

Public Health Bulletin. 08th March 2016

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Please find below a list of news items from the past fortnight that may be of interest to those involved in public health. This Bulletin provides topical news and reports of relevance to public health teams, community health practitioners and anyone with an interest in health promotion. All content and links are provided for information only and we do not sponsor, endorse or otherwise approve of any mentioned website or the contents of the news items. Please refer to the terms and conditions of the relevant website should you wish to reproduce any of the information.

Details of alternative current awareness services which cover more academic/specialist sources of information can be found in the section *Other Bulletins*. Your local NHS library service can assist you in accessing other current awareness services/tailored alerts, locating peer reviewed journal articles and answer any other queries you may have regarding finding information.

The information about each news item only gives a brief overview so we recommend you view the original source by clicking on the title (or Ctrl+Click in the word document).

Please contact your local NHS library service if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, or if you know of anyone else who would like to join the mailing list. The Bulletins are also available on the Thames Valley Public Health Network at: <http://www.oxsph.org/bulletins.html> and the Wessex Public Health Network at: <http://www.wessexphnetwork.org.uk/resources/public-health-updates.aspx>

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Alcohol misuse

[Fewer adults dying from conditions directly caused by alcohol](#)

1 March 2016

Source: Public Health England

Fewer adults dying from conditions directly caused by alcohol, but deaths from related conditions, such as cancer, rise by 1%.

[LGA responds to public health England alcohol figures](#)

1 March 2016

Source: Local Government Association www.local.gov.uk

Cllr Izzi Seccombe, LGA Community and Wellbeing spokesperson, responds to new figures from Public Health England on alcohol-related harm.

[Local Alcohol Profiles for England: mortality indicators, 2016 annual data update](#)

1 March 2016

Source: Public Health England

The Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) data update for March 2016.

[Alcohol: 2.5 million people bust weekly limit in a day](#)

08 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

About 2.5 million people in Britain - 9% of drinkers - consume more than the weekly recommended limit for alcohol in a single day, figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show.

[Thematic review of deaths of children and young people through drowning](#)

Mar 01, 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

A new report by the Child Death Review Programme at Public Health Wales has found that drowning among young people is linked with drinking alcohol

Chronic conditions

[App to help doctors spot cancer signs](#)

28 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

A new app to help doctors with referrals for patients suspected of having cancer is launched.

[Huge damages award in talc cancer case](#)

24 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

A US jury orders Johnson & Johnson to pay \$72m (£51m) to the family of a woman who claimed her death was linked to use of the company's Baby Powder talc.

[Can aspirin reduce bowel cancer risk?](#)

04 Mar 2016

Source: NHS News www.nhs.uk

"Taking two aspirin a week could protect against cancer," reports the Daily Telegraph. A US study found that aspirin use twice or more per week was associated with a small reduction in cancer risk...

Communicable diseases

['Strong evidence' of Zika virus and Guillain-Barré syndrome link](#)

Mar 1 2016

Source: NHS News www.nhs.uk

A large outbreak of Zika on the French Polynesian islands saw a spike in the numbers of people with Guillain-Barré syndrome – a nerve disorder that causes temporary muscle paralysis...

[Zika virus: updated travel advice for pregnant women](#)

1 March 2016

Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

Pregnant women advised to postpone non-essential travel to areas with active Zika virus transmission.

[Zika virus infection: guidance for primary care](#)

Updated: 1 March 2016

Public Health England www.gov.uk

This guidance is for primary care clinicians in England: produced by PHE in conjunction with the RCGP and the BMA.

[Scotland leads hepatitis C patient notification exercise](#)

23 February 2016

Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

Patients in Scotland and England treated by a former NHS Lanarkshire healthcare worker who tested positive for hep c are being contacted.

[Ebola 'devastates long-term health'](#)

25 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

Most people who survive infection with Ebola will have long-term health problems, according to doctors.

[Ebola nurse discharged from hospital](#)

28 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

Scots nurse Pauline Cafferkey is discharged from a London hospital after being admitted for a third time since contracting Ebola.

Diet & nutrition

[Daily diet of almonds is no magic solution for weight loss](#)

Feb 24 2016

Source: NHS News www.nhs.uk

"Desperate to lose weight?" asks the Mail Online. "Eat almonds! Handful a day 'wards off hunger and replaces empty calories from junk food'," it says, entirely without any justification, as the study it reports on didn't look at weight...

[VIDEO: How much salt is in your ready meal?](#)

01 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

New research from Consensus Action on Salt and Health shows some ready meals contain more salt than ever before.

[Folic acid in flour](#)

06 March 2016

Source: Scottish Government news.scotland.gov.uk

Public Health Minister Maureen Watt has written to Food Standards Scotland for advice on how Scotland could fortify flour with folic acid. The advice will be used to help ministers decide how to pursue the policy on a Scotland only basis. The Scottish Government's preference is for a UK wide solution, but the UK Government has so far failed to commit to the measure despite repeated requests

[European cooperation on healthy food](#)

23 February 2016

Source: European Presidency NL <http://english.eu2016.nl>

Twenty-two EU member states, Norway, Switzerland, international businesses and patient organisations have agreed to make food products healthier by reducing salt, saturated fat and sugar content.

Environmental health

[New legal threat over UK air pollution](#)

01 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

Environmental law firm ClientEarth warns the government to drastically reduce air pollution or face renewed legal action.

[Every breath we take: the lifelong impact of air pollution](#)

26 February 2016

Source: UK Health Forum

A new report from RCP and RCPH examines the impact of exposure to air pollution across the course of a lifetime. Hannah Graff, our Senior Policy Researcher, is acknowledged for her contributions to the report and the literature update UKHF submitted as evidence for the report has been included

Health promotion

[PHE launches One You](#)

7 March 2016

Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

Living healthily in midlife can double your chances of being healthy at 70 and beyond. Today marks the launch of 'One You', a ground-breaking new campaign to help adults across the country avoid future diseases caused by modern day life.

Health protection

[Meningitis B petition rejected](#)

02 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

Offering the meningitis B vaccine to all children is "not cost effective" and would be a waste of NHS money, the government says.

Health services administration

[Care homes 'could solve NHS bed-blocking'](#)

1 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

The NHS in England should pay care homes to look after patients trapped in hospitals because of the delayed discharges problem, a report suggests. Every day thousands of elderly patients are unable to leave hospitals despite being medically fit to do so, because care is not available in the community.

[Survey on nation's future health needs](#)

29 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

A confidential online survey aiming to gather information from 260,000 people will be used to plan Wales' future health needs.

[Chagas disease: migrant health guide](#)

Updated 7 March 2016

Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

Advice and guidance on the health needs of migrant patients for healthcare practitioners.

[People not given answers when they complain to NHS, latest ombudsman report reveals](#)

01 March 2016

Source: Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman www.ombudsman.org.uk

Some people who complain to the NHS are not getting the answers they desperately need meaning they are forced to bring their complaints to the Ombudsman service to get answers. The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's latest snapshot of [...]

HIV & AIDS

[HIV and STIs in men who have sex with men in London](#)

Updated: 26 February 2016

Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

This report brings together intelligence from different places to build up a picture of the needs of MSM as they relate to STIs and HIV in London.

Infant & child health

[Early exposure to peanuts 'cuts allergy risk in children'](#)

Monday Mar 7 2016 *Source:* NHS News www.nhs.uk

"The effects of eating peanut products as a baby to avoid the risk of allergy have been backed up by new research," BBC News reports. A new study suggests eating peanut snacks in the first year of life reduces the risk of a nut allergy in children...

[Giving allergenic foods to infants from three months old may prevent allergies](#)

07 March 2016 *Source:* Food Standards Agency www.food.gov.uk

A major new study for the Food Standards Agency (FSA) which has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine has found that introducing allergenic foods to the infant diet from three months of age may be effective in food allergy prevention if the recommended quantity of allergenic food was consumed.

['Vaginal seeding' may put newborns at risk of infection](#)

24 Feb 2016 *Source:* NHS News www.nhs.uk

"'Vaginal seeding' of babies born by C-section could pose infection risk," The Guardian reports. The practice of exposing babies born by caesarean section to their mother's vaginal fluid in an effort to boost their immunity...

[Half of all childhood asthma cases are 'overdiagnosed'](#)

26 Feb 2016 *Source:* NHS News www.nhs.uk

"Half a million children who have been diagnosed with asthma may not actually have the condition," The Daily Telegraph reports. This is the finding of a Dutch study...

[RCGP response to BJGP study on asthma diagnosis in children](#)

Mental health

[NHS child mental health money 'missing' despite investment](#)

08 March 2016 *Source:* BBC Health <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Some mental health trusts in England have seen "no significant investment" in psychiatric services for children despite government plans to overhaul provision, say experts.

[New e-learning improves mental health support](#)

03 March 2016 *Source:* Economic and Social Research Council
www.esrc.ac.uk

E-training course helps teachers to support children with mental health issues – reaching 9,000 students in 215 special schools.

[The truth about self-harm](#)

29 February 2016

Source: Mental Health Foundation www.mentalhealth.org.uk

New booklet aims to help you understand more about self-harm and what to do if you are worried about yourself or someone else. It explains what self-harm is, what to do if you or someone you know is self-harming, and how to get help.

[Challenge on dementia 2020: implementation plan](#)

6 March 2016

Source: Department of Health www.gov.uk

The Prime Minister's challenge on dementia 2020 set out more than 50 specific commitments that aim to make England the world-leader in dementia care, research and awareness by 2020.

[Act Now - Reduce your Dementia Risk](#)

Feb 29, 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

The Welsh Government have launched a campaign to raise awareness about how we can all take simple steps now to reduce our risk of developing dementia in later life. The ACT NOW Campaign includes Case Studies, Infographics, and Mneumonics.

Obesity

[North East England sees highest proportion of weight loss surgery](#)

2 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

NHS weight loss operations in the North East take place at double the rate of anywhere else in England, figures reveal. There were 497 procedures for every million people in 2014-15, compared with 30 in the East Midlands, figures obtained by the BBC show.

[Obesity linked to 'worse memory'](#)

26 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

People who are obese have a worse memory than their thinner friends, a small study shows.

[Dangerous diet pills flooding the market, councils warn](#)

5 March 2016

Source: LGA www.local.gov.uk

Deadly diet pills which "microwave the body" continue to flood the black market as websites selling unlicensed pills are being shut down at a rate of more than five a day, councils are warning.

[Obesity Health Alliance concerned about delay to Government Childhood Obesity Strategy](#)

01 March 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

Members of the Obesity Health Alliance, a campaign group which formed last November to tackle obesity, has expressed concern about the increased risks to children's health caused by the delay of the Government's Childhood Obesity Strategy.

[End the Charade](#)

Mar 01, 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

A new Obesity Policy Coalition report calls for action to protect children from junk food marketing, as profit-hungry food advertisers exploit loopholes in self-regulatory codes. The report, End the Charade, highlights the failures of self-regulation by the food and advertising industries, exposing sneaky tactics that are resulting in children being bombarded with junk food advertising.

[UK Health Forum and Cancer Research UK report predicts the impact a sugar tax could have on the obesity epidemic](#)

19 February 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

A report from the UKHF and CRUK, predicts that a 20 percent tax on sugary drinks could reduce obesity rates in the UK by five per cent by 2025 and save the NHS about £10 million in healthcare and social care costs in 2025 alone.

Older people

[Rise in wellbeing found in late 60s](#)

29 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

The wellbeing of people in their 60s increases as they reach the age of 70, according to a national survey.

['Hundreds' of young in old people's homes](#)

29 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

Younger people with neurological conditions are being cared for in old people's homes, according to the charity Sue Ryder.

[New guides launched to help improve health at home for older people](#)

23 February 2016

Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

The Housing Learning and Improvement Network (Housing LIN), with support from Public Health England (PHE), has published [2 practical resources](#) aimed at improving the housing sector's contribution to the health and wellbeing of people with long term conditions and older people.

[Hip replacements for under-60s soaring](#)

2 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

The number of hip replacement operations on people aged under 60 has risen 76% in the last decade, NHS figures for England reveal.

Oral health

[More tooth decay among English children](#)

26 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

The number of children in England having their teeth removed because of decay has increased for the fourth year in a row, figures suggest.

Physical activity

[Doctors urge schools to ban tackling in rugby](#)

02 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

More than 70 doctors and academics are calling for a ban on tackling in rugby matches played in UK and Irish schools. In an open letter to ministers, they say injuries from this "high-impact collision sport" can have lifelong consequences for children.

[Premature deaths: more people need to take up grassroots sports to live longer, say councils](#)

24 February 2016

Source: Local Government Association www.local.gov.uk

More people need to be encouraged to take up grassroots sports in a bid to lower "alarming" levels of premature deaths, councils say.

Screening

[Breast cancer screening at 10-year low](#)

24 February 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

The proportion of women in England taking up their initial invitation for breast cancer screening is at its lowest level in a decade, figures show.

[Aneurysm screening saves lives in Wales](#)

26 February 2016

Source: NHS Wales www.wales.nhs.uk

A screening programme to identify a previously undiagnosed and potentially life-threatening condition in men may have saved almost 200 lives since it was launched in Wales in 2013. Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford today praised the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme, which is run by Public Health Wales, as he set out the support available to men to adopt a healthy lifestyle and improve their health.

Sexual health

[BASHH/PHE advice regarding Freedom of Information request for clinic level data on STIs in children](#)

08 March 2016

Source: BASHH www.bashh.org

BASHH has been made aware that there have been a number of FOI requests to trusts in England requesting data about children and young people under 16 years attending sexual health services. The disclosure of clinic level data in this age group is of particular concern and may be problematic ... PHE have prepared a national level response with anonymised data.

Smoking

Jails not covered by smoking ban, Court of Appeal rules

08 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

The legal ban on smoking in public places does not apply to state prisons in England and Wales, the Court of Appeal has ruled. Three judges allowed a government appeal against a High Court ruling that the ban covered all public places and all workplaces.

Smoke-free movies: from evidence to action

Feb 29, 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

The World Health Organization (WHO) releases the third edition of its Smoke-Free Movies report. This document summarizes current knowledge about smoking in films as well as current and proposed approaches to reduce the impact of such imagery

Post-Implementation Review Tobacco Plain Packaging 2016

Feb 26, 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

While the full effect of the tobacco plain packaging measure is expected to be realised over time, the evidence examined in this PIR suggests that the measure is achieving its aims.

Social & economic issues

NHS to help create 'healthy new towns'

1 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

Ten new housing developments in England are to be built with healthy living in mind, under an NHS scheme. Clinicians, designers and technology experts will work together to create the "healthy new towns".

Healthy New Towns

1 March 2016

Source: NHS England www.england.nhs.uk

We are working with ten housing developments to shape the health of communities, and to rethink how health and care services can be delivered. This programme offers a golden opportunity to radically rethink how we live – and takes an ambitious look at improving health through the built environment.

Active ageing and the built environment

Feb 29, 2016

Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk/

Practice briefing which looks at how different aspects of the built environment can promote and sustain active ageing

Women's health

[Female genital mutilation \(FGM\): migrant health guide](#)

07 March 2016

Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

Updated estimated figures and links to resources about FGM.

[Stem cells 'link' to repeat miscarriages, say scientists](#)

08 March 2016

Source: BBC News www.bbc.co.uk

A lack of stem cells in the womb lining causes thousands of women to suffer repeat miscarriages, according to researchers. University of Warwick scientists said the womb lining in recurrent miscarriage patients they studied was "already defective" before pregnancy.

Workplace health

[NHS to introduce new £600m financial incentive to improve staff health](#)

5 March 2016 Source: NHS England www.england.nhs.uk

The NHS in England is step up its efforts to improve the health of its 1.3 million staff by offering financial incentives to support their health and provide them with healthy food options.

Local news: []

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Other Bulletins
<p>Super Six Bulletin This is a weekly Bulletin that details original articles in the BMJ, JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine and The Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine and Annals of Emergency Medicine http://cash.libraryservices.nhs.uk/cash-service/rss-newsfeed-menu/medicine/big-four-bulletin/</p>
<p>Daily Health Bulletin The Daily Health Bulletin is produced by the Knowledge Service of the West and South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Commissioning Support Unit. http://cash.libraryservices.nhs.uk/cash-service/daily-health-bulletin/</p>
<p>Healthcare Public Health Monthly bulletin containing news and information about key public health issues including health service commissioning, updates from Public Health England, local authorities, Faculty of Public Health and others agencies, resources and good practice. http://www.healthcarepublichealth.net/newsletters.php</p>
<p>NICE Public Health Evidence Awareness Bulletin This is a monthly update highlighting national public health news and information from NICE. http://www.nice.org.uk/News/NICE-newsletters-and-alerts</p>
<p>PHE Bulletin (Public Health England) The PHE Bulletin is issued monthly and contains public health news and information. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/phe-bulletin</p>
<p>Public Health and Social Care Bulletin This is published weekly and created by Kent & Medway Public Health Observatory. It provides an update on what is new in public health and social care, both nationally and locally. http://www.kpho.org.uk/library-services/keeping-up-to-date/e-bulletin-archive</p>



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