

Public Health Bulletin. 3rd April 2018

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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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Children and young people

Teenagers urged to take part in meningitis B vaccine trial

28 March 2018

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

Teenagers in Great Britain are being asked to take part in a study to learn if immunising them against meningitis B could protect them and other people.

Children to have access to epilepsy drug in Wales

27 March 2018

Source: Welsh Government <http://gov.wales>

An epilepsy drug has been approved to treat children suffering from seizures on the NHS in Wales by the All Wales Medicine Strategy Group (AMWSG).

See also **Obesity**

Chronic conditions

UK's first proton beam cancer centre to open in Newport

3 April 2018

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

The UK's first high-energy proton beam therapy centre for treatment of life-threatening cancers is due to open in Wales.

'One stop' cancer clinics could aid timely diagnosis, says RCGP

3 April 2018

Source: RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

Responding to NHS England plans to pilot 'one stop' clinics for cancer diagnosis and assessment, Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "Any initiative that improves diagnosis of cancer should be welcomed, and it is great to see investment being put into initiatives, such as these new 'one stop' clinics that promise to speed up diagnosis for patients with cancer."

Study reveals avoidable causes of cancer

23 March 2018

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

Cancer Research UK says around 38% of all cancers diagnosed each year in the UK could have been prevented through lifestyle changes.

New drug for advanced stage of multiple sclerosis

22 March 2018

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

"A new drug for multiple sclerosis could slow the progression of symptoms of a form of the disease for which effective treatments have proved elusive," The Guardian reports.

Low back pain treatment 'needs improvements'

22 March 2018

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

Low back pain (affecting the back between the bottom of the ribs and the top of the legs) is a common condition. Over the years research has improved our understanding of how

to treat it. We now know that a lot of advice given in the past, such as bed rest, was unhelpful as it did not improve the condition.

[Tai chi may be as effective for fibromyalgia as standard exercise](#)

22 March 2018

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

"Tai chi recommended to fight fibromyalgia," reports the BBC. The headline comes from the results of a US trial that found tai chi was more effective than aerobic exercise in improving symptoms of fibromyalgia.

[No 'one size fits all' solution to managing lower back pain, says College](#)

21 March 2018

Source: RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, has responded to a study in The Lancet about lower back pain.

Communicable diseases

[Measles outbreaks in Europe: Easter travel advice](#)

28 March 2018

Source: Dept of Health and Social Care www.gov.uk

Travellers advised to ensure they are up to date with measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine before travelling to Europe this Easter.

[Hepatitis C in the North West report released](#)

27 March 2018

Source: Dept of Health and Social Care www.gov.uk

A [report](#) presenting annual data for Hepatitis C in North West England shows estimated 16,000 people remain undiagnosed.

[Tuberculosis rates in England fall by third in six years](#)

24 March 2018

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

New figures show rates of tuberculosis (TB) in England have declined by a third in six years, and are currently at their lowest level in 35 years.

[Tuberculosis \(TB\) cases fall by over a third in last 6 years](#)

23 March 2018

Source: Dept of Health and Social Care www.gov.uk

Buildings across the UK will be illuminated red to mark World TB day 2018.

Diet & nutrition

[Red-meat-free diet not proven to reduce overall bowel cancer risk](#)

3 April 2018

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

"Cutting out red meat significantly reduces people's risk of bowel cancer, study finds," is the somewhat misleading headline from the Mail Online.

[PHE publishes consultation on Nutrient Profiling Model](#)

26 March 2018

Source: Department of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk>

PHE is consulting on an updated Nutrient Profiling Model, that differentiates which food and drink products can be advertised during children's programming.

[A blueberry muffin 'could have day's worth of sugar'](#)

22 March 2018

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

Some blueberry muffins sold by cafes and supermarkets contain more than the recommended daily intake of sugar for adults, researchers have discovered.

Environmental health

[New powers to crack down on waste crime](#)

30 March 2018

Source: Environment Agency <https://www.gov.uk>

The Environment Agency now has new powers to stop illegal waste sites posing a risk to the environment.

[Cleanest lorries will pay less to use UK roads](#)

29 March 2018

Source: Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs www.gov.uk

Haulage firms will benefit from a cheaper fee if they use less polluting lorries in plans to improve air quality across the UK.

[Deposit return scheme in fight against plastic](#)

29 March 2018

Source: Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs www.gov.uk

The government has announced plans for a deposit return scheme to crack down on plastic pollution.

[LGA responds to government measures on plastic recycling](#)

28 March 2018

Source: LGA www.local.gov.uk

Cllr Martin Tett, Local Government Association Environment spokesman, responds to the Government's proposals to increase plastic recycling, including a deposit scheme for plastic bottles.

[£260 million of clean air funding launched by government](#)

26 March 2018

Source: Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs www.gov.uk

A £220 million Clean Air Fund to tackle roadside emissions is part of a £260m plus package to improve air quality in some of the most polluted areas.

[Environment Agency says that a different approach is needed to tackle flooding over next 50 years](#)

20 March 2018

Source: Environment Agency <https://www.gov.uk>

The Environment Agency's Chief Executive Sir James Bevan has highlighted the need for a new approach in his keynote speech at the annual Flood and Coast Conference.

[Nine beaches designated as bathing waters on the south coast](#)

19 March 2018 *Source:* Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs www.gov.uk

8 beaches in Cornwall and a beach in Bournemouth have been designated as bathing waters.

Health services administration

Paramedics set to prescribe medicines

31 March 2018 *Source:* BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Advanced paramedics in England will be able to prescribe medicines to people who do not need hospital treatment, under new laws starting on Sunday.

RCGP welcomes new NHS England move on prescriptions for over-the-counter medicines

29 March 2018 *Source:* RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "Prescription costs are a massive expense for the NHS, and the College has always been supportive of plans to take safe, sensible measures to reduce these costs.

Report urges Government for clarity on EU reciprocal healthcare

29 March 2018 *Source:* UK Parliament <https://www.parliament.uk>

In the absence of an agreement on reciprocal healthcare, the rights of UK citizens to hold an EHIC card for treatment in the EU will cease after Brexit, says the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee in a report published yesterday.

NHS gets funding green light for new buildings, wards and beds

28 March 2018 *Source:* Dept of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk>

Forty NHS hospitals and community services will get £760 million to modernise and transform their buildings and services in the year of the NHS's 70th birthday.

LGA responds to announcement of multi-year funding plan for the NHS

28 March 2018 *Source:* LGA www.local.gov.uk

It's good to see long-term investment in the NHS, but government also needs to make the same commitment to adult social care which deserves to be given parity with the health service.

Text messaging can be a valuable tool in general practice says RCGP

28 March 2018 *Source:* RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, responds to a new British Journal of General Practice (BJGP) study on the use of text messaging to follow up possible cancer symptoms.

RCGP Wales stress importance of supporting out of hours services

27 March 2018 *Source:* RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

RCGP Wales have stressed the importance of investment in general practice and support for out of hours services.

[RCGP responds to new GP contract in England](#)

20 March 2018

Source: RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "Overall this is a positive contract for GPs and we thank our colleagues at the General Practitioners Committee of the BMA for their negotiations on our behalf. The increased funding to support GPs and practices to cover increasing medical indemnity costs is particularly encouraging."

Men's health

[Buying Viagra: What you should know](#)

22 March 2018

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

Men can now buy the impotence pill Viagra Connect without a prescription at some UK pharmacies.

Mental health

[How parents' arguments really affect their children](#)

2 April 2018

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

It is normal for parents to argue, but the way these disagreements affect children varies greatly. What can parents and carers do to limit the harm caused by their rows?

[Robotic dog in Dorset care home helps elderly residents](#)

21 March 2018

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

A robotic dog has moved into a care home to help its residents. Research suggests robotic animals can help to reduce stress and anxiety in people with dementia.

Obesity

[Children from poorer backgrounds more affected by rise in childhood obesity](#)

21 March 2018

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

"Forget going hungry ... now poor children are fatter than rich kids," reports the Mail Online, which says the "trend of well-off parents having portly children has been reversed".

Older people

[LGA responds to Independent Age report on older private renters](#)

27 March 2018

Source: LGA www.local.gov.uk

"With housing for elderly people currently accounting for just 6 per cent of our existing stock, and more older people and families renting privately than ever before, there

needs to be a national focus on tackling a chronic shortage of homes suitable to support our ageing population and reforms that will maintain and improve housing standards."

Oral health

[PHE publishes water fluoridation health monitoring report](#)

22 March 2018 *Source:* Department of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk>

New report shows water fluoridation helps reduce tooth decay and that there is no convincing evidence of adverse health effects.

Physical activity

[Physical activity and the environment- guidance \(NG90\)](#)

22 March 2018 *Source:* National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
<https://www.nice.org.uk>

This guideline covers how to improve the physical environment to encourage and support physical activity. It includes recommendations on: strategies, policies and plans to increase physical activity in local environment, active travel, public open spaces, buildings, and schools.

Safety

[The dangers that lurk in your bathroom.](#)

28 March 2018 *Source:* BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

A study has suggested that rubber ducks harbour potentially disease-carrying bacteria which could make children, and adults, ill.

[Global antibiotic use has increased - sparking fears of worldwide resistance](#)

27 March 2018 *Source:* NHS Choices <http://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Calls to rein in antibiotic use after study shows 65% increase worldwide," reports The Guardian on a new global study which aimed to determine trends in antibiotic consumption from 2010-2015 in 76 countries. The study compared consumption between low-middle income countries (LMIC), such as China and India, and high-income countries (HIC) such as the UK and US.

[Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust fined after deaths of two patients](#)

26 March 2018 *Source:* HSE www.hse.gov.uk/

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust has been fined £2m after a series of management failings led to the deaths of two vulnerable patients at different facilities owned by the Trust.

[The lighter evenings are coming – let's stick with them](#)

23 March 2018 *Source:* RoSPA www.rospa.com

As the nation prepares to move its clocks forward on Sunday to usher in the lighter summer evenings, RoSPA is calling for a change that would bring lighter evenings all year round.

Screening

[Hospitals 'failing' on genetic bowel cancer test](#)

27 March 2018

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

More than 80% of NHS hospitals in England are failing to test bowel cancer patients for the genetic condition Lynch syndrome, according to the charity Bowel Cancer UK.

Sexual health

[Syphilis patient calls for public debate as cases rise](#)

3 April 2018

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

Rates of syphilis have risen to their highest levels in England and Scotland in nearly 70 years.

[Resistant gonorrhoea case reminds importance of safe sex](#)

30 March 2018

Source: Dept of Health and Social Care

<https://www.gov.uk>

A UK case of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* with high-level resistance to azithromycin and resistance to ceftriaxone has been acquired abroad.

[Man has 'world's worst' super-gonorrhoea](#)

28 March 2018

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

A man in the UK has caught the world's "worst-ever" case of super-gonorrhoea.

See also **Statistics**

FPA welcomes record low teenage pregnancy rates

Smoking

[Stop smoking services should be available to all smokers, says RCGP](#)

28 March 2018

Source: RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

Responding to new advice from NICE and Public Health England that aims to help patients stop smoking, Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "This is helpful advice from NICE and PHE, particularly as it clarifies the messages that GPs and our teams should be giving to patients who are trying to stop smoking and who ask about switching to e-cigarettes - guidance that the College has long been calling for."

Social & economic issues

[New government initiative to reduce rough sleeping](#)

30 March 2018

Source: Min of Housing, Communities & Local Govt www.gov.uk

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid sets out a bold cross-government plan of action to significantly reduce the number of people sleeping rough.

[Government boosts councils' powers to help bring empty homes back into use](#)

28 March 2018 *Source:* Min of Housing, Communities & Local Govt www.gov.uk

New legislation to allow councils to charge double the rate of Council Tax on homes left empty for years.

[Carers 'need mandatory LGBT training'](#)

27 March 2018 *Source:* BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Carers looking after older people should be given statutory LGBT training to help tackle homophobia in the sector, the charity Stonewall has said.

[Community-wide approach needed to tackle growing challenge of loneliness and social isolation](#)

27 March 2018 *Source:* RCGP www.rcgp.org.uk

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, has responded to a [study](#) published in the BMJ about the links between loneliness and social isolation and cardiovascular conditions.

[Rise in online shopping clogging up our roads with LGVs](#)

24 March 2018 *Source:* LGA www.local.gov.uk

As companies scramble to meet their rising number of deliveries, traffic caused by the number of Light Goods Vehicles (LGV) on our streets has soared.

[£215 million boost for council homelessness services](#)

22 March 2018 *Source:* Min of Housing, Communities & Local Govt www.gov.uk

Councils across the country are set to receive a share of over £215 million from 2019 to prevent homelessness.

See also **Statistics**

Statistics

[FPA welcomes record low teenage pregnancy rates, but warns progress threatened by sexual health service cuts](#)

27 March 2018 *Source:* FPA www.fpa.org.uk

Figures released today by the [Office for National Statistics](#) show that, in 2016, overall teenage pregnancy rates were the lowest since records began in 1969.

[LGA responds to latest Government homelessness statistics](#)

22 March 2018 *Source:* LGA www.local.gov.uk

On average over the last three years, councils are having to house the equivalent of an extra secondary school's worth of homeless children in temporary accommodation every month.

[LGA responds to latest Government house-building figures](#)

22 March 2018

Source: LGA www.local.gov.uk

"Although any increase in the number of homes is a positive step, it really is essential we get towards the Government's own target of 300,000 new homes, of all types and tenure, a year, if we're to tackle our national housing shortage."

Workplace health

[Viola player Chris Goldscheider wins landmark case](#)

28 March 2018

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

A viola player who suffered a life-changing hearing injury at a rehearsal of Wagner's Die Walkure in 2012 has [won a landmark High Court judgement](#) against the Royal Opera House.

[HSE urges employers to think again before investing in off-the-shelf manual handling training](#)

21 March 2018

Source: HSE www.hse.gov.uk/

Off-the-shelf manual handling training should become a thing of the past, according to new advice released by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

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/subject-a-z/m/medicine/major-research/>

Daily Health News

The Daily Health Bulletin is produced by the Knowledge Service from the EMBED Health Consortium
<http://cash.libraryservices.nhs.uk/subject-a-z/d/daily-health-news/>

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>

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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