



Department
of Health

Voluntary Sector Update and News December 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the **monthly** edition of the Department of Health's voluntary sector team's 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

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1. Update from the Department of Health

Government proposals on children and young people's mental health

The government is asking people for their views on a green paper setting out measures to improve mental health support for children and young people.

The green paper focuses on earlier intervention and prevention, especially in and linked to schools and colleges.

The proposals include:

- creating a new mental health workforce of community-based mental health support teams
- every school and college will be encouraged to appoint a designated lead for mental health
- a new 4-week waiting time for NHS children and young people's mental health services to be piloted in some areas

This [consultation](#) closes noon on 28 March 2018.

Independent Review of the Mental Health Act

The Independent Review of the Mental Health Act was set up to look at how the legislation in the Mental Health Act 1983 is used and how practice can improve. The purpose of the review is to understand the reasons for:

- rising rates of detention under the Act
- the disproportionate number of people from black and minority ethnic groups detained under the Act
- processes that are out of step with a modern mental health care system

The review will seek the views of service users, carers, relevant professionals, and affected organisations in producing recommendations. It will produce a report with recommendations for change in autumn 2018.

The Review team has published an update its gov.uk page outlining:

- The Review's governance arrangements
- The Review's approach to gathering evidence

Full details can be found on the Review's gov.uk page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-the-mental-health-act>

Government sets out plan to see more disabled people in work

The Prime Minister has announced a new strategy to break down employment barriers and help get more disabled people into work in the next decade. These include new measures such as widening 'fit note' certification and providing dedicated training for work coaches to support people with mental health conditions.

The '[Improving Lives: the Future of Work, Health and Disability](#)' strategy builds on last year's Work, Health and Disability Green Paper, which called for a comprehensive change to the UK's approach to disability employment.

'Opt-Out' System for Organ Donation in England

The government has announced a new 'opt-out' system for organ donation in England to help save lives. The Secretary of State for Health has asked people to overcome their reluctance to talk about organ donation with relatives, as he launches [a public consultation on a new opt-out system](#). It is hoped that changing the system to an opt-out model of consent will mean more viable organs become available for use on the NHS, potentially saving thousands of lives.

Over the next 3 months, the government is asking for comments on the defining questions of the new system:

- How much say should families have in their deceased relative's decision to donate their organs?
- When would exemptions to 'opt-out' be needed, and what safeguards will be necessary?
- How might a new system affect certain groups depending on age, disability, race or faith?

NHS is to be the first healthcare system in the world to publish numbers of avoidable deaths

In response to a 2016 Care Quality Commission (CQC) report which found that the NHS was missing opportunities to learn from patient deaths, and that too many families were not being included or listened to when an investigation happened.

This data seeks to protect patients by showing how many deaths might have been caused by problems in care. It will allow trusts to share lessons and learn from failings. The data will be published each quarter by individual trusts. 171 of the 223 trusts in England have already released or are releasing their first estimates by the end of December.

Each trust will make its own assessment of the number of deaths due to problems in care. The data will not be comparable and will not be collated centrally. This will allow trusts to focus on learning from mistakes and sharing lessons across their organisations and their local healthcare systems.

Review into the Impact of Charges to Overseas Visitors

The Department is carrying out a review into the impacts of recent changes to the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations. These changes have meant that non-exempt overseas visitors are now additionally chargeable for NHS services (excluding primary care services) when they are provided in the community, instead of just when provided at a hospital, or when they are provided by a non-NHS organisation, instead of just when provided by an NHS organisation. We are currently looking for providers of these newly chargeable community services to take part in this review. If you would like to contribute or to find out more information, please contact alexander.sinclair@dh.gsi.gov.uk (0113 254 5760).

2. NHS England Update

NHS England has been launched to simplify and standardise the process for getting research projects up and running in the NHS.

NHS England has launched a [9 week consultation](#) to simplify and strengthen arrangements for research in the NHS. This means faster access to new and innovative treatments will help to support research and its application in the NHS.

Applications have opened for NHS digital leaders of the future to train at the NHS Digital Academy.

Applications are now open for the NHS Digital Academy, which was announced in August. It is expected that 300 candidates, from clinical and non-clinical, backgrounds, will pass through the NHS Digital Academy, each spending 12 months studying part-time and will provide staff with the skills they need to reduce pressure on services and improve care quality.

The course will cover the key skills and expertise needed to lead strategy for digital innovation and how to harness the power of data and understand how it can be used to support decision-making, planning and delivery of better health and care and better patient outcomes.

The NHS Digital Academy will be seeking accreditation from the Federation of Informatics Professionals (Fed-IP) and the Faculty of Clinical Informatics (FCI).

More information, including how to apply, is available here:

www.england.nhs.uk/digitalacademy/

1.4 million people referred to NHS mental health therapy in the past year.

Over one million referrals to NHS talking therapies for depression and anxiety were made last year according to new, official data.

As part of [NHS England's Increasing Access to Talking Therapies \(IAPT\) programme](#), 965,000 people began treatment, a 32,000 rise on patient numbers from the year before.

IAPT is a key element of NHS England's improvements to mental health services, offering talking therapies to people with common conditions including depression and anxiety.

Expanding access to this type of early intervention care will mean people's conditions are spotted and treated sooner, reducing the need for more intensive and higher cost, treatments.

The analysis of mental health services, compiled by NHS Digital, shows that:

- 567,000 people finished a course of NHS talking therapy in 2016/17: 30,000 more patients than in the year before.
- Waiting times are improving, with 88 per cent of people waiting less than 18 weeks for treatment, and nearly nine in ten patients less than six weeks.
- As well as recovery rates improving to an average of 49 per cent over the course of the year, 65 per cent of patients showed 'reliable improvement' as a result of treatment.

NHS uses sickness data as early warning to cope with winter surges

A sickness surveillance system will help the NHS plan for surges in demand this winter by tracking outbreaks of norovirus and other illness around the country.

Data gathered by [Public Health England](#) will be used by NHS England operational monitoring teams to study winter trends and to help give early warning about rising outbreaks of [flu](#), [respiratory syncytial virus](#) (RSV) and [norovirus](#) as well as other acute seasonal illnesses.

The findings will allow the NHS to anticipate rises in hospital admissions and produce a planned response by, for example, rescheduling planned surgery in advance to avoid inconveniencing patients as well as free up beds and converting 'swing' wards from elective to emergency care for patients with conditions such as respiratory problems.

Public Health England have gradually increased scope and content and now carry out a comprehensive daily data collection across GP practices, 111, out of hours GPs and A&Es.

The NHS is therefore advising the public to take sensible precautions to ensure they minimise the after effects of extreme cold weather. The elderly are advised to keep warm, both indoors and out. They should heat their homes to at least 18C, and there is still time to get their flu.

NHS England announces new specialised treatments for patients

NHS England announced the results of the 1st round of new, specialised commissioning treatments and services will be made available for patients for the 2018/19 financial year.

An initial three new treatments and services were approved for funding including:

- a treatment for HIV,
- a new specialised service for adults with primary ciliary dyskinesia, a genetic disorder affecting the respiratory system.
- a new specialised service for Stevens-Johnson syndrome, a serious disorder of the skin.

Funding for the new treatments and services will begin from April and will benefit an estimated 3000 patients in the first year and thousands more annually after that.

This announcement represents the first set of decisions for investment in 2018/19 with a second set of prioritisation decisions to be taken next May.

Further treatments from this list, and other areas, will be considered in May, and if successful could be introduced by June.

For more information on prioritising, assessing and finalising these treatments and services please see [Clinical Priorities Advisory Group \(CPAG\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/12/nhs-england-announces-new-specialised-treatments-for-patients/) & <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/12/nhs-england-announces-new-specialised-treatments-for-patients/>

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/>

Norovirus: all you need to know to prepare

Winter is here and Public Health England (PHE) issues advice on how to avoid getting norovirus and what to do if you become unwell.

Norovirus is an unpleasant vomiting bug that usually lasts about 2 days. There's not much that can be done to treat it but there are ways to reduce the risk of passing it on to those around you. To read more, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/norovirus-all-you-need-to-know-to-prepare>

Expert committee recommends trial period to test babies for SCID

Following a review by the UK National Screening Committee (NSC), the evidence gathered recommends that screening for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) should be tried for a period of time in the NHS.

SCID refers to a number of rare inherited conditions which affect the development of a baby's white blood cells and make it difficult for babies to fight infections. Around 15 to 25 babies are born with the condition every year in the UK. The treatment is a bone marrow transplant, which can repair the damaged immune system.

Screening, as part of the newborn blood spot screening programme, would look for babies with low numbers of white blood cells as a sign that they may have SCID, but the independent committee found that more evidence is required on whether screening for the condition would do more good than harm, as it is not clear:

- how many babies may be diagnosed with having the condition when they do not (false positives)
- what care and treatment to offer babies with other conditions that cause low numbers of white blood cells

The latest screening recommendations were made at the UK NSC meeting on 25 October 2017, the [minutes of which are published today](#) (6 December 2017) and a [summary of the recommendations](#) are attached.

Campaign to protect young people from STIs by using condoms

Public Health England had launched 'Protect against STIs', a new campaign that aims to reduce the rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among 16 to 24-year-olds through condom usage. The campaign is the first government sexual health campaign in 8 years. To coincide with the launch of the campaign, a new YouGov survey of 2,007 young people reveals current attitudes towards condom use and what prevented them from using protection.

The findings revealed that almost half (47%) of sexually active young people said they have had sex with someone new for the first time without using a condom; whilst 1 in 10 sexually active young people said that they had never used a condom.

Gwenda Hughes, Head of STI Surveillance at Public Health England said: "Rates of STIs among young people continue to be too high and it is concerning that many sexually active young people are not using condoms with new partners. Six in 10 chlamydia and gonorrhoea

diagnoses are in those under 25 years of age, so we need to remind young people of the importance of using condoms with a new or casual partner to help prevent infection.”

Visit [the campaign website](#) for more information.

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

NPC's new report on how non-health charities address the social determinants of health

NPC has published a new report on [Keeping us well: How non-health charities address the social determinants of health](#), which has been underpinned by the [Institute of Health Equity's Evidence Review](#), and with the support of the Health Foundation, aims to help charities that do not have a specific health focus understand the evidence of the social determinants of health. For more information please see <http://www.thinknpc.org/blog/good-lives-good-health-how-the-voluntary-sector-helps-to-keep-people-well/>

Improving Understanding of Service User Involvement and Identity

Shaping Our Lives has launched a new collection of materials that explain how to improve the understanding of service user involvement and identity. An in-depth research study with people who have taken part in involvement activities for a wide range of health, social care and public sector organisations is the evidence for three reports: research findings, a guide for service providers and a guide for Disabled people thinking about becoming a representative for a service. The reports can be found [here](#)

(<https://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/resources/our-resources/all-publications/improving-understanding-of-service-user-involvement-and-identity>)

- [Service User Identity Research Findings](#)
- [Service User Identity Service Providers and Practitioners Guide](#)
- [Service User Identity Service Users Guide](#)

New resources from Compassion in Dying

Following research with more than 600 people living with a terminal illness or caring for someone at the end of their life, [Compassion in Dying](#) has published an innovative new booklet, [What now? Questions to ask after a terminal diagnosis](#). This is designed to help people find the information they need and ask questions, so that they can make informed decisions about their treatment and care – helping them to live well in the time they have left.

VCSE Personal Health Budgets Summit - 28th February 2018

Voluntary Voices (NAVCA, National Voices and Volunteering Matters) are hosting a free national summit looking at personal health budgets, the wider personalisation agenda and how our sector can be involved. Full details are below

National Summit - Personal Health Budgets and the VCSE

- **28th February 2018, Holiday Inn London - Regent's Park, Carburton Street, London W1W 5EE**

Hosted by the Voluntary Voices Partnership, this free event will be an opportunity for VCSE organisations, NHS and local government professionals to hear best practice examples of partnership working between statutory and VCSE organisations, explore challenges and opportunities for the sector, consider next steps for PHB implementation and discover more about the wider personalised care agenda.

The summit is aimed at all those in the VCSE at national or local level who are already working to support people around PHBs (or would like to develop their work in this area), as well as statutory sector colleagues from CCGs, STPs and local authorities.

Book your free tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vcse-personal-health-budgets-summit-tickets-40911512435>

Please contact events@nationalvoices.org.uk if you have any questions.

Sense's brand new identity

Sense is introducing a new way to communicate and explain who they are. They have consulted and worked closely with many people across the organisation and beyond to create a new way of expressing Sense's identity that is clear, distinctive and authentic.

This is an important step for Sense in that their new identity will create awareness and a better understanding of what they do. **Do read the blog: 'A new way of making Sense to the world'**, for a more detailed explanation of what is changing and why, and for the link to their new website.

Job Vacancy

National Voices is advertising for a new Membership & Events Manager. The deadline is 9th January.

Full details are here on our website: <https://www.nationalvoices.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/membership-and-events-manager>