

Minding the Gap

Improving Health & Reducing Inequalities



Yorkshire and the Humber Health and Wellbeing Monthly Update

Issue 100 – April 2024

Welcome to the Yorkshire and the Humber Health and Wellbeing Monthly Update. This update is our way of sharing any good and emerging practice, new developments, updates and guidance. The update forms part of the Minding the Gap newsletter.

This update is structured around four overarching themes:

- ❖ **populations**
- ❖ **determinants of health and risk factors**
- ❖ **priority conditions and equitable services and**
- ❖ **workforce development.**

If you have received this and are not already on the Minding the Gap distribution List, **please sign up to our newsletter [here](#).**

Disclaimer: Please note, the Minding the Gap programme is led and funded by the Yorkshire and the Humber Association of Directors of Public Health (YH ADPH). This programme is co-ordinated by the Yorkshire and the Humber Health and Wellbeing Team in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and does not reflect the position or views of OHID or the Department of Health and Social Care.

POPULATIONS

Improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for children & young people

Regional Lead: Gemma Mann

Child of the North – two new reports

Child of the North have published their first two new reports as part of a year-long series from the N8 Research Partnership and the Centre for Young Lives.

Delivered under the Child of the North initiative, which is a partnership between Health Equity North and the N8, [the first report](#) set out a new plan to support autistic children and [the second report](#) focuses on addressing poverty with and through schools.

The short and medium term impacts of Sure Start on educational outcomes – Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) report

This report presents evidence of the short and medium-term impacts of the Sure Start programme on educational outcomes. Using a robust evaluation methodology and administrative education data covering 15 cohorts of children, the impact of having had access to a Sure Start centre between ages 0 and 5 on school outcomes is measured, including academic achievement and special educational needs.

The report also estimates how these effects vary across different backgrounds, and shed some light onto the mechanisms that might have made Sure Start more or less effective.

Find the report [here](#).

Health inequalities in early life – NIHR ARC webinar

As part of this year's national #ARCseminar series, webinars will explore how health inequity cuts across life stages and places. Here, in the first webinar of the series, this will focus on early life.

Three short 10-minute talks cover research on health inequalities in the context of maternity, ethnicity, mental health and care-leavers.

Sign up to attend [here](#).

Promoting healthy ageing across the lifecourse

Regional Lead: Ali Iliff

New report from Age UK on older people's mental health

Age UK's report '[I just feel that no one cares](#)', presents their latest research findings on older people's mental health.

The research was conducted in September 2023 and made up of an online survey, completed by over 17,000 older people, aged 50+, as well as representative polling of people aged 50+.

The findings highlight the challenges that people aged 50 and over are facing with their mental health and support needs, with:

- 31% (around 8 million) saying that they **felt more anxious** over the previous 12 months.
- 34% (around 8.7 million) were **less motivated to do the things they enjoy**.
- 19% (around 4.9 million) agreed they **were finding it more difficult to process new information** than they did 12 months previously.
- 27% (6.9 million) were **finding it harder to remember things** than 12 months previously.
- 39% (around 10 million) told us that they were **not sleeping well**.
- 26% (around 6.7 million) were concerned about their ability to **access mental health support (e.g. talking therapies or counselling)**.

Age UK's research into the mental health of people aged 50 and over has identified a wide range of factors impacting on people's wellbeing. Some of these issues could be alleviated by improved access to health and care services. Others could be improved through increased availability and easier access to social support and community-based activities. Some of the more personal factors, such as bereavement and cognitive decline are more difficult to address, but that doesn't mean there is nothing we as a society can do.

Many of the older people they heard from felt that nothing would be done to help them, thinking instead that they might just have to give up. This is not good enough and unless there is a focus and investment across government, and particularly in the NHS, the trends we demonstrate in this report will not improve. If you have any questions, please email healthinfluencing@ageuk.org.uk

Dementia roundtable at Downing Street

In March the government named Scott Mitchell as the People's Champion of the Dementia Mission, which was launched in memory of his late wife Dame Barbara Windsor, by the UK Government.

The [announcement](#) was made at a roundtable at No.10, where charities, academics, investors, business leaders and people with lived experience joined together to further accelerate efforts to tackle this illness.

The 'Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission' was launched in August 2022, in honour of Dame Barbara and the millions of other people and their loved ones who have had their lives ruined by dementia. It forms part of the Government's commitment to double funding for dementia research to £160 million a year by 2024 to 2025. Co-Chairs, Hilary Evans and Nadeem Sarwar, were appointed in March 2023 to spearhead delivery of the Mission to spearhead delivery of the Mission.

Age Innovators podcast – episode three now available

The third podcast in the series is a discussion on how sport can break down barriers around ethnicity, age, and gender.

The host, [Helen Crampin](#) is in conversation with [Alosh K Jose](#), the co-founder and CEO of [Cricketqube](#). Together, they explore the journey of Cricketqube, a community-

driven initiative aiming to make cricket accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. Through their approach, Alesh and his team are not only providing opportunities for physical activity but also fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity within the South Asian community. Discover how they're challenging perceptions, building connections and creating positive change.

Listen [here](#) or watch [here](#)

Good Practice Mentors workshops

The [GPM](#) programme runs an ongoing schedule of events that are free to attend and open to anyone, which can be found on [Eventbrite](#). They have also created a new session based on the needs of organisations working in communities. The session will be facilitated by a Good Practice Mentor to try and find solutions to your current group dilemmas via a peer support workshop, and will be delivered by the mentor from Leeds Older People's Forum, Jessica Duffy, who has over 20 years of experience in developing and supporting groups.

The first session is in April, and they will be delivered on a rolling basis from then on. Please find the flyer in the link above and feel free to share it with your colleagues and networks. If you can't make it to one of these peer-based sessions, or if you want to arrange something especially for your own staff team then please [get in touch](#) to organise a bespoke session.

Improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for inclusion health groups **Regional Lead: Cathie Railton**

Information, guidance and resources

Fighting for Fair Treatment, Sex Workers Share Insights to Inform Inclusion Health Initiatives

[National Ugly Mugs](#) were commissioned by the [UCL Find and Treat Service](#) to explore barriers to accessing health services. The embedded report details their findings:



Fighting for Fair
Treatment - NUM Finc

From Arrival to Integration: Building Communities for Refugees and for Britain **The Commission on the Integration of Refugees**

Between 2022 and 2023, the Commission commissioned and conducted a series of interrelated research projects, the findings of which have informed this report and their 16 recommendations to shape a new future for the UK's asylum system based on integration.

You can read the report [here](#).

My View: a specialist therapeutic intervention for UASC delivered by the Refugee Council and evaluated by Ipsos and CEI – randomised controlled trial findings published

The results found that My View significantly reduces psychological distress and improves the wellbeing of UASC. The research, which was carried out from June 2021 - July 2023, assessed the wellbeing of 138 young people before and after they were supported by our service and it compared the changes in their wellbeing with those experienced by 151 young people not supported by the service.

You can read the report [here](#) and for further information please email: sarah.sonne@refugeecouncil.org.uk

The PCN Inclusion Health Assessment tool – relaunch

This tool has been relaunched this month with updated content and resources. This online tool will help your PCN to assess its engagement with inclusion health groups. The tool was developed by Doctors of the World UK in collaboration with Friends, Families and Travellers, Homeless Link, National Ugly Mugs, and Stonewall Housing, with input from PCNs, organisations specialising in work with inclusion health groups, and people experiencing health inequalities.

You can read more [here](#).

New translations: patient health questionnaires for newly arrived migrants

[These questionnaires](#) have now been translated in 28 languages. They aim to support the initial health assessment and management of newly registered vulnerable migrants, including people seeking asylum and those arriving under Government relocation schemes.

The purpose of the questionnaires is to enable GP practices to have early access to information that will inform patient management and prioritisation of their needs. It is not designed to replace in-person new patient health checks but as a tool to increase effectiveness and efficiency of consultations for improved health outcomes and patient experience. It is recommended that GP practices share the questionnaire with patients at the time of registration.

Guide for migrants affected by domestic abuse: Right to Remain have updated

The Right to Remain Toolkit: A guide to the UK immigration and asylum system, following significant changes to the UK asylum immigration system outlined in the [Illegal Migration Act 2023](#).

The guide outlines the defining characteristics of domestic abuse and offers guidance on applying for [Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain](#).

To read it in full, click [here](#)

Migration Yorkshire briefing: Horizon scanning for the migration sector in Yorkshire and Humber

Updated as of 5th March 2024, [this briefing](#) looks at what we can expect across the migration and integration sector over the next 12 months.

Events

A North East and Yorkshire and Humber Migrant Health Network event: Supporting the health and wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers through arts and culture (Weds 1st May, 10:30-12:30)

Join us to explore the role arts & culture can play in supporting the health & wellbeing of refugees & asylum seekers. Anyone with a role/interest in this is welcome! No need to book, just dial in on the day.

Further details [here](#).

South Yorkshire Primary Care Workforce and Training Hub: Health Inequalities lunch & learn webinars.

Please see more details [here](#).

Various

'Plans to move asylum seekers from hotels in tatters after NAO report' – Guardian article

Please read [here](#).

Statement from the Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health, March 2024

At their recent conference, the Faculty are calling on the next Government to deliver urgent and radical reform.

Drawing on research from Pathway and Crisis' report [Always at the bottom of the pile: The homeless and inclusion health barometer 2024](#) the statement outlines the way the NHS and housing crises are harming people in inclusion health groups, and calls for urgent reform, as well as significant action on the social determinants of health.

The Pathway and Crisis report draws on 85 pieces of published literature from the past two years, and a survey of frontline medical and healthcare professionals and found that those who are most excluded in our society struggle to access health services due to inflexibility, discrimination and stigma.

You can read the statement [here](#).

Research into racism and discrimination: Opportunity for children and young people seeking asylum to share their experiences

This research project will explore how racism is experienced among adolescents (aged 15-17) from minoritised groups, and what their demands and priorities are for actions to mitigate the impacts of discrimination on their health.

This is a multi-sited qualitative research study, with data collection occurring in Brazil, Peru, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. The project overall is being led by the partner based in Brazil. Race & Health UK hope to conduct this research in the UK and are seeking collaborators to facilitate connections with interested young people. The qualitative research project is a component of The Lancet Commission on Racism and Child Health, led by UCL Prof Delan Devakumar.

If you are interested in collaborating with Race & Health on this project, please contact Sonora English at sonora.english@ucl.ac.uk.

Home Office Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) – information on support

This service supports non-UK Nationals without leave to remain, to return home on a voluntary basis. This can include financial support and travel arrangements as well as reintegration support.

Below is information about the support available and you can read more [here](#).

If you would like more information contact kayleigh.brash@homeoffice.gov.uk - (Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager)



HO Voluntary
Returns Service slides

The Faculty For Homeless and Inclusion Health – information

The above is a network organisation for people involved in healthcare for people experiencing homelessness and other excluded groups, including gypsies and travellers, vulnerable migrants and people selling sex. All Faculty members receive email updates on the latest developments in inclusion health and the opportunity for networking and professional support, including specialist sub-groups dedicated to Mental Health, Primary Care, Students, System Leaders & Managers, Inclusion Health Nurses in Hospital and Intermediate Care settings, and Inclusion Health Outreach and Mobile Services.

You can join the Faculty [here](#).

Do you know about the resources our YH&NE Migrant Health Network have produced to support your work? Please see more below:

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of migrants in vulnerable circumstances: Guidance to support integrated mental health and wellbeing provision at Place across the North East and Yorkshire and Humber

[This guidance](#) provides a simple framework for professionals at place to work together to map existing provision, not just around specialist mental health treatment but also around wellbeing support including access to arts and culture, exercise and anything else that promotes good wellbeing and social connections. The mapping can provide an opportunity to foster collaborative working, identify strengths and areas that require attention.

It was developed by a task and finish group under the [North East and Yorkshire Migrant Health Network](#) with representation from ICB, OHID, NHSE, local authority and the voluntary sector.

Medical letter and report requests

A series of letter templates (found [here](#)) to respond to common requests from refugees and asylum seekers are available to help GPs and their staff respond

efficiently to minimise impact on workload. A [proforma](#) has also been developed for VCSEs or individuals to request medical information. The 'Index document for GP reports and letters' provides further details about these documents and how to use them see.

The documents have been created by Dr Jo Miller who is a GP working with people seeking asylum in Y&H. The resources are suggestions, drawn from practical GP experience, about how to respond to common requests. Each template needs to be read through, agreed and adapted to the needs of the service planning to use them.

Nutrition in contingency accommodation housing migrants and accompanying action tool – NEY Toolkit

The [toolkit](#) was developed by a task and finish group which had representation from Bevan Healthcare, Mears, OHID, Migration Yorkshire and the North East Migration Partnership to facilitate improvements in meeting the nutritional needs of asylum seekers living in initial contingency sites across our region.

The accompanying [Excel tool](#) can be used to recognise current examples of good practice and identify areas that require improvement. It can be used flexibly according to need which we recommend local partnerships review and discuss.

Immunisations for migrants in vulnerable circumstances - Guidance for ICS' and providers of vaccination services in North East and Yorkshire Region

Developed by the North East and Yorkshire Migrant Health Network in partnership with the NEY NHSE Screening & Imms Team, [this guidance](#) is for ICS' and providers of imms and aims to offer some practical advice to support access for and delivery of vaccination to vulnerable migrant populations and address disparities in uptake to reduce the risk of outbreaks.

Funding for Home Office migrant schemes

Below is the updated spreadsheet which details the various Home Office migrant schemes with details on funding, including health where there is specific funding.

Thank you to Adam Atack and colleagues from Migration Yorkshire for doing this.



HO%20and%20health%20and%20migrant%20schemes%20funding%20review%202023

DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & RISK FACTORS

Creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities
Regional Lead: Karen Horrocks

Webinar Recording: Launch of HIA Case Study

A recording is available [here](#) of the webinar held by the Institute of Public Health about their [Health Impact Assessment Guidance and associated case study](#).

Hot Food Takeaway and Planning Research

The findings from this [research](#) suggest that takeaway management zone policies may have the potential to curb the proliferation of new takeaways near schools and subsequently impact on population health.

ATE Engagement Webinar: Spotlight on Bus Stop Bypasses (Tuesday 7 May, 11am-12pm)

Join Robert Weetman, Technical Coordinator at Living Streets as he shares insights on a major new study exploring the effects of bus stop bypasses and other considerations involving bus stops and cycle tracks.

The study, released April 2024, includes detailed discussions around the accessibility and safety of bus stop and cycle track infrastructure, including conversations on environmental character and the functions of zebra crossings.

The report also highlights several infrastructure and behaviour based recommendations to improve journey experiences for all.

The webinar will be hosted on Microsoft Teams by Brian Deegan, Director of Inspections at Active Travel England. The session is designed for a technical audience, including local authority employees and those who work with local authorities to deliver active travel schemes. We invite you to share this with your networks in these groups.

[Sign up here](#).

Homes England's recent Winter Learning Programme webinar sessions for local government partners: recordings now available on YouTube

Professionally edited videos of all 16 Winter Learning Programme sessions are now available on Homes England's YouTube [Local Government Resources playlist](#).

Find resources to support housing and regeneration on the [Housing Information Hub](#) and recordings of previous Learning Programme sessions on [YouTube](#).

New Local and Wakefield, How We Did It: Building intentionally inclusive community conversations

[Jo Fitzpatrick and Jim Leyland tell New Local](#) how Wakefield Council had a Big Conversation with residents, training 100 'conversationalists' to have over 1,300 face-to-face chats with people across the district.

Nature North Newsletter and Conference

The [Nature North Newsletter](#) is a good way to learn more about this collaboration and the work they are doing.

In February 2024, 170 delegates at the Nature North conference discussed the opportunities and challenges of driving new investment into nature recovery. Bringing expertise from nature conservation, farming, business, finance, health, heritage, arts, visitor economy, government agencies, local government and communities, delegates shared their expertise, experiences and aspirations for achieving investment into at-scale nature recovery for people and places across Northern England.

Access the conference report by clicking [this link](#).

Damp and Mould Webinar Recording

In London, a multi-agency group of local government and health system partners – including the London Association of Directors of Public Health, the Greater London Authority, NHS England (London region), the UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) – came together to develop a new tool for use by frontline health and social care professionals when visiting residential properties. This webinar presents this work

The video and presentations are live on the ADPH London website [here](#).

The checklist developed by colleagues in London is available [here](#) and will be useful to other areas.

Homes and neighbourhoods for children and young people – webinar (Thursday 2nd May)

This [webinar](#) from the Town and Country Planning Institute (TCPA) will explore:

- why planning and the built environment matters for healthy and thriving children and young people;
- how to engage with children and teenagers about 20-minute neighbourhoods and place; and
- the use of youth engagement in a new settlement.

It will be of interest to anyone working to create and shape places that support children and young people to be heard and thrive.

Plugged In: National Energy Action (NEA) report on Gypsy, Traveller, Roma and Nomadic communities and energy

Gypsies, Travellers, Roma and Nomadic Communities (GTRNCs) are consumer groups that have been historically overlooked, under-served by policy, and under-researched. Yet, evidence tells us that these different communities, while not homogenous, have shared poor experiences as energy consumers.

This [research by NEA](#) found that:

- Almost half (43%) of surveyed GTRNCs have not received any Government support through the energy crisis.
- Four out of five (80%) households were turning the heating off to save money. More than half (51%) said they were doing this 'all of the time' or 'some of the time'.

Achieving our Smokefree 2030 ambition

MPs to vote on bill to create smokefree generation

On April 15th, the Tobacco and Vapes Bill had its Second Reading in the House of Commons. This stage involves a debate on the principles of the Bill and is the first chance for Members of Parliament (MPs) to discuss it. The debate took place in the main chamber, concluding with a vote on the Bill by MPs. The vote ended with 383 MPs supporting the Bill (ayes) and 67 opposing it (noes), indicating a clear majority in favour of the Bill. A majority of MPs from the Conservative, Labour, and SNP parties supported the Bill.

Following the Second Reading, the Bill will now move to the Public Bill Committee for further scrutiny. This stage involves oral evidence, line-by-line examination of the Bill, and consideration of proposed amendments. Once this process is complete, the Bill will return to the House of Commons for further debate and amendments before proceeding to the House of Lords for additional stages. Oral evidence sessions are expected to be held on Tuesday 30th April and Wednesday 1st May.

Key Points on the Tobacco and Nicotine Bill

- Smoking is a major cause of preventable death, responsible for one in four cancer deaths and killing approximately 80,000 people annually in the UK. It also leads to nearly one hospital admission every minute.
- The Bill aims to create the first smoke-free generation by making it illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after January 1, 2009. This move is intended to help the next generation live healthier, longer lives.
- The Bill does not seek to demonise people who smoke or restrict their rights. Instead, it aims to support them by nearly doubling funding for local stop-smoking services. This approach aligns with the idea that addiction to nicotine deprives individuals of their freedom of choice.
- The Bill has broad support from retailers and the general public, with polling showing that around 70% of people back its measures.

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable and premature mortality and morbidity, not just in the UK, but globally. Tobacco is uniquely harmful, contributing to 80,000 deaths annually in the UK and killing up to two-thirds of its long-term users. Moreover, the impact of smoking extends beyond individual health; it imposes significant costs on society. In England, smoking is estimated to cost £49 billion, with £32 billion in productivity losses, £15 billion in social care costs, and £2 billion in healthcare expenses.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill represents a significant public health intervention aimed at supporting people who smoke to quit and preventing children and young people

from becoming addicted to smoking in the first place. This is crucial, as most current smokers first tried tobacco as children and many wish they had never started.

The Bill includes the following key measures:

- Prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to anyone born on or after January 1, 2009.
- Allowing regulations to restrict vape flavors, packaging, and point-of-sale displays in retail outlets.
- Introducing £100 fixed penalty notices for underage sales in England and Wales.

Additional Funding for Local Stop Smoking Services

Additional funding has been allocated to support the implementation of the Bill, including £70 million for Local Authority Stop Smoking Support, aimed at helping people who smoke to quit.

A briefing paper has been developed by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) in partnership with the Directors of Public Health (DsPH) and Humber and North Yorkshire's Centre for Tobacco Control Excellence, with endorsement from the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH). This briefing paper outlines the opportunities presented by the smokefree generation legislation and the additional funding, along with recommendations for local authorities to maximize these opportunities to end smoking everywhere for everyone.

You can find the briefing paper [here](#).

Preventing Gambling-Related Harm **Regional Lead: Simone Arratoonian**

Gambling Commission news

The Gambling Commission this month release a refreshed [Corporate Strategy](#) for 2024-27 where they set out their ambitions for fulfilment of their regulatory responsibilities. Their document 'Gambling regulation in a digital age' includes improving data and analytics, and working with all partners to deliver on improvements promised in the White Paper released last year. Follow the link above to watch a brief video, download the strategy and contribute your feedback.

Enforcement

Earlier in April, [Bet365](#) was instructed to pay a fine of £582,120 following failures in social responsibility and anti-money laundering measures. The online business failed to deliver 'meaningful' interactions to customers at risk of harm, and the company's Early Risk Detection System was not found to be effective. They also failed to carry out necessary financial checks with new customers and had inadequate customer profiling in place to detect risk.

Individual action

A legal firm in the South East of England has reported a [rise in claims](#) from individuals affected by gambling harm where operators failed in their duty to identify risk and

protect customers from loss, allowing them to continue to gamble. Most of these claims are being received from men in their thirties and forties but claims from women targeted by products such as online bingo are on the rise. Compensation achieved can reach £1m in some instances. The majority of the cases brought forward are associated with online betting.

International news

Gambling in Finland has been on the decline since 2019, when 78% of people gambled at least once. The [new figure of 70%](#) from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare still exceeds that of the population in England – but perhaps not surprising considering that the gambling monopoly Veikkaus Oy is government owned and funds government spending on education, culture, health and agriculture. As a result, the culture around gambling has been influenced with Finland showing some of the highest figures for gambling in Europe. Despite the decrease in participation, the latest study reports that gambling at problem level has increased – and there is predictably a higher rate of men who are gambling at ‘problem’ level - 6.6%. This does not appear to be solely linked to online gambling but also to land-based slot machines operated by Veikkaus. The report shows that approximately 2% of people who gamble generate half of profits, demonstrating clear inequality in harms.

Another study looking at [attitudes to gambling](#) by the Institute found that people under the age of 44 have a less favourable attitude towards gambling activity; 90% felt that gambling should not be encouraged. A more positive view was held by older groups.

Whilst the Institute acknowledge that ‘gambling problems affect hundreds of thousands of Finnish people’, they also make the claim that ‘responsible gambling policy, other preventative methods, and provision of sufficient support and treatment’ are enough to deal with the harm caused. This contradiction and the clear narrative around ‘control’ raises the question of whether the current reliance on gambling to fund government services has affected willingness to prevent gambling harm.

In the [Netherlands](#), there was a vote from Holland’s house of representatives to ban online gambling advertising including targeted ads, and high-risk online gambling ‘games of chance’ (including slots). This motion put forward by MP Michiel van Nispen was passed due a majority, despite previously not receiving enough votes to progress. Minister Franc Weerwind, who will need to approve the law, has previously promoted ‘responsible gambling’ but has pushed for greater player protection and acknowledged that ‘providers encourage players to bet more money than they can afford to lose.’ The Netherlands Online Gambling Association has branded the proposals ‘thoughtless and irresponsible’; they claim that this will push more consumers towards the unregulated market.

Taking a whole systems approach to healthy weight
Regional Lead: Nicola Corrigan

ADPH statement on Healthy Weight

[Obesity, nutrition and physical activity](#) ADPH position statements published November 13, 2023.

Digital Weight Management Programme

[The study](#) objective was to assess participant weight change for the English National Health Service (NHS) Digital Weight Management Programme, the first such digital intervention to achieve population coverage. The NHS Digital Weight Management Programme is effective at achieving clinically meaningful weight loss. The outcomes compare favourably to web-based weight management interventions tested in randomized trials and those delivered as face-to-face interventions, and results suggest that the approach may, with increased participation, bring population-level benefits.

Healthy Weight Declaration Special Edition Bulletin

The Local Authority Healthy Weight Declaration was first developed in North-West England in 2016 to help support councils develop healthier policies across services such as planning, regeneration, housing, and leisure which all play a role in delivering healthier places. Visit [Food Active's website](#) to find out more about the Healthy Weight Declaration, explore who has adopted, resources including the Impact and Influence Report and much more.

Food Active Bulletin April 2024

Food Active is a healthier weight programme of work delivered by the Health Equalities Group (HEG), advocating for action to promote healthier weight, regionally and nationally. Read their latest online bulletin [here](#).

Who Is Experiencing Food Insecurity in the UK?

UK government [Insight report](#) into the impact of recent food price increases on people in low-income households.

Resources from the National Child Measurement Programme

[NCMP parent feedback](#) – optional resources available to local authorities: [MapMe Body Image Scales](#) and supporting resources [New NCMP animation](#) and videos

Extended brief interventions for weight management and obesity prevention in children: A rapid evidence review

Uptake of child weight management (CWM) support is typically low, and services are not available in all areas. Extended brief interventions (EBIs) have been proposed as an affordable way to provide enhanced support, at a level between one-off brief advice and intensive CWM programs. [This rapid systematic review](#) sought to synthesize evidence on the efficacy of EBIs for weight management and obesity prevention in children (2–18 years).

Yorkshire Obesity Research Alliance

Established in 2020, we are a community of academics, regional and local government policy makers and practitioners, clinicians, key stakeholders and members of the general public with an interest in obesity research within the Yorkshire & Humber area. Funded by the NIHR Yorkshire & Humber Clinical Research Network (CRN), and lead by Leeds Beckett University (LBU) and Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) & OHID YH, we work to directly contribute to the regions obesity practice and policy.

Sign up to become a member of YORA and receive the newsletters and other learning and development opportunities [here](#).

Surplus to Purpose

Surplus to Purpose is a pro-planet enterprise which specialises in the interception of surplus food destined for waste. This produce may be past best before, have suffered accidental damage or deemed to be surplus to requirements, but still fit for human consumption.

Sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

Food delivery changes during Covid

In March 2020, the United Kingdom was placed under lockdown to restrict the spread of COVID-19, with the population only being allowed to leave their homes for reasons deemed essential, such as shopping for essentials (e.g. groceries and medicine) and exercise. In an attempt to keep afloat food-based businesses which relied on customers attending in person, the government implemented a temporary relaxation of planning regulations allowing pubs and restaurants to operate on a takeaway. [This study](#) highlights important changes to local food environments, which public health professionals should be aware of, so they are better equipped to tackle health inequalities across urban and sub-urban areas.

Reducing inequalities through action on drugs and alcohol

Regional Lead: Andy Maddison

Liver disease profile, April 2024 update - Updated 8 April 2024

The profile presents data for key indicators around liver disease for England, the regions, and where possible, county and unitary authorities (UAs), and district and UAs. Some of the indicators are also presented by sex and level of deprivation to highlight inequalities in liver disease outcomes and care between these groups.

Main findings

[This update](#) shows:

- the England rate of premature deaths from liver disease increased by almost 40% from 2001 to 2022 (10,593 deaths in 2022, 6,140 deaths in 2001)
- rates of premature death from liver disease in females has risen more rapidly over the last 20 years than in males
- the England rate of premature deaths from alcoholic liver disease in 2022 was 11.6 per 100,000 population aged under 75 (5,776 deaths)
- in the past 20 years, the number of premature deaths from alcoholic liver disease has increased by 61.3% in England. Rates increased by 35.9% over the same period.
- in 2022, there were 323 premature deaths from non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
- in 2022, there were 74 premature deaths from hepatitis B related end-stage liver disease or hepatocellular carcinoma, a rate of 0.14 (0.11 to 0.18) per 100,000 population aged under 75

- the number of premature deaths from hepatitis C in 2022 has plateaued in the last 3 years with numbers for 2022, 2021 and 2020 at 233, 241, 237, respectively
- hospital admission rates due to liver disease continue to rise. In the financial year ending 2023 it has risen to 155.2 (152.9 to 157.5) per 100,000 population from a rate of 150.6 (148.2 to 152.9) the previous financial year
- the number of admissions to hospital where the primary diagnosis was alcoholic liver disease was 27,085 in the financial year ending 2023

A summary of the activity of the Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA) programme since its launch in March 2022.

[This page](#) provides a summary of the data returns from the Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA) expansion programme since its launch in March 2022, with supplementary material to support the interpretation of the headline figures.

This data collection is still in development and the current returns do not present a complete picture of the national DToA activity, however the Home Office continues to work with police forces to expand the data collected and will report results on a quarterly basis.

Drug and alcohol treatment for victims and suspects of homicide

[This report](#) presents the results of the first data linkage between the Home Office Homicide Index (HI) and the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), which is owned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). DHSC's Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) carried out this linkage as a proof of concept and to better understand the relationship between homicide and substance misuse treatment. In English law, the offence of homicide is an act resulting in the death of another person. It includes murder and manslaughter.

The data linkage explores the use of substance misuse services by victims and suspects of homicide. We intend that this report's findings will contribute to part of the evidence base for homicide prevention policy.

The report is official statistics in development and is part of the Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD) cross-government programme led by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ).

The NDTMS extract extended to March 2022, a year beyond the HI extract, to enable us to analyse suspects after the homicide.

Promoting physical activity
Regional Lead: Nicola Corrigan

Physical activity insecurity is stopping youngsters from getting active

New research suggests that feelings of discomfort and unsafety are preventing some young people from being physically active - and more work is needed to create environments where they feel confident enough to exercise and play sport.

[The study](#), led by Fuse researchers at Durham University, explores how 55 young people aged 12 to 21 feel about engaging in physical activity such as sports, exercise and walking in public places.

Workforce Development

A variety of workforce development resources are available for both health and care and physical activity and sport colleagues. Existing resources can be found below.

- a. [BMJ Learning](#) – physical activity and the treatment of Long-Term Conditions (9 online modules inc. CPD points)
- b. [Moving Medicine](#)
- c. [Active Hospitals toolkit](#)
- d. [Richmond Group of Charities and resource packs](#)

Yorkshire Sport Foundation

Sign up for the weekly bulletin from YSF [here](#).

Yorkshire Ability Triathlon

The Yorkshire Ability Triathlon is a fantastic Swim Bike Run event aimed at children and young people aged 6-17 who are neurodivergent and/or have a physical and/or learning disability. The event caters for a range of abilities and complex needs and offers participants a chance to take part in 1, 2 or all 3 of the Swim Bike Run disciplines, parents and carers are welcome to join in. This year's event is taking place on Sunday 19th May at Leeds Beckett University, organised by the Triathlon England Yorkshire & Humber Regional Committee and partners.

You can find the 2023 Video [here](#).

Please find the 2024 Booking Link [here](#).

Movement: moving more for our mental health

Mental Health Awareness Week, which will be running 13-19 May, on the theme of 'movement: moving more for our mental health'.

[4 in 10 adults](#) are currently not meeting the NHS recommended physical activity guidelines, but physical activity has many [proven](#) benefits for mental health. Raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity for the mind, and signpost to the wide range of free, NHS-evidenced support available through the [Every Mind Matters website](#).

On the [Campaign Resource Centre](#), there is a wealth of Every Mind Matters resources to help you support and amplify the campaign including assets for use on social media, posters, web banners and infographics.

Tackling racism, discrimination and their outcomes

Regional Lead: Abi Brown

Equity in Medical Devices: Independent Review

An independent report by Professor Dame Margaret Whitehead (University of Liverpool) examines the evidence of unfair bias in relation to medical devices. Read about the report findings [here](#).

The review looked at the evidence for differential performance of medical devices by socio-demographic groups that may have led to poorer healthcare for the population group disadvantaged by the bias. The causes of the bias were also reviewed to inform recommendations.

Read the findings [here](#).

Intersectionality and disability – Race & Health Quarterly

In this post, Sana Fatima Khan explains more about the connection between race, disability and health.

Please read [here](#).

Academic papers - Race & Health Quarterly

Please see these academic papers [here](#) shared in the recent edition of Race & Health quarterly.

The importance of intersectionality in racial health equity – spotlight discussion piece

In this piece, Dr Tanisha Spratt (Senior Lecturer in racism and health at King's College London) discusses the importance of intersectionality on racial health equity.

You can read the piece [here](#).

The Lancet Commission on racism and child health - recording launch (available on YouTube)

This recording is of the Lancet Commission on Racism and Child Health.

Here, you can learn more about this upcoming research project exploring how racism and discrimination shape minoritised children's health around the world. The event is led by Commission Chair Professor Delan Devakumar, and invites Commissions to discuss key research activities, themes, and priorities.

You can catch up on the recording [here](#).

Creating fair employment and good work for all
Regional Lead: Nicola Corrigan

Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Work and Health Report

The [Small and Medium Enterprises \(SME\) work and health report](#), produced by LKIS North East and Yorkshire, has recently been updated to improve some aspects of its content and interface.

This report presents publicly available data at national and regional level, and SME size, around wages and sickness absence. It explores the cost of staff turnover, raises awareness of presenteeism, provides links to a range of resources and highlights gaps in data. A [webinar](#) on the SME report has been produced to accompany this report which we hope you find useful.

- ❖ [SME Work and Health report](#)
- ❖ [Feedback Form](#)
- ❖ [Webinar on SME report](#)

Supporting 'good work' in active labour market policies

[This paper](#) sets out evidence on what has worked in supporting 'good work' in employment programmes. Employment support in the UK is often characterised by a focus on encouraging unemployed people to take up 'any job', even where that might be low paid or insecure, but there has been a growing focus in recent years (in the UK and overseas) on how programmes can help people access better paid jobs and progress in work.

My Employment Plan is a tool created by people with lived experience and employment organisations across South Yorkshire to help a person and their employer talk about and agree things that might help them both in the workplace. The changes or plans that you agree to help you at work are sometimes called reasonable adjustments.

For more information and to download the free resource see the [Employment is for Everyone website pages](#).

Employment Advisors in MSK pathways

The application process will be to establish a Proof of Concept (PoC) site from early Autumn 2024 onwards. Publication is planned to take place in late April 2024 and close a month later at the end of May 2024. Applications are welcome from sites looking to start in Autumn 2024 and sites wishing to start in April 2025.

During the application window there will be a series of webinars, which will include a Q & A section. These are scheduled to commence in the 2nd and 3rd week of the application window.

For further information please contact JWHD.MSK@dwp.gov.uk.

Disability Confident Employers – new guide

On the 9 April, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) published a new Disability Confident guide for managers to help them recruit, retain, and foster the progression of disabled people and those with health conditions in the workplace.

Find the guide [here](#).

DWP has worked in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development to develop the [guidance to ensure employers and employees get the most from the Disability Confident scheme](#), to increase disability employment and reduce the disability employment gap.

Please find more on the collection [here](#).

Key considerations for effective and integrated Work and Health services

The Society for Occupational Medicine, in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions and Department of Health and Social Care, are hosting three webinars for all those who have a role in planning and delivering integrated work and health services.

Attendance is recommended for those working in councils, integrated care boards, primary care, Jobcentre Plus and others with an interest in this field.

If you have any questions, please contact: dhsc.workwell@DWP.GOV.UK

Further information and registration:

- [22 April – 2:00 – 3.30pm](#)
- [24 April – 1.30 – 3.00pm](#)
- [13 May – 2:00 – 3.30pm](#)

Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM)

Lots of free resources on the SOM website that people might find useful:

- [Neurodiversity at work](#)
- [Long Covid](#)
- [Occupational Health and HR working together](#)
- [Detailed slide deck on "worklessness due to ill health" statistics](#)
- [Employment advisers in improving access to psychological therapies](#)
- [Fit Note Reform: call for evidence](#)

A call for evidence to explore reforming the fit note process to support those with long term health conditions to access timely work and health support.

Support with employee health and disability

[This guidance](#) is for employers and managers. It will help you support employees and understand any legal requirements. There are links to government and other organisations that can help.

The guidance will help you with:

- ❖ managing absences and keeping in touch
- ❖ having conversations with your employee, in and out of work
- ❖ deciding on changes to help them stay or come back to work
- ❖ protecting your business and your employees with policies and procedures
- ❖ managing complex situations

Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all

Regional Lead: Toni Williams & Karen Horrocks

Living standards since the last election – new report by abrdn Financial Fairness Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation with Institute for Fiscal Studies

New official household income statistics released recently show that the real incomes of the poorest third of households were roughly the same in 2022-23 as in 2019-20, despite the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

However other measures such as food security, and material deprivation show differently that the proportion of individuals experiencing food insecurity rose by almost a half between 2019-20 and 2022-23 (8% to 11%), and the share in material deprivation rose from 15% to 19%. Over the same period, the incomes of the top two-thirds of the income distribution fell in real terms. This puts things on course to be the worst for living standards since comparable records began in 1961.

A new Election 2024 report, funded by abrdn Financial Fairness Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation with IFS examines how living standards have changed since the last election.

Read more [here](#).

The relationship between poverty and NHS Services – article

[This long read](#) looks at the link between poverty and each of the following:

- ❖ prevalence of ill health
- ❖ difficulties accessing health care
- ❖ late or delayed treatment (and higher NHS costs)
- ❖ poorer health outcomes.

These four issues can be seen across a wide range of NHS services, from emergency care to dentistry. As well as highlighting this breadth, it is hoped that this long read will provide stimulus for local and NHS leaders to consider the role poverty plays when making plans to manage and improve services. To that end, it signposts some existing resources that may help tackle the issues.

PRIORITY CONDITIONS AND EQUITABLE SERVICES

Promoting public mental health and wellbeing

Regional Lead: Ali Iliff

Near to real-time suspected suicide surveillance (nRTSSS) for England for the 15 months to December 2023

Key findings

When considering data on deaths by suspected suicide in England for the period October 2022 to December 2023 the following conclusions can be drawn:

- data presented does not indicate an obvious change in trend in **overall suspected suicide rates** over the period.
- for **females**, there is some suggestion that the rate is increasing, but not significantly
- for **45 to 64 year olds**, there is some suggestion that the rate is decreasing, but not significantly
- there are indications of higher rates in the summer for **persons, males and 25 to 44 year olds**
- the proportion of deaths for method group **hanging, strangulation and suffocation** is consistently the highest across all quarters, however it shows a continual decrease across the reporting period
- there is some indication of an increasing trend in proportion of deaths where **poisoning** is the method group
- the proportion of deaths for method group **drowning** shows a continual increase across the whole reporting period

Note: all reported findings are not statistically significant and are based on relatively small numbers - each finding should be monitored.

The above findings should take into account that:

- reported monthly rates are based on **around 70% of England's population**, therefore some caution should be applied when considering these findings - this should be addressed in future reporting
- a large number of historical records were added recently that improves reporting, however some were **missing 'sex', 'age' or 'method type'** which has impacted on the monthly DSR breakdown reporting and increased the proportion of 'method type' that is presented as 'other or unknown'

You can access the latest surveillance report [here](#).

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of migrants in vulnerable circumstances: Guidance to support integrated mental health and wellbeing provision at Place across the North East and Yorkshire and Humber

- Some migrants are at increased risk of mental health problems due to experiences prior to, during, or after migration to the UK.
- There is stigma around mental health in some cultures.

- Some vulnerable migrants arrive on small boats to seek asylum, some will arrive in a more planned way under the [various government funded schemes](#).
- Many people arrive having fled war and conflict or faced persecution because of their sexuality or beliefs, they often do not know anyone, may not speak English and spend several months accommodated in shared housing or a hotel with little money to spend on activities or travel to visit new places.
- There can be fragmentation of mental health and wellbeing provision.

The aim of this [guidance](#) is to provide a **simple framework for professionals at place to work together to map existing provision**, not just around specialist mental health treatment but also around wellbeing support including access to arts and culture, exercise and anything else that promotes good wellbeing and social connections. The mapping can provide an opportunity to foster collaborative working, identify strengths and areas that require attention.

It was developed by a task and finish group under the [North East and Yorkshire Migrant Health Network](#) with representation from ICB, OHID, NHSE, local authority and the voluntary sector.

New publications/research from the Centre for Mental Health

The Centre for Mental Health has published an [analysis of the economic and social costs of mental ill-health](#), finding that the total cost in England in 2022 was £300 billion, comprising three major elements:

1. **Economic costs of £110bn:** Losses to the economy due to mental ill health. These include the business costs of sickness absence and 'presenteeism' at work, as well as staff turnover and unemployment among people with mental ill health.
2. **Human costs of £130bn:** The value, expressed in monetary terms, of reduced quality of life and premature mortality among people living with mental health difficulties
3. **Health and care costs of £60bn:** This includes support provided by public services and informal care provided by family and friends.

The Centre has also published a briefing on [mental health in later life](#) (see also the item below). Commissioned by Age UK, this briefing summarises evidence about the mental health of older people in England. It finds that ageist attitudes underpin a system that discriminates against older people, while fatalistic assumptions about what people can expect for their mental health in later life undermine the provision of effective support to promote wellbeing, prevent mental ill health and treat mental health difficulties.

The briefing finds that while older people may possess many protective factors for good mental health, they face numerous risk factors, including poorer physical health, reduced mobility and, for some, poverty and racism. Tackling the risk factors and boosting protective factors can increase wellbeing in later life and either prevent or stop the escalation of mental health problems.

New report from Age UK on older people's mental health

Age UK's report '[I just feel that no one cares](#)', presents their latest research findings on older people's mental health. Please see *Healthy Ageing* section above for further detail.

Secure your grant to improve your school or college's approach to mental health and wellbeing in 2024

Grants of £1,200 are still available to access continuing professional development (CPD) for your school or college's mental health lead. If you haven't already done so, claim your grant this term and join the 15,000 schools and colleges that have already accessed a DfE quality assured [senior mental health lead](#) course. The training will develop your mental health lead's [knowledge and practical skills](#) to embed an effective [whole school or college approach](#) to mental health and wellbeing.

87 per cent of senior leads who completed the training in 2021-2022 said that it enabled them to plan or improve their approach, and 83 per cent said that they would recommend the course to others.

The training includes important topics to lead change in your setting, such as:

- Understanding and identifying mental health and wellbeing needs and monitoring the impact of support
- Approaches to plan and lead change aligned to the work of your DSL and SENCO
- Developing your universal and targeted support offer
- Engaging students/pupils and developing positive relationships with parents, families and carers.

Take five minutes to claim your training grant [here](#). You can also use the grant to pay for supply cover while leads are engaged in learning and/or to pay for additional training or resources to help with implementing your approach. Choose from over 90 quality assured courses at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, delivered on-line or face-to-face and tailored to the needs of your settings.

You can now also claim a 2nd grant [here](#) if your trained mental health lead left your setting before fully developing your whole school or college approach.

Recently launched:

- Access a [new resource hub](#) to help mental health leads embed a whole school or college approach to mental health & wellbeing. This has been developed with Anna Freud, in partnership with education representatives and mental health experts.
- A new [targeted mental wellbeing support toolkit](#) is also available. This provides a practical guide and filterable tool to help schools and colleges review, refresh and develop effective targeted support for pupils and learners with social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Sharing good practice blog series – senior leads tell us about the action they've taken to shape their approach by enabling student voice – read about this [here](#)

Resources about cancer screening for people with serious mental illness

People with serious mental illness, including bipolar disorder or severe depression, are less likely to attend cancer screening appointments than those without mental illness. Working with people with lived experience, Sheffield Flourish, SACMHA and Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Trust, this collaborative project created a mini zine and videos for Cervical Screening, Breast Screening and Bowel Screening. You can access the resources via this [link](#).

Improving sexual and reproductive health

Regional Lead: Georgina Wilkinson

Inquiry into the state of HIV and Sexual Health services in the UK – call for evidence

The All Party Parliamentary Group HIV, AIDS & Sexual Health will be carrying out an inquiry into the state of HIV and Sexual Health services in the UK. The deadline for submissions is 24th May 2024, further details [here](#).

The prevalence of sexually transmitted infections in young people and other high risk groups

This is a House of Commons Womens and Equalities Committee [report](#), with recommendations to government.

HIV Stigma Symposium – presentations available to view

HIV Prevention England hosted a HIV Stigma Symposium on 15 March, the presentations are available to view [here](#).

Improving health and reducing inequalities through health and care services

Regional Lead: Toni Williams

‘Solving poverty or tackling healthcare inequalities? Qualitative study exploring local interpretations of national policy on health inequalities under new NHS reforms in England’ – BMJ Open research paper

This qualitative study explored local interpretations of national policy objectives on reducing health inequalities among senior leaders working in three Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) through interviews with NHS, public health, social care and other leaders in three ICSs in England.

Results showed local interpretations of national policy objectives on health inequalities varied, and local leaders had contrasting—sometimes conflicting—perceptions of the boundaries of ICS action on reducing health inequalities and raised risks on this varying interpretation on interventions that may be poorly targeted or inadvertently widening inequalities.

Read more [here](#).

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO TACKLE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Regional Lead: Chris Sharp

Public Health Intelligence Online (PHI/Online) resource

Have you seen the new NHS Futures Public Health Intelligence Online (PHI/Online) resource from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)? This workspace brings together the public health intelligence community of England to connect with their Local Knowledge and Intelligence Service and the wider public health intelligence (PHI) community, discover the resources open to them, and learn and develop their analytical skills.

Register via FutureNHS [here](#) to access our latest updates, publications, discussion forum and training and events.

To learn more, join a webinar on the [7th May](#) or the [9th May](#) (register by clicking on your preferred date).

Franklin Covey – Leadership Webinars

The North East and Yorkshire Leadership Academy are excited to announce a series of Franklin Covey webinars running from March to May 2024.

Franklin Covey helps organisations to achieve results that require lasting changes in human behaviour. The topics in this webinar series focus on some of the biggest leadership challenges facing senior and executive leaders. The content of each webinar is based on timeless principles of human effectiveness and is designed to help people change both their mindset and their behaviour.

The webinar series is designed to be flexible – attend one or attend all, dependent on the specific individual and organisational challenges you currently face.

To note, each workshop in this webinar series has its own registration link and registration closing date, these can be found in the programme.

Once registered, participants should hold the dates and times of their requested masterclass in their diary as diary invites and joining instructions will only be sent the day after registration closes.

[Click here](#) for the booking link.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

What works in reducing inequalities: Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership – final report and resources

To address inequalities in central Bradford, the [Reducing Inequalities in Communities \(RIC\) programme](#) was set up in 2019 as a five-year programme to test out various interventions. The programme has overseen the delivery of 21 projects, involving a range of partners and has benefitted over 16,000 people.

Please find the final report [here](#) and additional resources on their website [here](#).

Sign-up for fourth seminar on commercial determinants of health now open: Advertising & Sponsorship - (Thursday 6th June, 10-11:30)

As part of [Healthier & Fairer Futures](#) and the programme of work ADPH Y&H are doing on commercial determinants of health, we are inviting public health colleagues to participate in a series of learning and networking events. The series aims to cover cross-cutting issues, connect people working in this area, and create a space for connecting and sharing with each other.

The fourth seminar on Advertising & Sponsorship is open to colleagues working in public health and their relevant invited guests in the region. If you are a member of a public health team, please forward on to relevant colleagues such as comms and city centre teams.

We will be hearing about and discussing how public health and comms can work together for impactful action. Speakers include Kathrin Lauber from University of Edinburgh about her work to analyse corporate opposition to advertising policy in London (read more [here](#)), and an example of local work in Sheffield (read more [here](#)). There will be time to discuss and share learning together.

You can sign up [here](#) (*please note this session will not be recorded*).

If you have any queries, please contact stefanie.gissing@dhsc.gov.uk



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Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health – supporting local government to do more

Published by the [Health Foundation](#) the briefing outlines five proposals for national policy that would allow local government in England to do more to reduce harm from tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food.

Good governance toolkit

A good governance toolkit has been developed to help local public health teams think through the policies and processes to prevent significant organisational conflicts of interest and risk assess and manage transparently potential conflicts. A commercial determinants of health lens has been used in developing this toolkit meaning the focus is on governance of the influence of, and interactions with, organisations whose interests conflict with aims to protect and improve public health. The toolkit contains links to evidence about some of the ways organisational conflicts of interest may arise, what to look out for, and suggestions about how to risk assess potential conflicts and think about next steps including mitigations.

Developed by Anna Brook & Katherine Körner, the toolkit has been endorsed by the Association of Directors of Public Health and the design of the report was funded jointly by the SPECTRUM Consortium (with funding from the UK Prevention Research Partnership) and by the University of Stirling. Please find the toolkit [here](#).

NHS and the whole of society must act on social determinants of health for a healthier future - BMJ analysis piece

In this piece Lucinda Hiam and authors (including Professor Sir Michael Marmot) share this analysis piece as part of the BMJ Commission on the Future of the NHS where they propose evidence based solutions to the worsening health and widening inequalities in the UK through action on the social determinants of health. (A separate article within the commission is focused on health equity.)

Initially this article outlines the problem of deteriorating health across the UK, then gives an overview of the evidence, showing how action on the social determinants can improve health.

The article touches on the politics in this area and then ends on action focused solutions and recommendations on what NHS workers, leaders of NHS organisations and integrated care systems, and the government can do to urgently deal with the deteriorating health of the population.

You can read more [here](#).

Introduction to the hardship series – Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

Here, JRF introduces a new series of 12 ideas that explore how we tackle hardship in neighbourhoods and the national policy changes needed to support this. The first group of ideas explore the theme [building connection and understanding](#).

Find out more on the new topic page [here](#).

How influential is public health within local systems? Blog post by the King's Fund

In this 3-minute read blog, Luca Tiratelli discusses the increased interest in public health since the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting impact public health overall has had in the health systems as a result.

Please read the blog [here](#).