

Knowledge, Evidence and Insight News & Information Bulletin: January 2019

The *News & Information Bulletin* highlights news and developments relevant to health and social care and partner professionals.

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News

Childhood obesity

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [Childhood obesity: a plan for action: a consideration of interactions between modelled policies](#). This document sets out how the policies in chapters 1 and 2 of the government's childhood obesity plan could work together. DHSC has also launched a consultation on [Restricting promotions of food and drink that is high in fat, sugar and salt](#). The government is seeking views on its plans to restrict promotions of food and drink products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) by location and by price.

- Additional links: [DHSC press release](#)
[Government response to the Health and Social Care Select Committee report 'Childhood obesity: time for action'](#)

DHSC has also announced that 13 local authorities, including Nottinghamshire County Council, have been selected to receive [funding and support to develop innovative plans to reduce childhood obesity](#) that can then be shared across the country.

- Additional link: [DHSC press release](#)



Clean air strategy

The government has published [Clean Air Strategy 2019](#). This strategy sets out the government's plans for dealing with all sources of air pollution, making air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy. It sets out how the government will protect the nation's health; protect the environment; secure clean growth and innovation; reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry; and monitor progress.

- Additional links: [Government press release](#)
[Consultation responses](#)



Cross-government suicide prevention plan

The government has published the first [cross-government suicide prevention workplan](#), which sets out how the government will work across sectors, including with the NHS, local government and the criminal justice system to address suicide. The plan has a focus on how social media and the latest technology – such as predictive analytics and artificial intelligence – can identify those most at risk. Alongside this, the Department of Health and Social Care has published [Preventing suicide in England: fourth progress report of the cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives](#), which sets out what has been done to reduce deaths by suicide in England during 2017 and 2018.

- Additional link: [DHSC press release](#)



New Change4Life campaign launched

Public Health England has [launched a new campaign](#) to help families cut back on sugar and help tackle the growing rates of childhood obesity. To help manage this, parents are being encouraged to 'Make a swap when you next shop'. Making simple everyday swaps can reduce children's sugar intake from some products (yoghurts, drinks and breakfast cereals) by half, while giving them healthier versions of the foods and drinks they enjoy. Resources to support the campaign can be ordered from the Knowledge, Evidence and Insight team (see contact details below).

- Additional link: [Change4Life website](#)



NHS App rollout

The [NHS App](#) is now being rolled out across England. GP practices will need to review some of their system settings before they can go live and enable all the functions of the NHS App. Patients will be able to use it to book and manage appointments at their GP practice; order repeat prescriptions; view their GP medical record; check symptoms using NHS 111 online and the health A-Z on the NHS website; register as an organ donor; and choose whether the NHS uses their data for research and planning.



Prison health inquiry

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [Government response to the Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry into prison health](#). This command paper sets out the government's response to the Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry into prison healthcare published in November 2018.



Tackling antimicrobial resistance

The Department of Health and Social Care has published a 20-year vision and a 5-year national action plan for containing and controlling antimicrobial resistance (AMR):

- [Contained and controlled: the UK's 20-year vision for antimicrobial resistance](#) explores how the UK will contribute to containing and controlling AMR by 2040.
- [Tackling antimicrobial resistance 2019 to 2024: the UK's 5-year national action plan](#) sets out the ambitions and actions for the next 5 years for AMR.
- Additional links: [DHSC AMR resources](#)



NHS Long Term Plan

NHS Long Term Plan

NHS England has published [The NHS Long Term Plan](#). The plan is intended to make the NHS fit for the future and to get the most value for patients out of the taxpayers' investment. It focuses on making sure everyone gets the best start in life, delivering world-class care for major health problems and supporting people to age well. It also sets potential actions for overcoming the challenges that the NHS faces, such as staff shortages and growing demand for services. Local plans for 2019/20 are expected to be published by April 2019 with local five-year plans published in Autumn 2019.

- Additional links: [NHS Long Term Plan website](#)
[Case studies](#)
[Secretary of State's oral statement](#)
[NHS England press release](#)
[DHSC news story](#)
[NHS Employers news item](#)

Responses to the plan

- [King's Fund](#)
- [NHS Clinical Commissioners](#)
- [NHS Confederation](#)
- [The Health Foundation](#)
- [Nuffield Trust](#)
- [Centre for Mental Health](#)

Cancer debate pack

The House of Commons Library has issued an [Early diagnosis and the cancer workforce in the NHS long-term plan](#) debate pack to inform the debate that was held on 8th January in Westminster Hall. It contains information that may be useful to a wider audience.

House of Lords Library Briefing

The House of Lords Library has issued a [Library Briefing](#) to inform the debate that was held on 30th January in the House of Lords on the NHS Long Term Plan. It contains information that may be useful to a wider audience.

Long Term Plan: equality and health inequalities assessment

NHS England has published [The NHS Long Term Plan: equality and health inequalities impact assessment](#). The Equality and Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (EHIA) explains how NHS England has considered and addressed these 'equality duties' in developing the NHS Long Term Plan. It is accompanied by an annex that assesses each chapter of the plan.

The Long Term Plan explained

The King's Fund has published [The NHS long-term plan explained](#). This explainer sets out the main commitments in the plan and provide the King's Fund view of what they might mean, highlighting the opportunities and challenges for the health and care system as it moves to put the plan into practice.

Mental health and the NHS Long Term Plan

The Centre for Mental Health has published [The NHS Long Term Plan: What does it mean for mental health?](#) This briefing provides a summary of the key proposals in the Long Term Plan that relate to mental health and investigates the implications of the Plan as a whole for mental health. It explores what the establishment of Integrated Care Systems nationwide might mean for mental health services and how the Plan's focus on prevention might change the way people with mental health difficulties are supported. It also looks at the importance of social care and public health.

NHS Confederation briefing

The NHS Confederation has published [Briefing: NHS Long Term Plan](#). This documents sets out the NHS Confederation's view on the NHS Long Term plan and summarises the main details.

NHS Providers 'On the day briefing'

NHS Providers has published an [On the day briefing for the NHS Long Term Plan](#). This document summarises key content included in each chapter of the Plan: a new service model, action on prevention and health inequalities, progress on care quality and outcomes, the NHS workforce, digitally-enabled care, value for money and the next steps in implementing the plan. It also includes NHS Providers' view and press statement.

Universal Personalised Care

NHS England has published [Universal Personalised Care: implementing the comprehensive model](#). This document sets out how the NHS Long Term Plan commitments for personalised care will be delivered. It introduces the model for personalised care comprising six evidence-based standard components intended to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and quality of care, whilst also enhancing value for money. Implementation will be guided by delivery partnerships with local government, the voluntary and community sector and people with lived experience.

- Additional link: [NHS England news item](#)



Public Health

General:

Annual reports: WHO and Picker Institute

The World Health Organisation has published [2018: The WHO European Region's Year in Review](#) which looks back at some of the key moments from the year. The Picker Institute has published its annual report [Influence, inspire, empower: impact report 2017-2018](#). The report describes the impact of the institute's work to help understand and improve the quality of care services in the UK and internationally.

Health risks of cold homes

Public Health England has published [Data sources to support local services tackling the health risks of cold homes](#). This guidance aims to support public health teams and housing professionals in the prevention and management of the health impacts associated with cold homes.

- Additional link: [Public Health England blog – how your body copes with cold weather](#)

Mortality in the UK

The House of Commons has published a briefing paper [Mortality in the UK](#). This paper examines data on the following measures of mortality in the UK: number of deaths, crude death rate, age-standardised mortality rate and period life expectancy.

Public Health England research

Public Health England has published [Public Health England research 2017 to 2018: annual review](#). This report profiles research carried out by PHE which was supported by funding from the public and other sectors.

Public Health Outcomes Framework consultation

Public Health England (PHE) has launched a consultation: [Proposed changes to the Public Health Outcomes Framework from 2019 to 2020: a consultation](#). PHE is planning to update the Public Health Outcomes Framework in the summer to ensure that it continues to be relevant and meets the needs of users. PHE would like feedback from users on their proposed changes to ensure they are helpful and appropriate. The consultation closes on 17th February 2019.

Public health workforce

Public Health England has published [Fit for the future: public health people progress report 2016 to 2018](#). This document reports on progress, to date, against the recommendations in the original 'Fit for the Future: public health people' and details the activities that have been carried out across the public health system by stakeholder organisations.

Sexual and reproductive health data

Public Health England has updated [Sexual health, reproductive health and HIV in England: a guide to local and national data](#). This document contains guidance to help health professionals understand the sexual health data available across England and how the data can be accessed. It includes data collected by PHE and other organisations.

Supporting carers

The Local Government Association has published [Supporting carers: guidance and case studies](#). This publication demonstrates current examples of how councils support adult and young carers locally in a range of different ways from respite breaks to discount cards to tailored information and advice.

Work and health

Public Health England has published [Health matters: health and work](#). This resource brings together data, toolkits and the best evidence of what works in addressing and removing health-related barriers to gaining and retaining employment. It focuses on the actions that can be taken by employers in general, local authorities and the NHS workforce with regards to health and work.

Statistics

The following statistical releases have been published:

- [Birth characteristics in England and Wales: 2017](#)
- [Deaths registered by area in England and Wales, monthly provisional: November 2018](#)
- [Deaths registered monthly in England and Wales: December 2018](#)
- [National Child Measurement Programme and Child Obesity Profile: academic year 2017 to 2018 update](#)



Healthy Eating and Obesity:

Differences in child obesity by ethnic group

Public Health England has published [Differences in child obesity by ethnic group](#). This ad hoc statistical publication presents analyses of National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data collected in the 2016 to 2017 school year. It shows how child obesity prevalence varies by ethnicity, after adjustment for other explanatory variables.

Statistics

The following statistical releases have been published:

- [National Diet and Nutrition Survey: Years 1 to 9 of the Rolling Programme \(2008/2009 – 2016/2017\)](#) - Time trend and income analyses



Infection Control and Immunisation:

Flu vaccination

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [Flu vaccination in England: government response to the Science and Technology Committee report](#). This command paper sets out the government's response to the Science and Technology Committee's ninth report into flu vaccinations of session 2017 to 2019, published by the House of Commons in October 2018.

Health Protection Report

Public Health England has published the following editions of Health Protection Report:

- [Volume 13, Issue 1: 4th January 2019](#)

HPV-MSM vaccination

NHS England has published frequently-asked questions relating to the [HPV-MSM \(human papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccination for men who have sex with men \(MSM\)\)](#). The documents, one for health professionals and one for the general public, cover NHS England's response (and FAQs) to the DHSC announcement to introduce a nationwide HPV vaccination programme for men who have sex with men aged 45 or younger attending level 3 specialist sexual health services/genitourinary medicine and HIV clinics in England.

Measles and rubella elimination strategy

Public Health England has published [Measles and rubella elimination UK Strategy 2019](#). This report explains the UK's strategy towards measles and rubella elimination. It focuses on four core components: achieve and sustain $\geq 95\%$ coverage in the routine childhood programme; achieve $\geq 95\%$ coverage with 2 doses of MMR vaccine in older age cohorts through opportunistic and targeted catch-up; strengthen measles and rubella surveillance; and ensure easy access to high-quality, evidence-based information.

- Additional link: [PHE press release](#)



Long-Term Conditions:

Asthma care in the UK

Asthma UK has published [The reality of asthma care in the UK: annual asthma survey 2018 report](#). This report presents the findings from a survey of 10,064 people with asthma across the UK. The findings include: three out of five people still don't receive basic asthma care; young people receive the worst level of basic care; there is variation in asthma care across the UK; people may be suffering from more asthma attacks than previously estimated; and crucial follow-up after emergency care is still being missed.

Diabetes debate pack

The House of Commons Library has issued a [diabetes debate pack](#) to inform the debate that was held on 9th January in Westminster Hall. It contains information that may be useful to a wider audience.

Musculoskeletal health

Public Health England has published [Musculoskeletal health: applying All Our Health](#). This guidance will help front-line health and care staff to promote the benefits of maintaining good musculoskeletal health with a focus on prevention, early detection and treatment. It also recommends actions that managers and staff holding strategic roles can take.

National Diabetes Transition Audit

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership has published [National Diabetes Transition Audit 2011-17](#). This report examines care provision when young people with Type 1 diabetes move from paediatric to adult-based clinical care. The findings point to deterioration in annual care process completion, achievement of treatment targets and higher rates of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) when young people transition from paediatric to adult services, with considerable local service variation. The report sets out recommendations for local specialist services, clinical commissioning groups and health boards.

- Additional link: [NHS Digital statistics](#)



Mental Health:

Children and young people's mental health

The House of Commons Library has published [Children and young people's mental health – policy, CAMHS services, funding and education](#). This briefing sets out information on policy, services, funding and education relating to children and young people's mental health.

Mental health services for children and young people

The Public Accounts Committee has published [Mental health services for children and young people](#). This report examines mental health services for children and young people and finds most young people with a mental health condition do not get the treatment they need. It says government should step up action to increase staff numbers and develop required skills, and cross-departmental planning must improve, with focus on prevention and early intervention.

Student mental health

The Centre for Mental Health has published [Finding our own way: mental health and moving from school to further and higher education](#). This report explores the impact of transitions between school and further and higher education on students' mental health and ways in which these might be improved. The report highlights the lack of joined-up NHS support for students living between two locations, and makes a number of recommendations.



Stroke and CVD:

Cardiovascular disease prevention

Public Health England has published [Cardiovascular disease prevention: applying All Our Health](#). This guidance will help front-line health and care staff to prevent heart attacks, strokes and dementia and to improve cardiovascular health. It also recommends actions that managers and staff holding strategic roles can take.

Statistics

The following statistical releases have been published:

- [Cardiovascular disease profiles: January 2019 update](#)



Health and Social Care

General:

2019/20 NHS Standard Contract consultation

NHS England has published, for consultation, the [draft 2019/20 NHS Standard Contract \(both full length and shorter-form versions\)](#). The consultation paper describes the main changes proposed in the contracts. NHS England is also proposing to mandate use of a standard Activity and Finance Report (known as the Aggregate Contract Monitoring report) format, and supporting data flows, for all acute and mental health services commissioned under the full-length version of the Contract. Closing date for comments on these documents is 1st February 2019.

A&E high intensity users

Dr Foster has published [High intensity users: reducing the burden on accident & emergency departments](#). This report analyses accident and emergency attendances to identify the common characteristics of high intensity users (HIU) i.e. those people who attended A&E 10 or more times in a 12-month period. It also explores patterns in HIU attendances to provide insight and a better understanding of the reasons they attend with such high frequency. The analysis suggests a relatively small cohort of people are receiving a significant allocation of NHS resources compared to the average population.

Atlas of Shared Learning

The following case studies have been added to the Atlas of Shared Learning:

- [Delivering home-based phototherapy to babies with physiological jaundice](#) - Whittington Health
- [Improving care in Mental Health services – an Acute Care Pathway](#) - Stoke-on-Trent
- [Improving mentorship at North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust](#)
- [Improving the quality of care for neonatal patients](#) - Great Ormond Street
- [The Intern Programme at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University NHS Hospitals Trust](#)
- [Introducing a Children’s Health Smartphone App at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust](#)
- [Learning Disability and Autism support in an acute setting](#) - London
- [Mental Capacity and ‘Best Interest’ planning at North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust](#)
- [Newark acute home visiting service](#)
- [The ‘No catheter – No catheter-associated urinary tract infection’ programme](#) - Newcastle upon Tyne
- [One-to-one antenatal and postnatal support for mental health](#) - Northern Lincolnshire and Goole
- [Small Changes, Big Impact – Healthcare assistant development in a tissue viability clinic](#) - Bradford
- [The Sudden and Unexpected Deaths in Childhood \(SUDC\) Service – a nurse-led model of care and support](#) - Lancashire
- [A ‘Trial Without Catheter at home’ programme at the Royal Victoria Infirmary](#) - Newcastle upon Tyne
- [Quality improvement using the principles of the Leading Change, Adding Value framework](#) - London
- [Introducing a ‘practice frailty nurse’ into the community setting](#) – Newcastle Gateshead CCG
- [Introducing a carers resource pack at South West London and St George’s Mental Health NHS Trust](#) – London
- [Specialist children’s short break services](#) – North Staffordshire
- [Introducing group consultations for cancer care reviews](#) – Lancaster
- [‘When a child dies’; the development of a collaborative education programme to enhance care and support](#) – Great Ormond Street Hospital

Government debate packs

The Parliamentary Libraries have issued the following debate packs to inform debates recently held in Parliament:

- [Impact of Technology on the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People](#) (debate held 17th January 2019 in the House of Lords)
- [Children’s social care in England](#) (debate held on 17th January 2019)
- [Mental health first aid in the workplace](#) (debate held on 17th January 2019)
- [Mental health and the benefits assessment process](#) (debate held 22nd January 2019)
- [Appropriate ME treatment](#) (House of Commons debate held on 24th January 2019)
- [Debate on e-petition 225767 relating to lowering the age for smear tests for cervical cancer from 25 to 18](#) (debate held on 28th January 2018)
- [Support for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families](#) (debate held on 29th January 2019)
- [Access to NHS Treatments for Children and Young People with Mental Health Problems](#) (House of Lords question for short debate (QSD) held on 30th January 2019)
- [Supporting fathers in early parenthood](#) (debate held on 30th January)

These packs contain information that may be useful to a wider audience.

New Medicines Newsletter

The UKMi horizon scanning service has produced the following edition of the New Medicines Newsletter:

- [December 2018](#)

NHS Constitution

The Department of Health and Social Care has published the following documents relating to the NHS Constitution:

- [Handbook to the NHS Constitution for England](#) – this new edition of the handbook is designed to give the public, patients, carers, families and NHS staff e-information about the NHS Constitution;
- [Report on the effect of the NHS Constitution 2019](#) - sets out awareness and understanding of the constitution in the NHS; the impact the constitution is having on the NHS; and progress made and areas for improvement to help embed the constitution.

NHS efficiency map

The HFMA, NHS Improvement and NHS England have worked in partnership to update and revise the [NHS efficiency map](#). The map is a tool that promotes best practice in identifying, delivering and monitoring cost improvement programmes (CIPs) in the NHS. As well as additional provider efficiency material the map has now been updated with a number of tools and guidance suitable for commissioning organisations, reflecting increased collaboration and integration.

NHS productivity

NHS England has highlighted statistics showing [NHS productivity for the financial year ending 2017](#) grew by 3% in England, more than treble the 0.8% achieved across the wider UK economy in 2016/17. [Labour productivity, UK: July to September 2018](#) statistics, published by the Office of National Statistics, show output per hour, output per job and output per worker for the whole economy and a range of industries.

NIHR Signals

- [Adding low dose theophylline to inhaled corticosteroids does not reduce COPD exacerbations.](#)
- [Aerobic exercise is an effective treatment for depression.](#)
- [Antibiotics may be an alternative first-line treatment for uncomplicated appendicitis.](#)
- [Antidepressants do not help treat depression in people living with dementia.](#)
- [The benefits of commonly-used blood pressure and cholesterol lowering treatment can last 16 years.](#)
- [Combining mirtazapine with other antidepressants is not effective for treatment-resistant depression.](#)
- [Home-based cardiac rehabilitation for heart failure has high rates of participation.](#)
- [Lifestyle changes may be more important than drugs for mild hypertension.](#)
- [Pelvic floor muscle training can improve symptoms of urinary incontinence.](#)
- [People leaving hospital after medical illness do not benefit from extended clot reducing treatment.](#)
- [Premature babies have fewer complications if a lower platelet count is accepted.](#)
- [Radiotherapy benefits some men whose prostate cancer has spread to their bones.](#)
- [Repeat thyroid function tests for healthy older people are not needed.](#)
- [Reviewing inhaler technique for older people with COPD can improve disease control.](#)
- [Thyroid hormone treatment does not help adults with mildly abnormal thyroid tests.](#)

Operational planning and contracting 2019/20

The full [NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2019/20](#) has also been published and replaces the preparatory guidance published in December 2018. It covers system planning, the financial settlement, operational plan requirements and the process and timescales around the submission of plans. It is being published along with five-year indicative CCG allocations (see *NHS and Social Care Finances*)

- Additional link: [NHS Providers' briefing](#)

Subsequently, NHS England has published [Corrections to NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2019/20](#).

Pain management outcome measures

The Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the British Pain Society have developed a guidance document containing [outcome scales appropriate to pain management](#). The commonly-used scales are designed to be completed by adults over 16, before and after treatment. For each scale, a brief description is given with main advantages and disadvantages, and information on use and copyright.

Planning and contracting guidance

NHS England has published the following documentation to accompany the recent planning and contracting guidance (see above):

- [Technical and supporting guidance: NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2019/20](#) – supports the submission of templates.
- [Annex B: Guidance for operational and activity plans – assurance statements](#) - sets out assurance statement deliverables.
- [Annex C: NHS Improvement guidance to trusts for operational plans](#) - contains the technical guidance for NHS planning for trusts for 2019/20 operational plans.

Scieline

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has published the January edition of its newsletter, [Scieline](#). It includes SCIE's response to the NHS Long Term Plan.

Spinal services

NHS Improvement has published [Spinal services: GIRFT Programme National Specialty Report](#). This report from the 'Getting It Right First Time' (GIRFT) programme identifies 22 recommendations for improving the spinal speciality in the NHS across England. The report is primarily focused on spinal emergency conditions such as spinal cord injury and spinal infection, as well as the management of common conditions such as back and sciatica pain.

Transforming elective care services: Ophthalmology/Diabetes/Dermatology

NHS England has published three handbooks which describe what local health and care systems can do to transform services at pace, why this is necessary and how the impact of this transformation can be measured. Practical guidance for implementing and adopting a range of interventions locally is included to help ensure patients see the right person, in the right place, first time. The three handbooks are:

- [Transforming elective care services: ophthalmology](#)
- [Transforming elective care services: diabetes](#)
- [Transforming elective care services: dermatology](#)



Brexit:

Advice for travellers

The government has published its [latest advice for people travelling to the UK, European Union, European Economic Area or Switzerland](#) after 29th March 2019 in the event of a no-deal EU Exit. Until further agreements are reached between the UK and individual EU member states, the government advises UK citizens to follow this latest guidance to ensure they are fully prepared for any unexpected healthcare requirements overseas.

Brexit operational readiness guidance

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [Brexit operational readiness guidance for the health and care system in England](#). This guidance will support the health and care system in England to be prepared for a no-deal scenario. It summarises the areas where the department is focusing no-deal exit contingency planning, and where local action is required. Further operational guidance will be provided to support the health and care system to prepare for the UK leaving the EU before 29 March 2019.

Healthcare (International Arrangements) Bill 2017-19

The House of Commons Library has published [Healthcare \(International Arrangements\) Bill 2017-19](#). This briefing paper analyses the Healthcare (International Arrangements) Bill 2017-19 which is one of a series of 'Brexit Bills' intended to adjust UK legislation in preparation for Brexit. The aim is to allow the UK to maintain reciprocal healthcare arrangements with the EU and its Member States post-Brexit.

Supply of medicines

The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer has published a letter which outlines the [steps taken so far to protect the continuity of supply of medicines](#) should the UK leave the EU without a deal. The Department of Health and Social Care has also published brief [information for patients on how they will continue to receive medicines and treatment](#) if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.



Children and Young People:

Children's social care

The National Audit Office has published [Pressures on children's social care](#). This report sets out recent trends in pressures on children's social care and the response of both national and local government to these pressures. It also sets out analysis about what is causing variations in children's social care demand and activity between different local authorities.

Effects of alcohol consumption in pregnancy

Healthcare Improvement Scotland and SIGN have published [SIGN156: Children and young people exposed prenatally to alcohol](#). This document provides recommendations based on best available evidence and consensus for the assessment and diagnosis of children and young people affected by prenatal alcohol exposure. It includes evidence-based recommendations on measurement of alcohol consumption in pregnancy and consensus-based recommendations.

National Child Measurement Programme case studies

The Local Government Association has published [National Child Measurement Programme: briefing for elected members](#). The briefing contains eight case studies showcasing work around the National Child Measurement Programme.

National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies for Children and Young People

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership has published [National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies for Children and Young People \(2018\)](#). This audit shows incremental improvements in some areas of paediatric epilepsy service provision, alongside a considerable need for improvement in others.

Safeguarding children

The National Children's Bureau has published [Safeguarding early adopters: developing the learning on multi-agency safeguarding arrangements interim report – December 2018](#). This report shares the emerging learning from the Safeguarding Early Adopters (EA) programme including activity from the programme so far; approaches the EA projects are testing and implementing; early principles for implementation; and learning examples from EA projects.

State of child health

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has published [State of Child Health: two years on](#). This report sets out progress made against the policy recommendation in the RCPCH State of Child Health 2017 report. It reveals achievements in key areas and a more positive picture for infants, children and young people, however cuts to public health, services and political uncertainty pose substantial threats to progress.



Commissioning:

CCG assessments

NHS England has published four CCG assessments for 2017/18. These documents contain independent panel commentary, methodology of the ratings for 2017/18 and the CCG individual assessment ratings for 2017/18. The four reports are:

- [CCG Diabetes Assessment 2017/18](#)
- [CCG Mental Health Assessment 2017/18](#)
- [CCG Dementia Assessment 2017/18](#)
- [CCG Learning Disabilities Assessment 2017/18](#)

CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework

NHS England has published [Patient and Community Engagement Indicator: 2018/19 CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework: Guidance for CCGs](#). This document presents guidance to support CCGs to identify and compile evidence, and to complete the evidence template for the Patient and Community Engagement Indicator in the CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework (CCG IAF) 2018/19.

Patient support programmes

The NHS Confederation has published [The value of patient support programmes](#). This briefing explains what patient support programmes are for, exploring some of the barriers to greater use of them for NHS patients with long-term or chronic conditions and looking at what action is needed to overcome these, with the aim of encouraging more decision-makers and commissioners to consider whether they could contribute to improved and more personalised care of patients.



Integrated Care:

Integrated care: are patients benefitting?

The Nuffield Trust has published a scrolling data story [Are patients benefitting from better integrated care?](#) The story investigates whether the drive in recent years to integrate services more closely has resulted in any tangible improvements for patients. It is accompanied by a [blog](#) which puts the study in context and explains the findings. The study concludes there is limited evidence that patients are benefitting from better integrated care.

Personalised care for older people

The Nuffield Trust, commissioned by Age UK, has published [Age UK's Personalised Integrated Care Programme Evaluation of impact on hospital activity](#). This report evaluates a scheme providing personalised care for older people who are deemed to be at risk of future emergency admission. It looks at whether the programme has been able to reduce cost pressures on health and care systems and whether there has been any impact on the levels of hospital use.



Learning Disability

Supporting people with a learning disability and/or autism

The Strategy Unit has published reports presenting findings to date from an [evaluation of the Building the Right Support plan](#) published in 2015. Building the Right Support is a national plan to provide better support to people with a learning disability or autism. The research is intended to find out what is working, what is not working and what can be done better to support people. The research is due to be completed in summer 2019 after which the final results will be published.



NHS and Social Care Finances:

CCG allocations

NHS England has published [draft CCG allocations for 2019/20 – 2023/24](#). These allocations are part of the deployment of NHS England's five-year revenue funding settlement, averaging 3.4% a year in real terms and reaching £20.5bn extra a year by 2023/24. The following documents have been published:

- Note on CCG allocations 2019/20 – 2023/24
- Draft CCG allocations 2019-20 to 2023-24 (core services)
- Draft CCG allocations 2019-20 to 2023-24 (primary care medical)
- Draft CCG allocations 2019-20 to 2023-24 (specialised services)
- Draft CCG allocations 2019-20 to 2023-24 (total place based)
- Draft CCG allocations 2019-20 to 2020-21 (Running cost allowances)
- Change to CCG core services target allocation 2018/19 – 2019-20
- Additional link: [NHS England press release](#)

Investing in the NHS

The Office of Health Economics has published, [Can a strong economic case be made for investing in the NHS?](#) This is a transcript of a lecture in which Professor Peter Smith argued that an economic case can be made for investment in the NHS. It concludes with a set of recommendations and messages for the NHS: for policy, for service delivery, and for regulators.

Local auditor reporting

The National Audit Office has published [Local auditor reporting in England 2018](#). This report describes the local audit landscape; summarises the issues being reported by local auditors, and how these have changed over time; and examines how local bodies, central government departments and arm's-length bodies use the information to address the weaknesses reported. The report covers local NHS organisations.

National Tariff Payment System 2019/20

NHS Improvement and NHS England have launched a consultation on [National Tariff Payment System 2019/20](#). They are consulting on all aspects of the proposed 2019/20 national tariff. There is a main document containing policy proposals and the draft tariff and a number of supporting documents. The consultation runs until 21st February.

- Additional links: [NHS Providers' news](#)
[NHS providers' briefing](#)

NHS financial sustainability

The National Audit Office has published [NHS financial sustainability](#). The report concludes the existence of substantial deficits in some parts of the system, offset by surpluses elsewhere coupled with growing waiting lists and year-on-year increases in waiting times, does not paint a picture that is sustainable. It makes recommendations to ensure additional funding is spent wisely including testing whether local plans to manage demand are realistic; ensuring key risks to delivery of the long-term plan are identified; and developing a sustainable long-term plan to support trusts in severe financial difficulty.

Rural health care and the costs of delivering health care

The Nuffield Trust has published [Rural health care: a rapid review of the impact of rurality on the costs of delivering health care](#). The Nuffield Trust was commissioned by the National Centre for Rural Health and Care to explore the key issues around the impact of rurality and sparsity on the costs of delivering health care. The analysis suggests that while the association between rurality, overstretched services and financial pressure are unclear, NHS trusts with 'unavoidably small' sites do appear to underperform: as well as having generally longer waiting times and lengths of stay, they are also in greater financial difficulty.

- Additional link: [Nuffield Trust press release](#)



Pregnancy and Maternity Services:

Maternity and Perinatal Audit

HQIP has published the following National Maternity and Perinatal Audit reports:

- [National Maternity and Perinatal Audit – Intensive Care Report](#) - describes the feasibility of linking the NMPA's maternity data to intensive care data and evaluates the suitability of rates of maternal admission to intensive care as an indicator of care quality.
- [National Maternity and Perinatal Audit – Neonatal Report](#) - explores the feasibility of linking the NMPA data, relating to women who give birth, to the National Neonatal Research Database which contains information about babies admitted to a neonatal unit.

Maternity services survey

The Care Quality Commission has published the results from its [Maternity services survey 2018](#). The survey of more than 17,000 women who gave birth in February 2018 looked at all aspects of maternity care. The results indicate many women had a good experience, particularly in relation to interactions with staff, access to midwives and emotional support during pregnancy. However, for some women the care they received fell short of expectations with issues highlighted around continuity of care, choice in antenatal and postnatal services and access to help, information and support after giving birth.

- Additional link: [CQC press release](#)

Newborn health standards

The [European Standards of Care for Newborn Health](#) provide a new benchmark for neonatal services for preterm and ill babies. They cover 11 key topics including antenatal and perinatal care, transition to home, ethical decision making, palliative care and long-term follow up.

- Additional links: [Lancet article](#)
[EFCNI press release](#)
[RCM press release](#)
[Project report](#)



Primary Care and Community Services:

Community health services

The King's Fund has published [Community health services explained](#). This 'long read' sets out what community services are, the challenges they face and how they are changing. The paper calls for greater priority and attention to community services at national and local level and calls for growing gaps in the community workforce to be addressed, otherwise staff shortages may limit plans to deliver more care in community settings.

GP partnership review

The Department of Health and Social Care has published [GP partnership review: final report](#). This report details the findings of the GP partnership review and makes final recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and to the CEO of NHS England. The review has engaged with GPs and others with an interest to look for solutions to reinvigorate the partnership model and support the transformation of general practice. The report is accompanied by examples of alternative business models.

General practice case studies

- [Redesigning the annual patient review process across two practices](#) – Robin Lane Medical Centre and Manor Park Surgery, Yorkshire and Humber
- [Releasing two GP sessions a week for more appropriate appointments](#) – Seven Dials Medical Practice, South East
- [Working collaboratively to develop more efficient processes](#) – Newham, London
- [GP practices free up 3,000 extra patient appointments through Primary Care Network](#) – Luton

Identity checking for GP online services

NHS England has published [Identity checking for GP online services: what you need to know](#). This is a step-by-step guide that will help GP practices to go about checking patients who want to access GP online services.

Patients' views on GP premises

The Patients Association has published [Patients' views on making best use of GP premises](#). This report outlines patients' views, based on an online survey and four focus groups held during September 2018 in order to highlight how significant the physical environment might be in shaping the experiences people have of primary care. Poor confidentiality at reception desks, issues with access for disabled people and dated waiting rooms are some of the biggest problems highlighted by patients.

Primary care in 2019

Primary Care Commissioning has published the following document and commentary relating to the provision of primary care services in 2019:

- [What the preparatory planning guidance means for primary care](#) – summarises the 2019/20 preparatory planning guidance with particular reference to primary care. It identifies renewed emphasis on cooperation at system level to develop ICS and increased pressure on commissioners to nurture the primary care networks that will be building blocks of ICS.
- [What's in store for primary care in 2019?](#) – outlines the main themes expected in the long term plan and their implications for primary care.

Provider bulletin

NHS Improvement publishes this weekly bulletin:

- [9th January](#)
- [16th January](#)
- [23rd January](#)

Statistics

The following statistical releases have been published:

- [Community Services Statistics for Children, Young People and Adults: September 2018](#)



Quality and Safety:

National Patient Safety Alerting Committee

NHS Improvement has set out background information relating to the [National Patient Safety Alerting Committee](#) (NaPSAC). The NaPSAC is working to align all bodies and teams that issue national alerts, and make sure that a future system of National Patient Safety Alerts set out clear and effective actions that providers must take on safety-critical issues.

Patient Safety Collaboratives

NHS Improvement has published [Patient Safety Collaboratives: a retrospective review](#). This report summarises the findings of a review of the operational delivery and impact of the Patient Safety Collaborative programme and makes recommendations to strengthen the programme.

- Additional link: [Patient Safety Collaboratives](#)



Workforce, Education and Training:

Black and minority ethnic staff at senior levels

NHS England has published [A Model Employer: Increasing black and minority ethnic representation at senior levels across the NHS](#). This document outlines the ambitions set by NHS England and NHS Improvement and reflected in the Long Term Plan, for each NHS organisation to set its own target for BME representation across its leadership team and broader workforce. The strategy will provide accelerated, intensive support to local NHS organisations on increasing the recruitment of BME staff at senior levels.

Clinical leadership framework for action

NHS Improvement has published [Clinical leadership – a framework for action: a guide for senior leaders on developing professional diversity at board level](#). This guide aims to help leaders working on clinical leadership gain new perspectives on what might be standing in the way of progress, sets out legal and policy considerations, and poses key questions for senior leaders trying to increase the involvement of clinicians. It includes case studies that show how people are already tackling some common barriers.

e-Learning for Healthcare

The following programmes have been *updated* on the Health Education England e-Learning for Healthcare website:

- [Care Certificate e-learning programme](#)
- [Making Every Contact Count \(MECC\) e-learning programme](#) – developing public health knowledge

The following resources have been *added* to the e-Learning for Healthcare website:

- [Managing frequent attenders](#)
- [Culturally sensitive palliative and end of life care for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender \(LGBT\) people](#)

Improving staff engagement

NHS Employers has published [A quick guide to approaches to improving staff engagement in the NHS](#). This guide examines a range of approaches that organisations can take to sustain staff engagement. It contains links to resources and case studies looking at how NHS organisations have put ideas into practice.

NHS Pay Review Body

NHS Employers has published their [Submission to the NHS Pay Review Body](#). As a multi-year pay deal is in place for staff within the remit of the NHS Pay Review Body, the purpose of the evidence this year is not to seek recommendations on pay. Instead the evidence is focused on updating the NHS Pay Review Body on the progress of the implementation of the pay deal.

NHS Workforce Bulletin

NHS Employers has published the following editions of its NHS Workforce Bulletin:

- [7th January](#)
- [14th January](#)
- [21st January](#)
- [28th January](#)

Workforce Disability Equality Standard

NHS England has published the following documents relating to the Workforce Disability Equality Standard (WDES) which comes into force on 1 April 2019 within NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts:

- [NHS Workforce Disability Equality Standard \(WDES\) metrics](#) - provides detail about the 10 WDES metrics, which cover such areas as the Board, recruitment, bullying and harassment, engagement and the voices of Disabled staff.
- [NHS Workforce Disability Equality Standard \(WDES\) Metrics: resources](#) - a set of resources developed to help prepare and support trusts for the implementation of the WDES
- Additional link: [NHS England WDES information](#)

Workforce Race Equality Standard

NHS England has published [NHS Workforce Race Equality Standard: 2018 data analysis report for NHS Trusts](#). This report presents three years' of Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) data against all nine WRES indicators of workplace experience and opportunity. It shows trends over time regarding the level of progress made by NHS trusts across the country, as well as highlighting those areas where further concerted support and action is required.

- Additional link: [NHS England press release](#)



NICE Guidelines

The [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#) (NICE) has issued the following guidance (NG), clinical guidance (CG), diagnostic guidance (DS) and quality standards (QS):

- [Renal and ureteric stones: assessment and management](#) (NG118)
- [Cerebral palsy in adults](#) (NG119). Additional link: [NICE press release](#)

NICE consultations:

- [Physical activity: encouraging activity in the general population: quality standard consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 1st February 2018.
- [Children and young people with disabilities & severe complex needs: integrated health & social care support & service guidance: draft scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 5th February 2019.
- [Epilepsies in adults: diagnosis and management update: draft scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 5th February 2019.
- [Epilepsies in children: diagnosis and management: draft scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 5th February 2019.
- [Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes: surveillance consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 5th February 2019.
- [Medicines adherence: involving patients in decisions about prescribed medicines and supporting adherence: surveillance consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 5th February 2019.
- [Looked-after children and young people: draft scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 11th February 2019.
- [Shared decision making: Draft scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 15th February 2019.

- [Depression in children and young people: identification and management: draft guidance consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 20th February 2019. Additional link: [NICE press release](#)

NICE Shared Learning:

- [Implementation of Blueteq technology - a collaboration between East Staffordshire CCG and Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Pharmacy Team.](#)
- [Implementation of a telephone appointment service. Improving access to Familial Hypercholesterolaemia cascade screening.](#)



NICE-related News and Publications

NICE News

NICE has published the [January](#) edition of NICE News.

NICE in Social Care

NICE has published the [January](#) edition of NICE in Social Care.

NICE Update for Primary Care

NICE has published the [January](#) edition of NICE Update for Primary Care.



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