE) compared to household income in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales shows that the poorest half of households would need to spend nearly 30% of their after-housing income on food to eat the Government's recommended diet, compared with 12% for the richest half of households.

[Infographic](#)
[News release](#)

[Children and Young People Now](#)

Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016 (04/09/18)

The health benefits of physical activity are well established and include a lower risk of cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, and breast and colon cancer. Additionally, physical activity has positive effects on mental health, delays the onset of dementia, and can help the maintenance of a healthy weight.

In recognition of the strong link between physical activity and major non-communicable diseases, member states of WHO agreed to a 10% relative reduction in the prevalence of insufficient physical activity by 2025, as one of the nine global targets to improve the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases.

This study published in [The Lancet Global Health](#) (open access article) includes data from 358 surveys across 168 countries, including 1.9 million participants. If current trends continue, the 2025 global physical activity target (a 10% relative reduction in insufficient physical activity) will not be met. Policies to increase population levels of physical activity need to be prioritised and scaled up urgently.

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and see also WHO [Global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, June 2018](#)

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, [blog on the impact of physical activity on health](#)
[UK active](#)
[National Fitness Day, 26 September 2018](#)

Playing Out: report (28/08/18)

The [Children's Commissioner for England](#) has published a [report](#) looking at the importance to children of play and physical activity.

Children today are the least active generation ever. Just 1 in 4 boys and 1 in 5 girls in England do the recommended 60 minutes of activity each day. At the same time, figures from Ofcom tell us that children between the ages of 5 and 15 spend nearly 2 hours a day online during the week and nearly 3 hours a day at the weekend. Playing out used to be a feature of every child's day, children now spend just four hours a week playing out. This is part of a wider trend. The area around the home where children are allowed to go unsupervised has shrunk by 90% since the 1970s.

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Older People

Interventions for preventing falls in older people in care facilities and hospitals (07/09/18)

Falls in care facilities and hospitals are common events that cause considerable morbidity and mortality for older people. This is an update of a review first published in 2010 and updated in 2012.

This research, [published](#) in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, set out to assess the effects of interventions designed to reduce the incidence of falls in older people in care facilities and hospitals.

The failing safety net for older people (05/09/18)

A new [interim report](#) from Age UK warns that that the safety net we expect to be there for us as we age, if we are living at home, has become dangerously weak, with older people living alone in declining health, with no family and friends to support them, at particularly high risk.

Age UK estimates there are approaching half a million people (465,000) aged over 65 in England living with three or more significant health conditions who are also in need of help with at least three essential daily activities (i.e. care needs), such as getting out of bed, going to the toilet or getting dressed.

[Press release](#)

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Oral Health

Commissioning better oral health for vulnerable older people (07/09/18)

These [resources](#), published by Public Health England, are designed to support commissioners in improving the oral health of vulnerable older people in all settings.

The [toolkit](#) gives an overview of the impact of oral diseases in vulnerable older people and presents the evidence of what works to improve oral health to inform commissioning.

The toolkit is supported by a [rapid review](#) of the evidence and a resource compendium.

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Can services delivered by pharmacists improve patient health? (03/09/18)

New research published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews set out to test whether services provided by pharmacists improve patient health. 116 relevant studies were identified involving 41,851 participants. The studies were conducted in 25 countries with the USA, UK, Canada and Australia contributing the majority. Many took place in community pharmacies (chemist shops) and hospital outpatient clinics. The studies compared services delivered by pharmacists with either usual care or with care delivered by other health professionals.

Some services provided by pharmacists can have positive effects on patient health, including improved management of blood pressure and physical function. The pharmacist services did not reduce hospital visits or admissions. Services delivered by pharmacists produced similar effects on patient health compared with services delivered by other healthcare professionals.

[Pharmacist services for non-hospitalised patients](#)

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Prevention must be the heart of the NHS long-term plan (06/09/18)

[Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) say the NHS can ensure we all enjoy old age in good health by prioritising the prevention of smoking, cardiovascular disease (CVD) and obesity in the new long-term plan.

- Smoking: the NHS long-term plan should commit to achieving a smokefree society by 2030 and a population prevalence of less than 5%.
- CVD is the leading cause of disability and death in the UK. Yet an estimated 50 to 80% of CVD cases are preventable.

- Obesity: the NHS long-term plan should build upon the childhood obesity plan and target adult obesity. One way to achieve this is by increasing the provision of weight management support.

Read Duncan Selbie's blog ['Prevention and the NHS long-term plan: 3 ways we can save more lives.'](#)

See also [Cancer / Stroke /Cardiovascular](#)

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Safeguarding

Tackling child sexual exploitation online (03/09/18)

In a speech at the headquarters of the [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#) the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, vowed to lead the cross-Government effort in the response to the evolving threat of online CSE, including funding for law enforcement, intelligence agencies and a new prevention drive.

He called on the technology industry to work in partnership with each other and with government to stop online child sexual abuse, sharing solutions and best practice to improve the response.

The Home Secretary set out the scale of online child sexual exploitation (CSE), with a 700% increase in child abuse images being referred to the [National Crime Agency \(NCA\)](#) in the last five years, and up to 80,000 people in the UK presenting some kind of sexual threat to children online and material increasingly featuring younger and younger children.

[Keeping our children safe, speech](#) by Home Secretary Sajid Javid
Home Office [press release](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills (06/09/18)

This updated [handbook](#) from Ofsted sets out what inspectors must consider when inspecting safeguarding. It outlines the evidence that inspectors will look for during inspections and sets out the judgements they will make.

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Screening

Cervical screening programme: standards (06/09/18)

These [documents](#), from Public Health England, present the national screening standards for the NHS cervical screening programme (CSP).

The most recent standards apply to data collected from 1 April 2018. They replace previous versions.

See also [Cancer / Stroke /Cardiovascular](#)

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Sexual Health

Record demand on sexual health services (01/09/18)

The [Local Government Association \(LGA\)](#) has issued a warning that record demand for sexual health services in England has with visits to clinics reaching 3.3 million a year, is putting the system under huge pressure and leaving people facing longer waits for appointments.

Latest figures show there were 3,323,275 attendances at sexual health clinics in England in 2017, up 13 per cent on the 2,940,779 attendances in 2013, which is the equivalent of an extra 210 a day, or 1,471 a week.

The total number of sexual health screens (tests for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV) has risen 18 per cent during this time period, from 1,513,288 in 2013 to 1,778,306 in 2017.

The LGA is urging government to reverse £600 million in public health cuts to help councils meet rising demand for sexual health services and prevent people from experiencing potentially longer waiting times and a reduced quality of service.

[Sexually transmitted infections \(STIs\): annual data tables](#), last updated June 2018

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

Statistics on Women's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery, England - Quarter 1, 2018-19 (06/09/18)

NHS Digital has published the latest statistics on [Women's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery, England for the first quarter of 2018-19](#).

Key facts:

- 10.4% of women are known to be smokers at time of delivery. This is down from 10.8% in quarter 4 2017/18, but above the current national ambition of 6% or less.
- 33 out of 195 CCGs met the national ambition of 6% or less.

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Social Care/Welfare

What to expect during assessment and care planning (09/18)

People who use social care services should be treated as individuals. Their care and support should be based on what they can already do, what they want to achieve and the help they need to live their lives in the way they want to.

This [guide](#), published jointly by [SCIE](#) and NICE will help people to understand what they should expect from social care staff during assessment and care planning. It covers:

- Making decisions
- Support from an advocate
- Needs assessment

- Care planning

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Workplace

Settled and pre-settled status for EU citizens and their families in the UK (31/08/18)

Citizens of the European Union (EU) will be able to apply to get either settled or pre-settled status. This will mean you can continue living in the UK after December 2020.

The EU Settlement Scheme will open fully by March 2019. The deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021. You may be able to apply after this date if you are joining a family member with settled or pre-settled status in the UK.

This official [guidance](#) covers the following:

- What settled and pre-settled status means
- Who should apply
- Settled status if you're under 21
- Getting settled status in less than 5 years
- Applying for settled status

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