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| **Minding the Gap - News Brief: No. 141** |
| **Welcome to the One Hundred and Forty First edition of the ADPH Minding the Gap News Brief, the Yorkshire and Humber Health Inequalities Programme.**  **To keep updated follow us on** [**https://twitter.com/mindingthegapyh**](https://twitter.com/mindingthegapyh)  **For past editions and information click here:** [**https://yhphnetwork.co.uk/links-and-resources/minding-the-gap/**](https://yhphnetwork.co.uk/links-and-resources/minding-the-gap/) |
| **What are Health Inequalities?**  Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people. There are many kinds of health inequality, and many ways in which the term is used. This means that when we talk about ‘health inequality’, it is useful to be clear on which measure is unequally distributed, and between which people.  The wider determinants of health are the social, economic and environmental conditions in which people live that have an impact on health. They include income, education, access to green space and healthy food, the work people do and the homes they live in. It is widely recognised that, taken together, these factors are the principal drivers of how healthy people are, and that inequalities in these factors are a fundamental cause of health inequalities. This paper provides an overview of how health inequalities are experienced in England’s population.  [Paper](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/what-are-health-inequalities?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_term=thekingsfund) |
| **Using Marmot Principles to Tackle Health Inequalities and COVID-19, 23 June 2020**  The pandemic, and the wider governmental and societal response, have brought these health inequalities into sharp focus. There is early evidence which suggests that some of the social determinants of health, including obesity, ethnicity, deprivation, poor mental health, and socio-economic status are contributing to higher levels of COVID-19 related deaths. Measures to control the spread of the virus are likely to have significant longer term implications on health inequalities, related morbidity and mortality of certain groups of people, for example those experiencing social isolation, financial insecurity and domestic abuse.  How do we mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on more deprived and excluded groups?  This webinar will explore the health inequalities exposed by COVID-19 and look at how they can be addressed.  This webinar is accompanied with the presentation slides are available using the link.  [Webinar](https://www.local.gov.uk/using-marmot-principles-tackle-health-inequalities-and-covid-19-23-june-2020) |
| **Measuring Poverty 2020**  This report aims to provide a comprehensive account of poverty based on the Commission’s measurement framework. It provides both a detailed overview of the extent and nature of poverty in the UK today and considers the impact on different areas such as family and relationships, education, health, finances and the labour market. The report provides a comprehensive account of poverty based on the Commission’s measurement framework. It provides both a detailed overview of the extent and nature of poverty in the UK today and the results can act as the baseline against which the impact of the coronavirus crisis can be judged.  [Report](https://socialmetricscommission.org.uk/measuring-poverty-2020/) |
| **Living Standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK: 2020**  This report examines how living standards, most commonly measured by households’ incomes, were changing in the UK up to approximately the eve of the current Covid-19 crisis, using the latest official household income data covering years up to 2018–19. It particularly focuses on how this differed for different groups, and what this meant for poverty and inequality. The report gives a comprehensive account of where we stood before the current crisis, including for groups who we now know have subsequently had their economic lives turned upside down.  [Report](https://www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/R170-Living-standards-poverty-and-inequality-in-the-UK-2019-2020%20.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11638207_NEWSL_HMP%202020-06-30&dm_i=21A8,6XG3J,FLWQCU,RVMJT,1) |
| **Covid-19: Understanding Inequalities in Mental Health during the Pandemic**  The Covid-19 crisis has had a profound effect on the nation’s mental health. While most of us will emerge without lasting negative effects on our mental health, some communities and people with specific characteristics are at far greater risk of worsening mental health. This briefing paper finds that the virus and the lockdown are putting greater pressure on groups and communities whose mental health was already poorer and more precarious.  The report calls on the Government to take urgent action to address race inequality in mental health, including the need to respond to increased mental distress and difficulty by maintaining a financial safety net for those who need it, offering practical help to meet the basic needs of the most isolated, and providing emergency funding for organisations which deliver targeted, culturally appropriate mental health support for as long as is necessary..  [Briefing](Covid-19:%20understanding%20inequalities%20in%20mental%20health%20during%20the%20pandemic) |
| **Collaboration in a Crisis**  The Covid-19 crisis has seen multiple organisations working together to address a shared challenge. But how can we become better at cross-sector co-ordination/ This quick-read guide shares insights on what a collective response could look like.  [Quick-Read Guide](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/collaboration-crisis?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11645144_Copy%20of%20NEWSL_The%20Weekly%20Update%202020-06-26&utm_content=collaboration_button&dm_i=21A8,6XLG8,FLWQCU,RVNN5,1) |
| **General Practice in the Time of Covid-19**  General practitioners working in very deprived areas of Glasgow and Edinburgh were asked to report and reflect on their experience of the Covid-19 pandemic during May 2020 - two months into the period of lockdown and before the lockdown restrictions were relaxed. The report acknowledges that this may not be a representative sample, the descriptions, experiences and views will resonate with GPs and the report may be of interest. The report is based on the experience of GPs working in practices with large numbers of patients living in areas of severe socio-economic deprivation, many of the observations and conclusions are likely to be relevant to general practices serving more socially-mixed populations.  [Report](https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_728030_smxx.pdf) |
| **A Pandemic Primer on Excess Mortality Statistics and their Comparability Across Countries**  This article assesses the comparability of data on excess mortality between countries and regions, it reviews the available data sources, and compares and contrasts different statistical measures of excess mortality. Now that the first wave of the pandemic is over for most European countries, the time has come for robust European comparisons. Excess mortality data can be used to draw lessons from cross- and within-country differences and help analyse the social and economic consequences of the pandemic and relaxing lockdown restrictions. For country comparisons (where under-recording may differ), policy-makers should examine robust measures expressed relative to the benchmarks of ’normal’ deaths. This research measures excess deaths relative to normal deaths is calculated for European countries with high rates of excess mortality during the Covid-19 pandemic. The report also addresses issues of international data and comparability on the extent of deaths among the care home residents.  [Report](https://www.inet.ox.ac.uk/files/17.10-29-Jun-20-Aron-Muellbauer-Giattino-Ritchie-Excess-Mortality-article.pdf) |
| **The Coronavirus Jobs Crisis is only just Beginning – We Need the Biggest ever Peacetime Support Programme to Protect UK Workers**  Britain is facing an unprecedented jobs crisis in the wake of Covid-19. Employment fell by 430,000 between March and April, while official projections suggest that unemployment will hit 10 per cent by the end of the year. That would leave Britain with the worst unemployment levels in a generation. It’s critical that the Government tackles high unemployment. But to do that, it needs to understand the nature of the crisis we are living through. That understanding should inform which specific problems need to be addressed, and the kind of policies needed.  [Article](https://inews.co.uk/opinion/coronavirus-jobs-crisis-uk-support-programme-government-peacetime-458560) |
| **Supporting Mental Health During Covid-19: A Brief Guide**  This resource is intended to be used in workplaces, communities, organisations and charities as a very brief guide to having a conversation about mental health. It provides links to sources of help and support as well as practical ideas and information for people who may need some support to maintain their wellbeing during these challenging times.  Coronavirus has been a shock to us all. It has disrupted our lives in ways we couldn’t imagine before. And it’s more important than ever that we look after our mental health.  Hertfordshire County Council have commissioned us to produce a short guide for looking after your mental health, not only during the lockdown but in the months to come. This resource is intended to be used in workplaces, communities, organisations and charities as a very brief guide to having a conversation about mental health. It provides links to sources of help and support as well as practical ideas and information for people who may need some support to maintain their wellbeing during these challenging times.  [Guide](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-06/CentreforMentalHealth_Covid_MH_resource.pdf) |
| **The COVID-19 Pandemic and Health Inequalities**  This essay examines the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for health inequalities. It outlines historical and contemporary evidence of inequalities in pandemics— drawing on international research into the Spanish inﬂuenza pandemic of 1918, the H1N1 outbreak of 2009 and the emerging international estimates of socioeconomic, ethnic and geographical inequalities in COVID19 infection and mortality rates.  It investigates how these inequalities in COVID-19 are related to existing inequalities in chronic diseases and the social determinants of health, arguing that we are experiencing a syndemic pandemic. It explores the potential consequences for health inequalities of the lockdown measures implemented internationally as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the likely unequal impacts of the economic crisis. The essay concludes by reﬂecting on the longer-term public health policy responses needed to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not increase health inequalities for future generations.  [Essay](https://jech.bmj.com/content/jech/early/2020/06/13/jech-2020-214401.full.pdf) |
| **Covid-19 and Early Intervention: Understanding the Impact, Preparing for Recovery**  This report highlights the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on local services for children and families, based on the experiences of service leaders and head teachers, and explores their responses to both the immediate challenges and the major challenges on the horizon, as the country moves towards recovery.  The report suggests that the impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable children and families is likely to be profound. It is clear from the research that school closures, social distancing and lockdown measures have seriously affected the ability of services to support children and families at the very time when these children and families are facing even greater challenges.  [Report](https://www.eif.org.uk/files/pdf/covid-19-services-impact-recovery.pdf) |
| **Transforming the Economy After Covid-19: A Clean, Fair and Resilient Recovery**  We’re at a historic moment. The Covid-19 crisis could mark a turning point in the direction of the UK’s economy and its efforts to address the climate and nature crisis. The economy is in need of significant intervention to halt rising and long-term unemployment, to protect and improve the quality of life of all citizens and protect and raise the living standards of low-income households and the vulnerable.  This paper argues for an investment-led economic recovery focused on job-creation and creating opportunity across the country, decarbonisation and restoring nature, and tackling inequality. Too often, these goals, and that of building a strong economy, are presented as being in conflict with each other. But in reality, they can and must be achieved together – and this must begin with the economic recovery packages following Covid-19.  [Paper](https://www.ippr.org/files/2020-07/transforming-the-economy-after-covid19-july2020.pdf) |
| **Localism and Homelessness: A Decade of Disaster in England**  COVID-19 has prompted a radical and rapid nation-wide shift in responses to some of the most acute forms of homelessness. With government financial support and guidance, local authorities have sought to get ‘Everyone In’ as street homelessness has been reframed as an urgent public health issue, as well as an acute socio-economic and housing problem. The rhetoric and practice of localism has attracted significant support within both political and academic circles in the UK in recent years. However, there are, or should be, limits to localism as applied to the basic citizenship rights of vulnerable people. Drawing on a ten-year, mixed-methods study, this article uses examples of sharply rising homelessness in England to illustrate our argument that localist policymaking has an intrinsic tendency to disadvantage socially marginalised groups. The article recommends further reading and research.  [Article](https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/localism-and-homelessness/) |
| **Government can Provide a Housing Lifeline in the Coming Economic Storm**  We all need a safe, decent, affordable home: this pandemic has underlined just how much. As lockdown eases, new analysis shows there’s no let-up for low-income households struggling to stay afloat, especially those who rent their homes. A public health crisis is morphing into an economic storm. You can join the blog below!  [Blog](https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/government-can-provide-housing-lifeline-coming-economic-storm) |
| **How well is Universal Credit Supporting People in Glasgow?**  Universal Credit should be a lifeline we can all rely on in turbulent times - to make sure it is, we must work directly with those experiencing the system and reflect their experience back through compassionate and just design. While the UK Government has introduced some welcome temporary measures boosting the support that UC offers in the wake of COVID-19, more needs to be done at all levels of government, particularly for families with children. The crisis has highlighted just how crucial our social security system is in keeping us afloat; it is only right that we redesign it so that it protects all of us.  This research makes recommendations, shaped by people with experience of claiming and delivering UC in Glasgow that would ensure UC can genuinely keep our heads above water.  [Paper](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/how-well-universal-credit-supporting-people-glasgow) |
| **Sex Workers must not be Forgotten in the COVID-19 Response**  As countries maintain or adjust public health measures, emergency legislation, and economic policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an urgent need to protect the rights of, and to support, the most vulnerable members of society. Sex workers are among the most marginalised groups. Globally, most direct sex work has largely ceased as a result of physical distancing and lockdown measures put in place to halt transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), potentially rendering a frequently marginalised and economically precarious population more vulnerable.1 Most sex workers, even those who can move their work online, have been financially compromised and some are unable to stop in-person services. This article argues that it is imperative that sex workers are afforded access to social protection schemes as equal members of society.  [Article](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31033-3/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email) |
| **Sharing Insights on the Role of Primary Schools in Tackling Gang Involvement**  This paper brings together some insights from a three-year project looking at how primary schools can play a role in countering the risk of children and young people becoming involved in gangs. Based on work with council and school staff in Lambeth and Wandsworth, the paper includes findings on schools' concerns and capacity, referrals, system complexity, and integration between services. While it is based on work prior to Covid-19, it contains lessons for service leaders and policymakers as schools and other local services look to support children's wellbeing as they return from lockdown.  [Paper](https://www.eif.org.uk/report/the-role-of-primary-schools-in-early-intervention-to-prevent-youth-violence-insights-from-work-in-two-london-boroughs) |
| **Marmot Review 10 Years On**  It has been ten years since the publication of The Marmot Review, for the first time in more than 100 years life expectancy has failed to increase across the country, and for the poorest 10% of women it has actually declined. Over the last decade health inequalities have widened overall, and the amount of time people spend in poor health has increased since 2010.    #Marmot2020 confirms an increase in the north/south health gap, where the largest decreases were seen in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in the North East, and the largest increases in the least deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in London.  There are a number of key points made within the report, but the principle point I would like to make is that, the more deprived the area, the shorter the life expectancy. This social gradient has become steeper over the last decade, and women in the most deprived 10% of areas for whom life expectancy fell from 2010-12 and 2016-18. There are marked regional differences in life expectancy, particularly among people living in more deprived areas, a general point is that the North is doing worse than the South.  Mortality rates are increasing for men and women aged 45-49 – perhaps related to so-called ‘deaths of despair’ (suicide, drugs and alcohol abuse) as seen in the USA. Child poverty has increased with children’s and youth centres have closing and the reduction in funding for education. There is a housing crisis and a rise in homelessness, people have insufficient income to lead a healthy life and there are more ignored communities with poor conditions leaving people with little reason for hope, aspiration and tangible possibility to improve their lot!  Marmot Review 2020i  [Executive Summary](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_executive%20summary_web.pdf)  [Full Report](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_full%20report.pdf) |
| **Support for Local Leadership - Peer Offer on Testing, Contract Tracing and Outbreak Management**  Please find a link to the LGAs sector led offer on Testing, Contact Tracing and Local Outbreak Management. It is aimed at Leaders and HWB Chairs, Chief Executives and the DPH. In June 2020 local government and directors of public health have been identified as critical in managing the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Upper tier councils have been tasked by Government to:    • establish a member led Local Outbreak Control Board (this could be an existing group such as the HWB)  • establish a director of public health led COVID-19 Health Protection Board (this may be new or already exist)  • develop a Local Outbreak Control Plan.  The LGA has developed a checklist to support councils identify readiness to respond to a local outbreak. This is supplemented by the offer of free remote peer support to help facilitate these conversations locally. The checklist is available [here](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Support%20for%20local%20leadership%20-%20peer%20offer%20on%20testing%20contract%20tracing%20and%20outbreak%20management.pdf).  **Research Funding for Local Authorities**  **The** NIHR have re-released a call for funding for small projects to assess how research can support local authorities: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/2030-local-authority-research-system-call-commissioning-brief/24480>.    The focus is to explore how current, or new, systems could be developed, at a local level, to support sustainable and influential research activity in/with local authorities. The intention of this award is to explore how better to support research into the wider determinants of health that are influenced by local government such as urban planning, local transport, economic growth, housing, education, environmental health and leisure facilities.  The deadline for applications is Friday 6 August 2020, at 1pm.  General questions about the call and guidance should be emailed to: [phr@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:phr@nihr.ac.uk). |
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