

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

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



The next issue of the bulletin will be on 11 January 2019. The Library will be closed from 21 December 2018 to 02 January 2019.

We wish all our readers a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.



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Accident and Emergency

Older people living alone are 50% more likely to visit A&E than those who live with others (13/12/18)

Research published by the [Health Foundation](#) to look at the health care needs of older adults finds that people aged 65 and older who live alone are 50% more likely to go to A&E than those who live with someone else. They are also at increased risk of being admitted to hospital as an inpatient.

While the study, published in [BMC Geriatrics](#) (open access article), finds a link between living alone and increased use of health care services it is unclear exactly why this is. It could be that older people living alone are more unwell due to loneliness, known to negatively impact health. Another possible explanation is that people living alone may require more assistance from the NHS when they fall ill due to a lack of immediate support at home.

Health Foundation [chart](#) and [blog](#)

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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Prostate cancer: diagnosis and management (update) (14/12/18)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is developing guidance on the management of prostate cancer.

In [draft guidelines](#), NICE has recommended that multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging (mpMRI) scanning should be offered as a first-line investigation for people with suspected clinically localised prostate cancer. This will not be replacing standard first-line tests such as the PSA test and people who are not going to have radical treatment should not be routinely offered the scan.

For those who do have clinically significant prostate cancer, the scan can help clinicians understand the location of the cancer and target the biopsy directly. This, therefore, reduces the need for further multiple biopsies and reduces the time taken to accurately identify the cancer.

The consultation closes on 16 January 2019, and expected date of publication is 24 April 2019.

[News release](#)

Medical & Surgical Review Programme: Cancer in Children, Teens and Young Adults Report (13/12/18)

Cancer outcomes in children and young people have improved dramatically over the last few decades with over 80% of those diagnosed now being cured of their disease. Of those who die, approximately half will do so from treatment related complications many of which are avoidable.

This report deliberately focuses on a sample of patients who were a high-risk group who died or who had an unexpected admission to intensive care. The rationale being that this is where care-planning, service provision and communication should excel. Any remediable factors in care for this group would benefit all children, teenagers and young adults receiving SACT.

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

National Bowel Cancer Audit – Annual Report 2018 (13/12/18)

This is the ninth annual report from the National Bowel Cancer Audit which details data on over 30,000 patients diagnosed with bowel cancer between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.

This year's audit report describes some ongoing improvements such as mortality rates following both elective and emergency surgery falling over the past five years and increased numbers of operations being performed laparoscopically. The report has also described geographical variation in chemotherapy administration and further work is required to better describe and understand this.

The [annual report](#) and the separate patient report summarising the key findings are available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Oesophago-gastric cancer, QS176 (12/18)

There are around 13,000 new cases of oesophago-gastric cancer diagnosed in England each year. Mortality rates are high, with over 10,000 deaths annually, and over the last 30 years the incidence of these cancers has continued to increase. Early diagnosis remains challenging and optimising the diagnostic and treatment pathway is essential to improving management and prognosis.

At present there is considerable variation in management and follow-up for people diagnosed with oesophago-gastric cancer.

This [quality standard](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers assessing and managing oesophago-gastric cancer in adults.

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Children/Young People/Families

Examining Universal Credit's two-child benefit limit (12/12/18)

The Work and Pensions Committee of the House of Commons is [examining](#) the potential impact – and effectiveness – of the two-child limit. Under the current two-child limit, families are not able to claim child benefits for any third or subsequent child born on or after 6 April 2017. From February 2019 this two-child limit will be extended to apply to a third or subsequent child for anyone who makes a new claim to Universal Credit, regardless of when their children were born.

The Committee will seek assurances that the means, and benefits, of achieving the policy's objectives can outweigh the attendant risk of exacerbating levels of child poverty in the UK, currently estimated at 4.1 million children.

Witnesses from women and children's charities and think tanks will give evidence on: whether the two-child limit is achieving its objectives, at what cost; and how it is operating in practice

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Commissioning and Economics

National framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care (13/12/18)

This [updated guidance](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, sets out the principles and processes of the national framework for NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care.

NHS continuing healthcare is an ongoing package of health and social care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS where an individual is found to have a primary health need. Such care is provided to an individual aged 18 or over to meet needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness.

Home care in England: views from commissioners and providers (11/12/18)

Care is provided at home each year to more than 350,000 older people and 76,300 young people with disabilities. Commissioning and delivering the highest quality home care should be a significant objective of our health and social care system.

Between 2016 and 2018, The King's Fund carried out three pieces of research exploring: the factors driving commissioning adult social care; the mechanisms of purchasing and delivery of home care; alternatives to traditional models of delivering care at home. This [report](#) draws together the findings of those research projects, which record the stated opinions of commissioners, providers and other stakeholders.

[Press release](#)

Drug health harms: national intelligence (11/12/18)

These [briefings](#), published by Public Health England, are for directors of public health, commissioners, drug treatment services and needle and syringe programmes. They provide information and intelligence on blood-borne viruses, bacterial

infections, mental and physical health harms and drug-related deaths from meetings of the national intelligence network (NIN).

They aim to inform commissioning and service provision to improve local services.

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Communities and Local Government

Provisional local government finance settlement: England, 2019 to 2020 (13/12/18)

This collection, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, brings together [all documents](#) relating to the provisional local government finance settlement: England, 2019 to 2020.

The local government finance settlement is the annual determination of funding to local government. It needs to be approved by the House of Commons. It will go before the House in early 2019.

The documents include the [statement](#) made to Parliament by the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP on 13 December 2018.

It also includes the consultation document, which outlines the government's approach in allocating funding for the local government finance settlement and seeks views by 10 January 2019.

Local Government Association [On the Day Briefing](#) and [response](#)

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Drugs/Alcohol

Minimum pricing six months on: too soon to tell? (13/12/18)

NHS Scotland have published a [briefing paper](#) addressing what can be deduced about the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) since its introduction in May 2018. The summary follows a number of recent media reports speculating on the impact of MUP in Scotland, though lead researchers have stated it is "too early to draw conclusions" after just six months.

Wales and Ireland have been taking steps to implement MUP, and there are calls for England to follow suit. Those hopeful for a change of tack in the forthcoming national strategy are likely to be disappointed according to a recent [parliamentary answer](#) stating "the new strategy will not include a commitment to introduce minimum unit pricing in England at this time", but that Public Health England would review the impact in Scotland.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#)

NIHR Signal: Paracetamol and alcohol are the most common substances taken by young people (11/12/18)

The rates of the five most common types of poisoning in young people have increased three to five-fold from 1998 to 2014 and is cause for concern.

A study including more than 1.7 million young people aged 10 to 24 in the UK found records of 31,509 people who had been treated for poisoning (2% of the total). Where the substance was recorded, 40% of poisonings involved paracetamol, and 33% involved alcohol. Other substances used included non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antidepressants and opioid painkillers, but these were less common.

The research found that 67% of poisoning episodes were intentional self-harm, while in 26% of cases the intent was unclear or not specified in the record.

This [signal](#) from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) highlights the growing number of young people who are taking poisonous levels of readily accessible painkillers and alcoholic drinks.

Health Survey of England and alcohol death rates in 2017 (11/12/18)

A coordinated release of new national data reports include the latest [figures](#) on alcohol-related deaths and self-reported consumption. The releases again highlight the important nuances behind headlines trends of rising deaths but of a downward trend in drinking, at least amongst younger drinkers.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#)

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Education

Improving outcomes of children in need (10/12/18)

A [review](#) of children in need sets out the government's policy to support children in need and build the evidence base on how to improve their educational outcomes.

The Department for Education has also published a [summary of evidence](#) from literature reviews on effective interventions to improve the educational outcomes of children in need.

[Children's Commissioner](#)

[The Children's Society](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Radon exposure: occupancy factors for UK homes (11/12/18)

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 objective of this [report](#), from Public Health England, is to estimate the current domestic occupancy factors for the general public in the UK taking into account the updated information about time spent indoors. It is important to assess the current occupancy in UK homes because the lifestyle of people is likely to have changed since the earlier study of occupancy levels in 1986. That study showed that on average people in the UK spent around 77% of their time indoors, with the proportions of time spent indoors estimated to be 0.45 and 0.55 in the living area and bedroom, respectively.

The new UK occupancy factors, estimated as a weighted average, for the living area and bedroom were found to be 0.42 and 0.58, respectively.

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

Rough Sleeping Strategy: delivery plan (10/12/18)

The [rough sleeping strategy](#), published in August 2018, sets out the government's vision for halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027.

This [document](#), from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, provides an update on progress so far, key milestones on the 61 commitments, and information on next steps

NAO: The Motability scheme (07/12/18)

The Motability scheme (the scheme) enables eligible disabled people to choose to exchange certain mobility allowances paid by the Department for Work & Pensions and Ministry of Defence for the lease of a new car, powered wheelchair or scooter. In early 2018, just over 1.7 million people were eligible for the scheme. Motability, a charity, is responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the scheme. Motability Operations Limited, a public limited company, operates the scheme through an exclusive rolling seven-year contract with Motability, known as the scheme agreement.

In May 2018, a report by the House of Commons [Work and Pensions and Treasury select committees](#) raised questions about the scheme, and the National Audit Office (NAO) was asked to carry out a review.

[Review report](#)

[Press release](#)

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Health Care

Snowed under? Understanding the effects of winter on the NHS (14/12/18)

Winter is a challenging time for the health service. As we head into the colder months, this [explainer](#) from the Nuffield Trust unpacks what winter means for the NHS, in terms of its impact on health, demand for services, and how the NHS responds.

With the 2017/18 winter period having gone into the annals as one of the most difficult ever for the NHS, we also assess how this year is shaping up and look at whether there is any evidence to suggest that this year will be any better for patients.

[See also Commissioning and Economics](#)

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Cold weather health warnings issued by PHE (12/12/18)

With many parts of England forecast to receive their first bout of cold this winter, Public Health England (PHE) is [issuing](#) weather warnings.

The [Met Office](#) has forecast a short spell of cold for the north east, north west, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands, and West Midlands. The cold, which could drop below zero degrees in many places, could also trigger some snowfall, but it is not certain where.

As a result, PHE is urging people all over the country to think about what they can do to keep warm and well during the cold. Cold weather puts young children, people over 65 and those with heart and lung conditions at risk from low temperatures.

[Stay Well This Winter](#) contains useful advice on staying warm this winter. See also [Cold weather plan for England](#).

Avoid the unwanted gift of food poisoning this Christmas (03/12/18)

With an estimated one million cases a year, [food poisoning](#) does not stop over the festive season. Adam Hardgrave, Head of Foodborne Disease Control at the Food Standards Agency, said:

'The four Cs of food hygiene: Chilling, Cleaning, Cooking and avoiding Cross-contamination are important throughout the year, but especially at Christmas.'

In [Season's Eatings](#) the Agency also advises on buying for the festive feast, defrosting, preparing, and cooking a turkey or duck, getting the measure of cooking temperatures, handling leftovers, and last but not least understanding food poisoning.

Pertussis (whooping cough): information for healthcare professionals (07/12/18)

Public Health England has [updated information](#) for healthcare professionals to identify, manage and test cases of pertussis.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

A Christmas guide to clinical coding (13/12/18)

Coding is the use of short alphanumeric codes to record symptoms, diagnoses, laboratory tests, procedures, and medicines in the electronic health record.

With the rollout of a new coding system in the UK under way, Richard Williams senior software engineer and research fellow University of Manchester, reveals a lighter side to recording clinical data.

The open access [article](#) is available from the BMJ.

Health state life expectancies, UK: 2015 to 2017 (12/12/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published [data and information](#) on variations in the number of years people are expected to spend in different health states among local areas in the UK.

Main points include:

- In the period 2015 to 2017, males in the UK had a life expectancy (LE) of 79.2 years at birth while females had a life expectancy of 82.9 years.
- The London Borough of Camden had the highest life expectancy at birth for females across all local authority areas of the UK.
- In the UK in 2015 to 2017, healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth was 63.1 years for males and for females was 63.6 years.

- HLE at birth across local authority areas of the UK varies by 21.5 years for females and 15.8 years for males in 2015 to 2017.

[Centre for Ageing Better](#)

Recent trends in mortality in England: review and data packs (11/12/18)

Public Health England (PHE) was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to review trends in life expectancy and mortality in England. The aims of the [report](#) are to provide:

- a review of official data, to advance understanding of the trends in life expectancy and mortality in England
- further detail on specific population groups and specific causes of death
- insight into possible explanations for the trends observed.

[News release](#)

[Public health matters blog](#)

[King's Fund](#)

Grenfell Tower Inquiry: update (12/12/18)

Following the conclusion of Phase 1 hearings of the [Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#), the Chairman Sir Martin Moore-Bick has issued a [statement](#) giving a summary of work so far, and an update on next steps.

See also [Information relating to the fire at Grenfell Tower](#) on GOV.UK

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2017 (11/12/18)

The Department of Health and Social Care has published updated [statistics and commentary](#) on abortions carried out in 2017.

Key points include:

- There were 192,900 abortions for women resident in England and Wales in 2017 and 197,533 abortions including non-residents. This is an increase of 4% since 2016, the highest level since 2008.
- 4,633 abortions for non-residents were carried out in England and Wales, a similar level to 2016. The 2017 total is a decrease of 38% since 2007. 65% of non-residents travel from the Republic of Ireland and 19% from Northern Ireland.
- The highest abortion rate is amongst women aged 20-24 (28.2 per 1,000 resident women). This is an increase on 2016 (27.0 per 1,000), but the rate has declined steadily since 2007 (32.6 per 1,000).

Fiscal and pricing policies: evidence report and framework (11/12/18)

This [report and framework](#), published by Public Health England, collect evidence on fiscal and pricing policies that aim to improve health outcomes by influencing consumer behaviour and producing goods and services.

The framework has been produced to help policy and decision-makers when considering the introduction of new fiscal and pricing interventions, or amendments to existing ones, comparing different policy areas in terms of their impacts on health.

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Integrated Health and Social Care

NIHR Signal: Ways of integrating care that better coordinate services may benefit patients (11/12/18)

New integrated care models can increase patient satisfaction, perceived quality of care and improve access to services. It is less clear whether there may be effects on hospital admissions, appointments or healthcare costs. Strong leadership and patient engagement are among factors influencing successful implementation.

The 2014 NHS Five Year Forward View emphasised the need for health and social care services that are work together for the patient, rather than being single, unconnected episodes of care. The NHS is undergoing reconfiguration to better coordinate services around patients.

This [review](#), funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) looked at the international literature to understand how new care models may affect patients, providers and systems.

System Leadership in integrated care systems (ICSs): webinar recording (06/12/18)

The [Future of Care paper, No 9](#), aimed at chief executives, directors and senior managers from the NHS, local authorities, housing organisations and voluntary and community sector, is based on findings from interviews with systems leaders and a review of the literature. The NHS Leadership Academy commissioned the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to undertake this research published in November 2018.

A recording of the [webinar](#) (60 minutes) which followed is now available.

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Public Health Model to reduce youth violence (12/12/18)

The House of Commons Library has produced a [debate pack](#) on this topic for a general debate due to take place this week.

The public health approach to any problem is interdisciplinary and science-based. It draws upon knowledge from many disciplines, including medicine, epidemiology, sociology, psychology, criminology, education and economics. The public health approach also emphasizes cooperative efforts from such diverse sectors as health, education, social services, justice and policy.

The briefing looks at initiatives in Scotland and London, the government's Serious Violence Strategy and funding flowing from it.

[The Children's Society paper](#)

Deaths in police custody: progress update (12/12/18)

On 30 October 2017, Dame Elish Angiolini's [report of the independent review](#) of deaths and serious incidents in police custody was published, alongside the government's substantive response.

As part of its response, the government commissioned the ministerial council on deaths in custody to play a leading role in considering the most complex of the recommendations. This [update](#) sets out progress made in delivering the ministerial board on deaths in custody's work programme.

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Long-term Conditions

Medical and Surgical Clinical Outcome Review Programme: Perioperative Diabetes Report 2018 (13/12/18)

Diabetes is a serious, lifelong condition where blood glucose levels are too high. The care of patients with diabetes is complex and this is particularly true of those undergoing surgery. The care can cross numerous specialties which can compound the issue of diabetes not being managed consistently.

This review includes an assessment of service structure at an organisational level and patient care at a clinical level.

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Strong, Steady and Straight: Physical Activity and Exercise for Osteoporosis (12/18)

The National Osteoporosis Society has published [Strong, Steady and Straight](#), an expert consensus statement on physical activity and exercise for osteoporosis.

The statement is designed to give exercise and healthcare professionals a better understanding about what types of physical activity are safe, effective and appropriate for people with osteoporosis and vertebral fractures.

The consensus statement is available as a free download from the National Osteoporosis Society website.

[Chartered Society of Physiotherapy](#)

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Maternity/Infants

Survive and thrive: transforming care for every small and sick newborn. Key findings (13/12/18)

Nearly 30 million babies are born too soon, too small or become sick every year and need specialized care to survive, according to a new report by a global coalition that includes UNICEF and WHO.

The report, [Survive and Thrive: Transforming care for every small and sick newborn](#), finds that among the newborn babies most at risk of death and disability are those with complications from prematurity, brain injury during childbirth, severe bacterial infection or jaundice, and those with congenital conditions. Additionally, the financial and psychological toll on their families can have detrimental effects on their cognitive, linguistic and emotional development.

Without specialized treatment, many at-risk newborns won't survive their first month of life, according to the report. In 2017, some 2.5 million newborns died, mostly from preventable causes. Almost two-thirds of babies who die were born premature. And even if they survive, these babies face chronic diseases or developmental delays. In addition, an estimated 1 million small and sick newborns survive with a long-term disability.

With nurturing care, these babies can live without major complications. The report shows that by 2030, in 81 countries, the lives of 2.9 million women, stillborns and newborns can be saved with smarter strategies.

[WHO new release](#)

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

[See Accident and Emergency](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Effectiveness of a brief behavioural intervention to prevent weight gain over the Christmas holiday period (10/12/18)

This study set out to test the effectiveness of a brief behavioural intervention to prevent weight gain over the Christmas holiday period. The randomised controlled trial recruited from workplaces, social media platforms, and schools pre-Christmas 2016 and 2017 in Birmingham, UK.

The intervention aimed to increase restraint of eating and drinking through regular self-weighing and recording of weight and reflection on weight trajectory; providing information on good weight management strategies over the Christmas period; and pictorial information on the physical activity calorie equivalent (PACE) of regularly consumed festive foods and drinks. The goal was to gain no more than 0.5 kg of baseline weight. The comparator group received a leaflet on healthy living.

The [results](#) are published in the BMJ (open access article).

Best Breakfast Club in South East England (30/11/18)

A breakfast club at [Molehill Primary School](#) Maidstone has been awarded the [Best in the South East](#). Children pay 50p a day to attend and in return they get a choice of breakfast and can even help prepare their own food. Afterwards the pupils can take part in a wide range of activities, with everything from board games and puzzles to dance class and aerobics on offer.

Four pupils from the school got the chance to visit Westminster to see their school crowned regional winners in the search for the best breakfast clubs in the UK, sponsored by Kelloggs.

The primary is part of the [Leigh Academies Trust](#), which looks after 18 schools in the south east, 4 of which are in Maidstone.

See also [Breakfast clubs in high-deprivation schools](#), Department for Education, March 2017.

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Older People

Age is just a number: Views among people aged 50 and over in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (11/18)

The Centre for Ageing Better has published [analysis](#) of the most recent data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) about attitudes to ageing taken from a sample of more 6,000 people aged 50 and over.

Just one in ten of all over 50s feel their age often prevents them from doing the things they would like to and half (52%) say that growing old doesn't bother them. Nearly half of respondents (49%) say they are more tolerant as they age. About four-fifths (81%) do not agree with the statement that "old people are generally grumpy and miserable" and 90% agree that there is a lot to learn from older people.

The data shows a strong link between a negative experience of ageing and being pessimistic about getting older. Those who were worried about their health getting worse and those who expected to get lonely were around 30% more likely to have a negative experience of ageing than people who did not. Evidence shows older people who hold negative views about their own ageing recover less well from disability and live on average 7.5 years less than people with positive attitudes.

[News release](#)

The experience of the transition to retirement: Rapid evidence review (06/12/18)

Retirement from work is a major life transition. For many, retirement from paid employment is something to look forward to. But for others, retirement can pose many challenges and they find it difficult to adjust to their new role and circumstances. The nature of retirement is itself undergoing a period of transition. Governments in many countries have enacted policies to encourage people to work until later in life.

The purpose of this [rapid evidence review](#), from the Centre for Ageing Better, is to synthesise the existing research on the experience of the retirement transitions to better understand how best to help individuals navigate this transition.

[News release](#)

Help at home: use of assistive technology for older people (04/12/18)

More people are living longer with complex conditions and needs. Technology can help people to stay living well and safely at home as they get older. But technology is changing rapidly and it can be challenging to get the right technology for the right person with the right support.

This [themed review](#) presents a selection of recent research on assistive technology for older people funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and other government funders. This has been selected with help from an expert steering group. The review focus on research around the use of technology in the home, remote monitoring systems and designing better environments for older people.

[NIHR blog](#)

See also Accident and Emergency

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Matt Hancock orders review into overprescribing in the NHS (08/12/18)

Health Survey England 2016 found that nearly half of over 75-year-olds surveyed were taking 5 or more medicines, with this percentage rising the older people get. While in the majority of cases patients will be receiving multiple drugs due to

specific or complex needs, the review will look at how to ensure treatment remains up to date and appropriate so patients feel as well as possible.

The [review](#) will look at how doctors and pharmacists can be supported to review prescriptions and ensure patients are receiving the most appropriate treatment for their needs. The review will be led by Chief Pharmaceutical Officer Dr Keith Ridge.

Estimated total NHS spending on medicines in England has grown from £13 billion in 2010 to 2011 to £18.2 billion in 2017 to 2018. This is an average growth of around 5% a year – with 1.1 billion prescription items dispensed in primary care by GPs and pharmacists.

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Duncan Selbie's Christmas message and look ahead to 2019 (14/12/18)

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England, in his regular [Friday Message](#) gives a useful round up, and reminder, of work undertaken in 2018, followed by a preview of what lies ahead in 2019.

He also thanks all those working across the health and care family, and in local government, as well as PHE colleagues for their efforts to protect and improve the health of the nation.

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Screening

Breast screening incident 2018 (13/12/18)

The national breast screening incident, announced in May 2018, was in response to a system failure of the NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHSBSP) to offer over 120,000 women their final screen in the 36 months before their 71st birthday (that is up to age 70 years and 364 days), a requirement set out in national service specifications from November 2013 onwards.

The [independent review](#) makes 15 recommendations for the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England and NHS England.

Public Health England conducted an internal review following the incident. The [findings](#) are summarised in this report, from Professor Paul Cosford, Director for Health Protection, which describes the mismatch in definitions of age then identifies the most important underlying causes.

Breast screening: manage mammograms and records (13/12/18)

This [document](#) sets out NHS breast screening programme procedures for retaining, storing and disposing of mammograms and records.

Breast screening: helping women decide (13/12/18)

Public Health England has [updated information](#) on the NHS breast screening programme to help eligible women make an informed choice about whether to participate.

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Smoking/Tobacco Control

Government response to the Science and Technology Select Committee's report on e-cigarettes (10/12/18)

This [command paper](#) sets out the government's response to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee's [inquiry report](#) into e-cigarettes, published by the House of Commons in July 2018.

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Social Care/Welfare

New models of home care (11/12/18)

Policy-makers have outlined their ambitions to provide joined-up care closer to home and enable people to remain independent and in their own homes. Home care will be a central component of realising these ambitions. However, there are serious concerns about the state of the home care market and the quality of care service users receive.

Against this backdrop of varying quality of care and rising demand, some innovative models and approaches to commissioning and delivering home care are emerging. This [report](#), from the King's Fund, explores those new approaches and considers their potential to provide care that is more closely aligned with what people want.

Centre to re-analyse existing education data focusing on children's social care (10/12/18)

The What Works Centre for Children's Social Care (WWCCSC) is to [re-analyse](#) previous trials commissioned by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to identify specific insights for children who have cleared a statutory threshold in the children's social care system.

The purpose of the re-analysis is to identify which interventions work differentially for Children In Need (CIN) and Looked After Children (LAC) as opposed to the general population of young people or for young people in receipt of free school meals.

[See also Commissioning and Economics](#)

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Workforce Development

Knowledge and skills statement for social work supervisors in adult social care (11/12/18)

Knowledge and Skills Statements (KSS) are an essential tool in helping improve social work education, training and career development. In her 2016/17 annual report, the Chief Social Worker Lyn Romeo, promised to consult on a KSS and an assessment pathway for adult social work supervisors.

This [document](#) responds to the feedback received from a formal consultation on the KSS for practice supervisors, as well as on what further support may be needed to improve the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) programme.

The Department of Health and Social Care has also published the final post-qualifying standard: [knowledge and skills for adult social work practice supervisors](#).

These standards will inform the department's support for the continuous professional development of social work practice supervisors in adult services.

Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults at the Department of Health [blog](#)

[Community Care](#)

Never too busy to learn: How the modern team can learn together in the busy workplace (04/12/18)

This [report](#), from the Royal College of Physicians supported by Health Education England, helps healthcare teams make the most of daily learning opportunities in the workplace. It explores how 'invitational' learning environments can be created in clinical settings and, in doing so, poses two key questions:

- How do we create learning opportunities in the clinical workplace?
- How do we maximise the impact of these opportunities?

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