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Arts and Health

The power of the arts and social activities to improve the nation's health (06/11/18)

The [King's Fund](#), in collaboration with the College of Medicine and the Social Prescribing Network, held a one day conference looking at how social prescribing can be measured and the impact it is already having on outcomes for patients.

At the event, Health and Social Care Secretary [Matt Hancock](#) spoke at length about the benefits of social prescribing.

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Children/Young People/Families

Children's Commissioner: Who knows what about me? (08/11/18)

The Office of the Children's Commissioner for England has published a new [report](#) looking how vast amounts of children's data is collected. This is information about children growing up which often the child and parents are unaware of, and the ways in which it might shape their lives both now and in the future as adults.

The report calls on companies producing apps, toys and other products aimed at children to be transparent about how they are capturing information about children and how it is being used and argues that children should be taught in schools about how their data is collected and for what purposes. It also calls for a statutory duty of care between the internet giants and children who use their apps and sites, and for the Government to consider strengthening data protection legislation.

[News release](#)

See also [Ten top tips for minimising children's data footprints](#)

Reducing unintentional injuries among children and young people (06/11/18)

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of preventable death for children and young people and a major cause of ill health and serious disability. Public Health England has updated [guidance](#) on this topic.

Data on injuries suffered by children and young people in the home and on the roads may be found at Public Health England's Fingertips data website. Unintentional injuries narrative reports which summarise data and evidence at local authority level, and slide presentations are also available support decision-making and prioritisation.

Realising the potential of early intervention (10/18)

A new [report](#), from the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF), sets out the current state of play for early intervention, including how it works to support child development and to improve outcomes for children and young people. It highlights significant barriers within the current system that inhibit the potential of early intervention, and a set of key actions – four at the national level, two at the local level – that are required to really push this agenda forward.

[Two-minute summary \(video\)](#)

[Blog](#) by Dr Jo Casebourne, Chief Executive of EIF

Time to take stock: understanding how early intervention works for children's social care (02/11/18)

Isabelle Trowler, [Chief Social Worker for Children and Families in England](#), reflects on the [key implications](#) for children's social care from the '[Realising the potential](#)' report published by the Early Intervention Foundation.

She also draws attention to her policy briefing recently published by the University of Sheffield under their [Crook Public Service Fellowships](#) programme [Care Proceeding in England: The Case for Clear Blue Water](#).

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Communities and Local Government

A core offer for East Sussex (08/11/18)

East Sussex Council in responding to a potential £46 million budget deficit, is proposing a [core offer](#) of services.

[Papers](#) published by the council ahead of a 13 November cabinet meeting set out in stark terms the impact its bare-minimum core offer for the next three years would have on children's services, reports [Community Care](#).

Services for families who have had children removed and for young people at risk of criminal exploitation are both under threat, while some training for social workers would also be stopped under the plans.

[Local Government Chronicle](#)

RSPH: Health on the High Street 2018 (02/11/18)

The [Royal Society for Public Health \(RSPH\)](#) has launched a new campaign updating and expanding the original high street analysis done in 2015. Their [research](#) looked at the health impact of a range of high street outlets including vape shops, convenience stores, off-licences, cafes, and empty shops – and used this measure to rank Britain’s major towns and cities by the impact of their high streets on the public’s health and wellbeing.

A key finding was around the proliferation of empty shops on Britain’s high streets – their clustering in more deprived areas, and the negative impact they can have on community wellbeing and spirit, representing a decline in community assets.

The report include a [league table](#) ranking the ten healthiest and unhealthiest of Britain’s major towns and cities by the impact of their high streets on the public’s health and wellbeing. Canterbury is second only to Edinburgh in the top ten healthiest UK high streets. Grimsby is ranked the unhealthiest place in the UK. London [rankings](#) are listed separately.

Kindness, emotions and human relationships: The blind spot in public policy (01/11/18)

In this [report](#), published by the Carnegie Trust UK, Julia Unwin CBE argues that there have been very good reasons for keeping kindness separate from public policy; but that the great public policy challenges now being experienced demand an approach that is more centred on relationships; and, with technology and artificial intelligence transforming the way things are done, it is imperative that there is equal focus on emotional intelligence.

[News release](#)

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Disabilities

A Fair, Supportive Society: a social determinants of health approach to improving the lives and health of people with learning disabilities (05/11/18)

A new report, from the Institute of Health Equity led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, shows that the most vulnerable in society, those with learning disabilities, will die 15-20 years sooner on average than the general population. The report commissioned by NHSE highlights key facts, statistics, and interventions. Much of the government action needed to improve life expectancy for people with disabilities is likely to reduce health inequalities for everyone. Action should focus on the ‘social determinants of health’, particularly addressing poverty, poor housing, discrimination and bullying. It makes recommendations, including:

- the development of an evidence based integrated strategy
- joined up working
- ensure no one is left out, by rationalising information sharing
- support for healthy behaviours
- an integrated Education and Care Plan from the beginning
- systematic review of how people are supported
- greater integration of people with learning disabilities into mainstream society.

[Summary report](#)

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Drugs/Alcohol

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Education

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End of Life/Palliative Care

End of Life Care Profiles: November 2018 data update (06/11/18)

The end of life care profiles [data update](#) for November 2018 has been published by Public Health England.

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.

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Health Care

Improving access and continuity in general practice (07/11/18)

This [report](#) from the Nuffield Trust summarises key findings of research on the impact of improved access upon continuity of care, and provides a series of recommendations for commissioners and policy-makers. An [evidence review](#) is also available.

The research addressed 4 key questions:

- What is the evidence that continuity within general practice benefits patients, or is important to health professionals?
 - Which primary care patients are more likely to want continuity of care, and how likely are they to report receiving it?
 - How might policy initiatives to improve access affect continuity of care, and to what extent is there evidence of this?
 - What factors might best support continuity of care in the context of improved access?
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Health Protection/Emergencies

Avian influenza could spread along wild birds' migration routes this winter (05/11/18)

This winter, health authorities and people living in countries of the [WHO European Region](#) located along wild birds' migration routes should be particularly vigilant about avian influenza outbreaks in poultry and wild birds. Since some avian influenza viruses can infect humans, it is important that people in countries experiencing outbreaks take protective steps and avoid contact with sick and dead birds or contaminated environments.

In the European Region every autumn, wild birds migrate south-westwards to overwinter in warmer climates. Since June, the Russian Federation has experienced multiple avian influenza outbreaks in poultry along major bird migration routes. Given the presence of avian influenza viruses in the Region, their spread to other countries is likely.

See also UK guidance from [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Public Health England](#)

Weekly national flu reports: 2018 to 2019 season

These [reports](#) summarise UK surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory illnesses for the 2018 to 2019 season.

Flu and other seasonal respiratory illness are tracked year-round. Public Health England publish a weekly report in the influenza season (which runs from October to May) and a fortnightly summary report during the summer months (from June to September).

Hepatitis E: symptoms, transmission, treatment and prevention (07/11/18)

Public Health England has updated [guidance](#) on Hepatitis E, an illness of the liver caused by hepatitis E virus (HEV), a virus which can infect both animals and humans.

HEV infection usually produces a mild disease, hepatitis E. However, disease symptoms can vary from no apparent symptoms to liver failure. In rare cases, it can prove fatal particularly in pregnant women.

Normally, the virus infection will clear by itself. However, it has been shown that in individuals with suppressed immune systems, the virus can result in a persistent infection which in turn can cause chronic inflammation of the liver.

Tetanus: advice for health professionals (09/11/18)

Public Health England has published [revised guidance](#) on the treatment of tetanus cases and management of tetanus prone wounds. This replaces previous guidance, including the interim guidance on recommendations on tetanus immunoglobulin. The three main areas are:

- the use of immunoglobulins for the treatment of clinical tetanus
- the management of tetanus prone wounds
- revised guidance for classifying tetanus-prone injuries.

Red and processed meat: taxation for health (06/11/18)

The consumption of red and processed meat has been associated with increased mortality from chronic diseases. The [World Health Organization](#) has classified processed meat as carcinogenic, and red meat probably carcinogenic to humans. One policy response is to regulate red and processed meat consumption similar to other carcinogens and foods of public health concerns.

The authors of this research published in [PLOS ONE](#) (open access article) describe a market-based approach of taxing red and processed meat according to its health impacts. The research team that carried out the study were from the University of Oxford in the UK and the International Food Policy Research Institute in the US. The study was funded by the Wellcome Trust.

[NHS Choices Behind the Headlines](#) assesses the results.

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

Population and fertility by age and sex for 195 countries and territories, 1950–2017 (10/11/18)

This systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 published in the [Lancet](#) (open access article) followed trends in every country from 1950 to 2017.

In 1950, women were having an average of 4.7 children in their lifetime. The fertility rate all but halved to 2.4 children per woman by last year. But that masks huge variation between nations. The fertility rate in Niger, west Africa, is 7.1, but in the Mediterranean island of Cyprus women are having one child, on average. In the UK, the rate is 1.7, similar to most Western European countries.

Suicide prevention profile: November 2018 update (06/11/18)

The suicide prevention profile, from Public Health England, has been produced to help develop understanding at a local level and support an intelligence driven approach to suicide prevention. It provides planners, providers and stakeholders with the means to profile their area and benchmark against similar populations.

A statistical commentary has also been produced which provides a summary of what is new in this [November 2018 release](#).

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Budget 2018: what it means for health and social care (08/11/18)

The King's Fund, Health Foundation and Nuffield Trust have published joint [analysis](#) on what was announced in the 2018 Budget, the finer points of what is and what is not covered, and what it means for health and social care.

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International

Management of physical health conditions in adults with severe mental disorders (2018)

Preventable physical health conditions lead to premature mortality in people with severe mental disorders, reducing their life span by 10-20 years. The majority of these premature deaths are due to physical health conditions.

The physical health of people with severe mental disorders is commonly overlooked by health systems, resulting in crucial physical health disparities and limited access to health services. Many lives can be saved by ensuring that people with severe mental disorders receive treatment.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published these [guidelines](#) providing evidence-based, up-to-date recommendations to practitioners on how to recognize and manage comorbid physical and mental health conditions.

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

A childhood criminal record is for life (08/11/18)

It is a popular misconception, even amongst professionals, that a childhood criminal record will only affect the child for a limited period of time until that record is “spent”. This is not, in fact, the case.

It is vital that children’s homes staff and other professionals such as the police, youth justice lawyers and social workers are aware of the disclosure consequences for a child of any police involvement, even involvement that does not result in formal action being taken or the child receiving a formal criminal record.

Claire Sands, youth justice research consultant, has written a [blog](#) on the subject for the [Howard League for Penal Reform](#).

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Long-term Conditions

National Diabetes Audit Report and Prescribing for Diabetes (08/11/18)

NHS Digital has published two reports on diabetes this week. [National Diabetes Audit Report 1 Care Processes and Treatment Targets 2017-18](#) and [Prescribing for Diabetes in England - 2007/08 - 2017/18](#).

The National Diabetes Audit (NDA) is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP) which is commissioned by the [Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership](#) (HQIP) and funded by NHS England. The NDA is managed by NHS Digital in partnership with [Diabetes UK](#).

Prescribing for Diabetes reports on and examines prescribing trends on medicines prescribed in primary care in England for the treatment and monitoring of diabetes during the period April 2007 to March 2018.

Diabetes is a high-profile clinical area, as the prevalence is increasing, and costs associated with treating patients with diabetes are also increasing.

Liver disease profiles: November 2018 update (06/11/18)

Liver disease is one of the main causes of premature mortality nationally. The profiles are designed to support local authorities by providing data to allow them to assess the effect of liver disease in their areas and take action to prevent it.

This update, from Public Health England, of the [liver disease profiles data tool](#) includes:

- new mortality data for 2015 to 2017 for 4 indicators
- new vaccination coverage data for 1 indicator.

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Maternity/Infants

First 1000 days of life inquiry (06/11/18)

The Health and Social Care Committee of the House of Commons started an inquiry into the [first 1000 days of a child's life](#) in July 2018. The early years of a child's life from pregnancy to age 2 are vital to their physical, mental and emotional health and development. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Conception to Age 2 highlighted the importance of this in its [Build Great Britons](#) report published in February 2015.

The inquiry is focussing on national strategy, current spending and barriers to investment, and local service provision. The [Committee](#) held its first evidence session this week questioning Anne Longfield the Children's Commissioner and others. The [session](#) is available to view on [parliamentlive.tv](#)

[Nuffield Trust](#) submission

Newborn blood spot screening: programme overview (08/11/18)

NHS England (NHSE) recommends Newborn blood spot (NBS) screening because it can improve health and prevent severe disability or even death. However, screening is always a choice and parents can decline it for their baby if they wish.

This [overview](#) is aimed at professionals working in the NHS NBS screening programme. Public information about NBS screening is available on [NHS.UK](#).

Public Health England produces information about patient confidentiality in population screening programmes. It is committed to reducing inequalities and variation in participation to help make sure everyone has fair and equal access to screening services.

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

See [Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics and International](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

The role of marketing in promoting a fit and healthy childhood (07/11/18)

In its latest [report](#) the [All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) on A Fit and Healthy Childhood](#) has called upon the Government to ditch 'voluntary approach' to food and drink marketing in the interests of children's health.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has highlighted the adverse impact of food marketing on children's eating and drinking habits. Public Health England's preferred strategy is to 'nudge' families into taking healthier choices via initiatives such as the Sugar Smart and Be Food Smart apps, but many corporate companies have continued to target children in marketing campaigns.

The report is hosted on the website of the [Association for the Study of Obesity](#).

[Local Government Association](#)

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Older People

Will population ageing spell the end of the welfare state? A review of evidence and options (2018)

This [report](#), from the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, reviews the main evidence on the health and long-term care costs associated with ageing populations to better understand the expected cost pressures due to changing demographics. At the same time, it explores how older populations can and do contribute meaningfully both in economic and societal terms, particularly if they are able to remain healthy and active into later life.

It concludes by reviewing selected policy areas that have been shown to either support the health and activity of older people or which otherwise reinforce sustainable care systems more broadly in the context of population ageing.

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

World Antibiotic Awareness Week 12 - 18 November 2018

Each November, World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) aims to increase global awareness of antibiotic resistance (AMR) and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Since their discovery, antibiotics have served as the cornerstone of modern medicine. However, the persistent overuse and misuse of antibiotics in human and animal health have encouraged the emergence and spread of AMR, which occurs when microbes, such as bacteria, become resistant to the drugs used to treat them.

[World Health Organization](#)

Public Health England [resource toolkit](#) and [evaluations](#)

Antibiotic awareness (08/11/18)

Public Health England has published [posters and leaflets](#) (in 11 languages) for the public and healthcare professionals to support antibiotic awareness campaigns in the UK.

It has also produced a short [video](#) featuring Dr Chris van Tulleken explaining the issue of antibiotic resistance.

Summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance - managing common infections (10/18)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Public Health England (PHE) have brought together information on managing common infections into a [summary table](#). The summary will be added to as new NICE guidance is published. Where guidance is in development is also indicated.

The evidence and rationales underpinning the information in the table can be accessed by clicking on the hyperlinks or the visual summary icons.

Gluten-free foods on NHS prescription: consultation outcome (06/11/18)

In August 2018 the Department of Health and Social Care sought view on proposed changes to what gluten-free foods are available on NHS prescription in England.

The [report](#) of responses summarises the consultation responses received, including the main issues raised, and provides details on the updates that will take place to the Drug Tariff for prescribing in England.

It is proposed to lay Amendment Regulations in November with a coming in to force date of early December. It is envisaged that following the changes to the Prescribing Regulations coming into force, GF foods that do not fall into the categories of GF bread and GF mixes will no longer be available on prescription in primary care, in England.

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Public Health/Health Promotion

Prevention is better than cure (05/11/18)

The Department for Health and Social Care has published a [policy paper](#) setting out the government's vision for: stopping health problems from starting in the first place, and supporting people to manage their health problems when they do arise. The goal is to improve healthy life expectancy by at least 5 extra years, by 2035, and to close the gap between the richest and poorest.

In addition a collection of [case studies](#) has been published, showing examples of good practice in preventing health problems from happening.

This week Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock addressed the [International Association of National Public Health Institutes \(IANPHI\)](#) about his vision to help people make healthier choices. He [spoke](#) about the task for the National Health Service to help empower people to take more care of their own health, and the need to focus more on prevention. He said:

"Around a quarter of what leads to longer healthier life is acute care – or what goes on in hospitals. The second factor is genetics. The third factor is environmental – things like air quality that an individual can't control. And the final factor is what people do – the choices they make, the lifestyle they choose."

See also [Better health for all: a new vision for prevention](#), by Public Health England, Chief Executive Duncan Selbie and a further [statement](#) from Matt Hancock on the Public Health Matters blog

Wider Determinants of Health: November 2018 update (06/11/18)

This [updated tool](#), from Public Health England, brings together available indicators at England and local authority levels on the wider determinants of health with links to further resources.

The Wider Determinants of Health tool is designed to:

- draw attention to the broad range of individual, social and environmental factors which influence our health
- provide the public health system with intelligence on the wider determinants of health, to help improve population health and reduce health inequalities.

Public Health Outcomes Framework (06/11/18)

The [data tool](#) presents data for available indicators at England and local authority levels, collated by Public Health England. The data is updated once per quarter.

This [November 2018 update](#) of the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) contains:

- more recent data for 44 indicators
- equalities and inequalities breakdowns for 18 indicators
- 2 indicators with revised data source
- revised back series data for 13 indicators.

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Safeguarding

ADCS: Safeguarding Pressures (07/11/18)

The Association of Directors of Children's Services Ltd (ADCS) has published [Safeguarding Pressures Research Phase 6](#). ADCS has collected qualitative and quantitative data from local authorities in six phases spanning 2007/8 to 2017/18 to evidence and better understand changes in demand for, and provision of, children's social care.

The sixth phase of the study draws together survey responses from 92% (140) of all local authorities in England, the highest ever response rate, covering 11.3 million (95%) children and young people under the age of 18. This, together with existing data, provides an insight into the safeguarding related pressures facing children's services across the country. In Phase 6, data over a ten-year period can be compared, and, for the first time, predictive modelling is used to estimate future demand.

[Local Government Association response](#)

[Children and Young People Now](#)

[Alison Holt Social affairs correspondent, BBC News article of rising demand](#)

Kent: Serious Case Review Child G (25/10/18)

Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) has an [overview report and briefing paper](#) of a serious case review on Child G. The child was two months old when she died while in the care of her parents in 2017. Her father admitted manslaughter. He was convicted and received a custodial sentence in June 2018. Child G died from injuries consistent with being shaken.

The briefing paper identifies 5 key themes from the case with lessons to be learned and reflective questions for all professionals to consider when working with children and their families.

- The need to assess and provide support and services to both parents, regardless of gender.
 - When a parent is vulnerable, professionals may struggle to identify that they are not meaningfully engaging with services.
 - The importance of supervision and clear processes for professionals to follow if they are not receiving supervision as required.
 - The need for on-going communication and information sharing around, and following, transitions between services.
 - The need for a timely response to any decline in a family's situation, particularly bearing in mind the vulnerability of very young babies.
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Screening

NHS population screening explained (05/11/18)

This newly updated [guide](#) sets out what NHS population screening is, how it works, its limitations and the role of Public Health England.

Some explanatory videos on screening are included.

Bowel cancer screening: programme overview (08/11/18)

Bowel cancer screening is offered every 2 years to men and women aged 60 to 74. In August 2018, ministers agreed that in the future bowel cancer screening in England will start at the age of 50. PHE and the NHS are looking at how this can be achieved.

People older than 74 can ask for a screening kit every 2 years. An additional one-off test called bowel scope screening is being introduced in England for men and women at the age of 55.

Public Health England has updated [guidance](#) providing information on the programme, including commissioning, quality assurance, education and training.

Bowel cancer screening: research priorities Consultation 08 November - 30 November 2018

This [exercise](#) is being coordinated by members of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Research Advisory Committee, in conjunction with Public Health England.

Please refer to the [scope](#) of the prioritisation exercise, before completing the [survey](#).

See also Maternity/Infants

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Sexual Health

Tackling the taboo of menstrual hygiene in the European Region (08/11/18)

Globally, 52% of women and girls are of reproductive age – around 1.9 billion people. Yet, a massive taboo and stigma still surrounds the topic of menstruation, and it is often difficult for girls and women in many countries and regions to practice optimal menstrual hygiene. WHO/Europe has been working with Member States to better understand the magnitude of the problem and to support the development of policies to tackle the inequality surrounding menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

Inequality in relation to MHM has many causes, such as lack of information about menstruation, unsatisfactory sanitation infrastructure and the fact that menstrual management supplies are often unavailable or unaffordable. This matter concerns the dignity and well-being of all women and girls, particularly school-aged girls who often miss classes due to inadequate MHM, and one that underpins rights to sanitation and gender equality in education.

At a recent [meeting](#) Member States of WHO Europe shared examples of good practice on how to measure the scope of the problem, identify the needs of those affected, improve facilities in schools and strengthen school education on

menstruation. This included an [initiative](#) of the Scottish Government to provide free menstrual products to students in schools, colleges and universities.

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Social Care/Welfare

CQC: Update on Allied Healthcare (05/11/18)

Allied Healthcare is one of the largest home care providers in England and one of 59 adult social care providers within the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) Market Oversight Scheme. CQC's Market Oversight function monitors the financial health of the largest and most difficult to replace providers of adult social care in England because of their size, which represents about 25% of the adult social care sector.

While CQC is not able to comment on the specific financial circumstances of Allied Healthcare, it is required to notify local authorities where it considers that both business failure is likely, and that regulated services are likely to stop as a result. This is to allow local authorities time to prepare and support the continuity of care services for people who rely and depend on the affected provider.

As of Monday 5 November, CQC has written directly to all 84 local authorities affected to advise them of this situation. The local authorities affected include Kent, East and West Sussex, Surrey, Essex and a number of London boroughs.

[Statement](#) by Andrea Sutcliffe CBE, Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care at the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

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Workforce Development

Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Competence Framework (11/18)

The Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Competence Framework is now available on the [University College London CORE](#) webpage.

The framework and documents cover the following areas:

- working with children and young people (from 8 years upwards)
- working with adults and older adults (from 18 years upwards)
- working with the public (community and public health)
- Service users and carers

Information relating to the competency framework can also be found on both [Health Education England](#) website and the [National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health](#) website.

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Workplace

The health and social care workforce in the UK (06/11/18)

The [Cavendish Coalition](#) commissioned the [National Institute of Economic and Social Research \(NIESR\)](#) to produce a [policy report](#) on how the health and social care workforce in the UK will be affected post-Brexit.

Brexit is likely to lead to a shortfall in nurses and doctors which needs to be addressed by a new immigration policy. However, while the implications of any future immigration restrictions are very serious for the NHS, the social care sector is likely to have even greater problems.

The Cavendish Coalition is a group of health and social care organisations dedicated to the provision of good care to communities, patients and residents.

[Infographics](#)

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