

Voluntary Sector Update and News November 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

Civil Society Strategy

On 16 November, the Department for Culture Media and Sport announced plans for a new civil society strategy that will co-ordinate and improve how public sector bodies interact with the charity sector.

You can read the written ministerial statement here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-11-16/HCWS252/>

An interview with Tracy Crouch, Minister for Civil Society is available at :

<https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/government-launches-new-civil-society-strategy.html>

Flu vaccination: easy read flu leaflet

An easy to read leaflet providing information on influenza (flu) and vaccination.

This leaflet is aimed at people who have, or care for someone with a learning disability. It provides easy to read advice on:

- the flu virus and why you need a vaccine

- signs of flu
- flu jabs and where to get one

People with learning disabilities and their carers can get a free flu jab from their doctor or pharmacist, because they may have more problems if they catch flu. This leaflet can also be useful for people whose first language is not English and can also be for people with a low reading age.

For more information and for a copy of the leaflet, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability>

Accelerated access scheme means patients will get new treatments faster

Patients are to get breakthrough technologies and treatments up to 4 years earlier through new accelerated access scheme.

The government has announced a new fast-track route into the NHS for “breakthrough” medicines and technologies. This will speed up the time it takes for patients to benefit from ground-breaking products for conditions such as cancer, dementia and diabetes.

From April 2018, the new ‘accelerated access pathway’ will mean products with the greatest potential to change lives could be available up to 4 years earlier. It will be done by reducing the time it takes to negotiate evaluation and financial approvals before the NHS can purchase the products.

To read more, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/accelerated-access-scheme-means-patients-will-get-new-treatments-faster>

CQC Public Engagement Strategy Launch

Making better use of people’s views, working closely with representative organisations and publishing simple, clear information are at the centre of CQC’s plans for engaging the public over the next four years.

We have published a new strategy for how we’ll engage with the public to help make us an even stronger regulator that is always on the side of people using care services.

The strategy sets out four priorities for 2017-2021:

1. Working with organisations that represent people who use services to help improve the quality of care.
2. Encouraging people to share their views and experiences of care with us, improving the way we use this information and reporting on the action we take.
3. Producing and promoting simple, clear and concise information for the public that explains what good care looks like and supports people to make decisions about services.

4. Improving the way we work by involving and engaging the public in our policies, plans and processes.

The new strategy was produced with the help of lots of people, including people who use services and organisations that represent them.

Read more www.cqc.org.uk/publicengagement

2. NHS England Update

Self-Care Week

Self-care week took place on the 13-19 November and the theme was Embracing Self Care for Life. The aim was to help you stay healthy for your whole life.

The *Building Health Partnerships: Self-care* programme, explores what self-care means from different perspectives, and the importance of the voluntary and public sectors working together with local people. The programme is funded by NHS England, the Big Lottery Fund, IVAR and SEUK.

This [film](#) introduces people to the idea of self-care, cross-sector collaboration around this theme and working alongside people with lived experience.

NHS England strikes new deals to make two new innovative treatments available routinely on the NHS

NHS chief Simon Stevens has announced that NHS England has struck deals to make innovative treatments for Multiple Sclerosis and breast cancer routinely available on the NHS.

From 10 November hundreds of patients with Multiple Sclerosis are set to benefit from a new treatment option, Mavenclad, following a deal with drug company Merck.

NHS England and Roche have also reached a commercial agreement on the use of Pertuzumab, which unlocks the final stage of NICE's appraisal and opens the way for continued access to this important treatment for breast cancer.

To read more, go to: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/11/nhs-england-strikes-new-deals-to-make-two-new-innovative-treatments-available-routinely-on-the-nhs/>

NHS England launches first leadership training programme for hundreds of community pharmacists and technicians

Hundreds of community pharmacists and technicians working across the NHS are being offered the opportunity to develop leadership and management skills on a training programme. The six month programme, has been extended for the first time to the community pharmacy sector.

To read more, go to: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/10/nhs-england-launches-first-leadership-training-programme-for-hundreds-of-community-pharmacists-and-technicians/>

New technology, earlier diagnosis and better coordination of care in cancer

The NHS is on-track to transform cancer services in England by 2020/21 according to a report published today by NHS England's [National Cancer Programme](#).

The report details the investment the NHS is making in cancer transformation, including £130m over the period 2016/18 in new and upgraded radiotherapy equipment and £200m over the next two years to accelerate rapid diagnosis and enhance patients' quality of life.

To read more, go to: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/10/new-technology-earlier-diagnosis-and-better-coordination-of-care-in-cancer/>

NHS targets super-sized chocolate bars in battle against obesity, diabetes and tooth-decay

Hospitals have been ordered to take super-size chocolate bars and "grab bags" of sugary snacks off of the shelves in the latest step of the NHS plan to fight obesity, diabetes and tooth-decay.

NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens has announced a 250 calorie limit on confectionary sold in hospital canteens, stores, vending machines and other outlets.

Hospital chiefs will have to ensure that four out of five items purchased on their premises do not bust the limit, which is an eighth of a woman's and a tenth of a man's recommended daily intake, or lose out on funding ring-fenced for improving the health of staff, patients and their visitors.

To read more, go to: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/10/nhs-targets-super-sized-chocolate-bars-in-battle-against-obesity-diabetes-and-tooth-decay/>

NHS leaders unveil action to boost flu vaccination and manage winter pressures

NHS England, [Public Health England](#), the [Department of Health](#) and [NHS Improvement](#) have today unveiled measures to boost the uptake of flu vaccinations along with package of new contingency actions to respond to pressures on frontline services this winter. Intensified preparations include:

- Providing free flu vaccines for hundreds of thousands of care home staff at a cost of up to £10m as well as increasing the number of jabs for young children in schools and vulnerable people
- Directing NHS trusts to ensure they make vaccines readily available to staff and record why those who choose to opt out of the programme do so

- Writing to doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers reminding them of their professional duty to protect patients by being vaccinated
- Setting up a new National Emergency Pressure Panel to provide independent clinical advice on system risk and an appropriate regional and national response
- The biggest expansion in training for A&E consultants ever with hundreds more doctors over the next four years and other healthcare staff

To read more, go to: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/10/nhs-leaders-unveil-action-to-boost-flu-vaccination-and-manage-winter-pressures/>

The next steps for improving access to general practice webinars

NHS England will be hosting two webinars for patient representatives and lay members to find out more about the next steps for improving access to general practice, including plans for national rollout by March 2019.

The first webinar will take place on 28 November 2017 at 9.30am-10.30am, with the same content repeated on 30 November 2017 at 12-1pm.

There is no need to register in advance for these webinars, simply click on the link at the start time of the meeting. The aim of the webinars will be to provide an update on this work and also gain an insight into patients and lay members' experience of access to general practice.

The webinars will cover the seven core requirements for improving access and what this means for you as a patient, as well as an update on the range of resources that have been made available nationally for general practice staff and commissioners to support them with their local rollout.

Please contact Claire Parker at england.gpaccess@nhs.net for further information.

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

As winter approaches, 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>

£600,000 funding of 12 projects by PHE to help prevent HIV

Through the HIV Prevention Innovation Fund, PHE is funding 12 projects to help develop new and innovative ways of preventing HIV.

Public Health England (PHE) has announced the projects which have been awarded funding from the HIV Prevention Innovation Fund for 2017 to 2018. The projects have been chosen from across England to receive total funding of £600,000 from the Department of Health through PHE.

To read more, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/600000-funding-of-12-projects-by-phe-to-help-prevent-hiv>

Call for women to get life-saving smear test after uptake drops

PHE is urging women to have cervical screening after latest figures show a drop in attendance.

Public Health England (PHE) has issued a fresh appeal to young women to take up the invitation of a cervical cancer test as new figures published today show a fall in the number of 25 to 29-year-old women being tested.

NHS Digital statistics show a drop in the number of women of all ages being screened but worryingly only 62% of younger women took up the invitation for a test last year.

PHE is urging all eligible women (aged 25 to 64) who are invited for cervical screening (smear tests) to take the test.

To read more, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-women-to-get-life-saving-smear-test-after-uptake-drops>

E-learning for Health programme on community-centred approaches

PHE has worked with PHE to produce a new e-Learning for Health programme on community-centred approaches to health improvement: <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/community-centred-approaches-to-health-improvement/>

These two new e-learning modules are suitable for practitioners, managers and commissioners who want:

- an update on evidence and guidance on community-centred approaches to health improvement;
- to take a more strategic and planned approach to scaling-up community-centred approaches.

Communities matter for health. A community where people are well connected, are inclusive and respectful of all and are involved in local decision-making, are healthy communities. Improving population health and reducing health inequalities requires us to address these community factors

and work with and alongside community members to improve the things that matter for their health.

The modules are based on our [guide to community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing](#) and support PHE's growing programme of work on community-centred and asset-based approaches. Module 1 covers the evidence and theory on why and how communities matter for health and what approaches work. Module 2 involves practical exercises to apply the knowledge to practice and to help develop strategic and practical plans for taking community-centred approaches forward within local places and organisations.

[4. News and Events from the Health and Wellbeing Alliance and the wider sector](#)

[New guide for professionals - meeting the needs of older LGBT people using health and care services](#)

Age UK has worked with the older LGBT charity Opening Doors London and author Sally Knocker to produce [a free resource pack for professionals](#) called 'Safe to be me' that addresses meeting the needs of older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people using health and social care services. The guide offers practical advice on being the kind of service in which older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people can feel safe to be themselves. It includes real life case studies and checklists for good practice, and is guided throughout by the voices and experiences of older LGBT people themselves.

You can find out more and download copies on the [Age UK website here](#).

[Joining the dots: Integrating practical support in mental healthcare settings in England](#)

Joining the dots is Citizens Advice's first in-depth report looking at the advice needs of our clients with mental health problems. An infographic summary is also available.

Our advisers see first-hand how mental health problems mean people can struggle to manage other aspects of their lives to do with benefits, housing, debt and employment. In turn, they see how these problems can worsen people's mental health, leading to periods of crisis or standing in the way of recovery.

Recognising the links between people's mental health and their wider practical problems is crucial both for preventing mental health problems from escalating and improving recovery rates.

For a copy of the report and to read more, go to:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/joining-the-dots-integrating-practical-support-in-mental-healthcare-settings-in-england/>

Literary competition winners issue warning from the future

RSPH (Royal Society for Public Health) and the Health Foundation have unveiled the winners of their dystopian short story competition, Health: From Here to Where?

The competition invited authors to imagine the future consequences for individuals and society if health inequalities persist. They were challenged to write about the social and commercial factors that contribute to these inequalities – such as education, housing and our surroundings.

To read more, go to: [<https://www.rsph.org.uk/about-us/news/literary-competition-winners-issue-warning-from-the-future.html>]

Action for Children report, The Next Chapter: Young People and Parenthood

Action for Children have released a new report on the difficulties that young parents (aged 25 and under) can experience and how negative social perceptions of young parenthood can make it hard for young parents to engage with support services.

This research comes from new analysis of the Next Steps data set, a longitudinal study following the lives of people born in 1989-90 and the report makes recommendations to address some of the challenges faced by young parents.

A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

UK Prevention Research Partnership (UKPRP) First call for proposals: Consortium and Network Awards

An alliance of research funders have agreed to commit £50m to support research into the primary prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The vision is to generate new insights into actionable, sustainable and cost-effective ways of preventing NCDs that will improve population health and reduce health inequalities in the UK. The research should address the 'upstream' determinants of NCDs and be co-produced with users (e.g. policy makers, practitioners, health providers, the third sector, the public etc.). The 'upstream' determinants include, but are not limited to, the built and natural environment; employment, education, welfare, transport, health and social care, and communication systems; and the policies of local and central government and of commercial enterprises.

Open date: 30 Oct 2017

Closing date: 18 Jan 2018 16:00 GM

Categories: Population and systems medicine, Public health

For further information go to: <https://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/browse/ukprp/uk-prevention-research-partnership-ukprp-consortium-and-network-awards/>

Key Data on Young People 2017

Supported by the Health Foundation, Key Data on Young People 2017 offers a compendium of publicly available data on young people in a comprehensive, accessible form, with interactive charts allowing data download and links to a wide range of related resources.

Highlights in the new 2017 edition include:

- 131 interactive charts giving the latest statistics about young people today
- New chapter on inequalities in health outcomes
- Separate booklet of 'recommendations for action'

The report is published online at <http://www.youngpeopleshealth.org.uk/key-data-on-young-people>, as an interactive PDF. You can also download a full set of PowerPoint slides including all 131 charts from the report for use in your work and presentations.

We hope the report helps policy makers, practitioners, researchers and others make a clear and firm case for investing in this age group.

Suicide Prevention

In partnership with National Suicide Prevention Alliance, PHE launched a series of case studies, films, factsheets and infographics to mark one year on from the publication of the suicide prevention planning guidance. The new resources have been developed to support local suicide prevention activity and include:

- Case studies including work by Leeds City Council and the Fire and Rescue service to reduce social isolation, joined up working by health and justice in the West Midlands, a Citizens Advice project addressing the wider determinants of health.
- PHE South East and Thames Valley Police's real-time suicide surveillance resource pack
- Information sheets on working with coroners, evaluating suicide prevention activity, and socioeconomic deprivation and suicidal behaviour
- A series of films: one with Steven Gilbert, a survivor of suicide, discussing how local areas can genuinely engage people with lived experience of mental health issues; and one with Lorna Fraser, Media Advisor at Samaritans, discussing the portrayal of suicide in the media and online
- A set of slides based on the original local suicide prevention planning guidance, which you can use to make the case for suicide prevention and good practice within it
- A range of key stats and facts as infographics

You can find all the resources on NSPA's website [here](#).

Men & boy's health: voluntary sector survey

The Men's Health Forum are running a survey of VCSE organisations to find out more about the work that's being done to support men & boy's health (directly or indirectly) and the priorities of the sector when it comes to men & boys' health.

The survey is [here](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M9LL7PL) - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M9LL7PL>

Grassroots survey of community organisations who come into contact with mothers

Maternity Action are running a [survey](#) of community organisations who come into contact with mothers. [An extract from their blog is below.](#)

'Across the UK, there are innumerable local grassroots organisations doing brilliant work with pregnant women and new mothers. Often known only in their local area, these organisations have unmatched inside knowledge about the challenges faced by the women they work with, many of whom are not well served by mainstream services. We want to make the work of these organisations more visible and to engage them – and the women they work with – in our work to raise awareness within Government of the day to day issues affecting the lives of pregnant women, new mothers and their families.'