

Public Health Bulletin. 19th April 2016

Produced by NHS libraries in Thames Valley and Wessex

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

[Researching alcohol harm: 30 years of impact](#)

19 April 2016

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

The report '[Researching alcohol harm: 30 years of impact](#)' is based on an impact study undertaken by Professor Richard Velleman and his team.

[Monitoring and evaluating Scotland's alcohol strategy: Final annual report](#)

Apr 11, 2016

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

After a period of rapidly increasing rates of alcohol-related harm in Scotland and with alcohol-related harm in Scotland at historically high levels, a comprehensive strategic approach to alcohol was put in place from 2008/2009. The strategy was evidence-based and contained the main components advocated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

[Alcohol Licensing in your community: How you can get involved](#)

11 April 2016

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

This toolkit is designed to help anyone who would like to have a say on how alcohol impacts on their community. It explains how the licensing process works in Scotland, and provides some practical tips to help people who want to get involved.

[How best to support application of the new Chief Medical Officers Alcohol Guidelines, 09 May 2016, London](#)

Event: 9th May

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

The APPG on Alcohol Harm will explore the opportunities that exist to support application of the new guidelines, and how the CMO guidance can be best used to support the public to make informed choices about their drinking.

Chronic conditions

[Head and neck cancer drug 'game changer'](#)

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A new type of cancer drug that wakes up the patient's own immune system to fight tumours could be a game changer for tackling aggressive head and neck cancers, say experts.

[Skin cancer: Pair of drugs 'eliminate 20% of tumours'](#)

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A fifth of people with advanced melanoma have no sign of tumours in their body after treatment with a pair of immunotherapy drugs, a study shows.

[Parkinson's disease: 'Many patients hide symptoms'](#)

Monday 18th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

More than a third of people in the UK with Parkinson's disease feel the need to hide their symptoms or lie about having the condition, a survey for a charity suggests.

[Warning over kidney risk from heartburn drugs](#)

Friday 15th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Long-term use of heartburn drugs may increase the risk of kidney damage, according to US research.

[Global report on diabetes](#)

Apr 12, 2016

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

This first WHO Global report on diabetes underscores the enormous scale of the diabetes problem, and also the potential to reverse current trends.

[Fruit may be good for you, but don't ditch the statins](#)

Thursday 7th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"Daily fresh fruit lowers heart death risk as much as statins," The Daily Telegraph reports. A study of over a half a million Chinese people found that a diet rich in fresh fruit was linked to a reduced risk of cardiovascular diseases.

[Effects of vitamin D for heart failure far from 'stunning'](#)

Wednesday 6th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"Vitamin D can produce 'amazing' improvements in heart function," claims The Independent about the results of a recent study, while BBC News reported suggestions the results were "stunning".

['Dying of heartache?' Heart problems linked to bereavement](#)

Wednesday 6th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"You can die of a broken heart, study indicates," The Guardian reports. The study found that people who lost a partner – especially if the death was unexpected – had an increased risk of developing an irregular heartbeat up to a year after the death.

Communicable diseases

[Malaria resistance 'unable to spread'](#)

Thursday 14th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The first case of the malaria parasite being unable to spread its resistance to drugs has been discovered by scientists in Australia.

[Zika virus 'does cause birth defects'](#)

Thursday 14th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk>

"The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ... has confirmed that the Zika virus causes severe birth defects," BBC News reports. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has concluded that "a causal relationship exists between prenatal Zika virus infection and microcephaly", where babies are born with unusually small heads and brains.

Diet & nutrition

Health Policy Brief: Final 2015-20 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

19 April 2016

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

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans are published at least once every five years.

Dolmio and Uncle Ben's firm Mars defends limit on products

Friday 15th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The company behind Dolmio and Uncle Ben's sauces has defended its "bold" advice that some products should only be consumed once a week due to high salt, sugar or fat content.

Study argues ditching butter for veg oil won't prevent heart disease

Wednesday 13th April 2016 Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"Ditching butter for veg oil may not be better for heart," the Daily Mail reports. An analysis of previously unpublished data from the 1960s and 70s found no benefit in replacing sources of saturated fats with vegetable oils.

2016 Global food policy report

12 April 2016

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

FPRI's Flagship Report puts into perspective the major food policy issues, developments, and decisions of 2015 and highlights challenges and opportunities for 2016.

Horticulture in the UK: potential for meeting dietary guideline demands

12 April 2016

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

Public health analysis suggests that many lives can be saved if the UK population actually followed dietary guidelines on fruit and vegetable daily intake.... This paper presents current national levels of fruit and vegetable production and consumption. It outlines the origins of what horticultural produce is consumed here and the potential for meeting demand should diets adapt to those suggested by government guidelines.

'Exercise labels' should be added to food packets, expert argues

Thursday 7th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"Food and drinks should carry labels showing how long it would take to walk or run off the calories, a leading health expert suggests," the Daily Mail reports.

Strengthening the governance of diet and nutrition partnerships for the prevention of chronic diseases

April 2016

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

This report focuses on the challenges public-private partnerships and other interactions can present, especially when they involve commercial entities whose high fat, salt and

sugar products contribute to obesity and non-communicable diseases. The report summarises key actions identified at a meeting to address governance gaps on conflict of interest safeguards for food and nutrition policy.

Disability

[Implant lets paralysed man 'play guitar'](#)

Wednesday 13th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

In a world first, a quadriplegic man can once again move his fingers after a chip was implanted in his brain.

Environmental health

[Bed bugs' thick skins beat insecticide](#)

Wednesday 13th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Bed bugs might be developing thicker "skins" to help them survive exposure to common insecticides.

[The EU Referendum and the UK environment: An expert review](#)

12 April 2016

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

This booklet neatly summarizes the findings of a rigorous academic analysis of the environmental effects of EU membership since 1973 and then reviews what might happen in the event of a vote to Remain or Leave.

[From Amsterdam to Paris and beyond: the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme \(THE PEP\) 2009-2020](#)

12 April 2016

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

This report encapsulates the past 12 years of progress made under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) since its launch in 2002. The report underlines some of the achievements between the adoption of the Amsterdam Declaration in 2009 at the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment and the Fourth High-level Meeting held in Paris in 2014

[COMEAP: long-term exposure to air pollution and chronic bronchitis](#)

12 April 2016

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

This report presents an assessment of the evidence on long-term exposure to ambient air pollutants and chronic bronchitis and respiratory symptoms.

[Towards better prevention and management of chronic diseases, 21 April 2016, Brussels](#)

Event 21 April 2016

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

The purpose of the meeting is to set out an approach towards better prevention and management of chronic diseases at EU level, complementary to that agreed to at the international level. The meeting will be live streamed.

Health promotion

[The community pharmacy offer for improving the public's health: a briefing for Local Government and Health and Wellbeing Boards](#)

20 April 2016

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

This briefing for councillors, senior council officers and commissioners describes the increasing role of community pharmacy in public health and explains councils' role and duties. A number of case studies are included to illustrate a variety of collaborative approaches by community pharmacies working with councils and other community partners.

[UK lags behind other rich countries on child inequality](#)

Thursday 14th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The UK is lagging behind other rich countries on reducing inequalities between rich and poor children, a Unicef report says. The UN body set up to promote the rights and wellbeing of children highlights "concerning gaps in health, education, and income".

Health protection

[Vaccine switched in 'milestone' towards ending polio](#)

Sunday 17th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

More than 150 countries have begun switching to a different polio vaccine - an important milestone towards polio eradication, health campaigners say.

Health services administration

[Inquiry Report into NHS England's Five Year Forward View: Behaviour Change, Information and Signposting](#)

18 April 2016

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

This is the report of a ten month inquiry into progress on the delivery of the goals set out in NHS England's Five-Year Forward View (FYFV) report on the future of the NHS in England, published in October 2014.

[The force begins to awaken: A third review of the state of health and wellbeing boards](#)

13 April 2016

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

A significant number of health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) are now beginning to play a genuine leadership role across local health and care systems. This is an important development and is the core conclusion of this our third state of the nation report on HWBs commissioned by the LGA.

[Good Public Health Practice Framework 2016](#)

12 April 2016

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

This is the second edition of this [guidance](#) from the Faculty of Public Health.

[RCGP response to Reform report on general practice](#)

12 April 2016

Source: RCGP <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

Dr Maureen Baker, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said, "This support for seven-day general practice services flies in the face of our own research – and the fact that a number of surgeries that have piloted seven-day working have had to scale-down services due to a lack of patient demand at weekends.

[Take a break before you reach breaking point to keep patients safe, College warns GPs](#)

10 April 2016

Source: RCGP <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

A new poster campaign urging family doctors to take regular breaks in order to keep their patients safe is launched today by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

[CQC inspectors find that Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust requires improvement](#)

7 April 2016

Source: CQC <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

The Chief Inspector of Hospitals has told Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust that it must make improvements following its first comprehensive inspection by the Care Quality Commission. Overall Salisbury Hospital has been rated as Requires Improvement.

[CQC tells Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust to take urgent action to improve governance arrangements to ensure patient safety](#)

6 April 2016

Source: CQC <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has told Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust that it must make significant improvements to protect patients who are at risk of harm while in the care of its mental health and learning disability services.

HIV & AIDS

[NHS England reconsiders HIV Prep drug decision](#)

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The NHS in England says it will reconsider whether or not to provide a drug treatment that can prevent HIV.

Infant & child health

[Promoting emotional health, well-being and resilience in primary schools](#)

12 April 2016

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

This report synthesises evidence on promoting emotional health, well-being, and resilience in primary schools.

[Child head injuries could harm relationship with parents](#)

Monday 18th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"A simple bang on the head can alter a child's relationship with their parents claim academics," the Daily Mail reports.

[Green light for Duchenne muscular dystrophy drug](#)

Friday 15th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A drug for treating children aged five and over with Duchenne muscular dystrophy will be available for around 50 youngsters through NHS England.

[Councils respond to toddlers' eating habits research](#)

Wednesday 6 April 2016

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

Responding to research by University College London that shows toddlers' eating habits may harm long-term health, the Local Government Association's Community and Wellbeing spokeswoman, Cllr Izzi Seccombe, said: "Obesity can begin at birth, with increasing evidence that what happens during the first 1,000 days of a child's life can have a big impact on how healthy and happy they are as they grow up and into adulthood.

[RCGP response to research in Archives of Disease in Childhood on asthma diagnosis in children](#)

5 April 2016

Source: RCGP <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, Dr Maureen Baker, responds to research in Archives of Disease in Childhood paper which claims asthma is overdiagnosed in children.

Mental health

[Dementia threat 'may be less severe' than predicted](#)

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The predicted explosion of dementia cases may be less severe than previously thought, a study in Nature Communications suggests.

[Call for action over 'hospitals seen as homes'](#)

Friday 15th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Families of people with learning disabilities and autism say they are planning to take legal action against local authorities and NHS providers over lack of provision in the community.

[The Stolen Years. The Mental Health and Smoking Action Report](#)

13 April 2016

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

The Stolen Years, a report by ASH, endorsed by 27 health and mental health organisations, sets out recommendations for how smoking rates for people with a mental health condition could be dramatically reduced.

[Mental Health Foundation's 'Truth about Self Harm' featured in national reading scheme supporting young people's mental health](#)

12 April 2016

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

At a time when 1 in 10 young people have a diagnosable mental health issue, public libraries across England are today launching a scheme to support them with expert-endorsed books available to borrow for free.

Obesity

Obesity epidemic blamed for rise in womb cancer

Wednesday 13th April 2016 Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"Obesity 'likely culprit' behind womb cancer rise," reports BBC News. Cancer Research UK has released data showing a marked increase in cases of womb cancer over the last two decades, and it seems obesity could be the reason for the rise.

Oral health

Tackling poor oral health in children: The Local Government's public health role

20 April 2016 Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk

Tooth decay is the most common oral disease affecting children and young people in England, yet it is largely preventable.

Physical activity

Millions of car journeys abandoned for Big Pedal

19 April 2016 Source: Sustrans www.sustrans.org.uk

Children across the UK are jumping on their bikes and scooters over the next two weeks in an attempt to reduce 70 million balloons worth of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

Draft cycling and walking investment strategy

11 April 2016 Source: UK Health Forum www.ukhealthforum.org.uk

The government's ambition is to create a walking and cycling nation. To further this goal they have created a draft cycling and walking strategy for consultation.

Safety & accident prevention

Clampdown on cosmetic surgery cowboys

Tuesday 12th April 2016 Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The body that regulates UK doctors is bringing in new guidelines for cosmetic procedures to stop rogue practitioners who put profits before patients.

Screening

E-skin 'can monitor body's oxygen level'

Saturday 16th April 2016 Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Scientists say they have developed ultra-thin electronic "skin" that can measure oxygen levels when stuck to the body.

[New test measures cancer drugs success](#)

Monday 11th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A new scanning technique is being tested to see if it gives an early indication of how well cancer drugs are working on individual patients.

Sexual health

[Super-gonorrhoea's spread 'causing huge concern'](#)

Sunday 17th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Doctors have expressed "huge concern" that super-gonorrhoea has spread widely across England and to gay men.

[Would you trust a smartphone app as a contraceptive?](#)

Thursday 14th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"An innovative new app might provide a more effective form of birth control than the contraceptive pill," The Sun reports.

Smoking

[Public support for raising the age of sale for tobacco to 21 in the United States](#)

19 April 2016

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

In this podcast Becky Freeman talks to Dr Robert McMillen about his paper in Tobacco Control entitled "Public support for raising the age of sale for tobacco to 21 in the United States".

[The impact of the EU Tobacco Products Directive on e-cigarette regulation in the UK](#)

6 April 2016

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

In May 2016 the EU's revised Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) will come into force. This revision included many updates to regulations on tobacco products but also sets out new regulations covering e-cigarettes.

Social & economic issues

[Catalogue of health-related fuel poverty schemes](#)

13 April 2016

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

DECC commissioned National Energy Action in December 2014 to carry out an online survey to catalogue local schemes that are targeting individuals with health problems for energy efficiency measures and other fuel poverty interventions... to collate information on health-related fuel poverty schemes to better understand levels of activity in this area and highlight challenges to implementation, as well as successful approaches.

[Affordable Warmth and Health Impact Evaluation Toolkit](#)

11 April 2016

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

A joint evaluation toolkit developed in partnership between DECC and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), with oversight from a range of health and evaluation experts. This Affordable Warmth and Health Impact Evaluation Toolkit is designed for use by local bodies delivering fuel poverty and health type schemes to make evaluation of the impacts of their schemes easier and more effective.

Statistics

[Factsheet: Alcohol industry](#)

19 April 2016

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

This factsheet provides an overview of the alcohol industry.

[Infant death rate 'lowest ever' recorded](#)

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The number of babies dying before their first birthday in England and Wales is at its lowest ever rate, new figures have revealed.

[Spike in deaths 'due to dementia and flu'](#)

Thursday 7th April 2016

Source: BBC Health: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A spike in the number of deaths in England and Wales last year was due to an increase in dementia and respiratory diseases such as flu among older people, according to official figures.

[UK has highest teenage birth rates in Western Europe](#)

6 April 2016

Source: Family Planning Association <http://www.fpa.org.uk>

The UK continues to have the highest teenage birth rates in Western Europe, figures published by the Office for National Statistics reveal.

Women's health

[Pregnancy diabetes screening should be 'performed earlier'](#)

Friday 8th April 2016

Source: NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

"Tests for diabetes in pregnancy – which affects the developing baby – are taking place too late," BBC News reports.

Workplace health

[EU-OSHA campaign 2016-17 – Healthy workplaces for all ages](#)

Friday 15 April 2016

Source: Health and Safety Executive: www.hse.gov.uk

EU-OSHA's Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2016 - 2017 is 'Healthy workplaces for all ages' – focusing on the promotion of sustainable work and healthy ageing throughout

working life and effective management of workplace health and safety in the context of an ageing workforce.

Local news: []

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Other Bulletins

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/>

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/>

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>

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>

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>

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>



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