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## Budget 2018

Philip Hammond, the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his [Budget](#) to Parliament on Monday 29 October 2018.

The NHS 6.2 NHS funding - In June, the government set out a multi-year funding plan, with associated cash budgets, for the NHS in England. At that time this equated to £20.5 billion more a year in real terms by 2023-24, an average real growth rate in the NHS's budget of 3.4% a year; taking the NHS budget from £114.6 billion in 2018-19 to £147.8 billion<sup>89</sup> in 2023-24, with a total UK-wide scorecard cost of £83.6 billion. The NHS agreed to come forward with a new long-term plan this year, to be agreed with the government. The cash settlement that the government promised in June 2018 is fully funded at this Budget. The NHS will deliver its plan by the end of the year, and the government will confirm the final settlement consistent with that plan, and the £20.5 billion real terms increase by 2023-24, by Spending Review 2019.

Mental health funding – The government is committed to achieving parity of esteem between mental health and physical health services, ensuring that high quality mental health support is available for those that need it, in appropriate, safe settings. Funding for mental health services will grow as a share of the overall NHS budget over the next 5 years.

Public Health - The government will also ensure that public health services help people live longer healthier lives. Budgets in these areas will be confirmed at Spending Review 2019.

Local councils and social care 6.3 Additional social care funding – In the short term, the Budget provides an additional £240 million in 2018-19 and £240 million in 2019-20 for adult social care. This will make sure people can leave hospital when they are ready, into a care setting that best meets their needs. This will help the NHS to free up the beds it needs over winter.

In the longer term, the government is committed to putting social care on fairer and more sustainable footing and will set out proposals for adult social care in the forthcoming green paper.

The Budget provides a further £410 million in 2019-20 for adults and children's social care. Where necessary, local councils should use this funding to ensure that adult social care pressures do not create additional demand on the NHS. Local councils can also use it to improve their social care offer for older people, people with disabilities and children.

see also [Budget 2018: 24 things you need to know](#)

[King's Fund](#)

Local Government Association [response](#), [summary](#) and [briefing](#)  
[Nuffield Trust](#)

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## Accident and Emergency

### Almost half of sport injury-related A&E attendances are children (02/11/18)

Children under the age of 19 account for almost half of sport injury-related A&E attendances, a study has found. Researchers from [Newcastle University](#) and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust also found almost a quarter of sport injury-related hospital admissions were in children and adolescents.

The burden of sport-related injuries has been highlighted by the new research published by the [Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine](#) (open access article). The researchers analysed injury attendances recorded at two NHS hospitals in Oxford and Banbury between 1 January 2012 and 30 March 2014. Of the 63,877 attendances recorded, 11,676 were sport-related, with 5,533 in 0-19 year olds. 14-year-old boys and 12-year-old girls were most at risk of sustaining a sports injury.

For boys, the three main sports involved in injuries were football, rugby union and rugby league and for girls, trampolining, netball and horse-riding. Almost a quarter of the injuries were fractures, the highest percentage to the arms. Rugby union was the sport most associated with head injury and concussion in boys and for girls, head injuries were most common during horse riding.

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## Children/Young People/Families

### Initiatives in early intervention in children's lives (01/11/18)

The [Local Government Association \(LGA\)](#) has published a [briefing](#) on initiatives in early intervention in children's lives that would improve the welfare, life chances and social mobility of young people in the UK.

Since 2010 councils have worked hard to manage a core reduction in funding of £16 billion. Councils have managed to protect children's social care budgets by prioritising these over other services. An increase in demand has forced many areas to divert spending away from preventative and early help work into services to protect children who are at immediate risk of harm. An average of more than 270 children are now taken into care or placed on a child protection plan every single day.

The LGA calls on the Government to prioritise support for children and young people, highlighting examples of effective early intervention services to support children and young people and the growing challenge facing councils in continuing to resource them.

## Children living in long-term workless households in the UK: 2017 (31/10/18)

The [Office for National Statistics](#) has published annual UK estimates of the number of children living in households where all adults have not worked for at least 12 months.

Main points:

- In 2017, 1.1 million children (8.6%) lived in long-term workless households.
- Of all children in workless households, 79.2% lived in long-term workless households.
- The South East and the South West had the lowest percentage of children in long-term workless households, both at 5.4%.
- Northern Ireland had the highest percentage of children in long-term workless households at 14.5%.

[Department for Work and Pensions, news release](#)

## Statistics: childcare and early years (01/11/18)

The Department for Education hosts a [collection of statistics](#) on childcare arrangements for all ages and early years provision for children who are 5 years of age or younger.

The latest item to be added to the collection is: [Childcare and early years providers survey 2018](#). This release gives information on provider characteristics, number of places, number of children attending, staff characteristics and qualification, and fees.

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## Commissioning and Economics

### Alcohol treatment inquiry: summary of findings (02/11/18)

Public Health England set up an inquiry to find out what was behind the fall in the numbers of people in treatment for alcohol dependence in England since 2013 to 2014.

The findings of this [report](#) can be used to inform local commissioning and service development plans for increasing the numbers of people in alcohol treatment.

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## Communities and Local Government

### Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities (01/11/18)

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government has [updated guidance](#) on how local authorities should exercise their homelessness functions in accordance with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 from 3 April 2018.

Local housing and social services authorities must have regard to this guidance when exercising their functions relating to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### Rough sleeping funding: grant determination letter (01/11/18)

The Department for Education (DfE) has sent [notification](#) of additional funding to 47 local authorities to provide extra support to care leavers at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping. The letter is for Directors of Children's Services.

The grant supports the delivery of the Government's rough sleeping strategy. It allows local authorities to employ one or more specialist personal advisers to support a small caseload of 5 to 10 care leavers.

The DfE will provide £1,615,000 from 2018 to 2019, and £3,230,000 from 2019 to 2020, to 47 local authorities with the highest number of care leavers at risk of rough sleeping.

## Future High Streets Fund (29/10/18)

As announced in the Budget 2018 a new £675 million [Future High Streets Fund](#) will be set up to help local areas to respond to and adapt to changes. The prospectus will be launched later this year by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

It will support local areas to prepare long-term strategies for their high streets and town centres, including funding a new High Streets Taskforce to provide expertise and hands-on support to local areas and it will also then co-fund with local areas projects.

[Budget 2018](#) in full, see also point 19 of [24 things you need to know](#)  
[Budget to support new housing, high streets and local services](#), news release

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## Consumer Participation

### Ask Listen Do – Making conversations count in health, social care and education (31/10/18)

This Ask Listen Do [resource](#), from NHS England, shares tips for health, social care and education organisations and practitioners with the aim of making feedback, concerns and complaints easier for people with a learning disability, autistic people, families and carers.

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## Drugs/Alcohol

### Substance misuse treatment for adults: statistics 2017 to 2018 (01/11/18)

Public Health England (PHE) and Office for National Statistics have published statistics on [alcohol and drug misuse treatment for adults](#) from PHE's national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS).

Healthcare professionals can use these resources to understand:

- the availability and effectiveness of alcohol and drug treatment for adults in England
- trends in drug and alcohol use among adults receiving treatment
- the profile of adult patients accessing alcohol and drug treatment services.

### Alcohol dependence prevalence in England (01/11/18)

Public Health England has published a spreadsheet containing [estimates](#) for the period 2016 to 2017 on the number of adults who are dependent on alcohol in each local authority in England.

The [prevalence, trends and amenities to treatment report](#) published by the University of Sheffield in April 2017 provides analysis and commentary on the estimates.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#)

**See also Commissioning and Economics**

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## Education

### More school children receiving a nutritious breakfast (02/11/18)

Thousands more children across the country are now getting a healthy and nutritious start to the day at a new or improved school breakfast club, the Children and Families Minister Nadhim Zahawi has [announced](#).

The figures, published by Family Action, follow the investment of up to £26 million announced by the Education Secretary in March for two leading charities to run clubs to improve breakfast for pupils in more than 1,700 schools by 2020.

Since March, 500 schools have already signed up to the National School Breakfast Programme delivered by [Family Action](#) – in partnership with [Magic Breakfast](#).

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

### Dartford school dog boosts children's confidence (30/10/18)

Maypole Primary School in Dartford is one of a growing number of schools across Kent that is realising the benefits of [introducing a dog](#) to lessons and play times. Max, an 18-month-old black and white cockapoo, has been at the school for just over a year, having started in September 2017.

Having a furry, four-legged member of staff with a friendly wagging tail makes school extra enjoyable for children, but it also has huge benefits in terms of youngsters' development. Max, who lives with assistant head teacher Claire Hunnisett when he's not in school, greets children at the gate in the morning and visits different classrooms throughout the day. The young pup has also helped many pupils deal with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

[Video](#)

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## End of Life/Palliative Care

### Atlas of Variation: 2018 Palliative and end of life care (02/11/18)

Almost half a million people die each year in England, equating to around one person per minute. The Atlas of Variation is published by Public Health England. It is a compendium, but it is made available in themed sections, the newest of which is [2018 Palliative and end of life care](#).

It includes national data showing that over the past decade, age, cause and location of death has significantly changed, with a quarter of people dying at home, a 3.9% increase between 2007 and 2016. The Atlas is the first of its kind in the world and emphasises the importance of people having the right to choice in where, and with what support their lives end.

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## Environment/Transport/Housing

### WHO: Air pollution and child health (29/10/18)

This [report](#), from the World Health Organization (WHO), summarizes the latest scientific knowledge on the links between exposure to air pollution and adverse health effects in children. It is intended to inform and motivate individual and collective action by health care professionals to prevent damage to children's health from exposure to air pollution.

Air pollution is a major environmental health threat. Exposure to fine particles in both the ambient environment and in the household causes about seven million premature deaths each year.

See also [How air pollution is destroying our health](#)

### Homes England strategic plan 2018 to 2023 (30/10/18)

This [5-year plan](#) spans financial year 2018 to 2019 to financial year 2022 to 2023 and explains what Homes England will do to improve housing affordability, helping more people access better homes in areas where they are needed most.

Homes England is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. Its mission is to work in partnership with all parts of the housing industry sector, to respond to the long-term housing challenges facing the country.

[Government welcomes Homes England plan](#)

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## Health Care

### Homelessness: applying All Our Health (01/11/18)

This [updated guidance](#) from Public Health England provides examples to help healthcare professionals:

- identify and advocate to prevent the risk of homelessness among people who have poor health
- minimise the impact on health from homelessness among people who are already experiencing it
- enable improved health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness so that their poor health is not a barrier to moving on to a home of their own.

### Managing common infections: guidance for primary care (31/10/18)

[Public Health England](#) and the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#) have published joint guidance (but presented differently) for managing common infections including upper and lower respiratory, and urinary tract infections.

The guidance is to help GPs and healthcare staff to treat infections and use antibiotics responsibly.

### New law proposed to safeguard UK citizens' healthcare abroad after Brexit (26/10/18)

The [Healthcare \(International Arrangements\) Bill](#) seeks to safeguard healthcare for 190,000 expats and 50 million people who travel abroad every year, through agreements with the EU or member states.

It will establish the basis for a new arrangement allowing the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) scheme to continue after 2020, subject to an agreement with the EU. EHIC grants UK nationals access to free healthcare abroad and pays for 250,000 medical treatments each year.

For the 190,000 expat state pensioners who have chosen to live in the EU and those intending to retire to the EU, it will help by safeguarding reciprocal healthcare if there is no EU deal.

Department of Health and Social Care, [news release](#)

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## Health Protection/Emergencies

### Getting the message right on MMR (01/11/18)

On the 30th anniversary of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine being introduced in the UK, [Dame Sally Davies](#) the Chief Medical Officer, appearing on the BBC said the MMR vaccine is safe and has been given to millions of children worldwide but uptake was currently "not good enough". In England, 87% of children receive two doses but the target is 95%.

The chief medical officer urged parents to get their children vaccinated and ignore the myths spread by anti-vaccine campaigners

[NHS Choices MMR vaccine](#)

[50 years of measles vaccination in the UK](#)

[Wellcome Trust: Health Information: Reducing the viral spread of health misinformation project](#)

### Lead exposure in children: surveillance reports (02/11/18)

The aims of the Lead Exposure in Children Surveillance System (LEICSS) are to identify cases of children resident in England with elevated blood lead concentrations, to initiate timely public health action for individual cases, and to inform public health interventions to prevent further exposures.

LEICSS is a component of the environmental public health surveillance system operated by Public Health England as part of the agency's environmental public health tracking arrangements.

[Surveillance reports](#)

### Chemical hazards compendium: update (31/10/18)

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

The following documents in the compendium has been updated:

[CS gas \(2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile\)](#)

[Mustard gas](#)

[Nerve agents](#)

### Vaccine update (27/10/18)

[Vaccine update](#) is a newsletter for health professionals and immunisation practitioners.



The [October 2018 issue](#) includes the following features:

- flu vaccination – new information leaflet for those aged 65 years of age or older - download or order now!
- revised inactivated influenza vaccine information for healthcare practitioners
- flu vaccine availability and eligibility – 2018 to 2019 children's programme
- adrenaline auto-injector supply issues
- ordering restriction on BCG vaccine has been removed
- reminder about MMR vaccine ordering restriction.

### **Influenza: treatment and prophylaxis using antiviral agents (31/10/18)**

Public Health England has [updated guidance](#) on the use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of seasonal influenza, and also covers the use of antivirals in pregnancy, breastfeeding, hepatic or renal dysfunction.

The changes to 2016 to 2017 guidance include:

- updated content in section 1.3.4 'Unlicensed treatments'
- updated appendices including a new summary algorithm for prescribing antivirals in Appendix 2 and the process for requesting zanamivir aqueous solution
- a new 'frequently asked questions' section at the end of the guidance.

### **Addressing low influenza vaccination rates among health-care workers (26/10/18)**

In 2016, a social marketing expert and a public health specialist joined forces to tackle a problem facing health authorities in Ireland. As in many countries across Europe, Ireland was seeing very low influenza vaccination rates among health workers and annual outbreaks of influenza in health-care settings.

They were tasked with devising an intervention to increase vaccination rates among health-care workers, in line with the strategic priorities of the government-led initiative Healthy Ireland as well as national and WHO vaccine recommendations.

The results speak for themselves: vaccination rates in the first year were down to 15% on average; in 2 years, they had doubled to more than 37%.

[Who Europe news release](#)

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## **Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics**

### **Overview of the UK population: November 2018 (01/11/18)**

Understanding the size and characteristics of the population of the UK is vital when it comes to planning and delivering services like education, transport and healthcare. Estimates show growth in the size of the population, in the proportion of older people, and in the numbers of families and households.

This [article](#), from the Office for National Statistics, brings together the main points from a number of current statistical bulletins to give an overview of the changing population in the UK.

In mid-2017, the population of the UK was an estimated 66 million – its largest ever. The UK population is projected to continue growing, reaching almost 73 million by 2041.

### **Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2017 (01/11/18)**



The Department of Health and Social Care and Office for National Statistics has published [data and commentary](#) on abortions carried out in 2017.

Key points include:

- There were 189,859 abortions for women resident in England and Wales in 2017 and 194,6681 abortions including non-residents. This is an increase of 2.3% since 2016, and a similar level to 2011.
- Abortion rate increased from 16.0 per 1,000 women in 2016. The rate has declined since 2007, when 17.9 per 1,000 of resident women had an abortion.
- 4,809 abortions for non-residents were carried out in England and Wales, a similar level to 2016. The 2017 total is a decrease of 35% since 2007. 64% of non-residents travel from the Republic of Ireland and 19% from Northern Ireland.
- The highest abortion rate is amongst women aged 20-24 (27.8 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).

### **CQC: Equally outstanding (01/11/18)**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published this [good practice resource](#), posing the question: how can a focus on equality and human rights improve the quality for care in times of financial constraint?

CQC makes the case by examining the ethical, business, economic and legal reasons for doing so.

[News release](#)

### **Education Secretary appoints new Social Mobility Commissioners (31/10/18)**

Damian Hinds has announced [12 Social Mobility Commissioners](#) to support the new Chair of the Social Mobility Commission, [Dame Martina Milburn](#), appointed in July 2018.

The new commissioners come from all walks of life and include leaders from the fields of business, education and technology. Many have their own personal stories of how they have overcome barriers to success and now work to improve social mobility in their sectors.

The [Social Mobility Commission \(SMC\)](#) monitors progress towards improving social mobility in the UK, and promotes social mobility in England.

### **Research integrity: clinical trials transparency (30/10/18)**

In a new [report](#) the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee has expressed concern that nearly half of clinical trials fail to publish their results.

Selective non-publication of the results of research distorts the published evidence base and is a threat to research integrity. In the case of clinical trials, non-publication of results means that information on the efficacy of new drugs or other medical interventions cannot be used. Falling short on 'clinical trials transparency' in this way presents risks to human health, contributes to research wastage and means that clinical decisions are made without access to all the available evidence.

A range of UK and EU rules and guidelines are now in force to improve clinical trials transparency, in terms of tackling non-registration, non-reporting and mis-reporting. However, despite these rules, around half of clinical trials are currently left unreported, clinical trial registration is not yet universal in the UK, and reported outcomes do not always align with the original study proposal.

[News release](#)

[British Medical Journal response](#)

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## Integrated Health and Social Care

### Care staff leadership implementing the Esther care model at a care home in Kent (31/10/18)

The Esther methodology is a Swedish model of care which strives to improve patient care for the elderly. A Care Coordinator led the implementation of the Esther care model, initially within a care home at the [Graham Care Home Group](#) which owns and operates care homes and extra care accommodation for over 500 residents in Surrey, Kent and Sussex.

Before the pilot, care plans in the home were primarily task focused and aimed to ensure residents received good quality care from an objective perspective of the carer. Very few focused on the resident's view of care or how they wanted to achieve their daily tasks or be supported.

Due to its success the pilot model is being rolled out across Kent. In October 2018 there were six hundred and eighty-five Esther ambassadors across the region. Within the pilot care home there are two trained Esther coaches. Evidence suggests that the more personalised the care, the more effective the treatment. Patients have had more input so are likely to be more responsive and it suits their needs more. In other areas this has shown reduction in referrals to hospital and in lengths of hospital stays, which is positive.

[NHS England case study](#)  
[The Kent Integrated Care Pioneer Programme and Esther](#)

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## International

### Forecasting life expectancy, years of life lost, and all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 250 causes of death (24/10/18)

Health and social-services planning and investments require consideration of possible future trends in health and corresponding drivers. Many choices have long lag periods between initial investments and their effects, which can unfold over several decades.

This study, published in [The Lancet](#) (open access article), provides a novel approach to modelling life expectancy, all-cause mortality and cause of death forecasts, and alternative future scenarios, in 195 countries and territories. The researchers modelled 250 causes and cause groups organised by the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) hierarchical cause structure, using GBD 2016 estimates from 1990–2016, to generate predictions for 2017–40.

The top five health drivers that explain most of the future trajectory for premature mortality are high blood pressure, high body mass index, high blood sugar, tobacco use, and alcohol use. Air pollution ranked sixth.

Spain is expected to place first in the world in 2040 (average lifespan of 85.8 years), a rise from fourth in 2016 (average lifespan of 82.9 years). In comparison, the United Kingdom had a lifespan of 80.8 years in 2016 and is expected to increase to 83.3, raising its rank from 26th to 23rd in 2040.

See also [How healthy will be in 2040?](#) (commentary), Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington.

### Review of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) in Europe (2018)

In 1995, WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund launched the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) as a global strategy to end preventable child mortality and promote child health and development. A global review of IMCI implementation was carried out in 2016.

Who Europe then complement the global review with a regional update on implementation. This [report](#) sets out findings for the 16 countries and territories of the European Region, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

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## Legislation/Crime/Prisons

### Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2018 (01/11/18)

Serious and organised crime affects more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat. It costs the UK at least £37 billion annually.

This [updated strategy](#), from the Home Office, sets out how it will mobilise the full force of the state, aligning collective efforts to target and disrupt serious and organised criminals.

Ben Wallace, Minister for Security and Economic Crime, [speech](#)  
[Research collection](#)

### Prison health (01/11/18)

A prison sentence is a deprivation of someone's liberty, not a sentence to poorer health or healthcare, say the Health and Social Care Committee of the House of Commons in its [report](#) on health and care in prison.

The mortality rate of people in prison is 50% higher than the general population, reflecting the poor health of prisoners and people in contact with the criminal justice system. Many prisons are unsafe, with incidences of violence and self-harm at a record high. Prisons, as a result of staff shortages and overcrowding, are limiting prisoners' access to healthcare and their ability to lead healthy lives.

The Committee recommends that the Government's programme of prison reform, and the way it talks about its plans for reform, should place greater emphasis on health, wellbeing, care and recovery, recognising the poor health of people in prison and the trauma many people in prison have experienced in their lives. As well as improving outcomes for prisoners, it is the Committee's view that such an approach will also improve the safety of prisons and reduce reoffending.

[News release](#)  
[Howard League for Penal Reform](#)  
Nuffield Trust [response](#) and [blog](#)

### Sentencers and sentenced: exploring knowledge, agency and sentencing women to prison (31/10/18)

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on [Women in the Penal System](#) has conducted an inquiry into the sentencing of women. Women who become tangled up in the criminal justice system are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society, and prison makes things worse not better for them.

The [report](#) recommends that custodial sentences of less than 12 months should be abolished for women. Any future probation model should include ring-fenced funding for the provision of specialist services for women.

[Howard league for Penal Reform](#)

### Flu: information for prison and detention centre staff in England (31/10/18)

Public Health England has issued seasonal [guidance](#) for 2018 to 2019 for healthcare and custodial staff in prisons, immigration removal centres and other prescribed places of detention for adults in England on how to respond to individual cases or outbreaks of flu, including vaccination, recommendations, and managing outbreaks.

### **Seasonal flu in the children and young people's secure estate (31/10/18)**

Public Health England has issued seasonal [guidance](#) for 2018 to 2019 for healthcare and residential staff in Children and Young People's secure estate on responding to individual cases of flu, vaccination, recommendations and managing outbreaks.

**See also Pharmacy/Prescribing**

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## **Maternity/Infants**

### **Women 'should leave at least a year between pregnancies' (30/10/18)**

A new study, published in [JAMA Internal Medicine](#) (open access article), looks at whether pregnancy interval is associated with pregnancy or birth complications, and whether this varies by maternal age. The researchers used the data from the British Columbia Perinatal Data Registry, which contains maternity and newborn data for nearly all births in British Columbia, Canada.

The study's strengths are that it looked at a large number of women and used registry data and medical records, which should be reliable. It generally found a small increased risk of pregnancy or newborn complications for women who got pregnant again within 18 months. This tended to be the case regardless of the woman's age.

The vast majority of women have healthy pregnancies and babies regardless of pregnancy interval. Pregnancy complications were, on the whole, rare. So even for women with shorter pregnancy intervals of 12 months or less, these complications were still rare. This study cannot prove that the pregnancy interval was directly responsible for the pregnancy complications.

[NHS Choices Behind the Headlines](#)

### **Maternal, Newborn and Infant Programme: Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care (02/11/18)**

This is the fifth edition of the Maternal, Newborn and Infant Clinical Outcome Review Programme's report concerning maternal deaths and morbidity. The report includes surveillance data on women who died during or up to one year after pregnancy between 2014 and 2016 in the UK. In addition, it also includes Confidential Enquiries into the care of women who died between 2014 and 2016 in the UK and Ireland from mental health conditions, thrombosis and thromboembolism, malignancy and homicide, as well as morbidity Confidential Enquiries into the care of women with major obstetric haemorrhage.

Assessors judged that 28% of women who died and 12% of women surviving with major obstetric haemorrhage had good care. However, improvements in care may have made a difference to the outcome for 38% of women who died and 74% of women with major obstetric haemorrhage who survived.

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

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## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Public mental health (29/10/18)

Public Health England (PHE) supports the view that everyone, irrespective of where they live, should have the opportunity to achieve good mental health and wellbeing.

PHE provides a range of [resources](#) to support national and local organisations to do this and deliver on the commitments within the NHS report '[Five Year Forward View for Mental Health](#)'. The most recent item added is the [Every Mind Matters](#) campaign, currently being piloted in the Midlands.

This includes the 3 key overlapping areas of public mental health across the life course:

- mental health promotion
- prevention of mental health problems and suicide prevention
- improving lives, supporting recovery and inclusion of people living with mental health problems.

### More students seek mental health support: analysis of FOI responses (29/10/18)

The BBC asked universities across the UK for the numbers of students seeking some form of support. [Analysis](#) of Freedom of Information (FOI) responses by the BBC Shared Data Unit from 82 of 163 universities shows that the number of students seeking mental health support while studying at university has increased by more than 50% in five years.

See also [Not by degrees: improving student mental health in the UK's universities](#), IPPR. September 2017

**See also Education**

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## Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

### 'This Girl Can' campaign reveals new 'Fit Got Real' message (26/10/18)

'[This Girl Can](#)' has launched a new phase of its campaign that is working to drive down the gender gap in sport. '[Fit Got Real](#)' aims to build on the campaign's achievements so far, as well as specifically reaching out to women of backgrounds and ethnicities who feel left behind by traditional exercise.

Sport England research shows that women in lower paid and routine jobs are twice as likely to be inactive as those in senior managerial roles, while South Asian and black women are also more likely to be inactive than white women.

[This Girl Can: Fit Got Real, video](#)  
[Sports England](#)

### Association of BMI with overall and cause-specific mortality (30/10/18)

BMI is known to be strongly associated with all-cause mortality, but few studies have been large enough to reliably examine associations between BMI and a comprehensive range of cause-specific mortality outcomes. For this population-based cohort study researchers used UK primary care data from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) linked to national mortality registration data.

The researchers found that people at the top and bottom ends of the BMI risked having shorter lives. A "healthy" BMI score ranges from 18.5 to 25. Being overweight or underweight could take four years off life expectancy.

The results of the research are published in the [Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology](#) (open access article).

[BBC News Health with BMI calculator](#)

**See also Education**

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## Pharmacy/Prescribing

### Rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans (01/11/18)

The Home Office has issued [Circular 018/2018](#). The circular draws attention to the contents of the Statutory Instrument (SI) – [SI 2018/1055](#), on the rescheduling of cannabis-based products for medicinal use in humans.

For the first time in the UK, expert doctors have been given the option to [legally issue prescriptions](#) for cannabis-based medicines when they agree that their patients could benefit from this treatment. Patients can be prescribed medicinal cannabis by specialist doctors from 1 November 2018.

### Cannabis-based products for medicinal use: Guidance to clinicians (31/10/18)

Following the Government's announcement to reschedule certain cannabis-based products for medicinal use, NHS England has provided [guidance to clinicians](#) following the re-scheduling which sets out our expectations of what this regulatory change will mean in practice for clinicians working in the NHS and in private practice in England.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is about to launch a [consultation](#) for guidance which will be in development with a publication date forecast for 21 October 2019.

[Letter from the Chief Medical Officer and NHS England](#)

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## Public Health/Health Promotion

### Embedding All Our Health from theory to practice: case study (29/10/18)

Public Health England's All Our Health (AOH) framework is a call to action to all health and care professionals to embed prevention within their day to day practice. Through educational materials, tools and resources, AOH helps professionals make an even greater impact in preventing illness, protecting health and promoting wellbeing.

[Manchester Metropolitan University \(MMU\)](#) set out to embed health promotion and prevention skills within the curricula for all nursing, midwifery and care staff.

### Health matters: public health issues (29/10/18)

Health matters is an [information resource](#) from Public Health England which includes infographics, videos, case studies and slide sets alongside written content. This brings together in one place the most informative data and the best evidence of what works in tackling major public health problems.

Each edition of Health matters focuses on a specific public health topic, setting out the scale of the problem and the evidence for cost-effective interventions.

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## Safeguarding

### **Ombudsman: Homeless teenager given tent by council (30/10/18)**

The [Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#) investigated a complaint by Mrs C on her son's (Mr B) behalf that social services staff left him in a tent and a static caravan for several weeks in the summer of 2016 when he was addicted to drugs and homeless aged 17, without properly assessing if he could make decisions about his own safety. This put him at risk and worsened his already poor mental health.

The Ombudsman's report found on numerous occasions Cornwall council, provided accommodation that was inappropriate, it did not properly assess the boy's ability to make decisions about his own safety, and did not do enough to protect him from sexual exploitation or ill health.

Throughout the Ombudsman's report, evidence suggests the council tried to place responsibility for the situation on the boy, because of his actions, rather than provide the right support to a vulnerable child who was suffering from drug addiction and mental ill health.

The investigation also found the council did not properly plan for having enough accommodation for young homeless people and did not coordinate well with other local services such as mental health.

[The Guardian](#)  
[BBC News](#)

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## Screening

### **Breast screening: best practice guidance on leading a breast screening service (01/11/18)**

This [guidance](#), from Public Health England, is aimed at those who are responsible for making sure breast screening services are managed in a professional and effective way. This involves meeting agreed standards and continually striving to improve performance.

The NHS breast screening programme (BSP) covers the screening pathway from identification of the eligible population to diagnosis of women with breast cancer.

The guidance aims to help the directors and senior leadership teams of breast screening services appreciate the full range of their responsibilities. It signposts to other guidance to support and inform them.

### **More women attend for breast screening thanks to success of digital inclusion project (30/10/18)**

An [NHS project](#) using social media to improve health by boosting digital inclusion has led to a 13 per cent increase in first time attendances for breast screening in Stoke-on-Trent over four years.



The local initiative saw information about screening posted on Facebook community groups, which empowered and enabled women to make appointments by reducing their anxiety around breast examinations. It also allowed them to communicate quickly and easily with health practitioners to ask questions about the screening process.

This project is part of NHS Digital's [Widening Digital Participation Programme](#), which is commissioned by NHS England and aims to make digital health services and information accessible to everyone – particularly the most excluded people in society.

Twenty digital inclusion pathfinders are being run across the country in partnership with the charity [Good Things Foundation](#) to test new ways to help people access digital tools to improve their health.

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## Social Care/Welfare

[See Integrated Health and Social Care](#)

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## Workplace

### Stronger protection from violence for NHS staff (31/10/18)

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock has announced a new zero-tolerance approach aiming to protect the NHS workforce against deliberate violence and aggression from patients, their families and the public, and to ensure offenders are punished quickly and effectively.

The most recent NHS staff survey showed that more than 15% of NHS employees have experienced violence from patients, their relatives or the public in the last 12 months – the highest figure for 5 years.

[Speech](#) by Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock  
[News release](#)

### Radiation workers and their health: national study (01/11/18)

The [national registry for radiation workers \(NRRW\)](#) is a long-term follow-up study of the health of radiation workers in the UK. The NRRW studies the effects of low doses of radiation exposed on workers.

The aim of the NRRW is to:

- better understand the risk of occupational low-dose exposure to ionising radiation
- inform regulations and guidelines that protect radiation workers.

### EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit (01/11/18)

The Home Office and UK Visas and Immigration have updated the [toolkit for employers](#) which provides information to support EU citizens and their families in applying to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Scheme will be phased in later this year and will gradually open more widely until it is fully open by the end of March 2019. But there is no rush – those who are resident here by 31 December 2020 will have until 30 June 2021 to make an application. Rights will remain unchanged until then, provided that people were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020.

The toolkit contains leaflets, posters and a briefing pack.

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