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| **Minding the Gap - News Brief: No. 149** |
| **Explainer: Test and Trace Service**The Test and Trace Service is an important tool within the overarching goal of reducing and then limiting the spread of COVID-19. However, this briefing outlines the purpose of the Test and Trace Service, progress made so far and today’s challenges, including around performance, structure and culture, system learning, funding and resources, and finally poses the question of creating a new model for the future. The purpose of this briefing is not to articulate a detailed new model but to suggest that, given the shortcomings of the current Test and Trace Service, now is the time for a serious conversation about a more human and local system that is closely rooted in the daily lives of people and communities.  [Briefing](https://www.adph.org.uk/2020/10/explainer-test-and-trace-service/) |
| **Commission for Equality in Mental Health**People with the poorest mental health too often find the access to help difficult and unequal. This briefing explores why communities with higher rates of mental ill health often get the least effective support. Poorer experiences of mental health support are also reported by many other groups that find their experiences are not well understood by services and find services poorly adjusted to their needsThe briefing also explores why these inequalities persist and looks at what can be done to bring about more equal outcomes and experiences from mental health support. It also sets out key elements of a system designed to achieve equality of outcomes from mental health support. They include a much higher level of voluntary and community sector involvement in mental health support, and a commitment to meet all mental health needs, building a trauma-informed and culturally competent workforce, and greater accountability and transparency within health and care systems for reducing inequalities.[Briefing](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/publication/download/CentreforMH_CommissionBriefing3.pdf) |
| **Why Everyone Affected by Dementia Should Take Up an Offer of the Flu Jab**Flu vaccination, or the flu jab, is available every year on the NHS. The flu jab won't protect you from catching coronavirus, but it’s more important than ever that people who are at higher risk of having severe COVID-19 symptoms take up the offer to have this vaccine.[Advice](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/blog/dementia-winter-flu-jab-advice?utm_source=dotdigital&utm_medium=email&dm_i=57EL,9WZZ,2DU87D,143AG,1) |
| **The Impact of COVID-19 to date on Older People’s Mental and Physical Health**If you are an older person, staying at home may help to protect you from the virus but, as this report shows, it can lead to other serious problems: for example, loss of function - mobility and balance especially as a result of moving around less; pain from untreated medical conditions that will often have got worse these last few months; and the psychological impact of living with so much stress, uncertainty and isolation, leading to increased loneliness among other problems.The report suggests that COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing health inequalities and there are differences among older people in how the pandemic has been experienced. Older people from more disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds have been more severely affected, both mentally and physically.[Report](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/reports-and-briefings/health--wellbeing/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-older-people_age-uk.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11910401_NEWSL_HMP%202020-10-23&dm_i=21A8,73A4H,FLWQCU,SNX7Y,1) |
| **This Isn’t Working: Reimagining Employment Support for People Facing Complex Disadvantage**Millions of people find it difficult, or even impossible, to work due to the impact of disabilities and long-term health conditions. This is often part of a complex picture of wider social disadvantages, which can include issues such as poverty, loneliness and isolation, problems with housing, drug and alcohol addiction, and contact with the criminal justice system.The report focuses on how to solve the issues which disabled people themselves report as being barriers to employment. This would contrast sharply with the top down, compliance driven system which, as the last decade demonstrates, has little impact on reducing the disability employment gap but an enormous, negative impact upon the lives of those subject to such policies. The report sets out policy recommendations to realise our vision of a more personalised, inclusive and effective approach to supporting people through – and out of – unemployment. [Report](https://www.newlocal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/This-Isnt-Working.pdf) |
| **The Long Shadow of Deprivation: Differences in Opportunities Across England**A socially mobile country provides equal opportunities for everyone, across big cities and small towns, and regardless of whether your parents are rich or poor. This report makes use of newly linked administrative data on all state-educated pupils born between 1986 and 1988 to follow a group of sons from where they grew up, looking at their family circumstances and their educational achievement, through to the labour market. This report finds that social mobility in England is a postcode lottery, with large differences across areas in both the adult pay of disadvantaged adults, and the size of the pay gap for those from deprived families, relative to those from affluent families. It also finds inequalities in infant health outcomes and mental health in areas with average lower pay.[Report](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923623/SMC_Long_shadow_of_deprivation_MAIN_REPORT_Accessible.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11850630_NEWSL_HWB_2020-10-12&dm_i=21A8,72006,FLWQCU,SKOCM,1) |
| **A Family Stimulus: Supporting Children, Families and the Economy Through the Pandemic**Families in Britain are struggling. Although the job retention scheme and its scaled down successor, the job support scheme, have and will spare some job losses – without significant further government action next year, unemployment could more than double from pre-Covid-19 levels. Childcare services have been heavily hit by the pandemic and the future viability of the sector is under threat. Recognising the strategic importance of the sector for our economy, as well as for children’s attainment and reducing the educational disadvantage gap, the government must support the sector by providing transitional funding. It should follow other countries by ramping up public investment in childcare, recognising it for what it is – a key social investment with huge job creation potential.This paper makes the case for a “family stimulus” – a much-needed boost to the income of hard-hit families through the social security system and targeted investment in childcare to ensure the continued functioning of the sector. Families have and will continue to struggle through the pandemic. To limit the damage, urgent uplifts should be applied to the significantly weakened social security system for families with children. Such payments will reduce child poverty, whilst also stimulating the economy. Although our proposed UC and child tax credit reforms (including removal of the two child limit) may be more efficient per pound spent than child benefit increases, wider considerations should weigh in as to the right approach. The figures involved are relatively modest in relation to the government’s response so far, but could make a huge difference to the lives of millions of people.[Paper](https://www.ippr.org/files/2020-10/a-family-stimulusoct20.pdf) |
| **An Intergenerational Audit for the UK**No family or individual has been unaffected by the impact of COVID-19 and some have been particularly hard-hit. Thousands of people have lost friends or loved ones, while others have lost their jobs and had to look to the state for financial support – perhaps for the first time. Still more fear for the security of their future employment as government-funded employment schemes end and a long and extended economic recovery period looms.This intergenerational audit focuses on economic living standards in Britain. It considers living standards within four domains: jobs, skills and pay; housing costs and security; taxes, benefits and household income; and wealth and assets. It finds that coronavirus has impacted on physical health and social interaction across cohorts, while the nature of the pre-pandemic economy has largely driven the impacts on living standards. This has manifested itself in physical health risks to older adults, and a clear distinction between the economic experiences of pensioners and working-age families during the lockdown.[Report](https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/10/Intergenerational-audit-2020.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11898514_NEWSL_HWB_2020-10-26&dm_i=21A8,730YA,FLWQCU,SMCAU,1) |
| **Levelling Up Communities**The Covid-19 Recovery Commission was formed in July 2020. The independent Commission brings together some of the UK’s most prominent business figures and entrepreneurs. The Commission will release three short papers before the end of 2020 and a final report in February 2021. This first report presents the Commission’s initial analysis on how inequality impacts on individuals, neighbourhoods and communities right across the UK, and how these inequalities have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It argues that a new approach to levelling up is needed to tackle these inequalities. This should focus on local impacts and use a comprehensive strategy, wider than simply rebalancing economic fortunes, to ensure the UK economy and society is fairer in the post-Covid-19 world than it was before.[Report](https://covidrecoverycommission.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Levelling-up-communities.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11898514_NEWSL_HWB_2020-10-26&dm_i=21A8,730YA,FLWQCU,SMBLP,1) |
| **Reducing Parental Conflict: Outcomes Framework**Local authorities are reporting a rise in parental conflict during the coronavirus pandemic, responding to conflict between parents has become an urgent issue in the UK. This report and framework highlights the relationships between different outcomes, including the links between parental conflict and outcomes for parents, children and the wider family. At the heart of the framework is children’s exposure to inter-parental conflict. This is a key element to target in order to improve outcomes for children, as evidence suggests that parental conflict exerts its major effects on children through such exposure, which can lead to the development of negative emotions, cognitions and representations of family relationships.The authors of this framework believe it can help local areas think about the risk factors that can influence parental conflict and child outcomes, but it is not designed to be a practical tool that local leaders can simply integrate as part of a local needs assessment, a local performance or data dashboard, or as part of service evaluation. However, it can help to bring policy and practice closer together which will help develop more practical tools to support the framework.[Framework](https://www.eif.org.uk/files/pdf/rpc-outcomes-framework.pdf) |
| **Tackling Health Inequalities for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities and Colleagues**Everyone deserves the same opportunities to lead a healthy life, no matter where they live or who they are. Yet, evidence shows that people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities continue to face health inequalities, discrimination in the workplace and are more likely to develop coronavirus (COVID-19) and die as a result of it.The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every child, adult, family and community in West Yorkshire and Harrogate, with some of the biggest impacts experienced by the most economically disadvantaged and those from BAME communities.This review specifically aimed to understand this impact on BAME communities and staff. The aim was to review existing work, to explore if this work was sufficient to address this impact and to identify recommendations for action to reduce this impact.[Report](https://www.wyhpartnership.co.uk/publications/tackling-health-inequalities-for-bame-communities-and-colleagues) |
| **A Telling Experience: Understanding the Impact of Covid-19 on People who Access Care and Support – A Rapid Evidence Review with Recommendations**This report aims to identify what worked well, and to highlight areas that people found difficult, both generally and in relation to social care during the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic, seen through the lens of personalisation.[Report](https://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/_assets/TLAP-TIG-report-on-Covid-19.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11898514_NEWSL_HWB_2020-10-26&dm_i=21A8,730YA,FLWQCU,SNJYN,1) |
| **Moving, Always Moving: The Normalisation of Housing Insecurity Among Children in Low Income Households in England**England is in the grip of a housing crisis. At the end of 2019, the National Housing Federation estimated that 8.4 million people in the country were living in insecure, unsuitable or unaffordable homes. We know how detrimental housing insecurity can be, including – and perhaps especially – for the children who experience it in their formative years. Studies exploring its links to a number of different outcomes have already shown that those who grow up with nowhere to call home are worse off psychologically, health-wise, socially, educationally and behaviourally, than those who have grown up in stable housing.This report looks at the impact of insecure housing on children and young people. It reviews previous studies on the impact on health and finds that children who frequently move home are likely to have worse health outcomes (both physical and mental) and that this can follow through to adulthood.[Report](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/Moving-Always-Moving-Report.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11898514_NEWSL_HWB_2020-10-26&dm_i=21A8,730YA,FLWQCU,SNK01,1) |
| **An Avoidable Crisis: The Disproportionate Impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities**The review suggests that Covid-19 has thrived on long standing inequalities in British society. According to the widely respected analysis and data, Black, Asian and minority ethnic people are more likely to work in frontline or shutdown sectors which have been overexposed to Covid-19, more likely to have co-morbidities which increase the risk of serious illness and more likely to face barriers to accessing healthcare. Black, Asian and minority ethnic people have also been subject to disgraceful racism as some have sought to blame different communities for the spread of the virus.The review makes both immediate and long-term recommendations to protect those most at risk and tackle structural inequalities in several key areas, including the machinery of government, health, employment and in the education system. The review also suggests that the virus has exposed the devastating impact of structural racism and it calls for immediate action to protect people this winter.[Review](https://kingsfundmail.org.uk/21A8-73OAB-FLWQCU-48OP4S-1/c.aspx) |
| **Poverty in Wales 2020**The pandemic has had a profound impact on jobs and financial security, with workers on a low wage or in poverty most affected. While the full labour market shifts are still unknown, it is important to understand and assess what these initial changes have meant for workers in poverty, as well as the labour market they face during recovery.Over the last decade, the overall proportion of people in poverty in Wales has hardly changed from an unacceptable one in four. However, this report looks at what has happened to poverty in Wales before and during the coronavirus outbreak. The analysis underlines the importance of work, social security and housing costs in solving poverty in Wales, as well as how much the coronavirus storm has unleashed strong currents sweeping many people into poverty and others deeper into poverty.[Report](file:///G%3A%5CPublic%20Health%5CJoint%20Public%20Health%5CMinding%20the%20Gap%5C2012%20and%20beyond%5CReports%5CHealth%20Inequalities%5CPoverty%20in%20Wales%202020%20-%20JRT%20%282020%29.pdf) |
| **Mind the Income Gap**The income gap for those with mental health problems is significant – annual median income for people with common mental health conditions is estimated to be £8,400 less than that for the wider population. People with mental health problems are more likely to be unemployed, which has been driven in part by inflexible recruitment practices and discrimination from employers and when people with mental health problems are in work, they are more likely to be in the lowest paid occupations and face significant challenges in accessing higher paid jobs People with mental health problems are more likely to receive benefits, which provide a low level of financial support and they have also been hit harder by the freeze in working-related benefits.This report takes a longer-term look at the labour market and social security system, to help us understand how outcomes in each drive the mental health income gap and the challenges people with mental health problems can face. Mental health income gap is both large and long-standing. With typical incomes of people experiencing some mental health problems just two-thirds that of those without similar conditions, closing this gap will be a huge task. Nor is the income gap a new development or driven exclusively by recent changes; many of the issues identified in the analysis of the data and according to this report are embedded in the practices of employers and the social security system[Report](https://www.moneyandmentalhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Mind-the-income-gap.pdf) |
| **What is the Science Behind England's Second National Lockdown?**This article looks behind the data and statistics that lead to the second National lockdown.[Article](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/02/what-is-the-science-behind-englands-second-national-lockdown?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other) |
| **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 2020[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) |
| **COVID-19 and Inequalities: Levelling-up in our post-pandemic future**In case you missed our Covid-19 and Inequalities seminar on the 16th October, the video link is now available to view online and slides available to download.<https://arc-nenc.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19-and-inequalities-levelling-up-in-our-post-pandemic-future/> |
| **Living our Values Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the British Association of Social Workers (BASW)****Venue:**  Online**Date:**  Thursday, 12th November, 2020**Time:**  16:00 to 17:15Social work has an international Code of Ethics that includes challenging discrimination and recognising diversity. BASW is engaged in extensive work to increase its equality, diversity and inclusion, and to support the social work profession to challenge inequality.This free online seminar will share experiences and learning from BASW’s equality, diversity and inclusion work. It will be place this in the context of international social work efforts to promote social justice and draw on learning from other countries, and will explore the challenges in BASW’s work and highlight factors that have supported change.This event will be held online from 16.00 to 17.10. For further details or to request your free seminar place please [click here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/living-our-values-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-in-basw-registration-122557559961)PLEASE NOTE that places are limited so please be sure you can attend before booking.  You must also be an Academy member in order to attend any events. If you are not yet a member you will be prompted to join when registering to attend this event. |
| **How to Build an Inclusive Workplace by Understanding Social Exclusion**Venue: Online (Leeds University Business School)Date: Wednesday, 18 November 2020Time: 13:00 – 14:00Whatever happens in our society effects the workplace. While we live in increasingly diverse societies, many workplaces are struggling to build truly inclusive environments. In this webinar, Dr Meenakshi Sarkar will look at how understanding social exclusion and the structural factors present in our workplace can help us develop more robust strategies for inclusion and diversity in our organisations. Dr Meenakshi Sarkar, Divisional Director International and Teaching Fellow in Work and Employment Relations Division, Leeds University Business School.Zoom access information will be sent after registration, 1 hour before the event and 10 minutes before the event.To register [click here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-build-an-inclusive-workplace-by-understanding-social-exclusion-tickets-125591592835) |
| **Achieving Equitable Public Services through the Empowerment and Influence of Clients, Citizens and Communities****Venue:** Online**Date:** Thursday, 19th November 2020**Time:** 10:00 - 13:00Social inequities are often reinforced by public service systems through the replication of discrimination and exclusion. Responses to the current COVID-19 crisis have highlighted historical injustices and differences in impact relating, for example, to age, gender, ethnicity, migration status and disability.  At the same time, cross-sector responses highlight the potential of public services to be reconfigured at scale to mainstream and prioritise action on inequity. **Programme Overview**Lela Kogbara, Director, Black Thrive Global: *Improving employment outcomes for Black people with long-term health conditions through collaborative radical solutions.*Olly Newton, Executive Director, The Edge Foundation:  *Young people influencing education policy: tokenism, changemakers and future centring.*Jason Grant-Rowles, Lived Experience Researcher, Synergi Collaborative Centre: *Biographical storytelling to understand ethnic inequalities in severe mental illness.*Amy Barnes, Lecturer, University of Sheffield*: Increasing participation and influence in local decision-making: a review of the evidence.*Debate and discussion in small groups. Register[**here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/partnerships-for-social-justice-workshop-four-tickets-125921116449)for free. Zoom link will be shared the day before the event |
| **Fuse Quarterly Research Meeting****Focusing on National and Regional Food Poverty Perspectives****Venue:** Online**Date:** Wednesday 25 November 2020**Time:** 9:30 – 11:00am (please note the correct day)This Fuse QRM will provide an overview of food insecurity in North East England and nationally, with a particular focus on COVID-19. Our Keynote Speaker is Dr Rachel Loopstra, Lecturer in Food Nutrition, King’s College London. She will speak about vulnerability to food insecurity during COVID-19. Following her presentation one of our policy and practice partners will discuss the impact from their perspective, with members of Fuse providing ‘bitesize’ insights into their work. Attendees will then have the opportunity to put questions to the speakers. |
| **Prevention in Mental Health: From Theory to Practice** **Venue:** Online**Date: 7th – 10th December 2020**Mental ill health will always be a part of many people’s lives but, increasingly, many of the causes of mental ill health can be successfully addressed. Preventive approaches can help to reduce levels of mental ill health in the population and can also mean that more people living with mental health problems are able to stay well and avoid relapse or crisis.The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that addressing growing levels of mental ill health is one of the defining public health challenges of our time. Preventive approaches are fundamental to achieving this, but there often needs to be greater clarity about what these mean in practice and how they can be implemented within the NHS, local communities, schools and families.From health promotion to suicide prevention, and from the role of general practitioners to that of local authorities, this conference will bring together experts from all parts of the health and care sector to discuss what prevention means with regard to mental health and how preventive approaches can be applied in practice. Join us to hear from a range of speakers, including academic and policy experts, national body leaders, frontline staff, experts by experience and young people.This event is run in partnership with the Mental Health Foundation. You can watch the sessions live or catch up on demand until Sunday 20 December.How does the virtual conference format work?Full programme coming soon.Early bird rates available until Sunday 8 November. Find out more and register [here](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/prevention-mental-health?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11858934_MKEVT_J1344_Prevention%20in%20mental%20health_Soft_launch&utm_content=Find%20out%20more%20and%20register&dm_i=21A8,726EU,FLWQCU,SI5Q3,1) |
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