

Public Health Bulletin. 22nd January 2019

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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Children and young people

[Too many children 'not being treated for mental health problems'](#)

11 Jan 2019

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

Only a third of children and young people with mental health conditions receive the treatment they need from the NHS, a committee of MPs says.

[Intersex surgeries: is it right to assign sex to a baby?](#)

14 Jan 2019

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

The UN says as many as 1.7% of the world have intersex traits - that's the same as the number of people with red hair. All over the world, children with intersex traits are being operated on to be sex assigned at birth - sometimes with devastating consequences.

[Children's Commissioner responds to Public Accounts Committee report on children's mental health services](#)

11 Jan 2019

Source: Children's Commissioner:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk>

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, responding to the Public Accounts Committee report on children's mental health services.

[Impact of social media on children faces fresh scrutiny](#)

15 Jan 2019

Source: The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/>

UK researchers' study 40,000 households to explore biggest risk factors for mental health.

[Parents' break-up more likely to harm mental health of children aged seven to 14](#)

17 Jan 2019

Source: The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/>

Research shows a 16% rise in emotional problems and 8% rise in conduct disorders

[LGA responds to PAC report on mental health services for children and young people](#)

11 Jan 2019

Source: LGA: <https://www.local.gov.uk>

"This report rightly recognises the importance of early intervention and prevention services for children provided by councils, and the significant financial strain these are under."

See also **Mental Health**

See also **Environmental Health**

Chronic conditions

['Exercise hormone' may play a role in combating Alzheimer's disease](#)

08 Jan 2019

Source: NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"An 'exercise pill' mimicking the effects of a gym workout could prevent Alzheimer's disease," the Daily Mirror reports.

[Sponge offers hope of 'less toxic' chemotherapy](#)

09 Jan 2019

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

Scientists believe they may have found a way to make cancer chemotherapy treatment less toxic to the body.

Royal Marsden's leading cancer expert Martin Gore dies

11 Jan 2019

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

Tributes have been paid to one of the world's leading oncologists, who has died at the age of 67.

Life-extending drug Perjeta approved for secondary breast cancer

14 Jan 2019

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

A drug used to treat advanced breast cancer has been approved for use on the NHS in Scotland.

Liver transplant 'game changing' treatment approved

16 Jan 2019

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

A new procedure for storing livers donated for transplant has been hailed a "game changer" and approved for use on the NHS.

Teenage cancer survival 'on the up' in England, report finds

17 Jan 2019

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

Survival rates for teenagers and young adults with cancer in England are improving, particularly for those with leukaemia and bone cancer, says a report by Teenage Cancer Trust and Public Health England.

Media claims of breast cancer testing tool are premature

15 Jan 2019

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

The UK media has reported on a "game changing" breast cancer gene test. The Times made the bold statement that "Women will be told their exact lifetime risk of getting breast cancer ... allowing some to take drugs to prevent the disease".

Do shop receipts contain cancer-causing chemicals?

16 Jan 2019

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

"Up to 90 per cent of receipts contain cancer-causing chemicals, experts have warned," the Mail Online reports.

Health impact of genetic 'iron-overdose disease' may have been underestimated

17 Jan 2019

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

"Hundreds of thousands could be suffering with 'stealth disease' caused by common genetic disorder," reports the Mail Online.

New research to provide virtual support for people with rare dementias

09 Jan 2019

Source: Economic and Social Research Council: <https://esrc.ukri.org>

New research projects announced under the ESRC-NIHR Dementia Research Initiative 2018

New migraine drug not cost-effective NICE says in draft guidance

10 Jan 2019

Source: NICE: <https://www.nice.org.uk/>

NICE has said that a new drug for preventing migraine is not a cost effective use of NHS resources, in draft guidance published today.

[A blood test for Alzheimer's remains a distant possibility, study suggests](#)

22 Jan 2019

Source: NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk>

Researchers have developed a blood test that can predict your chances of getting Alzheimer's, claim several media reports.

[NICE guideline set to address variation in provision of services for adults with cerebral palsy](#)

15 Jan 2019

Source: NICE: <https://www.nice.org.uk/>

NICE has published its guideline on the care and support needs of adults with cerebral palsy.

[Thousands of adults with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia to benefit from new treatment option](#)

18 Jan 2019

Source: NICE: <https://www.nice.org.uk/>

Thousands of people will benefit as NICE recommends venetoclax with rituximab for adults with relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

Communicable diseases

[Global fight against killer diseases seeks £11bn](#)

11 Jan 2019

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

A key fund which finances the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is seeking fresh investment worth £11bn.

[New strategy for a measles and rubella free future](#)

10 Jan 2019

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

PHE makes recommendations on the steps needed to maintain the UK's elimination status for measles and rubella for future generations.

[British soldier sues Army over Q fever chronic fatigue](#)

21 Jan 2019

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

A former soldier is suing the Ministry of Defence after contracting Q fever in Afghanistan.

[Measles and rubella elimination UK strategy](#)

09 Jan 2019

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

This report explains the UK's strategy towards measles and rubella elimination.

[Rubella \(German measles\): guidance, data and analysis](#)

11 Jan 2019

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

The symptoms, diagnosis, management, surveillance and epidemiology of rubella (German measles).

[NHS England's plan to eliminate Hepatitis C decisively backed by High Court](#)

18 Jan 2019

Source: NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

NHS England's plan to eliminate Hepatitis C in England by 2025 is on track after all aspects of a High Court challenge by pharmaceutical company AbbVie were dismissed.

Diet & nutrition

[Blood pressure warnings about the 'keto diet' may not apply to humans](#)

09 Jan 2019

Source: NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Is the trendy keto diet bad for you?" asks the Mail Online. The headline refers to the increasingly popular ketogenic diet. This diet involves eating a combination of high-fat and low-carbohydrate foods.

[CES 2019: Can breath-sniffing gadgets improve your diet?](#)

09 Jan 2019

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

Two gadgets that analyse the gases in people's breath in an effort to reveal how they should improve their diet are being showcased at the CES tech show in Las Vegas.

[The lifesaving food 90% aren't eating enough of](#)

11 Jan 2019

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

If I offered you a superfood that would make you live longer, would you be interested?

[Healthy eating: What is a correct food portion?](#)

14 Jan 2019

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

Nutrition scientists have devised a new way of measuring out food portions - using your hands, thumbs and fists rather than a set of scales.

[The diet to save lives, the planet and feed us all?](#)

17 Jan 2019

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

A diet has been developed that promises to save lives, feed 10 billion people and all without causing catastrophic damage to the planet.

Environmental health

[Ella Kissi-Debrah 'pollution' death: Backing for new inquest](#)

11 Jan 2019

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

The family of a nine-year-old girl who died from asthma has been given permission to apply for a fresh inquest into her death.

[Wood burners and open fires face restrictions in new clean air plan](#)

14 Jan 2019

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

Wood burning stoves, open fires and farms all face new restrictions as the government sets out what it calls a "world leading" plan to tackle air pollution.

[Clean air: Do low emission schemes improve children's lungs?](#)

16 Jan 2019

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

A new study with 3,000 primary school children in London and Luton will see if new initiatives to reduce air pollution, such as London's new Ultra Low Emission Zone, can provide health benefits. Children are especially vulnerable to damage caused by air pollution, which can stunt lung growth and affect other organs.

[Why are so many people still dying from snake bites?](#)

21 Jan 2019

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

Tens of thousands of people die from snake bites worldwide every year. Lack of treatment and even the wrong medicine mean many of these deaths are preventable.

Government launches world leading plan to tackle air pollution

14 Jan 2019

Source: Department for Environment:

<https://www.gov.uk/>

Government has launched an ambitious new strategy to clean up our air and save lives.

Health services administration

Woman given erectile dysfunction cream for dry eye

08 Jan 2019

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

A woman has suffered chemical injuries after she was mistakenly prescribed erectile dysfunction cream for a dry eye condition.

Shropshire midwives' misconduct charges proved

08 Jan 2019

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

Misconduct charges against two midwives over the care of a mother and her baby, who died, have been found proved.

Medical students: More needed to meet demand for doctors

11 Jan 2019

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

Northern Ireland needs at least 100 more medical students a year to meet the increasing demand for doctors.

Clinical waste 'backlog' pictured at North Lanarkshire health centres

12 Jan 2019

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

Photographs showing bags of clinical waste piled at three health centres in North Lanarkshire have been posted on social media.

Lens replacement led to 'blind patches', says artist

14 Jan 2019

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

An artist whose vision deteriorated after lens replacement surgery is one of dozens of people considering legal action against manufacturer, Oculentis.

Contact lens recycling scheme launched across UK

15 Jan 2019

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

Contact lens wearers will be able to recycle their lenses for free in a new UK-wide scheme launching this week.

Pharmacists warn of a 'surge' in shortage of common medicines

18 Jan 2019

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

Pharmacists say they are struggling to obtain many common medicines including painkillers and anti-depressants.

Funding announced to train 900 new children's social workers

8 Jan 2019

Source: Department for Education: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Education Secretary Damian Hinds has today (8 January) announced plans to fund 900 places on the Frontline children's social work training programme up to 2021.

NHS Long Term Plan launched

08 Jan 2019

Source: NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/>

The 10-year plan includes measures to prevent 150,000 heart attacks, strokes and dementia cases, and better access to mental health services for adults and children.

GP practices free up 3,000 extra patient appointments through Primary Care Network

10 Jan 2019

Source: NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk>

GP practices in Luton have worked together to provide more than 3,000 extra appointments a year including halving the number of appointments lost due to patient non-attendance.

Differences in GP access across England 'shocking'

19 Jan 2019

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

The variation in the availability of GPs in different parts of England is shocking, doctors' leaders say.

Two dead after pigeon dropping infection at hospital

19 Jan 2019

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

Two patients have died after contracting a fungal infection caused by pigeon droppings at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Gosport hospital deaths: Evidence 'strong enough to bring charges'

20 Jan 2019

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

There is "strong" evidence to bring criminal charges after the deaths of hundreds of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, the detective who led an investigation believes.

Brexit: Concerns over medicines, EU workers and the poor

21 Jan 2019

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

The recruitment of health workers and supply of medicines are key concerns for Wales after Brexit, a report says.

He Jiankui: China condemns 'baby gene editing' scientist

21 Jan 2019

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

China says the scientist who claims to have created the world's first genetically edited babies last year acted illegally and in pursuit of fame and fortune, state media report.

Final report on GP partnerships published

14 Jan 2019

Source: Department of Health and Social Care:

<https://www.gov.uk/>

Government has launched an ambitious new strategy to clean up our air and save lives.

HIV & AIDS

Prep: The battle to access 'game-changing' HIV drug

11 Jan 2019

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

A "game-changing" drug in the fight against HIV reduces the risk of acquiring the condition. But those at high risk of contracting the virus have struggled to get hold of the medication, despite the NHS trialling it across England.

Mental health

[Staff suspended at Middlesbrough mental health hospital](#)

08 Jan 2019

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

Seventeen members of staff have been suspended at a hospital that treats young people with mental health needs.

[Templepatrick: Care worker who hurt patients avoids jail](#)

08 Jan 2019

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

A care worker who mistreated three mental health patients at a residential unit in Templepatrick, County Antrim, will not be sent to jail.

[Anorexic girl 'would rather die than eat', inquest hears](#)

08 Jan 2019

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

A 15-year-old girl who wanted to be a doctor took her own life after being given Prozac to help with her anorexia.

[Cheap common drugs may help mental illness](#)

09 Jan 2019

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

Cheap and widely used drugs for diabetes and heart health have potential for treating severe mental illness, a study hints.

[Mental health patients missing GP appointments 'at risk'](#)

11 Jan 2019

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

Mental health patients who miss two or more GP appointments within the space of a year are eight times more likely to die in the subsequent 18 months than those who miss none, a study suggests.

[Overstretched 'sandwich carers' trying to help parents and children](#)

14 Jan 2019

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

An exhausted, overstretched generation of carers, are in need of emotional support themselves, say researchers.

[Mental Health: Tougher checks before Superdrug Botox](#)

19 Jan 2019

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

High street retailer Superdrug is to introduce tougher mental health checks before performing cosmetic procedures, following criticism by the NHS.

[Suicide prevention: resources and guidance](#)

22 Jan 2019

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Help for local authorities, public healthcare professionals, police forces, and others to prevent suicides in their areas.

[£3.7m Research Grant Set To Improve Care For People With Dementia](#)

11 Jan 2019

Source: The Carer: <https://thecareruk.com>

The largest ever research grant to improve palliative and end of life care for people with dementia and their carers in the UK (£3.7m) has been awarded to researchers at the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department, UCL, and the Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation, Kings College London.

See also **Children and Young People**

Obesity

['Cheap junk food to blame' for obesity in Wales](#)

08 Jan 2019

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

Cheap junk food is largely to blame for obesity in Wales, according to a charity calling on the Welsh Government to help people shop more healthily.

[Obesity overtaking smoking as biggest Welsh health risk](#)

17 Jan 2019

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

Obesity is overtaking smoking as the biggest risk to health in Wales, experts have warned.

[Weight management: guidance for commissioners and providers](#)

17 Jan 2019

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Guides to support the commissioning and delivery of tier 2 weight management services for children, families and adults.

Screening

[Breast screening: professional guidance](#)

18 Jan 2019

Source: Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/>

Standards and guidance for health professionals, managers and commissioners working in the NHS breast screening programme.

[Fears over possible privatisation of NHS cervical screening services](#)

17 Jan 2019

Source: Unite: <https://unitetheunion.org/>

Fears have been expressed about the possible privatisation of cervical screening services used by thousands of women in England every year.

Sexual health

[Sexual assault forensics centres failing some victims](#)

08 Jan 2019

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

Young victims of sexual assault are not being forensically examined within a critical time period at some privately-run referral centres, a BBC investigation has found.

[Super-gonorrhoea spread causes 'deep concern'](#)

09 Jan 2019

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

Two women in the UK have been infected with super-gonorrhoea, sparking deep concern from sexual health doctors.

Women's health

HRT patches and gels 'may be safer' than tablets for older women

10 Jan 2019

Source: NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"HRT tablets linked to higher risk of rare blood clots," reports The Guardian.

Women's frozen eggs 'should be stored for longer'

21 Jan 2019

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

Women who freeze their eggs should be allowed to keep them for longer than 10 years, fertility experts are telling the government.

Is it OK to take the pill every day without a break?

21 Jan 2019

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

Newspaper headlines this week have advised women that they can take contraceptive pills "every day of the month, without any break" to avoid monthly bleeds and period pain.

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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