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## Accident and Emergency

### The state of care in independent ambulance services (08/03/19)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is calling on independent ambulance services, commissioners and the wider system to do more to make sure patients are safe, following concerns identified during its inspections.

In a new national [report](#) CQC presents an analysis of the findings from its comprehensive inspection programme of independent ambulance services in England.

CQC's report reveals that the quality and safety of independent ambulance services varies greatly. Many services inspected had a poor understanding of governance which often led to weak recruitment processes. Many providers offered either no or very limited staff training. The standard of medicines management was extremely variable.

Inspectors found some good practice in infection control and vehicle maintenance. However, in other cases they found vehicles that had not been regularly serviced, with missing or faulty equipment and an absence of regular equipment checks.

[News release](#)

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## Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

### Cancer services profiles (05/03/19)

The [cancer services profiles](#) have been updated with data for Two Week Wait conversion rate metrics for the 2017 to 2018 financial year. All other indicators for the cancer services profile for 2018 were released on 4 December 2018. These profiles present data at GP, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and national level.

The cancer services profiles have been designed to support commissioners and health professionals to assess the impact of cancer on their local population and make decisions about services.

These profiles replace the GP cancer profiles that were previously presented in the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit.

### See also Screening

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## Children/Young People/Families

### On the Sidelines: The Economic and Personal Cost of Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence (05/03/19)

Around 500,000 children in the UK today have been exposed to severe domestic violence. More than 1 million children each year are exposed to domestic abuse and more than half of those who experience domestic abuse as a child will go on to be a victim in adulthood.

New [analysis](#) from charity Pro Bono Economics, carried out for charity [Hestia](#), highlights the personal and financial cost of children exposed to severe domestic violence who are not given support to overcome their trauma.

[Children and Young People Now](#)

### The EIF Guidebook (2019)

The [EIF Guidebook](#), published online by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF), provides information about early intervention programmes that have been evaluated and shown to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The Guidebook serves as an important starting point for commissioners to find out more about effective early interventions, and for programme designers and providers to find out more about what good evidence of impact looks like and how it can be captured.

[Explanatory leaflet](#)

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## Commissioning and Economics

### Public must see benefits from changes to NHS commissioning (08/03/19)

The NHS Long Term Plan sets out the intention for Integrated Care Systems to cover the whole of England by 2021. This will result in a significant reduction in the number of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

The changes in organisational structures since 2012 have been particularly confusing and rapid. The changes make it challenging for taxpayers to understand who in their local area is accountable for health spending and performance.

This [report](#) from the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons expresses concern about the impact on patient outcomes if the performance of CCGs does not improve, especially as they become responsible for commissioning services across larger populations.

[News release](#)

**See also Long-term Conditions**

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## Communities and Local Government

### Breaking the cycle of youth violence (04/03/19)

Violent crimes, such as murders and gun and knife crime, account for around one per cent of all crime. However, the impact on families and society are huge in terms of lives and communities destroyed.

The Local Government Association has published a [report](#) on the subject which includes cases studies of initiatives in cities, county and district councils.

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## Consumer Participation

### Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2018 (07/03/19)

Since 1983, [NatCen](#) Social Research's British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey has asked members of the public, as well as patients, in England, Scotland and Wales about their views on the NHS and health and care issues generally.

The latest survey was carried out between July and October 2018 and asked a nationally representative sample of 2,926 people about their satisfaction with the NHS overall, and 973 people about their satisfaction with individual NHS and social care services. The 2018 BSA survey questions reported here were jointly sponsored by the [Nuffield Trust](#) and [The King's Fund](#).

In 2018, public satisfaction with the NHS was at its lowest level for more than a decade. The latest data shows that satisfaction with 'the way in which the NHS runs nowadays' has fallen 16 percentage points since 2010, and dissatisfaction has doubled since 2014.

[King's Fund blog](#)  
[Nuffield Trust blog](#)

**See also Social Care/Welfare**

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## Disabilities

## Closing the gap: Disability and welfare benefit reforms (05/03/19)

This week Amber Rudd, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, made a [speech](#) on disability and the welfare system with the intention. She said:

"The benefits system should be the ally of disabled people. It should support them and ensure that the assistance the government provides arrives in the right place for those who need it most. People with disabilities and health conditions have enough challenges in life; dealing with my department shouldn't be one of them. So, my ambition is to significantly improve how DWP supports disabled people and those with health conditions."

Amber Rudd also announced that people over 65 will no longer face reassessments for Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

[MS Society](#)  
[Scope](#)

See also [The Disability Price Tag Report 2019](#), Scope, February 2019

**See also Education**  
**Oral Health**

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## Education

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the health sector examined (05/03/19)

The Education Committee of the House of Commons held a [round-table discussion](#) with representatives from the health sector, including Caroline Dinanage MP, Minister of State for Care, about the issues facing the health sector when supporting children with SEND.

The Committee's SEND inquiry is examining the impact of the reforms introduced in the Children and Families Act 2014.

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## Health Care

### Economic and social impacts and benefits of health systems (2019)

This [report](#), from WHO Europe, provides evidence and practical methods to show the health sector is essential to a stable, functioning economy. Health systems have a positive impact on the economic performance of other sectors in the national economy, through the jobs they generate and from the purchase of goods and services.

This report seeks to assist policy-makers, providing guidance and tools to engage in stronger dialogue with ministries of finance and international institutions, to prevent disinvestment in health.

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## Health Protection/Emergencies

### Hepatitis E: symptoms, transmission, prevention, treatment (08/03/19)

Public Health England has [updated guidance](#) on the symptoms, means of transmission, best means of prevention and treatment of hepatitis E to include data for 2017 and 2018.

### NHSBT Safe supplies: annual review (04/03/19)

Public Health England has published the [annual review](#) of the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and PHE's epidemiology unit's data and research activity.

Data from the national surveillance programme shows the low risk of infection from blood transfusion in the UK. PHE and NHSBT use the data to ensure the best safety measures, and to provide evidence for further reviews of donor selection and testing policies.

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## Hearing/Sight

### Cochlear implants for children and adults with severe to profound deafness, TA566 (07/03/19)

This [technology appraisal guidance](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), has been updated after a review of the criteria for defining severe to profound deafness and for assessing adequate benefit from acoustic hearing aids set out in recommendation 1.5. See section 4.4 of the guidance for further details.

Currently around 1,260 people in England receive cochlear implants each year. These updated recommendations could lead to a 70% increase in that number, to 2,150 people, once a steady state is reached in 2024/25.

No other sections of the guidance have been updated, so these are the same as in the original guidance.

A [news release](#) discusses the annual cost of implementing the guidance.

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## Inequalities/Minorities

### ONS: Exploring the UK's digital divide (04/03/19)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published [analysis](#) on the scale of digital exclusion in the UK; those who are not currently using the internet, how digital skills vary for different groups of the population and some of the barriers to digital inclusion.

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## Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

## Suicide and self-harm in Britain: researching risk and resilience (02/19)

The main aim of this study, published by [NatCen Social Research](#), was to raise awareness of surveys that could be used to inform self-harm and suicide prevention work. The authors asked:

- What UK survey datasets are available for research?
- What aspects of people's lives are associated with self-harm and attempted suicide?
- How do statistical findings resonate with people's lived experience? What implications do they see?

Survey analyses revealed that risk factors for self-harm are wide ranging and include:

- Mental health
- Physical health and health behaviours
- Social relationships
- Stressful events
- Employment and financial circumstances
- Identity and demographics.

[Full report](#), summary and technical appendices are available.

## Neurology data and analysis: a guide for health professionals (06/03/19)

Public Health England brings together and analyses data on neurological conditions from across the health and care system and produces resources to help improve services and outcomes.

This [guidance](#) is for commissioners, public health professionals and others involved in the local planning and provision of services that support people with neurological conditions. It should support them to use these resources to make or influence decisions about local services and interventions.

The update adds a link to the Neurology data catalogue.

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## International

### International Women's Day 2019

[International Women's Day](#) (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Age UK: [Breaking Point - the social care burden on women](#)

NHS England video: [Inspirational women](#)

NHS England blog: [Ten top tips for Women's Health](#)

NHS England blog: [Getting the balance right](#)

WHO: [Celebrating women leaders in science and health](#)

### ONS: Measuring national well-being: international comparisons, 2019 (06/03/19)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published [analysis and data](#) comparing the UK to the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) or the countries of the European Union (EU) to better understand how it is faring in key areas of well-being.

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## Legislation/Crime/Prisons

### **Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020 (07/03/19)**

The Home Office has published an update of its [violence against women and girls \(VAWG\) strategy](#) in order to provide further support to victims and survivors of violent crime.

The refreshed action plan, which was first launched in 2016, sets out new measures to help protect women and girls.

This includes a cross-sector review into how rape and sexual violence cases are handled across the criminal justice system.

[News release](#)

[Local Government Association](#)

**See also Children/Young People/Families**

**Communities and Local Government**

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## Long-term Conditions

### **Diabetes outcomes versus expenditure (DOVE) in local populations (05/03/19)**

Healthcare professionals can use the Diabetes outcomes versus expenditure (DOVE) tool to explore the relationship between spending on diabetes treatment and local clinical outcomes for patients. This can help with planning and commissioning local services.

The [tool](#), published by Public Health England, includes clinical outcomes from the National Diabetes Audit (NDA) and Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF), and prescribing data from NHS Digital.

This update adds 'Briefing for the Diabetes Outcomes Versus Expenditure (DOVE) tool: summary of results 2013 to 2018'.

### **Exploring dementia and agitation: How public policy needs to respond (01/03/19)**

With 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, there is a significant need to understand how to improve quality of life for them and their carers.

This [report](#), published by [International Longevity Centre UK](#), summarises a number of key findings from the MARQUE project, led by Prof Gill Livingston from UCL. MARQUE (Managing Agitation and Raising Quality of Life in Dementia) is the largest ever study involving people living in care homes.

Funded in 2014 by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the study examined critical issues for people living with dementia and their paid and unpaid carers.

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## Maternity/Infants

### **Intrapartum care for women with existing medical conditions or obstetric complications and their babies, NG121 (03/19)**

This [guidance](#), from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), covers care during labour and birth for women who need extra support because they have a medical condition or complications in their current or previous pregnancy. The guideline also covers women who have had no antenatal care. It aims to improve experiences and outcomes for women and their babies.

**See also Workforce development**

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## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### **Government creates new student mental health taskforce (07/03/19)**

A new taskforce has been set up by Education Secretary Damian Hinds to support students to deal with the challenges that starting university can include to preserve their mental health.

On University Mental Health Day (7 March), Mr Hinds [announced](#) that the new taskforce will look at how students moving from sixth-form or college to university can be better supported in their crucial first year, building on the work already underway across the sector to improve support for student mental health.

Members of the new taskforce – which will be known as the Education Transitions Network – will include leading sector groups such as UCAS, the National Union of Students, Student Minds, Universities UK, the Association of Colleges and the Office for Students.

### **Social prescribing: applying All Our Health (05/03/19)**

Social prescribing sometimes referred to as community referral is a means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services.

Social prescribing schemes can involve a variety of activities which are typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations. Examples include volunteering, arts activities, group learning, gardening, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and a range of sports.

There are many different models for social prescribing, but most involve a link worker or navigator who works with people to access local sources of support.

Public Health England has published this [guide](#) will help front-line health and care staff use their trusted relationships with patients, families and communities to promote the benefits of social prescribing.

See also the full collection of documents [All Our Health: personalised care and population health](#) for other topics.

**See also Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics**

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## Older People

### Service provision for older homeless people with memory problems (04/03/19)

Early or timely recognition of dementia is a key policy goal of the National Dementia Strategy. However, older people who are homeless are not considered in this policy despite their high risk of developing dementia.

This 24-month study was designed to (1) determine the prevalence of memory problems among hostel-dwelling homeless older people and the extent to which staff are aware of these problems; (2) identify help and support received, current care and support pathways; (3) explore quality of life among older homeless people with memory problems; (4) investigate service costs for older homeless people with memory problems, compared with services costs for those without; and (5) identify unmet needs or gaps in services.

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

[See also Long-term Conditions](#)

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## Oral Health

### Oral care and people with learning disabilities (06/03/19)

Good oral health is an important factor in people's general health and quality of life. The evidence shows that people with learning disabilities have poorer oral health and more problems in accessing dental services than people in the general population.

Public Health England has published [guidance](#) to help health professionals, paid social care staff and family members to support someone with learning disabilities to get good oral care.

[Easy-read summary](#)

### Hospital tooth extractions of 0 to 19-year olds (06/03/19)

Public Health England has published [data](#) from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset on children being admitted to hospital for tooth extractions from 2011 to 2018.

Although the oral health of children is improving, significant inequalities remain, and tooth extraction is still the most common hospital procedure in 6 to 10 year olds. Almost 9 out of 10 hospital tooth extractions among children aged 0 to 5 are due to preventable tooth decay.

[News release](#)

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## Pharmacy/Prescribing

### Community pharmacy funding (08/03/19)

[The Department of Health and Social Care](#) and the [Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee \(PSNC\)](#) have agreed provisional arrangements for the [Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework \(CPCF\)](#) .

The CPCF sets out the terms for the provision of NHS pharmaceutical services in England. CPCF funding is given through fees and allowances paid to pharmacy contractors.

The arrangements will take effect from April 2019 and will continue until negotiations on the framework end.

The current funding level of £2.592 billion per year will continue

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## Public Health/Health Promotion

### 2019 child health profiles (05/03/19)

The child health profiles provide an overview of child health and wellbeing, in each local area in England.

The [latest profiles](#), published by Public Health England, can be used to:

- understand the needs of local communities
- improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people
- reduce health inequalities.

The child health profiles are intended for use by local government and health service professionals.

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## Safeguarding

### Briefing about the work of the National FGM Centre (NFGMC) (07/03/19)

The [National FGM Centre \(NFGMC\)](#) works with local authorities and communities to keep children and young people safe from female genital mutilation (FGM), breast flattening, and child abuse linked to faith or belief (CALFB). It aims to: prevent new cases; protect children and young people; support those affected by FGM and other harmful practices; and partner with local organisations to deliver services and continuously learn about and improve our approach.

The NFGMC is a partnership between Barnardo's and the Local Government Association, funded by the Department for Education.

[Briefing](#)

**See also Children/Young People/Families**

**Legislation/Crime/Prisons**

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## Screening

### 'Cervical Screening Saves Lives' campaign launched (05/03/19)

Public Health England has launched the major new national campaign '[Cervical Screening Saves Lives](#)', to increase the number of women attending their cervical screening across England.

Around 2,600 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in England each year, and around 690 women die from the disease, which is 2 deaths every day. It is estimated that if everyone attended screening regularly, 83% of cervical cancer cases could be prevented.

The campaign will encourage women to respond to their cervical screening invitation letter, and if they missed their last screening, to book an appointment at their GP practice.

For practical information about screening see NHS Health A-Z [What is cervical screening?](#)  
Further guidance, statistics and research see [NHS cervical screening \(CSP\) programme](#)

### NHS screening programmes: annual report (08/03/19)

NHS population screening programmes deliver important public health improvements. This [report](#), from Public Health England, focuses on some of the highlights and covers the screening programmes in England.

Key screening statistics between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 include:

- 3.2 million women for cervical anomalies
- 2.6 million people for bowel cancer
- 2.2 million people with diabetes and eye screening
- 2.1 million women for abnormalities in breast tissue
- 660,000 pregnant women for a fetal anomaly, hepatitis B, HIV, syphilis, sickle cell disease and thalassaemia
- 650,000 babies for 15 conditions (14 for baby girls)
- 240,000 men for an abdominal aortic aneurysm

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## Smoking/Tobacco Control

### Statistics on Women's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery, England - Quarter 3, 2018-19 (07/03/19)

Smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems. These include complications during labour and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature birth, still birth, low birth-weight and sudden unexpected death in infancy.

Reducing smoking during pregnancy is one of the three national ambitions in the [Tobacco Control Plan](#) published in July 2017, which is "reducing smoking amongst pregnant women (measured at time of giving birth) to 6% by the end of 2022.

10.5% of pregnant women were known to be smokers at the time of delivery during quarter 3 of 2018/19. The current national ambition is to achieve a level of 6% or less by 2022. These official statistics are published by [NHS Digital](#).

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## Social Care/Welfare

### Care home performance across England - 2019 (06/03/19)

Independent Age has published a [briefing](#) assessing the state of care home performance across England and looks at what is being done to tackle poor performance. It follows on from work conducted in 2017 and 2018.

The charity has used publicly available inspection data (January 2019) from the Care Quality Commission to work out a total figure for the percentage of care homes in each local authority that are rated either "Inadequate" or "Requires Improvement". Using research from the last two years it has tracked which areas have demonstrated improvement and which have worsened.

This briefing also outlines how Independent Age wants to see care home quality develop and what factors are key to ensuring that care home quality does improve.

Percentage of care homes rated Requires Improvement or Inadequate:

- Kent 2019 22.6% 2018 26.2%
- Medway 2019 19.4% 2018 10.3%
- South East 2019 regional average 17.5%

[Summary and Interactive map](#)

### Children's social care questionnaires 2018 (27/02/19)

What children have told Ofsted about their experiences of living in their respective settings, including children's homes, boarding schools and with foster carers.

This [report](#) looks at what children and young people told Ofsted about their experiences of living in social care settings in England. Children were asked: Are you well looked after? Are you helped to do well with your learning? What do you like about being here? What would you change?

Ofsted uses the responses, along with other information like previous inspection findings or concerns, to decide when to inspect and how to focus inspections.

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## Workforce Development

### Maternity Workforce Strategy: Transforming the Maternity Workforce (07/03/19)

[Health Education England](#) has published the Maternity Workforce Strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to support NHS maternity services to deliver more personalised and safer care and improve outcomes for women by ensuring that there is the capacity in the workforce nationally.

The strategy has been developed with partners to support the wider Maternity Transformation Programme to deliver the vision for the future of maternity services, and in particular:

The vision set out in [Better Births](#), the report of the National Maternity Review

The ambition of the government to halve the rate of stillbirth, neonatal death, maternal death and serious intrapartum brain injury by 2025.

The strategy follows extensive stakeholder engagement on the size of the workforce required and the key actions needed to address workforce gaps between now and 2021.

[Report](#)  
[Executive summary](#)  
[News release](#)

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