

Finding Grey Literature: a quick guide for Public Health and ICB staff

WHAT IS GREY LITERATURE?

- Grey literature refers to research and information published for non-commercial purposes and is often produced by government agencies, professional and non-profit organisations, think tanks, and research institutes.
- Examples include government documents, organisational reports, evaluations, reviews, policy briefings, conference papers, statistical resources, and guidance.
- Grey literature can help you to find timely, real-world, and diverse information that may be absent in academic or commercial journals.
- However, grey literature is not peer reviewed, so the quality of information may be variable.

WHERE CAN I FIND GREY LITERATURE?

Research and information can be found from several sources:

- **Document sources checklist:** We have compiled a list of general and topic-specific resources. See [below](#) for more details.
- **Royal Colleges:** Visit the websites of relevant professional bodies, such as those listed by the [Academy of Medical Royal Colleges](#).
- **Charities and organisations:** Consult established charitable and organisational websites associated with your specific area of interest, such as those listed by the [Association of Medical Research Charities \(AMRC\)](#).
- **Government departments:** Access guidance and reports from government departments, such as the [UK Health Security Agency](#).

HINTS AND TIPS

- Many websites have a dedicated page for research or information documents, which may be labelled as reports, publications, resources or 'our work'.
- If a website does not have a dedicated page, try using the general search box.

- Check the **News** section of websites for recently published research or information that may not have yet been filed in the appropriate section of the website.
- Some websites allow you to filter by year or publication type.
- Ensure that the publication is from a reputable source.

DOCUMENT SOURCES CHECKLIST

We have compiled a list of document sources by topic (e.g. children and young people; employment; LGBTQI+ health; mental health; substance use; and many more). The list is regularly updated. Please [contact us](#) to request the latest version.

The checklist also includes more general document sources. These include, but are not limited to:

SOURCE	
The Health Foundation	A UK charity and think tank working to bring about better health and health care.
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	An independent social change organisation that researches, funds, and advocates for solutions to end poverty in the UK.
The King's Fund	An independent health and care charity and policy think tank working to improve health and social care in England.
Local Government Association	The national membership body for local authorities.
Nuffield Trust	A UK independent health and social care think tank that works to improve health and care quality through evidence-based research.
The Patient Experience Library	An online repository containing documents on patient and service user experiences within the health and care sector.
UK Health Security Agency	A government executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care .
UK Parliament Research Briefings	Impartial, expert analysis and reports produced by the House of Commons Library, House of Lords Library, and the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST).

Contact

Amy Pellow

Assistant Librarian Evidence Support



Amy.Pellow1@nhs.net

Library and Knowledge Service

Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation
Trust



library.sfht@nhs.net



<https://lks.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/>



[@SFHTLibrary](https://twitter.com/SFHTLibrary)



[@sfhtlibrary.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/sfhtlibrary.bsky.social)

July 2026