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Accident and Emergency

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (08/11/18)

In the latest [report](#) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) the service has moved from Inadequate to Requires Improvement.

In both the emergency operations centre (EOC) and emergency and urgent care (EUC) CQC rated safe, effective, responsive and well-led as requires improvement and rated well-led in resilience as requires improvement.

CQC rated safe, effective and responsive in the trust's resilience core service as good. CQC rated caring as good across all three core services.

[SECAmb news release](#)

[Care Quality Commission statement](#)

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Children/Young People/Families

Child health in 2030 in England (10/18)

In this [report](#) from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) long term historical data on key health outcomes for children and young people was utilised to model projections of outcomes in 2030 in England compared with other European and western countries.

The research looked at mortality, mental health, obesity, accident and emergency attendances, and outpatient attendance. England has poorer health outcomes than the average across the EU15+ (the 15 EU countries in 2004 plus Canada, Australia and Norway) in most areas studied, and the rate of improvement in England for many outcomes is lower than across the EU15+. This means that unless current trends improve, England is likely to fall further behind other wealthy countries over the next decade.

The marked inequalities observed in most key outcomes are likely to widen over the next decade as problems in areas such as infant mortality and obesity are worsening amongst the most deprived section of the population.

The main recommendation of the report is for NHS England to develop a Children and Young People's Health Strategy for England.

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Commissioning and Economics

Supporting public health: children, young people and families (12/11/18)

Public Health England has [updated guidance](#) to support local authorities and providers in commissioning and delivering children's public health services aged 0 to 19 years.

The documents have been updated to reflect new policy drivers and evidence. The documents identify:

- 6 areas where health visitors have the highest impact on the health and wellbeing of children aged 0 to 5 years
- 6 areas where school nurses have the highest impact on the health and wellbeing of school aged children aged 5 to 19 years

The high impact areas support delivery of Healthy Child Programme: pregnancy and the first 5 years of life and Healthy Child Programme: from 5 to 19 years old, and commissioning of health visitor and school nurse services to ensure seamless support across the whole 0 to 19 age range.

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Communities and Local Government

Tackling gambling related harm – a whole council approach (15/11/18)

There is increasing awareness about harmful gambling and its impact on families and local communities, as well as the individuals directly harmed by it. The prevalence of high stakes betting machines on high streets; the significant increase in gambling advertising since the introduction of the Gambling Act over a decade ago; and the rise in online gambling have all contributed to societal concern about gambling in the UK and the harm that can be associated with it.

This [publication](#), from the Local Government Association, provides an overview of problem gambling, and how councils can begin to try to help local residents whose lives are affected by it.

Fixed odds betting terminals (14/11/18)

Fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) are electronic machines, sited in betting shops, which contain a variety of games, including roulette. Each machine accepts bets for amounts up to a pre-set maximum and pays out according to fixed odds on the simulated outcomes of games. The maximum stake on a single bet is £100, the maximum prize is £500.

Critics point out that it is possible to lose large amounts of money and claim that the machines have a causal role in problem gambling.

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing paper](#) looking at the controversy over fixed odds betting terminals, which led to the resignation of [Tracey Crouch MP](#) from her role as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society over the timing of proposed changes.

In a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) of 14 November 2018, Jeremy Wright, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, announced that implementation of the £2 stake would now take place from April 2019.

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Consumer Participation

Self Care Week 12 – 18 November 2018

Self Care Week is an annual national awareness week, organised by the [Self Care Forum](#), that focuses on embedding support for self care across communities, families and generations. Under the banner of “Choose Self Care for Life” the aim is to engage and empower people to better look after their own health.

Whether it is about self-treatable conditions, long term conditions, or lifestyle choices to ensure better physical health and mental wellbeing, this week raises awareness of the huge benefits of people looking after themselves better.

[Factsheets](#)
[NHS England](#)

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Disabilities

Learning Disabilities Health Check Scheme England, Quarter 2, 2018-19 (15/11/18)

The learning disabilities health check scheme is designed to encourage practices to identify all patients aged 14 and over with learning disabilities, to maintain a learning disabilities 'health check' register and offer them an annual health check, which will include producing a health action plan.

The learning disabilities health check scheme operates on a quarterly basis. This [release](#), from NHS Digital, contains data for the second quarter of the 2018-19 reporting year

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Education

Early education and childcare resource pack (14/11/18)

A child's earliest years is their foundation. Local Authorities have a big role across a wide range of services, from housing and health to family support and education.

This [resource pack](#), from the Local Government Association, looks at the ways these responsibilities around education and childcare are delivered in order to give the youngest in society a head start.

School funding in England: FAQs (08/11/18)

Despite the Government's assurances that funding for schools in England is at a record high, and that the way it's being distributed is being made fairer, concerns are still being expressed about the sufficiency of overall school funding and cost pressures faced by schools. In recent months, there have been particular concerns around funding for teacher pay rises, 16-18 provision, and special educational needs provision.

This [briefing paper](#), from the House of Commons Library, aims to give a short, non-technical overview of issues around school funding in England and answer frequently-asked questions on this subject. It points readers toward data on school funding and highlights recent commentary.

See also [16-19 education funding in England since 2010](#)

School meals and nutritional standards (England) (08/11/18)

Nutritional standards are in place for school meals in England, aimed at ensuring that the food provided to pupils in school is nutritious and of high quality, and to promote good health and eating behaviour amongst pupils.

This House of Commons Library [briefing](#) looks at the main recent policy developments regarding school meals in England, including the revised school food standards and provision of free school meals.

See also [Holiday hunger schemes](#)

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Health matters: air pollution (14/11/18)

Long-term exposure to air pollution reduces life expectancy by increasing deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, and from lung cancer. It is estimated that long-term exposure to air pollution in the UK has an annual effect equivalent to 28,000 to 36,000 deaths. We know that air pollution disproportionately impacts those who live in less affluent areas, broadening health inequalities.

This edition of [Health matters](#), published by Public Health England, focuses on air pollution and discusses how local authorities, supported by national policies, have an important role in assessing and improving local air quality.

Extreme weather events related to climate change (09/11/18)

The House of Commons Library produced a [briefing pack](#) ahead of a debate in Westminster Hall on Extreme weather events related to climate change. The pack also contains relevant news items, press releases, Parliamentary material and useful links for further reading.

See also [Climate change explained](#), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

Homelessness: duty to refer – for NHS staff (14/11/18)

On 1 October 2018, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduced a new legal duty on specified public services to refer service users they consider may be homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local housing authority.

For [health services](#) the impact will be on NHS trusts and foundation trusts in the provision of any of the following NHS health services:

- accident and emergency services in a hospital
- urgent treatment centres
- in-patient treatment (of any kind)

[General guidance](#) on the duty to refer has been published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Health Care

Women's Health Taskforce for England (14/11/18)

A Women's Health Taskforce for England is to be launched. [Jackie Doyle-Price MP](#), Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide, is jointly leading the Taskforce with Professor Lesley Regan, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

The Taskforce will explore how improvements can be made in each stage of girls' and women's lives to support them to remain healthy. There will be particular focus on prevention across three key stages in a woman's life - child health and adolescence, young adulthood, and middle age and later life.

[RCOG news release](#)

Community-centred practice: applying All Our Health (14/11/18)

The extent to which we have control over our lives, have good social connections and live in healthy, safe neighbourhoods are all important influences on health. These community-level determinants are protective of good mental and physical health and can buffer against stressors across the life course. However, socio-economic inequalities negatively affect the quality of community life for many. This is not only about the places where people live, but also about the connections between people.

Public Health England has published information for front-line staff to adopt [community-centred ways of working](#) that help improves the health and wellbeing of the most marginalised communities.

See also the full collection of [All our Health](#) resources.

Call to Action: supporting health and social care staff to reduce delayed transfers of care (13/11/18)

Staying in hospital for longer than required drives adverse outcomes for patients. NHS England has published resources to help reduce delayed transfers of care.

The [guides](#) are intended to assist health and social care staff with practical actions that will help the process along. They are accompanied by a [letter](#) from Professor Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer for England, Dr Ruth May, Executive Director of Nursing, NHS Improvement and Hillary Garratt, Director of Nursing.

Urinary tract infection: diagnostic tools for primary care (13/11/18)

This [guidance](#), from Public Health England, describes when to:

- send urine for culture in adults and children
- consider a UTI in adults over 65 years
- consider a UTI in women under 65 years
- consider a UTI in infants and children

The guidance was out for public review from 16 May to 5 June 2018. [Review of users' comments](#) - October 2018

Pressure ulcers: safeguarding adults' protocol (14/11/18)

This [document](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, helps practitioners and managers across health and care organisations to provide caring and quick responses to people at risk of developing pressure ulcers.

It also offers a process for the clinical management of harm removal and reduction where ulcers occur, considering if an adult safeguarding response is necessary. While the treatment of pressure ulcers is mainly clinical, prevention is a shared responsibility

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Tetanus in England: 2017 (15/11/18)

Public Health England has added supplementary [epidemiological data](#) tables to its [annual report](#) on cases of tetanus in England.

Hepatitis C: patient re-engagement exercise (13/11/18)

Untreated hepatitis C infection causes cirrhosis and liver cancer. Very effective, well tolerated oral therapies are now available on the NHS.

To enable people previously diagnosed with hepatitis C to be treated for their infection, NHSE and Public Health England (PHE) have organised a national '[patient re-engagement exercise](#)' to help find and treat people with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

Measles outbreaks across England: situation report (12/11/18)

Between 1 January 2018 and 31 October 2018, there have been 913 laboratory-confirmed measles cases in England. This steep rise in cases (when compared to 259 lab-confirmed measles cases in 2017), was associated with outbreaks linked to importations from Europe that have led to some limited spread in the community, particularly teenagers and young adults who missed out on their MMR vaccine when they were younger.

The measles outbreaks previously reported in different parts of the country are now under control, and there has been a decline in the number of measles cases reported. However [Public Health England](#) is advising the public to ensure they have had 2 doses of MMR vaccine. The MMR vaccine is available to all adults and children who are not up to date with their two doses.

Public Health England warns travellers of rabies risk (12/11/18)

Public Health England has reminded travellers to avoid coming into contact with animals when travelling to rabies affected countries due to the risk of catching the disease.

Rabies is passed on through injuries such as bites and scratches from an infected animal. There are no documented instances of direct human to human transmission.

This [reminder](#) comes after a UK resident died after becoming infected with rabies following a cat bite during a visit to Morocco. There is no risk to the wider public in relation to this case but, as a precautionary measure, health workers and close contacts are being assessed and offered vaccination when necessary.

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[Health Care](#)

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

SPI-M modelling summary for pandemic influenza (16/11/18)

This [document](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, summarises advice from the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Subgroup on Modelling for policy makers on dealing with a pandemic influenza outbreak.

It is updated after each meeting of the subgroup.

Priorities for adult social work research (15/11/18)

Social workers provide valuable services to individuals, families and communities. They help people find solutions to social and practical problems and to access the right care and support. They make sure people are safe from harm or neglect, uphold their human rights and enable them to lead the lives they want as much as possible. Social workers who work with adults, work in a wide range of organisations and settings including local authorities, hospitals, people's own homes and in communities. They work with people with a variety of health and care needs, including mental health, physical and learning disabilities, older age and end of life care.

The [priorities for adult social work research](#) cover a broad range of themes and issues for adult social workers. These will help to improve understanding of the social work approaches and interventions that work and why and help to achieve the best outcomes for people and their carers.

The priorities were developed by the [James Lind Alliance](#)

Vital statistics in the UK: births, deaths and marriages - 2018 update (15/11/18)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published [annual UK and constituent country figures](#) for births, deaths, marriages, divorces, civil partnerships and civil partnership dissolutions.

Exploring technology in care (14/11/18)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has added a new [resource](#) which explores the use of technology in care, looking at the benefits of innovation and updating previously published information on surveillance. The resource will expand as new topics are added.

As well as sharing information, examples and tips about the use of technology in care, CQC has recently been awarded funding to investigate and test new ways of engaging with innovative providers to meet the needs of an ageing population.

[news release](#)

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Shifting the centre of gravity: making place-based, person-centred health and care a reality (14/11/18)

In 2016, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Local Government Association (LGA), NHS Clinical Commissioners and the NHS Confederation published [Stepping up to the place](#) which set out a shared vision for transforming health, care and wellbeing and the key actions that national and local organisations should take to integrate health and care.

The examples in this report, [Shifting the centre of gravity](#) show what can be achieved by system leaders and staff from local government, the NHS, the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and service user and carer groups working together to improve health and deliver person-centred care.

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Peer mentor emotional well-being programme – HM Prison Swaleside (14/11/18)

Support workers within Her Majesty's Prison Swaleside (HMPS) identified unwarranted variation in the availability of psychological support for prisoners experiencing lower level mental health problems. The support workers developed and implemented a dedicated Emotional Well-being (EWB) scheme involving peer mentors, which led to better outcomes, experiences and use of resources within the prison.

The [case study](#) is published by NHS England.

ONS: How much do you really know about crime? (12/11/18)

Crime is something that most people will come across at some point in their lives, or some may have first-hand experience of being victim or witness to a crime. But although we encounter crime in one way or another, whether through headlines, conversations, or experience, it's easy for our perception of crime to be distorted.

The [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) offers a better understanding of what the latest data show is happening in England and Wales.

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Long-term Conditions

World Diabetes Day 14 November 2018

The [International Diabetes Federation \(IDF\)](#) is an umbrella organization of over 230 national diabetes associations in 170 countries and territories. It represents the interests of the growing number of people with diabetes and those at risk. November is diabetes awareness month.

To coincide with World Diabetes Day, Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England, has [announced](#) action to end the current variation patients with Type 1 diabetes in some parts of the country are facing to access Freestyle Libre. The wearable sensor does away with the need for inconvenient and sometimes painful finger prick blood tests by relaying glucose levels to a smart phone or e-reader. NHS England will ensure the device, which is the size of a £2 coin and sits on the arm, is available on prescription for all patients who qualify for it in line with NHS clinical guidelines.

[Diabetes UK](#)
[House of Lords Library briefing](#)

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Maternity/Infants

Each Baby Counts: 2018 progress report (13/11/18)

The [latest report](#) from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Each Baby Counts clinical initiative shows there was an increase in the number completed local investigations into stillbirths, neonatal deaths and severe brain injuries that occurred from incidents during term labour in 2016 across the UK, when compared to 2015.

The findings show that different care might have led to a different outcome in almost three quarters of stillbirths, neonatal deaths and severe brain injuries included in the review. There was an average of seven contributory factors per incident and this shows the complex relationship between clinical and non-clinical factors.

In almost half (45%) of the affected babies, guidelines and best practice were not followed. Reasons for not following guidelines included gaps in training, lack of recognition of problems, communication issues, heavy workload, staffing levels and local guidelines not being based on best available evidence.

[RCOG news release](#)
[Royal College of Midwives](#)

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health of men and boys: inquiry launched (16/11/18)

Awareness of the mental health problems affecting men and boys has increased in recent years, and it is recognised as a serious issue:

- According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), just over three out of four people who take their own lives are men (76%); this is the biggest cause of death for men under 35.
- 12.5% of men in the UK are suffering from one of the common mental health disorders (ONS).
- Men are three times more likely than women to become alcohol dependent (Health and Social Care Information Centre).
- In a survey conducted for the Men's Mental Health Forum, 12% of men said that the last time they took time off work to see a GP was because they were "constantly feeling stressed or under pressure" and 11% because of "prolonged feelings of sadness."

The Women and Equalities Committee of the House of Commons has launched a new [inquiry](#) into the mental health of men and boys. The Committee is inviting written submissions to the inquiry by Monday 18 February 2019.

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

[See Education](#)

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Older People

Strategy for our Veterans (UK) (14/11/18)

On 14 November, the UK wide [Strategy for our Veterans](#) was published. The strategy set the principles and aims needed to continue to meet the needs of older veterans as well as the wider Veteran community over the next ten years, and set the right conditions for society to empower, and support, them for the next 100 years.

This UK government consultation paper complements the Strategy for our Veterans, by gathering information to inform how it could be implemented across the UK except for devolved matters in Scotland and Wales. The [consultation](#) will run until 21 February 2019.

See also background briefing papers from the [House of Commons](#) and [House of Lords](#) libraries

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Prescribing Costs in Hospitals and the Community, England 2017/18 (15/11/18)

This [report](#), from NHS Digital, shows the overall cost at list price, before any discounts, of medicines used in hospitals and those used in primary care. It also looks at the medicines positively appraised by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

All costs given in this report are medicine costs at list price before any discounts. Where hospital and total costs are stated throughout the report the figures refer to estimated costs at list price. Cost at list price is the basic cost of a drug

excluding VAT and is not necessarily the price the NHS paid. It does not take account of any contract prices or discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income, so the amount the NHS paid will be different.

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Public Health/Health Promotion

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Safeguarding

Briefing on working with risk for Safeguarding Adults Boards (13/11/18)

This [briefing paper](#) is produced by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) in collaboration with Making Connections, Isle of Wight Ltd. It is based on work at two LGA/ADASS workshops (facilitated by Making Connections in April/May 2018) on working with risk in the context of Making Safeguarding Personal. It draws on input at the workshops from over 100 representatives from Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs).

The paper is intended to provide support to SABs and partner organisations in producing and gaining a shared commitment to partnership guidance on working with risk and then supporting its implementation in front line practice.

[See also Health Care](#)

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Screening

Cancer screening to be overhauled (15/11/18)

Professor Sir Mike Richards will lead a major overhaul of national cancer screening programmes as part of a renewed drive to improve care and save lives, NHS England has [announced](#).

Sir Mike, who was the NHS' first cancer director and is the former CQC chief inspector of hospitals, will lead a review team to assess current screening programmes and recommend how they should be organised, developed and improved. It will also look to learn lessons from recent issues around breast and cervical screening.

As part of the process, the review will advise NHS England and Public Health England on the best operational delivery model for current screening programmes, including possible changes to currently outsourced provision.

The review is expected to report by summer 2019.

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Social Care/Welfare

Children looked after in England including adoption: 2017 to 2018 (15/11/18)

This [statistical release](#), from the Department for Education, provides information about looked-after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2018.

At 31 March 2018, there were 75,420 looked after children in England, up 4% on 31 March 2017. Both the number of children starting to be looked after and the number ceasing to be looked after fell; 32,050 children started to be looked after (down 3% on last year) and 29,860 ceased to be looked after (down 5%). 3,820 children ceased to be looked after due to adoption, a decrease of 13% on 2017, continuing the drop in numbers seen last year and down from a peak of 5,360 adoptions in 2015.

See also

[Looked-after children statistics in England: guide](#)
[Local Government Association response](#)

Kent relaunches website for children in care (15/11/18)

Kent County Council (KCC) has [relaunched](#) its website for children in care and care leavers to make it more accessible.

[Kent Cares Town](#) was launched in 2012 as a one-stop shop for young people and professionals to access information around being in care.

The website is run by Virtual School Kent (VSK), the service responsible for championing the voice, progress and educational attainment of children in care and care leavers.

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Workforce Development

The health care workforce in England: make or break? (15/11/18)

In advance of the publication of the NHS long-term plan, this [briefing](#), from the Health Foundation, King's Fund, and Nuffield Trust, highlights the scale of workforce challenges now facing the health service and the threat this poses to the delivery and quality of care over the next 10 years. It sets out the reasons why the long-term plan and supporting workforce strategy must address the urgent and mounting challenges facing the health care workforce.

The briefing will be followed in the coming weeks by a more in-depth report that explores five key levers available nationally and locally that could help ameliorate the workforce crisis affecting both health and social care.

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

Mind the Gap: An Investigation into Maternity Training for Frontline Professionals Across the UK (06/11/18)

This report was compiled by [Baby Lifeline](#) to provide an overall picture of maternity training in the NHS. The report reviews the extent to which existing guidance and recommendations on maternity training are being followed by NHS Trusts, in the light of government ambitions to halve stillbirths, neonatal deaths and harm by 2025.

The [Mind the Gap report](#) notes that most baby deaths and injuries (between 76-79 per cent) investigated by national bodies are avoidable with different care, and that training of frontline staff can have a significant impact in reducing this amount. It references the positive impact of high-quality training on saving lives.

The figures were gathered by Baby Lifeline through a Freedom of Information request sent to all NHS Trusts in the UK, in July 2018.

[Royal College of Midwives](#)

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