



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

## *Voluntary Sector Update and News January 2018*

### **Welcome**

Welcome to the Department of Health & Social Care's voluntary sector newsletter. This includes updates on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance and news from the Department, NHS England and Public Health England.

### **Mailing list**

Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to your networks and memberships. If anyone would like to be added to our mailing list and receive this newsletter, please email

[HWAlliance@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:HWAlliance@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

### **In this month's edition:**

- 1. Update from the Department of Health & Social Care**
- 2. NHS England Update**
- 3. Public Health England News**
- 4. Health and Wellbeing Alliance News and Events**

### ***1. Update from the Department of Health & Social Care***

#### **Becoming the Department of Health & Social Care**

On Monday 8 January, the Prime Minister announced that Jeremy Hunt MP has been reappointed with an expanded role as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. We have now become the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The newly appointed Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP, has responsibility for the voluntary sector.

#### **[The Prime Minister Commits to a government wide drive to tackle loneliness](#)**

The Prime Minister has set out how the government is tackling loneliness and combating social isolation, accepting a series of recommendations from the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness. The Government has implemented the first of the Jo Cox Commission's recommendations with the appointment of the first ever loneliness minister. The Minister for Sport and Civil Society Tracey Crouch will lead a cross-government group which will take responsibility for driving action on loneliness across all parts of government and keeping it firmly on the agenda.

#### **[Independent doctors to be rated by Care Quality Commission](#)**

All healthcare organisations in England that offer regulated care will be rated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Organisations will have to display their inspection ratings so patients can clearly see safety standards.

The CQC's current ratings programme which covers hospital care, social care and GPs will be extended to include more than 800 additional providers. This includes independent doctors that offer primary care online.

The CQC will require providers affected by these changes to publicly display their rating, for instance on their website or business premises. This will allow patients to make an informed choice when deciding which care service they want to use. The ratings scheme will also cover services that may develop in the future.

### **Government acts to protect essential services from cyber threats**

New regulators will be able to assess critical industries to make sure plans are as robust as possible. A simple, straightforward reporting system will be set up to make it easy to report cyber breaches and IT failures so they can be quickly identified and acted upon.

This will ensure UK operators in electricity, transport, water, energy, transport, health and digital infrastructure are prepared to deal with the increasing numbers of cyber threats. It will also cover other threats affecting IT such as power outages, hardware failures and environmental hazards.

Under the new measures recent cyber breaches such as WannaCry and high profile systems failures would be covered by the Network and Information Systems (NIS) Directive.

## ***2. NHS England Update***

### **Sugary drinks will be further removed from NHS canteens, shops and vending machines during 2018**

The NHS is taking action on sugar, with almost two thirds of NHS trusts now signed up to a voluntary scheme to reduce sales of sugary drinks to 10 per cent or less of sold beverages. Some NHS Trusts have gone further and have introduced their own bans on sugary drinks.

As well as hospitals, 14 national suppliers have signed up to the voluntary scheme including WH Smith, Marks & Spencer, Greggs and the Royal Voluntary Service.

Hospitals and suppliers have been warned that if they don't take action to reduce sales of sugary drinks by the end of March 2018, a ban will be introduced in 2018 instead.

### **[More clinical pharmacists set to boost GP services for patients and practices](#)**

The NHS England scheme has proved popular with both patients and GP practices and NHS England have announced funding for over 160 more pharmacists. Including previously approved posts, it, will increase the number of clinical pharmacists in general practice from around 580 currently working to over 1,100 pharmacists across over 3,200 GP practices – over 40 per cent of surgeries in the country – and a population of nearly 34 million patients, with more planned.

Clinical pharmacists work as part of the general practice team by offering clinical expertise on day-to-day medicine issues and providing consultations with patients directly.

This includes extra help to manage long-term conditions such as high blood pressure earlier and more effectively to prevent cardiovascular disease; advice for those on a variety of medications and offering better access to health checks.

### **[NHS supports budding entrepreneurs developing voice-recognition app for tackling blood disease](#)**

The NHS has selected 138 entrepreneurs to design and deliver new technological solutions and innovations in healthcare. This includes the appointment of [five healthcare scientists](#), tackling conditions including sickle cell disease and allergic reactions.

[The Clinical Entrepreneurs Programme](#) is run by NHS England and supports NHS workers to work with, and learn from, leading health and technology industry experts to develop their own innovative ideas. NHS England has confirmed that more NHS staff will be provided with mentoring and other support to improve patient care. Within the first year, Clinical Entrepreneurs recruited to the programme have already launched 50 start-ups, leading to the creation of 344 jobs.

### **[NHS England announces consultation on ACO contracts](#)**

NHS England has announced it will be launching a consultation on the contracting arrangements for Accountable Care Organisations (ACOs).

There is widespread support for ending the fragmented way that care has been provided to improve services for patients and the NHS has been working towards this in a number of ways. ACOs are just one of these ways and are intended to allow health and care organisations to formally contract to provide services for a local population in a coordinated way.

An ACO is not a new type of legal entity and so would not affect the commissioning structure of the NHS. An ACO would simply be the provider organisation which is awarded a single contract by commissioners for all the services which are within scope for the local accountable care model. Therefore any proposal to award an ACO contract would engage local commissioners' own duties under the NHS Act 2006. Any area seeking to use an ACO contract would need to comply with longstanding public procurement law.

### **[NHS England sets out plans to be first in the world to eliminate Hepatitis C](#)**

England could be the first country in the world to eliminate Hepatitis C, under ambitious plans announced by the NHS today.

Part of the new agreements between NHS England and drug companies will involve collaboration to identify more people who are living with Hepatitis C who need to be treated. Experts have predicted that this approach, combined with the NHS sustaining the same level of investment and the best new treatments being used could undoubtedly lead to Hepatitis C being eradicated as a major public health concern in the very near future.

The next round of procurement, which launches in February, is the single largest medicines procurement ever done by the NHS, and NHS England expects to see more new treatments curing even more patients by October. Over 25,000 patients have already been treated to date and this number is expected to rise to 30,000 later this year, prioritising the sickest patients first.

The deals, including 'pay per cure' where the NHS only pays when a patient is cured and a focus on prioritising the sickest patients, have led to a 10% reduction in the number of deaths and the numbers of patients needing a liver transplant have reduced by 50%.

### **3. Public Health England News**

#### **Duncan Selbie's Bulletin**

Friday messages from Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England, are available here: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/category/duncan-selbie-friday-message/>

#### **[PHE launches Change4Life campaign to target children's snacks](#)**

The new Change4Life campaign encourages parents to look for '100 calorie snacks, two a day max' to help them purchase healthier snacks than the ones they currently buy. Parents can also get money-off vouchers from Change4Life to help them try healthier snack options. The '100 calorie snacks, two a day max' tip applies to all snacks apart from fruit and vegetables, as children should also be encouraged to eat a variety of these to achieve their 5 A Day.

#### **[World leading cancer dataset shows improvements in diagnosis](#)**

The data shows a dramatic improvement in the way some cancers are being diagnosed across England, but also pinpoints areas where improvements could still be made.

Key findings from the latest Routes to Diagnosis data include:

- diagnoses from emergency presentations, where outcomes are the worst, have improved falling from 24% to 20% between 2006 to 2015
- diagnoses through urgent GP referrals - 2 week waits - have increased significantly from 25% in 2005 to 37% in 2015, meaning that around 110,000 cases are now diagnosed this way
- diagnoses of pancreatic cancer through emergency presentation - with the very worst outcomes - has fallen by 6%, a significant drop

- diagnoses of colorectal cancers through the national bowel screening programme - the route with the best survival rate - remain under 10%
- the number of cancer cases diagnosed in Accident and Emergency varies across the country , ranging from 8% of all cases in the Peninsular Cancer Alliance to 20% of all cases in the London Cancer Alliance – this is despite similar cancer incidence levels

### [Cold weather prompts further health warnings from PHE](#)

Public Health England (PHE) issues cold weather alerts and health warnings following the arrival of colder weather in some parts of England.

### [Prescribed medicines that may cause dependence or withdrawal](#)

The Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care has commissioned Public Health England (PHE) to review the evidence for dependence on, and withdrawal from, prescribed medicines. Withdrawal is more accurately defined as discontinuation syndrome in relation to anti-depressants.

The review was launched on 24 January 2018 and is due to report in early 2019.

PHE will carry out a public-health focused review of commonly prescribed medicines, authorised for adults who have non-cancer pain, anxiety, insomnia or depression.

### [Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health - Free Learning Events](#)

Opportunities to join the upcoming **Public Health England** learning events focussed on helping local areas to adopt the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

The [FREE learning events](#) are taking place in both Bristol and Durham. The aim of the events is to facilitate the spread of effective practice, knowledge and ideas that will help every local area to understand and locally tailor effective cross-sector approaches to prevent mental health problems, promote good mental health and reduce health inequalities.

The Prevention Concordat and suite of [10 supporting resources](#) capture a new shared agreement to galvanise cross-sector action to increase the adoption of effective prevention focused action in all areas of England.

This will provide a good opportunity to maximise peer-to-peer learning and provide opportunities to explore the set of resources brought together by the Prevention Concordat.

If you have any further enquiries about future dates please contact [public-mentalhealth@phe.gov.uk](mailto:public-mentalhealth@phe.gov.uk)

## ***4. News and Events from the Health and Wellbeing Alliance and the Wider Sector***

### **NESTA: The Future of People Powered Health 2018 Event**

NESTA are [holding an event](#) on 2nd May on the future of people powered health, which recognises that there is a demand for decisions and control to be shared in health. In addition there is an opportunity to [share work in this area](#).

### **New resources for Carers Rights Day**

Carers UK have updated key information guide for carers, which provides an overview of the practical and financial support available for carers. You can find it [here](#).

Carers UK have also just updated their [Local support directory](#) which helps carers find local sources of support.

**New polling** published for Carers Rights Day- which occurred in November 2017, revealed the lack of awareness amongst the general public of the number of people they know who are providing unpaid care and looked at how confident the public feel about signposting carers to information and providing emotional support. It powerfully underlines the challenges of identifying and reaching carers with the key information about their rights and entitlements. You can read the research summary here [Carers UK: Make connections, get support](#)

### **Competition for young Gypsies and Travellers**

Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT) have recently launched a [competition](#) for young Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. FFT are asking them what they would do if they were Prime Minister for a day and hope to share the responses with politicians and the press. They hope that this will help address high levels of depression within the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Everyone who submits an answer will be entered into a draw for two Thorpe Park Annual Passes, a Mac make up lesson and a pair of Adidas boxing gloves!

Many of you will have Gypsy, Roma and Traveller service users, so please do share the competition with them in person or on social media. The closing date is Wednesday 7th February 2018.

### **Developing third sector and employer narrative to support transition into work for young people with mental health problems and people with a learning disability and/or autism**

Win-Win Alliance, National Survivor User Network and Change are co-facilitating a 'Deep Democracy' session on Tuesday 13th February in at Disability Rights UK, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, London E15 2GW to explore why employers find it difficult to employ disabled people. This session is looking at what needs to happen to support young people with mental health issues and people with learning disabilities and/or autism into work. The session will contribute to a wider piece of work that aims to develop a business case and narrative for NHS organisations and other employers based on existing published evidence and research, previous work and a series of workshops and interviews. Email [info@nsun.org.uk](mailto:info@nsun.org.uk)

### **A public health approach to tacking children and young people carrying knives**

The Guardian have [published a letter](#) Jabeer Butt, acting Chief Executive of the Race Equality Foundation wrote regarding the recent debate about the need for a public health approach to addressing the carrying of knives by children and young people.

### **Volunteer a Sense holiday**

Sense runs holidays for children and adults with complex communication needs every year. On Sense Holidays and Short Breaks, groups of disabled children, young people and adults who are deafblind, have multi-sensory impairments or other complex communication take part in a week of new activities and a chance to make. [The holiday experience](#) is tailored around the abilities, needs, communication styles and interest of each individual.

It would be great if you could share the call for volunteers with your networks, colleagues, and friends and also consider if you might be interested in volunteering yourself. For [more information](#), see here.

### **How voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations are supporting personal health budgets in 2018**

A [new guide from Shared Lives Plus](#) explores the role that VCSE organisations play in helping people to benefit from personal health budgets. Through close partnership working with statutory services, voluntary and community sector partners are ideally placed to provide a range of advice, support and care services, and the report provides a timely set of recommendations for both VCSE organisations and CCGs. The Voluntary Voices partnership, together with NHS England is [running a webinar on Tuesday 6 February at 11am](#) to discuss the report's recommendations. Register by e-mailing [duncan.tree@volunteeringmatters.org.uk](mailto:duncan.tree@volunteeringmatters.org.uk)