

Public Health Bulletin. 1st October 2019

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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

Warning on alcohol risk at university initiations

23 Sept 2019

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

Students starting university are being warned about the dangers of initiation events which involve drinking excessive amounts of alcohol.

Minimum price 'cuts drinking by half a pint a week'

26 Sept 2019

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

The introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol in Scotland appears to have cut drinking, a study suggests.

Alcohol policy impact case study: the effects of alcohol control measures on mortality and life expectancy in the Russian Federation (2019)

01 Oct 2019

Source: World Health Organization: <http://www.euro.who.int>

Alcohol consumption has long been recognized as one of the main driving factors of mortality in the Russian Federation, especially among men of working age.

The decline in youth drinking in England – is everyone drinking less? A quantile regression analysis.

27 Sept 2019

Source: Alcohol Change UK:

<https://alcoholchange.org.uk/>

Alcohol consumption among young people in England appears to be declining across the consumption distribution, and peaks among heavy drinkers.

Please also see Drug Misuse

Please also see Mental Health

Children and young people

Younger children in a school year 'more likely' to have mental health and learning difficulties

24 Sept 2019

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

A new study looked at a link between depression, intellectual disability and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and children who are younger than others in their class at school due to being born in the summer.

Alarm as uptake drops for all routine child jabs

26 Sept 2019

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

Coverage for all the routine childhood vaccinations for the under-fives has fallen in the past year, figures show.

Unicef - Protracted conflict, the climate crisis, a rise in mental illness and online misinformation among biggest emerging threats to children

18 Sept 2019

Source: Unicef: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/>

In addition to existing threats to young people, such as access to education, poverty, inequality and discrimination, the inaugural letter warns of emerging threats to children's rights, and outlines a path to stepping up efforts to address them. The letter is being issued as part of UNICEF's commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of a Child – the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty.

[Health secretary 'looking seriously' at compulsory vaccines for schoolchildren](#)

29 Sept 2019

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

The health secretary has said he is "looking very seriously" at making vaccinations compulsory for all children going to school in England.

[More than 1,000 children protected in first year of centre tackling County Lines](#)

21 Sept 2019

Source: National Police Chiefs' Council: <https://news.npcc.police.uk/>

The national centre to coordinate law enforcement activity to tackle County Lines has, in its first year of operation, protected more than 1,000 children from being exploited by drug gangs.

Please also see Communicable Diseases

Please also see Women's Health

Chronic conditions

[Prostate drug may slow Parkinson's disease](#)

17 Sept 2019

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

A drug used to treat enlarged prostates may be a powerful medicine against Parkinson's disease, according to an international team of scientists.

[Electromagnetic 'bathing cap' shows promise in early Alzheimer's disease trial](#)

19 Sept 2019

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

"Alzheimer's breakthrough as pioneering head device 'can reverse memory loss' using electromagnetic waves," reports Mail Online.

[Diabetes drug also treats heart failure, researchers say](#)

19 Sept 2019

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

A drug used successfully to treat type 2 diabetes can also be effective to treat heart failure, researchers at Glasgow University have said.

[Children being denied new cancer drugs](#)

20 Sept 2019

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

Children with cancer are being denied new, highly precise drugs that are available to adults, doctors warn.

[Male infertility linked to increased prostate cancer risk](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

"Men who struggle with infertility are at much greater risk of prostate cancer," reports the Sun.

[Orkambi: Cystic fibrosis drug buyers' club travels to Argentina](#)

22 Sept 2019

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

A group of parents of children with cystic fibrosis has travelled to Argentina to buy a generic version of a "life-saving" drug.

[Medical cannabis product approved for epilepsy](#)

23 Sept 2019

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

The EU has approved for the first time the use of a medicinal cannabis product aimed at patients with two rare, but severe, forms of childhood epilepsy.

'Revolutionary' new class of cancer drugs approved

23 Sept 2019

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

A "revolutionary" new class of cancer drug that can treat a wide range of tumours has been approved for use in Europe for the first time.

NHS will not pay for 'life-changing' migraine drug

26 Sept 2019

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

A migraine drug that has been described as "life changing" by some patients will not be made available on the NHS outside of Scotland.

Cancer treatment delays unacceptable, says Ombudsman

25 Sept 2019

Source: Parliamentary and Health Service

Ombudsman: <https://www.ombudsman.org.uk/>

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has found serious failings at Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust after the death of a man whose cancer surgery was unacceptably delayed.

Skin cancer: Half of people surviving advanced melanoma

28 Sept 2019

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

More than half of patients can now survive a deadly skin cancer that was considered untreatable just a decade ago, say UK doctors.

Zantac: CVS latest to suspend heartburn drug over cancer fears

29 Sept 2019

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

US retailer CVS has become the latest to suspend the sale of a heartburn drug being investigated for links to cancer.

Inequalities in heart attack care 'costing women's lives'

30 Sept 2019

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

Women who suffer heart attacks are dying needlessly because they fail to recognise their symptoms and receive poorer care than men, says a British Heart Foundation report.

Firefighters with cancer demand government takes action

30 Sept 2019

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

Firefighters have called for more protection after research found they were being exposed to dangerously high levels of harmful chemicals.

Ultrasound breakthrough 'can spot cancer earlier'

30 Sept 2019

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

A new ultrasound technique is being hailed as the biggest breakthrough in the technology for more than 60 years.

NICE calls for further research on management options for tinnitus

20 Sept 2019

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

NICE's new draft guideline covers the assessment and management of tinnitus, which refers to the sensation of noises in the ears or head that do not come from an outside source.

[Migraine drug not cost effective NICE says in final draft guidance](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

The draft guidance looks at erenumab (also called Aimovig and made by Novartis) for preventing chronic and episodic migraine in adults who have 4 episodes or more of migraine every month and where at least 3 other preventive treatments haven't worked.

['Revolutionary' drug for prostate cancer](#)

30 Sept 2019

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

Olaparib could become a revolutionary treatment for prostate cancer - the first genetically targeted drug for fighting the disease, say experts.

Communicable diseases

[Polio: national guidelines](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

Guidance for the surveillance, investigation and management of suspected polio cases in the UK.

[Influenza-like illness \(ILI\): managing outbreaks in schools](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

Guidance for local PHE Centre health protection teams about assessing and managing outbreaks of influenza-like illness in schools.

[Flu vaccination: who should have it this winter and why](#)

23 Sept 2019

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

Leaflet explaining the importance of the influenza (flu) vaccination this winter 2019 to 2020.

[Malaria prevention guidelines for travellers from the UK](#)

27 Sept 2019

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

The PHE Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention updates and reissues these guidelines every year for UK travellers.

[Influenza: treatment and prophylaxis using anti-viral agents](#)

27 Sept 2019

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

Guidance on how to manage influenza (flu) using anti-viral agents.

[Clinical Commissioning Urgent Policy Statement: Antivirals for adults with recent onset \(acute\) hepatitis C](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

NHS England will routinely commission antivirals for adults with recent onset (acute) hepatitis C (HCV), including the treatment of acute HCV infection in immunosuppressed adults (e.g. post transplantation patients) in accordance with the criteria set out in this document.

Please also see Children and Young People

Diet & nutrition

[New report shows further sugar reduction progress by food industry](#)

20 Sept 2019

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

Soft Drinks Industry Levy data shows a 28.8% reduction per 100ml in retailer own-brand and manufacturer-branded products.

[Sugar reduction: progress between 2015 and 2018](#)

20 Sept 2019

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

Progress report on the sugar reduction programme between 2015 and 2018, principally for the food industry and public health bodies.

[Efforts to cut sugar out of food way off target](#)

20 Sept 2019

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

Efforts to cut a fifth of the sugar out of our food by next year are way off target, figures from Public Health England show.

[Encouraging healthier 'out of home' food provision](#)

20 Sept 2019

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

This toolkit helps local authorities and businesses to provide and promote healthier options for food eaten away from home.

[New Study Finds that Peanut Allergies are Affected by Exercise and Sleep Deprivation](#)

18 Sept 2019

Source: Anaphylaxis Campaign: <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/>

A new study funded by the Food Standards Agency has found that exercise and sleep deprivation can make people with peanut allergies more sensitive. The allergy research team at Addenbrooke's Hospital discovered that each of these factors can significantly reduce the threshold of reactivity (the amount of peanut needed to trigger a reaction) in people with peanut allergy, putting them at greater risk of a reaction.

[Is red meat back on the menu?](#)

30 Sept 2019

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

A controversial study says cutting down on sausages, mince, steak and all other forms of red or processed meat is a waste of time for most people.

Disability

[RNIB training rolled out to jobcentre staff](#)

26 Sept 2019

Source: Department for Work and Pensions: <https://www.gov.uk/>

A groundbreaking training partnership to help jobcentre staff better support Universal Credit claimants who are blind or have visual impairments launches today.

[New mortality indicator published on people with learning disabilities](#)

26 Sept 2019

Source: NHS Digital: <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

The indicator² measures the national and local standardised mortality ratio³ of the learning disabilities population.

Drug Misuse

Cocaine and alcohol a 'deadly combination'

30 Sept 2019

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

Mixing cocaine and alcohol together creates a "deadly combination" which can increase violent and impulsive behaviour, doctors are warning.

New EMCDDA manual and training courses for professionalising drug prevention

24 Sept 2019

Source: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and

Drug Addiction: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu>

Advancing the professionalism of the drug prevention workforce in Europe is at the heart of a new European Prevention Curriculum (EUPC) handbook, launched today by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA). The manual is designed to train professionals who are involved in shaping prevention decisions, opinions and policies in Europe in the science-based prevention of substance use (1).

See also Children and Young People

Environmental health

Air quality reports for the survivors and residents of the area surrounding Grenfell Tower.

19 Sept 2019

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

Environmental monitoring following the Grenfell Tower fire.

Review of bio-based food contact materials published

19 Sept 2019

Source: Food Standards Agency: <https://www.food.gov.uk/>

The safety of bio-based food contact materials has been examined in a new report produced for the FSA.

Avoid skin-lightening creams 'at all costs'

28 Sept 2019

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

Consumers are being warned to steer clear of skin lightening creams that can "act like paint stripper".

Health promotion

Can you turn around the health of an entire town?

18 Sept 2019

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

How do you improve the health of an entire town? That was the question facing the former fishing port of Fleetwood, in Lancashire.

Health protection

Bacterial 'striptease' evades antibiotics

26 Sept 2019

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

Bacteria have been caught "stripping off" in order to evade antibiotics and survive, scientists show. It may be possible to overcome this resistance with combinations of drugs that attack both the cell wall and a bacterium's inner workings.

UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats

25 Sept 2019 *Source:* Department of Health and Social Care: <https://www.gov.uk/>
The Chief Medical Officer has announced funding for projects to help beat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and achieve global universal health coverage.

Health services administration

Nurse numbers rise 'eclipsed by jump in patients'

17 Sept 2019 *Source:* BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk
The rise in hospital nurses in England has been dwarfed by a jump in patients, a study suggests.

Sandboxing wave two - expressions of interest

17 Sept 2019 *Source:* CQC: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/>
CQC is inviting innovators and services to explore how they can work with the regulator as they develop new approaches to care.

MPs demand action over wrongly-issued NHS fines

20 Sept 2019 *Source:* BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/>
A highly critical report from MPs has condemned the "shockingly complacent" response to 1.7 million fines being wrongly issued to patients in England after visiting the doctor or dentist.

CQC supports World Patient Safety Day

17 Sept 2019 *Source:* Care Quality Commission: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/>
In support of the day CQC is encouraging health and care providers, partner organisations, the public and our own staff to advocate and promote the importance of patient safety.

LGA responds to Ombudsman annual review of social care complaints

19 Sept 2019 *Source:* Local Government Association: <https://www.local.gov.uk/>
"Extra funding for social care next year will help councils as they strive to ensure older and disabled people can live the lives they want to lead."

College partners with medical leaders to recognise GPs as expert medical generalists

17 Sept 2019 *Source:* Royal College of General Practitioners:
<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/>
The Royal College of General Practitioners, the British Medical Association (BMA) and the General Medical Council (GMC) have released a joint statement recognising GPs as expert medical generalists, and as such, specialists in general practice.

Labour pledges to stop NHS prescription charges

21 Sept 2019 *Source:* BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/>
Labour is to announce a pledge to abolish prescription charges in England at its party conference next week.

Celery Juice: The big problem with a viral Instagram 'cure'

22 Sept 2019 *Source:* BBC News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/>
An Instagram influencer with millions of followers and a host of celebrity endorsements claims that drinking celery juice can cure chronic illnesses.

Labour pledges free personal care for over-65s in England

23 Sept 2019

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

Labour is promising free personal care in England for over-65s most in need of it, so they will not have to pay for help with dressing, washing and meals.

Mediator: French weight-loss drug trial over 'up to 2,000' deaths begins

23 Sept 2019

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

A landmark French trial is due to begin to decide whether a diabetes pill prescribed for weight loss was behind the deaths of up to 2,000 people.

No-deal Brexit 'still risk to NHS and care sector'

27 Sept 2019

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

A no-deal Brexit presents risks to the NHS and care homes despite extensive government planning, a watchdog says.

Online primary care: response from the regulators

26 Sept 2019

Source: Care Quality Commission: <https://www.cqc.org.uk>

Online provision of health and care services challenges the existing regulatory landscape by transforming how care is delivered, where and by whom.

Collaboration aims to boost health and care

19 Sept 2019

Source: Wired.gov: <https://www.wired-gov.net/>

A three-year collaborative programme has been launched to improve health and care across the Liverpool City Region.

Three areas where NICE's collaboration with CMAC can make a difference

17 Sept 2019

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

Heidi Livingstone, senior public involvement adviser within NICE's Public Involvement Programme, reflects on the partnership with CMAC.

Social media sites act on NHS call for greater online protection

19 Sept 2019

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

The chief executive of the NHS in England has called on all social media firm to crack down on potentially harmful material after two of the biggest sites confirm they plan to act on health service demands for action.

NHS hospitals under strain over £80bn PFI bill for just £13bn of actual investment, finds IPPR

18 Sept 2019

Source: IPPR: <https://www.ippr.org/>

Safety hazards, sewage leaks and falling ceilings are major risks at hospitals after decades of underinvestment and the legacy of PFI.

Patients Association launches new free helpline number

17 Sept 2019

Source: The Patients Association:

<https://www.patients-association.org.uk>

The Association launched the new 0800 freephone number today in a bid to make it possible for more people who need advice and support to access the service.

Government plans billions for hospital projects

29 Sept 2019

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

The government has pledged billions for hospital projects across England, at the start of the Conservative party conference.

[Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October](#)

23 Sept 2019

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

Government commits to funding healthcare for over 180,000 UK nationals living in the EU for 6 months following Brexit if we leave without a deal.

[New social care database being used by 50 GP practices in Cheshire](#)

27 Sept 2019

Source: Innovation Agency:

<https://www.innovationagency.nhs.uk/>

A new social care database is being used by 50 GP practices in Cheshire to signpost patients to support, advice and social opportunities – improving local health and wellbeing.

[NICE seeks feedback from users of the evidence standards framework for digital health technologies](#)

23 Sept 2019

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

Digital health technologies include apps, wearable devices, programmes and software that have the potential to empower patients which could allow them to have more convenient care, reduce the number of healthcare related appointments and support them no matter where in the country they are located.

[Care Home Charter: resident's and families version of the Charter](#)

19 Sept 2019

Source: The Patients Association: <https://www.patients-association.org.uk>

The Patients Association's Care Home Charter is an evidence-based and expert-led tool to help improve medication practices for people living in care homes across the UK.

[Proposed changes to health legislation are a step on the way to better patient care](#)

26 Sept 2019

Source: NHS Confederation: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/>

HIV & AIDS

[HIV: annual data tables](#)

01 Oct 2019

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

HIV surveillance data in the UK by demographic characteristics and geographical region.

Mental health

[Instagram clamps down on diet and cosmetic surgery posts](#)

19 Sept 2019

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

Body positivity campaigners are celebrating after Instagram announced new rules for posts about weight loss products and cosmetic surgery.

[Ellingham Hospital: Children's mental health wards to close](#)

19 Sept 2019

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

Two children's wards at a private mental health hospital are to close amid concerns over a lack of staff and the "safety and welfare" of patients.

Sertraline: Antidepressant works 'by reducing anxiety symptoms first'

20 Sept 2019

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

A commonly-prescribed antidepressant reduces anxiety first and has a smaller effect on depressive symptoms weeks later, a study suggests.

College welcomes continued research into widely used anti-depressants

19 Sept 2019

Source: Royal College of General Practitioners:

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/>

This study gives an interesting insight into how a medication primarily used to treat depression may be improving a patients' health in other ways in the shorter term, by reducing symptoms of anxiety, which is often associated with depression.

Ellingham Hospital: Assault probe at mental health unit

20 Sept 2019

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

Police are investigating three assaults at a privately-run hospital caring for child mental health patients.

Adolescent mental health centre for Cardiff University

30 Sept 2019

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

A new research centre will aim to "shine a light" on why young people develop mental health problems.

Depression and binge-drinking more common among military partners

24 Sept 2019

Source: King's College London: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/>

New research from King's College London suggests that depression and binge-drinking are more common among the female partners of UK military personnel than among comparable women outside the military community.

NHS hospitals go back to the future for dementia care

24 Sept 2019

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

NHS hospitals are going back to the future to help patients with dementia by decorating their wards, rooms and corridors in 1940s and 1950s style – creating a calming, familiar environment which can help jog memories, reduce anxiety and distress.

NHS Confederation – Primary care mental health service improves health and saves NHS money, finds new report

27 Sept 2019

Source: NHS Confederation: <https://www.nhsconfed.org>

A psychological treatment service working in GP surgeries in Nottingham offers hope to people other services can't help and has already saved more money than its staffing costs in its first year, according to research published today by Centre for Mental Health with the NHS Confederation Mental Health Network.

Virtual reality PTSD treatment has 'big impact' for veterans

01 Oct 2019

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

Virtual reality could be used to help military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) who have struggled with mainstream treatment.

Please also see Children and Young People

Obesity

Obesity not caused by lack of willpower – psychologists

24 Sept 2019

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

Obesity is not a choice and making people feel ashamed results only in them feeling worse about themselves, a report by top psychologists says.

Older people

Where not to live if you want a good care home

19 Sept 2019

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

High concentrations of substandard care homes in some areas leave families with no choice but to accept an under-performing home for older and disabled relatives, an analysis suggests.

LGA responds to independent age report on free personal care for older people

18 Sept 2019

Source: Local Government Association:

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

"People who use adult social care should be confident that their needs will be met to help them live the lives they want to lead. This report is a useful contribution to the debate exploring some of the options for the future of care and support."

Screening

Cervical screening: removing women from routine invitations

20 Sept 2019

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

This document sets out how programme staff can stop invitations to women who do not require cervical screening.

Breast screening: quality assurance for medical physics services

25 Sept 2019

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

This guidance outlines the scope and standards for medical physics services for the NHS breast screening programme.

Sexual health

Sexual and reproductive health and HIV: applying All Our Health

17 Sept 2019

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

Evidence and guidance on improving sexual health in communities with contraception, HIV and STI testing and easy access to advice.

Sex, lies and legal consent: Can deceit turn sex into rape?

26 Sept 2019

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

Ms Paul believes more guidance is needed about the extent to which lies negate consent - and this will hopefully come in the form of a judgment from the Court of Appeal now the Lawrance convictions are being challenged.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (Contraception), England, 2018/19 [NS]

26 Sept 2019

Source: NHS Digital: <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

This publication primarily covers contraceptive activity taking place at dedicated Sexual

and Reproductive Health (SRH) services in England, as recorded in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset (SRHAD).

Sexual Health Education: why inclusivity is key

23 Sept 2019

Source: SchoolsWeek: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/>

With new government guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) rubber-stamped by parliament, schools have 12 months until they must follow the new requirements.

Smoking

India e-cigarettes: Ban announced to prevent youth 'epidemic'

18 Sept 2019

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

India's cabinet has announced a ban on the production, import and sale of electronic cigarettes, saying they pose a risk to health.

Fastest drop in smoking rates in over a decade as Stoptober launches

19 Sept 2019

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

Latest figures from the University College London (UCL) Smoking Toolkit Study suggest that smoking rates in England are dropping at the fastest rate in over a decade, with around 200 fewer smokers every hour.

'Half as many Britons' vape as smoke

24 Sept 2019

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

The number of people vaping in the UK has reached 3.6 million - about half the number of smokers - figures from Action on Smoking and Health suggest.

Juul boss Kevin Burns steps down amid vaping concerns

25 Sept 2019

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

Kevin Burns, chief executive of vaping firm Juul, has stepped down, amid growing concerns around vaping health risks and criticism of its marketing.

LGA responds to ASH report on extra social care costs for smokers

26 Sept 2019

Source: Local Government Association:

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

"Councils are responsible for public health and doing everything they can to help smokers quit, including running a range of innovative programmes and services to encourage them to stub out tobacco for good."

Social & economic issues

South Wales Metro: Lack of toilets tram-trains 'dehumanising'

19 Sept 2019

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

The lack of toilets on new tram-trains that will serve the south Wales valleys has been branded "dehumanising".

Creating healthy places: perspectives from NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme

26 Sept 2019

Source: The King's Fund: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/>

Our health and wellbeing is shaped by much more than just our health care. The places we live in affect our health in countless ways, including through the way a

neighbourhood is designed, access to green spaces and the provision of good public transport. The social environment plays a key role too: strong social relationships or, conversely, stressful living conditions, can impact on our mental and physical health, and there is evidence that good urban design and planning can help to encourage positive social interactions and improve health.

Health matters: rough sleeping

30 Sept 2019

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

A professional resource for local authorities and commissioners on preventing and ending rough sleeping.

Number of homeless deaths see biggest increase on record

01 Oct 2019

Source: Localgov: <https://www.localgov.co.uk/>

The number of homeless people dying has increased by 22% in the past year, new figures have revealed today.

Statistics

Are Scots becoming more or less healthy?

24 Sept 2019

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

The latest Scottish Health Survey attempts to measure the wellbeing of people living in Scotland. So, what does it reveal about the nation's drinking, smoking and exercise habits?

New figures show life expectancy continues to stall

25 Sept 2019

Source: NHS Health Scotland:

<http://www.healthscotland.scot/>

Data published today shows that life expectancy continues to stall in Scotland after the improvements seen up to 2012.

Women's health

Can taking paracetamol in pregnancy lead to child behavioural problems?

17 Sept 2019

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

'It's thought of as one of the safest painkillers to take during pregnancy, but a new study has warned of the dangers of taking paracetamol when pregnant' the Daily Mirror reports.

New research raises concerns that unborn babies may be directly exposed to pollution

18 Sept 2019

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

"Toxic air pollution particles are found in pregnant women's Placentas for the first time," reports the Mail Online.

Vaginal birth and Caesarean: Differences in babies' bacteria

18 Sept 2019

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

Babies born by Caesarean section have dramatically different gut bacteria to those born vaginally, according to the largest study in the field.

[Planned caesareans 'safer' for women with past history of Caesarean sections](#)

25 Sept 2019

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

"Planned caesarean delivery can be the safest option for women who have had a caesarean in the past" BBC News reports.

[Labour conference: Menopausal women 'should get flexible work hours'](#)

21 Sept 2019

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

Large employers would be forced to provide flexible hours to women experiencing the menopause under Labour plans to end stigma in the workplace.

[Improve fetal heart monitoring, NHS report says](#)

25 Sept 2019

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

Research into the best way to monitor the heart rates of unborn babies is urgently needed, says an NHS report that records babies born with avoidable brain injuries in England.

[Abortion: Hundreds of healthcare workers oppose new law](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

Hundreds of health professionals have written to the NI secretary expressing opposition to the liberalisation of NI's abortion laws.

[More than one thousand neonatal admissions could be avoided per year by following NICE guidance](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

Regularly monitoring women who are pregnant with twins or triplets, to spot any possible complications, can lead to better outcomes for mothers and their babies, as highlighted in NICE's impact report.

[Procedure carried out on unborn babies with spina bifida could improve their neurodevelopment](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

Babies at risk of spina bifida can be operated on while still in the womb using a new innovative operation, a NICE committee has said.

[NHS midwives ready for the busiest day for births](#)

26 Sept 2019

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

Midwives, nurses and doctors in maternity and birthing units are 'always standing ready', as the country sees the annual peak in births today.

[Abortion care](#)

Sept 2019

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

This guideline covers care for women of any age (including girls and young women under 18) who request an abortion. It aims to improve the organisation of services and make them easier for women to access.

Workplace health

[Occupational Health Services](#)

27 Sept 2019

Source: ESPO: <https://www.espo.org/Home>

This ESPO framework offers a comprehensive range of occupational health services

that allows organisations to meet their statutory duties of care for the health, safety and welfare of their employees in their working environment.

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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