

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

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

- [Arts and Health](#)
- [Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular](#)
- [Children/YoungPeople/Families](#)
- [Commissioning and Economics](#)
- [Communities & Local Govt](#)
- [Disabilities](#)
- [Drugs/Alcohol](#)
- [Education](#)
- [End of Life/Palliative Care](#)
- [Health Care](#)
- [Health Protection/Emergencies](#)
- [Integrated Health and Social Care](#)
- [Legislation/Crime/Prisons](#)
- [Maternity/Infants](#)
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Older People](#)
- [Oral Health](#)
- [Pharmacy/Prescribing](#)
- [Public Health/Health Promotion](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Screening](#)
- [Smoking/Tobacco Control](#)
- [Social Care/Welfare](#)
- [Workforce Development](#)

Arts and Health

Wellcome Book Prize 2019 shortlist (19/03/19)

The Wellcome Book Prize shortlist for 2019 has been [announced](#), celebrating the many ways in which literature can illuminate the breadth and depth of our relationship with health, medicine and illness.

The 2019 shortlist:

Amateur: A reckoning with gender, identity and masculinity (Canongate Books) by Thomas Page McBee (USA) Non-fiction
Heart: A history (Oneworld) by Sandeep Jauhar (India/USA) Non-fiction
Mind on Fire: A memoir of madness and recovery (Penguin Ireland) by Arnold Thomas Fanning (Ireland) Non-fiction
Murmur (CB Editions) by Will Eaves (UK) Fiction
My Year of Rest and Relaxation (Jonathan Cape) by Ottessa Moshfegh (USA) Fiction
The Trauma Cleaner: One woman's extraordinary life in death, decay and disaster (The Text Publishing Company) by Sarah Krasnostein (Australia/USA) Non-fiction

Find out more about the books on the shortlist.

The winner revealed at an evening ceremony on Wednesday 1 May at Wellcome Collection.

[Reading Agency](#)

[Back to top](#)

Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

[See Health Care](#)

[Back to top](#)

Children/Young People/Families

National evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020: findings (19/03/19)

These [reports](#), published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, detail findings from the evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020.

The Troubled Families Programme 2015-20 aims to:

- improve outcomes for families
- transform local services
- provide savings for the taxpayer.

The national evaluation of the programme looks at how well the programme is achieving those aims. This is the fourth evaluation update and it brings together findings from the latest analysis of national and local datasets, a cost benefit analysis, case study research, staff survey research and follow up family survey.

[News release](#)

[Speech](#) by Communities Secretary Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP

[Association of Directors of Children's Services \(ADCS\)](#)

Children living with parents in emotional distress, 2019 update (19/03/19)

Parental emotional distress can lead to mental health problems including anxiety or depression. It is associated with an increased risk of later behavioural and emotional difficulties in children.

This [commentary](#), from Public Health England, presents data on the proportion of children living with parents reporting symptoms of emotional distress in England for the period 2016 to 2017.

Main findings include:

- around 1 in 3 children lived with at least 1 parent reporting symptoms of emotional distress
- over 1 in 5 children lived with a mother reporting symptoms of emotional distress
- around 1 in 8 children lived with a father reporting symptoms of emotional distress
- 1 in 28 children lived with both a mother and father reporting symptoms of emotional distress
- children were more likely to live with a parent reporting symptoms of emotional distress if both parents are out of work.

Nowhere to Turn: Strengthening the safety net (17/03/19)

The Children's Society has published a new [report](#) on families in financial crisis, who are struggling to afford the basics and are at risk of debt.

It found that in 2012/13 there were 1.3m applications to the Government for crisis support, of which 737,000 were successful. This was before Government devolved responsibility to councils in 2013.

Using data obtained through Freedom of Information requests, the charity found that under council-run schemes, applications for the same kind of support fell to 320,000 in 2015/16, of which 208,000 were successful, and to 284,000 in 2017/18, of which just 187,000 qualified for help. Government withdrew the separate cash grant schemes to local authorities in 2015.

[News release](#)

State of Children's Rights 2018 (12/03/19)

The Children's Rights Alliance for England has published its annual [report](#) on the subject. Chapter headings include Poverty and homelessness, Safeguarding children, Health, Education, leisure and cultural activities, Immigration, asylum and trafficking, and Policing and criminal justice.

[News release](#)

Children of Prisoners: Fixing a broken system (02/19)

Every local authority has a responsibility to protect and promote the welfare of children in need in its area. However, children who have a parent in custody are not regarded as vulnerable by definition of their parent's imprisonment. They are an invisible group.

Research by Crest Advisory which included new modelling using up to date prison population records, has shown that there are 312,000 incidents per year of a child losing a parent to custody in England and Wales, 17,000 of which are as a result of mothers being sent to prison. This revised estimate is an increase from the previously used figure of 200,000. However, with no formal process in place to systematically identify the children of prisoners, there is actually no central record of who these children are.

The [report](#) makes recommendations to deal with the gaps in the system in order to improve support for the needs of the children of prisoners.

[Back to top](#)

Commissioning and Economics

Health economics: evidence resource (20/03/19)

The [health economic evidence resource \(HEER\) tool](#), from Public Health England, shows the main cost-effectiveness and return on investment evidence on activities in the public health grant.

Each piece of evidence is summarised across over 20 criteria to provide details on how the results were created and to highlight the inputs and assumptions used in the original studies. This allows users to understand the relevance and apply the evidence to their local setting.

[Public health matters blog](#)

Spend and outcome tool (SPOT) (20/03/19)

This tool from Public Health England offers an overview of spend and outcomes in local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), for public health teams and commissioners.

The [updated version](#) incorporates data for 2018.

[Back to top](#)

Communities and Local Government

Transforming children's services report (22/03/19)

The Department for Education has policy responsibility for children's social care services in England and has the strategic vision that all vulnerable children should have access to high-quality support by 2022. Local authorities in England have statutory responsibility for protecting the welfare of children and delivering children's social care. At 31 March 2018 there were more than 400,000 children in need in England, and more than 75,000 children in care.

This [report](#) from the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons finds that the sector is not financially sustainable: 91% of local authorities exceeded their budgets for spending on children's services in 2017-18. The Department needs to get to grips with its understanding of demand pressures if it is to make a case for adequate resources in the anticipated spending review.

[Summary](#)

72 clubs, 3 divisions, 2 cups, One Community (19/03/19)

All 72 English Football League (EFL) Clubs came together this week to highlight the work undertaken to tackle some of society's biggest issues for the EFL's Day of the Action 2019.

On Tuesday 19 March, EFL Clubs hosted events designed to showcase their work to tackle a diverse range of social issues, from homelessness and mental health, to community cohesion and the battle against plastic pollution.

[NHS England](#) applauded moves by football clubs to improve the nation's health including cookery classes for bereaved men, exercise sessions for people with cancer and sport to help tackle mental ill health.

EFL [news release 1](#) and [news release 2](#)

[Back to top](#)

Disabilities

Psychotropic drugs and people with learning disabilities or autism (22/03/19)

This [study](#) was commissioned by NHS England from Public Health England to devise a method to report the impact of their programme to stop overmedication for people with learning disabilities, autism or both (STOMP). It provides data about the extent and trends in the use of psychotropic drugs between January 2010 and December 2017.

Even with the limited data points, the study showed that, following the launch of STOMP, changes to GP prescribing of psychotropic drugs were beginning to happen in the desired direction for adults with learning disabilities.

[Back to top](#)

Drugs/Alcohol

[See Smoking/Tobacco Control](#)

[Back to top](#)

Education

Pupils and their parents or carers: omnibus survey (14/03/19)

The Department for Education has published [findings](#) from research on pupils and their parents or carers and responses to questions asked in the survey. The pupils were those aged 11 to 17 who attend state-funded secondary schools in England.

Topics covered in the survey include parental involvement in pupils' learning, changes to the school day, mental health and wellbeing, changes at school, plans for the future, bullying, life outside of studies, and pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

[Back to top](#)

End of Life/Palliative Care

CQC: Learning from deaths (18/03/19)

In a new [report](#) the Care Quality Commission (CQC) reviews inspectors' observations from the first year of assessing how well trusts are implementing national guidance introduced to support improved investigations and better family engagement when patients die.

The [national guidance](#) called for trusts to improve processes for identifying deaths resulting from problems in care, to introduce a clear policy for engaging with bereaved families and carers in a meaningful and compassionate way, and to appoint a senior member of staff to hold responsibility for learning from deaths across the organisation. It also set specific requirements for trusts to collect and report information about deaths of patients in their care.

[News release](#)

[Back to top](#)

Health Care

NAO: NHS waiting times for elective and cancer treatment (22/03/19)

While the NHS has increased the number of people it treats each year, the percentage of patients treated within waiting time standards continues to get worse for both elective (non-urgent care) and cancer treatment, and the waiting list for elective care continues to grow, according to a new [report](#) by the National Audit Office (NAO).

The NAO has found that while increased demand and funding constraints affect the entire system, other factors that are linked to declining waiting time performance include NHS staff shortages for diagnostic services, a lack of available beds and pressure on trusts from emergency care.

[News release](#)
[Health Foundation](#)

Healthcare advice for travellers to and from the UK, EU and EFTA states (19/03/19)

The Department of Health and Social Care has published the following documents for UK, EU, and EFTA citizens covering travel insurance, European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC), studying and working, people with pre-existing conditions:

[Healthcare for EU and EFTA citizens visiting the UK](#)
[Healthcare for EU and EFTA nationals living in the UK](#)
[UK residents visiting the EU, EFTA and Switzerland: Healthcare](#)
[UK nationals living in the EU, EFTA and Switzerland: Healthcare](#)

The documents are applicable if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

[News release](#)

[Back to top](#)

Health Protection/Emergencies

World TB Day 2019

Data published by Public Health England (PHE) shows that new cases of tuberculosis (TB) in England have fallen to the lowest levels since records began in 1960. There was a 44% drop in new diagnoses from the peak in 2011 to 2018 (from 8,280 to 4,672), with an 8.4% fall in diagnoses between 2017 and 2018.

TB is an infectious disease that usually affects the lungs. The most common symptoms of TB are a persistent cough for more than 3 weeks, unexplained weight loss, fever and night sweats. Although TB can be fatal if left untreated, it is curable for the majority with a course of antibiotics.

PHE is working towards the World Health Organisation (WHO) goal to halve TB incidence by 2025, and ultimately eliminate the disease.

[Collaborative TB Strategy for England 2015 - 2020](#)
[Tuberculosis case notifications and incidence in England between 2000 and 2018: provisional data](#)
[PHE: TB Strategy Update, March 2019](#)
[PHE: News release](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

Raw pet foods: handling and preventing infection (18/03/19)

Public Health England has [updated resources](#) for reducing the risk of infection from handling raw pet foods.

Some types of pet food, including pet chews or treats, are made of raw meat and other unprocessed animal products. It may not always be obvious that products contain raw meat. Raw meat can be contaminated with harmful bacteria such as Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria and E. coli.

Young children in particular are at risk of illness because their immune systems are still developing, and they are more likely than others to put their fingers or other items into their mouths.

[Back to top](#)

Integrated Health and Social Care

CQC publishes updated data profiles for local authority areas in England (21/03/19)

The [local authority area data profiles](#) bring together data to give an indication of how different services work together, providing a picture of the health and social care system in each area.

The updated data profiles draw on analysis of data published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), as well as nationally collected and published data collections, and include information on the quality, provision and staffing of health and social care services. This spring 2019 update includes new and updated data on areas such as delayed transfers of care, costs of adult social care, and A&E attendances.

The profiles focus on the care pathway for people aged 65 or over living in these areas.

[News release](#)

[Back to top](#)

Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: National Referral Mechanism Statistics Annual Report 2018 (20/03/19)

The number of potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery reported to the authorities has risen by more than 80 per cent in two years, according to figures released by the National Crime Agency. In 2018 6993 potential victims were referred into the system, up from 5142 in 2017, and 3804 in 2016.

Potential victims from 130 different countries were identified, and for the second consecutive year British citizens made up the largest nationality (1,625), with Albanians (947) and Vietnamese (702) second and third.

The number of British citizens reported was almost double the number from 2017, while the numbers of minors referred increased by 48 per cent. Both increases were driven by the numbers referred for labour exploitation, which includes those exploited for criminal purposes by 'County Lines' gangs.

The National Referral Mechanism is a framework for identifying victims of modern slavery or human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. It is also the mechanism through which data is collected about victims. From 29 April 2019 this will change when the Home Office becomes the single competent authority for dealing with referrals.

National Referral Mechanism [end of year summary](#)

[News release](#)

Tuberculosis (TB): information for UK prisons staff (22/03/19)

This [brief guidance](#) provides information for prison staff on: spotting symptoms of TB, client advocacy and what this involves, supporting treatment, medical hold, and reducing risk among staff and other individuals in prison.

See also [Prisons healthcare](#) collection

See also Children/Young People/Families

Oral Health

[Back to top](#)

Maternity/Infants

Health visiting: giving children the best start in life (21/03/19)

The health visiting service plays a crucial role in giving children. This early support builds resilience, encourages healthy lifestyles and aids social and emotional development.

Health visitors lead on the delivery of the government's healthy child programme for children aged 0 to five, working alongside other health and social care colleagues, including family nurse partnership teams, nursery nurses and other specialist health professionals.

This [report](#) from the Local Government Association contains ten case studies.

[News release](#)

See also Screening

[Back to top](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Campaigning to end loneliness (18/03/19)

NHS England discusses a [range of schemes](#) being introduced as part of the NHS Long Term Plan to support personalised care through the potential of people, families and communities.

A Health Foundation [report](#) recently highlighted how living alone can make older people 50% more likely to find themselves in A&E than those living with family. Pensioners living alone are also 25% more likely to develop a mental health condition.

[All the Lonely People: Loneliness in Later Life](#), Age UK

[Campaign to End Loneliness](#)

[Jo Cox Foundation](#)

[Look out for Neighbours](#), West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership

See also Children/Young People/Families

Communities and Local Government

Older People

[Back to top](#)

Older People

Productive healthy ageing: interventions for quality of life (19/03/19)

This [document](#), from Public Health England, lists interventions that can be made by pharmacy teams, to help older people to lead more independent lives and improve their health.

The interventions included are based around preventing falls, dementia, physical activity, social isolation and loneliness, and malnutrition.

In addition to pharmacy teams, the guidance can be consulted by pharmaceutical and medical committees, local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and local NHS England teams.

[Back to top](#)

Oral Health

National survey of prison dental services 2017 to 2018 (20/03/19)

This [analysis](#) from Public Health England presents the findings of a national survey in 2017 to 2018 of adult prison dental services across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Understanding the challenges prison dental services are currently facing is vital when making improvements. Partners should consider the recommendations and agree actions and responsibilities, so that users of prison dental services receive high quality equitable care.

[Back to top](#)

Pharmacy/Prescribing

Drugs policy: medicinal cannabis (19/03/19)

In November 2018, the Government announced the rescheduling of medicinal cannabis from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. Medicinal cannabis can be prescribed by specialist doctors.

In the first of its [oral evidence](#) sessions, the Health and Social Care Committee of the House of Commons heard from academics, campaign groups and clinical representatives.

[Inquiry](#)

See also Disabilities

Older People

[Back to top](#)

Public Health/Health Promotion

Public health transformation six years on: partnerships and prevention (21/03/19)

It is six years since public health transferred to local government and with each successive Local Government Association (LGA) annual report we see how public health is becoming an increasingly effective and vital part of local government, both leading and supporting the aims of developing healthy, prosperous and inclusive communities and environments.

A major theme of this [report](#) is on partnerships between the different levels of local government, and with and the NHS.

Quality in public health: a shared responsibility (21/03/19)

Public Health England has published a new [framework](#) for England that aims to raise quality in public health services and functions.

This is the first such framework for public health and has been developed by the Public Health System Group with support from important partners across the public health system including from local government and the NHS.

[Public Health Matters blog](#)

See also Commissioning and Economics

[Back to top](#)

Safeguarding

See Legislation/Crime/Prisons

[Back to top](#)

Screening

Sickle cell and thalassaemia screening (19/03/19)

Public Health England has published a set of guides for users of the sickle cell and thalassaemia (SCT) newborn outcomes system. These include:

- an overview of the system, including information governance
 - a guide for newborn screening laboratories
 - a guide for specialist nurses and counsellors
 - a guide for users in treatment centres.
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[Back to top](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Control

Health matters: tobacco and alcohol CQUIN (21/03/19)

This professional [resource](#), from Public Health England, focuses on preventing ill health caused by tobacco and alcohol use.

It also makes the case for why NHS providers should implement the '[Screening and brief advice for tobacco and alcohol use in inpatient settings](#)' Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN), published on 12 March 2019.

[Back to top](#)

Social Care/Welfare

Chief Social Worker for Adults' annual report: 2018 to 2019 (19/03/19)

The fifth annual report from the Chief Social Worker for Adults in England, Lyn Romeo, is themed around social work leadership in changing times.

The [report](#) sets out:

- how social workers are taking a practice leadership role in delivering safe and best outcomes for people with health and care needs
- priorities over the coming year to further raise the quality and profile of adult social work across an integrated system
- It offers examples of social workers demonstrating leadership, professional oversight and co-operation with individuals, families and the wider health and care sector.

The report also looks at the way organisations collaborate across health, community and voluntary sectors to maintain people's quality of life and independence.

[Lyn Romeo blog](#)

See also [Communities and Local Government](#)

[Back to top](#)

Workforce Development

Closing the gap: Key areas for action on the health and care workforce (21/03/19)

Staffing is the make-or-break issue for the NHS in England. Workforce shortages are having a direct impact on patient care and staff experience. Action is required to avoid a cycle of growing shortages and declining quality. The workforce implementation plan to be published later this year presents an opportunity to do this.

A [report](#) published by the King's Fund, Nuffield Trust and Health Foundation, sets out a series of policy actions that, evidence suggests, should be at the heart of the workforce implementation plan. The focus is on nursing and general practice, where the workforce problems are particularly severe. They will require an investment of an extra £900 million per year by 2023/24 into the budget of Health Education England.

[News release](#)

Health and Care Professions Council (14/03/19)

On 14 March 2019, a [debate](#) took place in Westminster Hall on Registration fees at the [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#), sponsored by Jim Cunningham MP. The debate is of interest in its wider discussion of the system of professional regulation in the UK.

The HCPC exists to regulate health and care professionals. It sets standards, investigates complaints and keeps a register of workers in 16 different professions. Notably, social workers in England are still covered, despite plans to change that from 2019. Altogether, the HCPC regulates more than 360,000 professionals, 90,000 of whom are social workers.

For more background information on this topic, see the House of Commons Library paper on [Professional regulation in health and social care](#) (September 2017).

[Back to top](#)

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