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Arts and Health

Announcing the Wellcome Book Prize Longlist 2019 (05/02/19)

Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, the prize rewards exceptional works of literature that illuminate the many ways that health, medicine and illness touch our lives. With gender, identity and mental health emerging as prominent themes, the [longlist](#) for the Wellcome Book Prize 2019 is:

- Amateur: A true story about what makes a man by Thomas Page McBee
- Astroturf by Matthew Sperling
- Educated by Tara Westover
- Freshwater by Akwaeke Emezi
- Heart: A history by Sandeep Jauhar
- Mind on Fire: A memoir of madness and recovery by Arnold Thomas Fanning
- Murmur by Will Eaves
- My Year of Rest and Relaxation by Ottessa Moshfegh
- Polio: The odyssey of eradication by Thomas Abraham
- Sight by Jessie Greengrass
- The Trauma Cleaner: One woman's extraordinary life in death, decay and disaster by Sarah Krasnostein
- This Really Isn't About You by Jean Hannah Edelstein

The shortlist for the prize will be announced on Tuesday 19 March, with the winner revealed at an evening ceremony on Wednesday 1 May at Wellcome Collection.

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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Review of national cancer screening programmes in England (06/02/19)

A [review](#) of national cancer screening programmes in England has been commissioned by NHS England. The review is expected to culminate in a report and recommendations to the Board of NHS England about the future commissioning and delivery of cancer screening programmes in England.

Whilst the scope of the review will be limited to cancer, it is recognised that the recommendations may have implications for the organisation of other screening programmes. The review will also consider the wider implications of cancer screening on diagnostic capacity and the associated workforce needed to improve the uptake and effectiveness of cancer screening programmes, in the context of other initiatives to promote the early diagnosis of cancer.

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Children/Young People/Families

The role of the independent reviewing officer (IRO) (06/02/19)

The role of the independent reviewing officer (IRO), a social worker who scrutinises local authority care plans to ensure they serve children's best interests, came into existence back in 2004. Many independent reviewing officers have a positive impact on children's lives, but recent court judgments show the system must enable them to do their jobs properly.

Research findings about the effectiveness of the role have been mixed. There is evidence of much effective practice in local authorities where the role is working well.

The [National Association of Independent Reviewing Officers \(NAIRO\)](#) has put together a dossier of cases, which makes clear that the intervention of IROs has significantly improved the lives of many children in care.

But some serious issues have also been identified. Practice among IROs has been found to be extremely patchy across local authorities, and there are some problems that emerge routinely, which have been identified by Ofsted and the judiciary.

Alex Turner of [Community Care](#) examines the role together with Jon Fayle, a co-chair of NAIRO.

[Independent reviewing officers' handbook](#)

[Foster Care in England: a review for the Department for Education](#), February 2018

[Care Planning and the Role of the Independent Reviewing Officer](#), University of East Anglia, October 2015

[The role of Independent Reviewing Officers \(IROs\) in England](#), National Children's Bureau, 2014

State of the Nation's Foster Care 2019 (03/02/19)

The [Fostering Network](#) gathers the views of foster carers in a survey conducted every two years to find out what key issues need to be addressed.

Three-quarters of looked after children in the UK are cared for by foster families. This means that improving the outcomes for children in care must start with improving the practical and financial support for foster carers who play such a vital role in transforming children's lives.

Key findings include:

- Six in 10 foster carers say that the allowance – the money they are given to spend on a fostered child – does not meet the full costs, with many saying that they are having to dip into their own pockets.
- Too many foster carers do not feel that they are treated as an equal and valued member of the team by their fostered child's social workers, with only 58 per cent saying that they do.
- Many foster carers look after children with far more complex needs than their peers outside of the care system, highlighting the increasing demands on the role.
- When being asked to look after a child outside of their usual age range and expertise, more than three-quarters of foster carers are not given the additional support or training which would allow them to best meet the child's particular needs.

See also [Fostering in England 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018](#) Ofsted, January 2019

[News release](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

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Commissioning and Economics

Services for victims of sexual assault: letter to NHS commissioners (06/02/19)

Jackie Doyle-Price, the Minister for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention and Kate Davies, Director of Health & Justice, Armed Forces and Sexual Assault Services Commissioning have written to NHS Commissioners.

The [letter](#) asks commissioners to look at how they are meeting their responsibilities for victims and survivors of sexual assault. It sets out the importance of commissioning better services that support victims in an informed and consistent way.

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Communities and Local Government

Shaping healthy places: exploring the district council role in health (07/02/19)

District councils are not formally responsible for public health as detailed in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, but they still have a huge role in it. They are providers of key services which have a direct impact on the social determinants of health, such as housing, planning, leisure, recreation and environmental health which directly impact on the health of the population.

This [new report](#) from the Local Government Association presents case study examples showing how district councils have improved the health of their local areas. Sevenoaks District Council features with housing as a case study.

Improving the public's health: local government delivers (06/02/19)

Good public health, drawing on all of local government's functions, can make a real, large-scale difference to: promoting the independence of people with long-term chronic conditions; preventing ill health and therefore to reducing pressures on social care and the NHS; improving people's lives and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

This new [report](#) from the Local Government Association shows the impact of work over the past six years since councils assumed responsibility for the public's health. [Duncan Selbie](#), Chief Executive of Public Health England writes:

"Of the 112 public health performance indicators, 80% have either remained stable or improved, which is no mean feat given their challenging financial situation and increasing demand. This is well worth a read."

See also [An effective custodian of the public's health](#)

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Disabilities

Assistive technology research and development work: 2017 to 2018 (05/02/19)

This [annual report for 2017 to 2018](#), published by the Department for Health and Social Care, sets out government-funded projects supporting the development, introduction and evaluation of assistive technology.

The projects can help increase the independence or wellbeing of disabled and older people.

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Drugs/Alcohol

Local Alcohol Profiles for England: February 2019 data update (05/02/19)

Alcohol use has health and social consequences borne by individuals, their families, and the wider community. Reducing harmful drinking is one of 7 priority areas that Public Health England (PHE) is focusing efforts on securing improvement.

PHE has published an update to Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE). The aim of the profile is to provide information for local government, health organisations, commissioners and other agencies to monitor the impact of alcohol on local communities, and to monitor the services and initiatives that have been put in place to prevent and reduce the harmful impact of alcohol.

This [update](#) includes a statistical commentary and slide set.

Statistics on Alcohol, England 2019 (05/02/19)

This [statistical report](#), from NHS Digital, presents a range of information on alcohol use and misuse by adults and children drawn together from a variety of sources for England unless otherwise stated.

Key figures include:

- 21% adults (16+) drank more than 14 units of alcohol per week, of which 28% are men and 14% are women.
- 337,870 hospital admissions in 2017/18 primarily due to alcohol consumption (narrow measure).
- 5,843 alcohol-specific deaths in 2017, which is 6% higher than 2016 and an increase of 16% on 2007.

[News release](#)
[Alcohol Policy UK](#)

Alcohol: school-based interventions: guidance in development (08/02/19)

The [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#) is updating [guideline PH7](#) (published in 2007) on alcohol interventions in secondary and further education.

Data suggests that alcohol consumption among young people has reduced in recent years. However, NICE's independent guideline committee recognised that risky drinking can still be an issue for young people and that some pupils may be more vulnerable to alcohol misuse.

New [draft recommendations](#) will support the Department for Education's (DfE) plan to make alcohol education a compulsory component of [personal, social and health education \(PSHE\)](#) in all state-funded schools in England from September 2020.

The guideline, developed with Public Health England, advises a positive approach to alcohol education; inviting classroom discussion and wider school policies to embed a 'whole-school approach' to PSHE.

The expected publication date is 12 August 2019.

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Education

Tackling disadvantage in the early years (07/02/19)

The Education Committee of the House of Commons has published a [report](#) on the Government's approach to early years education. The Committee calls for Government action in three key areas to help tackle the social injustices which currently exist in early years education and childcare.

First, the Government should reform the 30 hours free childcare offer and target provision to early education for disadvantaged children. Second, maintained nursery schools should be fully funded. Third, the Government should develop a comprehensive strategy to join up early years services and build on the success of children's centres and other provision, such as family hubs.

[News release](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

Skipping School: Invisible Children (04/02/19)

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, has published a report, [Skipping School: Invisible Children](#), shining a light on the increasing number of children who are being educated at home. The report is also the subject of a Channel 4 Dispatches documentary. In 2018 there were almost 60,000 children in England being home educated, but as parents do not have to register home-educated children there could be as many as 80,000.

The Children's Commissioner's report notes that while there are many parents who make a positive philosophical choice to educate their children at home, and do an excellent job, this is not always the case. There are children in England receiving no school education. The families of some feel they have no choice but to home-educate and are struggling without help. Other children are 'off-grid', invisible to local authorities.

The Commissioner is now calling for a compulsory home education register more support for families who home educate, a greater oversight of home-schooled children and decisive action against unregistered schools. She also later this year

collect data from all councils in England and publish it, school by school, identifying which schools have high numbers of children being withdrawn into home education which may suggest practices of 'off-rolling'.

[News release](#)
[Local Government Association](#)
[Children and Young People Now](#)

See also Drugs/Alcohol

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End of Life/Palliative Care

End of Life Care Profiles: February 2019 data update (05/02/19)

The end of life care profiles [data update](#) for February 2019 has been published by Public Health England (PHE).

The profiles provide a snapshot overview of end of life care across England. They are intended to help local government and health services to improve care at the end of life.

[Statistical commentary](#)

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Health Care

A Care Home Coordination Centre (CHCC) for care home support (07/02/19)

The Advanced Nurse Practitioner at North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust led on the development and implementation of a new Care Home Coordination Centre (CHCC) to support people living in care homes to remain in their homes where safe and appropriate to so do. This clinical pathway redesign is resulting in reduced hospital attendance and admission and supporting people to be seen at home.

This [case study](#) is published by NHS England in [The Atlas of Shared Learning](#).

See also Pharmacy/Prescribing

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Health Protection/Emergencies

WHO: Measles in Europe (07/02/19)

More children in the [WHO European Region](#) are being vaccinated against measles than ever before; but progress has been uneven between and within countries, leaving increasing clusters of susceptible individuals unprotected, and resulting in a record number of people affected by the virus in 2018.

Measles killed 72 children and adults in the European Region in 2018. According to monthly country reports for January to December 2018 (received as of 01 February 2019), 82 596 people in 47 of 53 countries contracted measles. In countries reporting hospitalization data, nearly 2/3 (61%) of measles cases were hospitalized. The total number of people infected with the virus in 2018 was the highest this decade: 3 times the total reported in 2017 and 15 times the record low number of people affected in 2016.

Ukraine reported the highest number of measles cases last year - more than 10 times that of the next highest, Serbia. Over 90% of cases were in 10 countries, including France, Italy and Greece, according to [BBC News](#).

[BBC News](#) has also reported that authorities in the Philippines have declared an outbreak of the virus in several areas including the capital, Manila. As of 26 January, there have been 1,813 measles cases and 26 deaths, according to the Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau. That is a 74% increase from 2018.

[WHO Measles factsheet](#), November 2018

[PHE Measles: guidance, data and analysis](#), January 2019

[Measles: the green book, chapter 21](#)

[NHS Health A – Z: Measles](#)

Acute flaccid paralysis syndrome (07/02/19)

[Acute flaccid paralysis \(AFP\)](#) is a rare but serious neurological illness which is normally due to inflammation of the spinal cord, known as acute flaccid myelitis (AFM). AFP and AFM causes weakness of the arms, legs or face. In the past, AFP was commonly due to poliovirus infection.

The success of the vaccination programme means that polio is now very rare internationally and has been eliminated in the UK; however, AFP may be linked to other viral infections including non-polio enteroviruses.

Public Health England (PHE) has seen an increase in reports of unexplained acute neurological symptoms, particularly AFP, a total of 40 cases have been reported scattered across the UK in 2018. The majority of cases have been in children.

[News release](#)

Weekly national flu reports: 2018 to 2019 season (07/02/19)

Public Health England publishes [national influenza reports](#) tracking seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory diseases in the UK.

- During week 05 influenza continued to circulate in the community with activity indicators at Low intensity.
- The impact of flu on healthcare services is at High impact for hospitalisations and ICU/HDU influenza admissions.
- Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 is the dominant circulating subtype.

The Department of Health & Social Care has issued an [alert](#) on the prescription of antiviral medicines by GPs.

Tuberculosis in England: quarterly reports (04/02/19)

These reports, published by Public Health England, present the most recent [quarterly data](#) on TB case notifications and key TB indicators made to the Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance system (ETS) by nurses, physicians, microbiologists and surveillance officers in England.

Although data for the latest quarters are provisional and subject to revision, quarterly figures are released for the purpose of providing timely figures to inform the ongoing work to implement the [Collaborative TB Strategy for England 2015 to 2020](#).

Influenza-like illness (ILI): managing outbreaks in schools (01/02/19)

Public Health England has published [updated guidance](#) for local PHE Centre health protection teams about assessing and managing outbreaks of influenza-like illness in schools.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) (01/02/19)

MERS-CoV is a viral respiratory disease. It is a new strain of coronavirus first identified by the Netherlands in 2012. Symptoms include fever and cough that progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

Public Health England has published two updated documents in the [MERS-CoV: clinical management and guidance](#) collection:

[MERS-CoV risk assessment](#)

[MERS-CoV: public health investigation and management of close contacts of confirmed cases](#)

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Abortion statistics for England and Wales: 2017 (05/02/19)

This [report](#), published by the Department of Health and Social Care, sets out data and commentary on abortion statistics in England and Wales for 2017. The statistics are obtained from the abortion notification forms returned to the chief medical officers of England and Wales. Clinic statistics have been published for the first time.

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.
- 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.
- 4,633 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).

What quantitative and qualitative methods have been developed to measure the implementation of a life-course approach in public health policies at the national level? (2019)

A life-course approach to health and well-being has become a pillar in health policy-making. However, strategies for implementation of a life-course approach, and a plan for monitoring and evaluating this implementation, are lacking. This scoping review identified a lack of literature with a focus on measurement of the implementation of a life-course approach.

The [report](#), from WHO Europe, provides suggestions from research on a life-course approach in public health interventions and national-level strategies that could aid policy-makers in developing a measurement framework. For example, Member States using a life-course approach in policy at a population level could report on existing interventions in key stages of the life-course using existing survey platforms and routinely collected quantitative data. Ideally, a monitoring and evaluation framework collecting data longitudinally across different life stages over time should be created for Member States.

What you need to know about digital health systems (05/02/19)

What do 3D-printed prosthetics, personalized medicine, therapies that use virtual reality and smart watches that monitor vital signs all have in common? They rely on new digital technologies to deliver health services to people. Such innovative

technologies can be incorporated into health systems to help them work more efficiently and effectively, and to provide greater access to health services for the people they serve.

As the [WHO Symposium on the Future of Digital Health Systems in the European Region](#) takes place in Copenhagen, WHO Europe has written a [summary guide](#) to the application of digital technology to health systems.

Professor Dame Sally Davies to step down as Chief Medical Officer (08/02/19)

Professor Dame Sally Davies will [leave her post](#) as Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Medical Advisor to the UK government later this year to take up a new role.

After 9 years as Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies DBE FRS FMedSci has now been appointed by the Queen as Master of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Dame Sally was the first female Chief Medical Officer. She became Director General of Research and Development for the NHS, created the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and later played a central role in the establishment of Genomics England.

She is best known for successfully paving the way for international and domestic efforts in the fight against antimicrobial resistance and leading the UK government's response to health emergencies.

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International

Disease Detectives: Responding to the public health challenge of the Rohingya crisis (08/02/19)

Public Health England teams respond to public health emergencies both at home and abroad. Duncan Selbie draws attention to the Disease Detectives series which showcase their involvement cutting-edge science and research.

The [latest edition](#) looks at the public health challenges posed by the Rohingya migrant crisis in Bangladesh. Research nurse Emilio Hornsey has undertaken three deployments to Cox's Bazaar working on an outbreak of diphtheria and developing proposals for managing healthcare waste and reflects on his experiences.

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Behind Closed Doors: Through the Eyes of The Child (06/02/19)

One in five children in the UK has lived with an adult who was or is a victim of domestic violence. 750,000 children each year see or suffer abuse which affects them forever.

A [documentary](#) aired on BBC Two this week follows children and their families as they go through the emotional aftermath of domestic violence. Shot over the course of three years, and working with local charities in Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police, the film has unprecedented access to children who have all witnessed or experienced domestic violence, meeting senior social workers to help understand how children are affected by domestic abuse.

Please note the documentary is available for a limited period and may require registering and signing in to BBC iPlayer.

See also

[Domestic abuse inquiry report](#), House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, October 2018

[Transforming the response to domestic abuse: consultation response and draft bill](#). Home Office and Ministry of Justice, January 2019

[NSPCC](#)

The nature of violent crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (07/02/19)

The Office for National Statistics has published [information](#) covering statistics on violent offences recorded by the police in the year ending March 2018 and violent crimes estimated by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in the same year.

Over the last two decades the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has shown long-term reductions in estimates of violent crime. Victimization rates decreased from 4.7% of adults being a victim of violent crime in 1995 to 1.7% in the year ending March 2018. However, over the last four years levels of violent crime measured by the CSEW have remained fairly flat, indicating a change in the previous downward trend.

While the overall level of violent crime showed no change compared with the previous year, there is evidence of increases in some lower-volume, higher-harm violent offences recorded by the police.

The number of homicides recorded by the police showed a fourth consecutive annual rise in the year ending March 2018, following a long-term decline.

Police recorded crime and NHS data have also indicated rises in the number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments over the last four years. These offences tend to be concentrated in London and other metropolitan areas.

Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (07/02/19)

The Office for National Statistics has published [data and analysis](#) of information held within the Home Office Homicide Index, which contains detailed record-level information about each homicide recorded by police in England and Wales.

Main points include:

- There were 726 homicides in the year ending March 2018, 20 more (3% increase) than in the previous year. However, recent trends in homicide are affected by the recording of exceptional incidents with multiple victims such as the terrorist attacks in London and Manchester, and events at Hillsborough in 1989. If these are excluded, then the number of homicides increased by 89, or 15%, from 606 to 695. The number of homicides was the highest since the year ending March 2008, when 729 were recorded.
- There were 285 homicides where the method of killing was by a knife or sharp instrument, the highest number since the Home Office Homicide Index began in 1046.
- The rise in homicide seen in recent years has been most pronounced in male victims and those in younger age groups.

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

UK CMO commentary on screen time and social media map of reviews (07/01/19)

In 2018, the UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) commissioned independent researchers at the [EPPI-Centre](#), Social Science Research Unit, UCL Institute of Education, University College London to map published research on screen time,

social media, and children and young people's mental health. They were commissioned through the NIHR Policy Research Programme.

This research is published in [Screen-based activities and children and young people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing: a systematic map of reviews](#).

The UK Chief Medical Officers have also published a [commentary](#) on this work. This includes their advice for parents and carers, and their recommendations for other stakeholders.

Suicide prevention profile: February 2019 update (05/02/19)

The suicide prevention profile has been produced to help develop understanding at a local level and support an intelligence-driven approach to suicide prevention. It collates and presents a range of publicly available data on suicide, associated prevalence, risk factors, and service contact among groups at increased risk. It provides planners, providers and stakeholders with the means to profile their area and benchmark against similar populations.

This update of [data](#) from Public Health England is accompanied by a [statistical commentary](#).

Don't be left in the dark: children and young people's mental health (04/02/19)

At least one in eight children and young people are affected by mental health problems. Young people are increasingly struggling with problems like anxiety, depression and self-harm, with nearly 19,000 young people admitted to hospital after harming themselves in 2015 - a 14 per cent rise over three years. Society is also just beginning to understand how the increasing prevalence of social media in young people's lives may negatively impact their emotional health.

This [short guide](#), from the Local Government Association, provides an overview of the challenges facing mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people.

Personal and economic well-being, UK: July to September 2018 (04/02/19)

The Office for National Statistics has published a [release](#) which combines analysis of economic well-being with personal, subjective well-being. It looks at trends and expands on the agenda of considering measures beyond GDP. The change in name highlights that both personal and economic well-being are being considered.

In the latest quarter, economic indicators such as income and spending continue to increase, however, longer term, there is a slowdown of household conditions, also seen in a levelling off of people's personal well-being and people's perception of the future has been worsening.

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

PHE data and analysis tools: child obesity (05/01/19)

Public Health England (PHE) provides [data and analysis tools](#) and resources to help local government and health service professionals make decisions and plans to improve people's health and reduce inequalities in their area.

A new presentation has been added:

Regional Patterns and trends in child obesity (including a presentation for the South East)

Please note you will need to scroll down to the title, a click on the link brings up the available presentations

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Older People

A falls improvement programme for people with Dementia (07/02/19)

The ward at Harplands Hospital, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, specifically provides care to the older persons' population with service users admitted directly from the neighbouring acute Trust for up to 28 days for a period of assessment. The ward cares for people with complex physical health needs alongside organic illnesses. Many of these service users have a diagnosis of organic illness, namely Alzheimer's and Dementia. These conditions present with other co-morbidities putting service users at increased risk of falls.

A Ward Manager developed a programme of work to reduce falls on the ward through active identification of predisposing factors. The programme has shown improved experiences and outcomes. The team also found that if a service user's nutritional and hydration needs are met, the potential risk of a fall can be reduced. There has been a reduction in readmission to acute services over the last 12 months.

This [case study](#) is published by NHS England in [The Atlas of Shared Learning](#).

Visually Impaired OLder People's Exercise programme for falls prevenTion (VIOLET) (06/02/19)

The visually impaired have a higher risk of falling and are likely to avoid activity.

This study set out to adapt the existing Falls Management Exercise (FaME) programme, which is delivered in the community, for visually impaired older people (VIOP) and to investigate the feasibility of conducting a definitive randomised controlled trial of this adapted intervention.

The researchers concluded that although adaptation, recruitment and delivery were successful, the findings (particularly from qualitative research with instructors and participants) indicated that VIOP with low to moderate falls risk could be integrated into mainstream programmes with some adaptations. A future definitive trial should consider graduated exercises appropriate to ability and falls risk within mainstream provision.

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

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Cough (acute): antimicrobial prescribing, NG120 (02/19)

This [guideline](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for acute cough associated with an upper respiratory tract infection or acute bronchitis in adults, young people and children. It aims to limit antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance.

There is also a [2-page visual summary](#) of the recommendations, including tables to support prescribing decisions.

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Public Health Outcomes Framework: proposed changes 2019 to 2020 (05/02/19)

Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care have been seeking views on changes to the Public Health Outcomes Framework which is due to be updated in summer 2019. The framework was established in 2012 and its indicators are reviewed every 3 years.

Due to technical issues with access to the online survey the [consultation](#) has been extended until 19 February 2019.

Public health outcomes framework: February 2019 data update (05/02/19)

Public Health England (PHE) has published the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) [quarterly data update](#) for February 2019.

The PHOF sets out a vision for public health. This includes the desired outcomes and the indicators that will help an understanding of how well public health is being improved and protected.

It aims to reflect a focus not only on how long people live, but on how well they live at all stages of life.

[PHE Health Matters blog](#)

See also Communities and Local Government

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Safeguarding

Female genital mutilation: resource pack (04/02/19)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in the UK. Anyone who commits FGM faces up to 14 years in prison, a fine, or both. Anyone found guilty of failing to protect a girl from risk of FGM faces up to 7 years in prison, a fine, or both.

The Home Office has published updated [guidance](#) on FGM for local authorities, professional services and specialist voluntary organisations which also includes case studies and materials.

The [National FGM Centre](#) also has detailed resources on the subject.

See also

Schools

Legislation/Crime/Prisons

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Screening

Diabetic eye screening: cohort management (06/02/19)

This [guidance](#), from Public Health England, explains the management of the cohort (people on the programme register) for the NHS diabetic eye screening (DES) programme.

The guidance was first published in 2012, and this is its first update. It is part of the [Diabetic eye screening: commission and provide](#) collection.

NHS screening programmes: KPI reports 2018 to 2019 (06/02/19)

The key performance indicators (KPIs) are used to measure how the NHS screening programmes are performing and aim to give a high-level overview of programme quality.

The [files](#) published on a quarterly basis are:

- the antenatal and newborn (ANNB) KPI data tables
- the young person and adult (YPA) KPI data tables
- an accompanying data report.

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Social Care/Welfare

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Workplace

Juggling work and unpaid care: a growing issue (05/02/19)

New research by Carers UK reveals that 2.6 million have quit their job to care for a loved one who is older, disabled or seriously ill, with nearly half a million (468,000) leaving their job in the last two years alone - more than 600 people a day. This is a 12 per cent increase since Carers UK and YouGov polled the public in 2013.

The [findings](#) also show that more people are caring than previously thought, with almost 5 million workers now juggling their paid job with caring – a dramatic rise compared with Census 2011 figures of 3 million.

The research emphasises the need for UK employers to support the rapidly increasing number of staff with caring responsibilities to stay in the workforce. Previous research shows those aged 45-64 are most likely to have a caring responsibility, providing a strong driver for employers to support and retain some of their most skilled and experienced employees

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