



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Public Health
England

NHS
England

VCSE
health &
wellbeing
alliance ■

Voluntary Sector Update and News March 2018

Welcome

Welcome to the Department of Health and Social Care's voluntary sector newsletter. This includes updates on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance and news from the Department, NHS England and Public Health England.

Mailing list

Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to your networks and memberships. If anyone would like to be added to our mailing list and receive this newsletter, please email HWAlliance@dh.gsi.gov.uk

In this month's edition:

- 1. Update from the Department of Health & Social Care**
- 2. NHS England Update**
- 3. Public Health England News**
- 4. Health and Wellbeing Alliance News and Events**

1. Update from the Department of Health & Social Care

'We need to do better on social care'

The Secretary of State for Health has outlined 7 key principles that will guide the Government's thinking ahead of the social care green paper, which is to be published later in 2018, as social care is not being held to a high enough standard. His principles are:

- quality and safety embedded in service provision
- whole-person, integrated care with the NHS and social care systems operating as one
- the highest possible control given to those receiving support
- a valued workforce
- better practical support for families and carers
- a sustainable funding model for social care supported by a diverse, vibrant and stable market
- greater security for all – for those born or developing a care need early in life and for those entering old age who do not know what their future care needs may be

He added that innovation will be central to all of these principles and that embracing technology will be essential.

Read the [full speech on GOV.UK](#).

Central booking system for NI women seeking an abortion in England

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has established a central booking service that will be run by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS). Women from Northern Ireland can call a single telephone number to make an appointment with the most appropriate provider, based on:

- the woman's requirements

- her medical condition
- provider availability

The number is 0333 234 2184.

The central booking system will be funded through a grant from the Department of Health and Social Care, with support from the Government Equalities Office and HM Treasury.

Education Secretary praises profession on World Social Work Day

The Secretary of State for Education has marked World Social Work Day (20th March) by setting out a series of measures to raise the status of the profession and praising social workers for the difference they make in supporting children and families in their care.

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced two new appointments to work closely with the social work profession and share best practice across the social care system.

Lord Patel of Bradford, a former social worker, will chair the new dedicated social work regulator, Social Work England, which will set professional, education and training standards for social workers.

The new regulator jointly set up by DfE and DHSC will also make sure all registered child, family and adult social workers have the correct qualifications and meet the standards required for the job and remain fit to practise.

Women to have dedicated midwives throughout pregnancy and birth

Health and Social Care Secretary Jeremy Hunt has announced Plans to train 3,000 more midwives over 4 years and further investment in maternity support staff. There will be 650 more midwives in training next year, and planned increases of 1,000 in the subsequent years.

The first step towards achieving this will see 20% of women benefiting from a 'continuity of carer' model by March 2019. Research suggests that women who use this model are:

- 19% less likely to miscarry
- 16% less likely to lose their baby
- 24% less likely to have a premature baby

NHS gets funding green light for new buildings, wards and beds

The Secretary of State for Health has announced that forty NHS hospitals and community services will get £760 million to modernise and transform their buildings and services in the year of the NHS's 70th birthday. It is the biggest investment of its kind in the NHS in over 10 years. The NHS will spend the money on programmes to meet local demand, such as new urgent care centres and refurbishing mental health facilities.

The Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin sustainability and transformation partnership (STP) will receive £300 million to transform local hospital services. The government is also releasing £150 million to support the NHS's work to become more efficient.

The remainder of the money will be awarded to 39 smaller projects, [including](#):

- £6 million to upgrade services of 8 trusts across Yorkshire
- £8 million for a new health and wellbeing centre to join up local NHS services in Kent
- £13 million for 2 new urgent care centres in Newton Abbot and Torquay, and refurbishment of Torbay Hospital's A&E department
- several million pounds for local NHS services in London, including one project worth up to £11 million

The Queen's Birthday Honours

The Department of Health & Social Care coordinate health related nominations for HM The Queen's Honours rounds consisting of New Year and Queen's Birthday (June) rounds. Nominations may be submitted at any time and consideration is given to both paid staff and voluntary workers. Nominations for staff should reflect those working above and beyond the expected line of duty. Honours may help raise the profile of under-represented roles and provide an opportunity to fairly represent gender, ethnic backgrounds and geographical regions. If you wish to make a nomination, the form and guidance can be downloaded at the following [web address](#).

National bodies agree on shared view of quality for general practice

The 11 national organisations, which together are responsible for the regulation and oversight of general practice in England, have published a joint view of the principles that define quality in general practice. This national strategy will form the basis for defining quality measures and best practice. The [joint view of the principles that define quality in general practice](#) can be found here.

2. NHS England Update

[NHS 'one stop shop' for prostate cancer means faster and more accurate diagnosis](#)

The NHS is using cutting edge technology to help slash diagnosis times for prostate cancer from six weeks to one day in a world-leading new approach that virtually eliminates the risk of deadly sepsis.

The new scanning and diagnosis method means a 'one-stop-shop' for suspected prostate cancer, the most common cancer in men in the UK, with over 40,000 new cases diagnosed every year.

The NHS is determined to cut the mortality rate for prostate cancer in the same way that has seen breast cancer rates decline by 10%.

Under the new 'rapid pathway' approach, which is being developed in three hospitals across West London, men have a scan, get their results and can have any necessary biopsy, using new FUSION technology, in one day, rather than multiple outpatient visits over four to six weeks.

The approach involves specialist clinical expertise as well as equipment and NHS England is currently looking into how it could be rolled out to other major cancer centres across England.

The new technique uses highly detailed 'multi-parametric' MRI – mpMRI – scans, currently being rolled out across the NHS, which provide much higher quality imagery. Between a third and 40% of patients who have an mpMRI scan will find out on the same day that they do not have prostate cancer and can safely avoid having a biopsy. The machines are also able to pick up growths that are much harder to detect.

This new approach is being piloted at Charing Cross Hospital, Epsom Hospital and Queen Mary's Hospital in Roehampton by RM Partners, the Cancer Alliance for west London.

England's top nurse announces major new recruitment and retention campaign to coincide with 70th anniversary of NHS

The new campaign will spotlight the enormous contribution of nurses and midwives in the NHS now and over the last seven decades, and look at the wide ranging career opportunities in the 21st century NHS in a drive to recruit and retain more nurses and midwives into the profession.

The new campaign, to be run in conjunction with national organisations, is part of a package of measures announced by Professor Jane Cummings, these include:

- 165 'nursing and midwifery ambassadors' to boost the image and perception of nursing and midwifery – they will spearhead a campaign to promote nursing as a career choice including visiting schools
- Taking steps to protect the title "nurse" in law – to remove confusion and provide added reassurance to the public and patients, the CNO will work with the CNOs from across the UK to review options for a legal change to ensure only those registered as a nurse can use this professional title
- Launching a 70-Day nationwide campaign to end 'pyjamas paralysis' – giving patients back one million days of their precious time that would otherwise be wasted in bed in a hospital or care home.

NHS 70 Campaign- New 10p coin commemorating NHS's birthday

The Royal Mint last week released 26 new 10p coins one of which celebrates the NHS.

NHS70 are asking if members can tweet one of [the following messages](#) to their networks.

Youth Volunteering Campaign Webinars

As part of the 70th birthday celebrations for the NHS, NHS England is working with partners to encourage the development of volunteering, with a particular focus on the NHS70 Youth Volunteering Campaign. In support of the campaign, NHS England is running a series of interactive webinars between January and May 2018.

April's webinars will cover 'The Impact and Value of Youth volunteering'

May will cover Ensuring Organisational buy-in for Youth Volunteering programmes'

For more information regarding the dates for these webinars, please see [here](#).

Flagship NHS Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Programme

More than half of overweight patients who routinely attended sessions on the NHS Type 2 diabetes prevention programme achieved an average weight loss equivalent to nearly 15 double cheese burgers, new data has revealed.

So far well over 50% of people have completed the flagship scheme after attending at least eight support sessions over a nine month period – losing an average of 3.3 kgs. The early findings show the programme has exceeded expectations with patients losing an average of 1kg more than originally predicted.

Last year, the health chief ordered hospitals to take super-size chocolate bars and “grab bags” of sugary snacks off of the shelves in another step of the NHS plan to fight obesity, diabetes and tooth-decay. While data is still being collected, some of the headline results from some of the suppliers involved so far include:

- A large hospital retailer removed advertising and promotions on NHS estates and has sold over 1.1m fewer single chocolate bars in the last year, and removed 275,000 fewer (23%) large bars of chocolate
- 175,000 more pieces of fruit has been sold in hospital stores
- The Royal Voluntary Society has worked with suppliers to make healthier sandwiches, that now account for more than half of the total sales

It is revealed that three years after the diabetes prevention programme was first announced at the 2015 Diabetes UK conference, it is now on the verge of achieving complete national coverage in adults. In the last 21 months of roll-out, more than 154,000 people have been referred, with around 66,000 people taking up places.

The programme also recently launched digital support to patients so more than 5,000 people are expected to benefit from a pilot project. Five companies and eight areas of the country are test driving a range of apps, gadgets, wristbands and other innovative digital products and in the first two months around 800 people have been referred and more than half of those have logged onto a service since.

[Care home pharmacists to help cut overmedication and unnecessary hospital stays for frail older patients](#)

NHS England has announced plans to recruit and deploy hundreds of pharmacists into care homes to help reduce overmedication and cut unnecessary hospital stays.

Around 180,000 people living in nursing or residential homes will have their prescriptions and medicines reviewed by the new pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. This is significant as studies suggest up to one in 12 of all hospital admissions are medicines-related and two thirds of these are preventable.

NHS trials show pharmacists reviewing medicines improved patients’ quality of life by reducing unnecessary use and bringing down emergency admissions, with less time spent in hospitals. This approach also led to meaningful savings in unnecessary prescribing costs of £249 per patient in one pilot over a year.

NHS England will roll out the approach by funding recruitment of 240 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The reviews will be done in coordination with GPs and practice-based clinical pharmacists to ensure people are prescribed the right medicines, at the right time, in the right way to improve their health and overall quality of life.

[NHS teams up with councils to improve ‘housing health’ with home MOTs, stair lifts, falls helplines and quick grants](#)

The NHS is teaming up with councils to improve health through better housing through home MOTs, quick homes grants, falls help lines, stair lifts and heating systems among others.

A King’s Fund and National Housing Federation Report out now on housing and health says the cost of poor housing to the NHS is £1.4 billion per year. The report says that reducing excess cold in homes to an acceptable level would save the NHS around £848 million a year and reducing all falls in the home could save it £435 million. NHS costs could also be reduced by £2 billion per year if poor-quality homes with health hazards, such as cold, damp and falls hazards, were brought up to standard.

Next Steps on The NHS' Five Year Forward View said addressing the wider determinants of health, such as housing, affects demand for primary and acute services; it could only be done if the NHS and local government worked closely together to improve health and make best use of available funding.

Dramatic annual surge in online GP services as patients sign up for convenience

Nearly 14 million patients across England are now securely using online services with their family doctor to book appointments, order repeat prescriptions and view their records – saving time for themselves and busy GP practices.

Latest figures show an increase of 42 per cent in those people who are signed up for online services compared to the same time last year, helping to ease pressure on GPs and their staff – and saving patients' time and money. It means 24 per cent of patients – 13.9 million – in England are now registered to book appointments, order repeat prescriptions, view their patient records and see their test results without having to phone or visit their GP surgery.

GPs whose practices have embraced online services are already seeing some of the benefits, with fewer patient calls and fewer people failing to attend – saving time that could be used on other activities within the GP practice.

One GP practice, The Swan in Buckinghamshire, managed to sign up 1,200 patients as part of a focused campaign, halving of its daily phone calls from around 50 calls a day to 25 after offering online test results to its patients. This reduction in calls has given staff an extra 75 minutes of time a day, or six hours 25 minutes a week to spend on other areas of their work.

3. Public Health England News

Duncan Selbie's Bulletin

Friday messages from Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England, are available here: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/category/duncan-selbie-friday-message/>

Latest technology supports new mums to breastfeed

Almost three-quarters of women start breastfeeding when their child is born, however by 6 to 8 weeks this drops to just 44%. This makes breastfeeding rates in England among the lowest in the world.

A new survey of 1,000 mothers of young children commissioned by Public Health England (PHE) revealed that in hindsight, mothers wished they had been better prepared for breastfeeding. Before the birth of their first child, mums' biggest priorities were:

- buying baby equipment (66%)
- preparing for labour (49%)
- buying baby clothes (40%)

However, post birth, nearly a quarter (24%) wished they had read about and were more prepared for breastfeeding and 1 in 4 (26%) of those who had given breast milk to their first child wished they had known that asking for help can make a real difference.

The survey highlighted that almost a third (31%) of mothers also felt embarrassed about asking for help with breastfeeding from healthcare professionals. Many mothers can find breastfeeding challenging and often this may cause them to give up. It also found that almost two thirds (64%) felt that access to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week breastfeeding support, such as a phone line, website

or Chatbot, would make new mothers more likely to have a positive experience of breastfeeding, more likely to decide to try breastfeeding (59%) and breastfeed for longer (58%).

PHE recommends exclusive breastfeeding for around the first 6 months. Breastfeeding boosts a baby's ability to fight illness and infection, and babies who are not breastfed are more likely to get diarrhoea and chest infections. Breastfeeding also lowers a mother's risk of breast cancer and may reduce the risk of ovarian cancer.

Plans to cut excess calorie consumption unveiled

Major steps to cut people's excessive calorie intake have been unveiled by Public Health England (PHE), as part of the government's strategy to cut childhood and adult obesity.

The package includes:

- new evidence highlighting overweight or obese boys and girls consume up to 500 and 290 calories too many each day respectively
- a challenge to the food industry to reduce calories in products consumed by families by 20% by 2024
- the launch of the latest One You campaign, encouraging adults to consume 400 calories at breakfast, and 600 for lunch and dinner; this comes as adults consume 200 to 300 calories in excess each day

The government's challenge to the food industry is set out in Calorie reduction: the scope and ambition for action, published today, Tuesday 6 March 2018, by PHE. As with the sugar reduction programme, the industry has 3 ways to reduce calories:

- change the recipe of products
- reduce portion size
- encourage consumers to purchase lower calorie products

The next step in the programme involves engagement with the whole food industry such as retailers, manufacturers, major restaurants, cafés, takeaway and delivery companies and health and charity sectors to develop category guidelines. These will be published in mid-2019.

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

Faculty of Homeless and Inclusion Health have launched their revised standards for commissioners

The Faculty of Homeless and Inclusion Health have just launched their revised standards for commissioners.

The first edition published in May 2011 considered healthcare for homeless people. The second edition published in September 2013 with the support of the National Inclusion Health Board included vulnerable migrants, Gypsies and Travellers and sex workers as well as homeless people. This third edition incorporates the latest evidence, and a full revision of the Standards.

The Faculty's aim is to improve the quality of healthcare for homeless people and other excluded groups. We do this by setting standards and supporting services in which generosity, kindness, and compassion combine with a passionate commitment to professional quality to become the defining characteristics of health services for homeless and multiply disadvantaged people. The Faculty is hosted by Pathway.

[Formulation of Young Onset Dementia Diagnostic Guide for GPs](#)

Young Dementia Network has created a young onset dementia decision-making guide for GPs to support them to identify the most common signs and symptoms of young onset and rarer forms of dementia.

Endorsed by the Royal College of GPs, it aims to help GPs identify the 'red flags' which suggest referral to specialist diagnostic services may be required.

You can view and download the guide [here](#). Alternatively, we can post you a copy. To request your copy or to give feedback about the guide, please email network@youngdementiauk.org

Hospice UK has created a new tool to understand local population need for palliative and end of life care

Hospice UK has launched a new tool to bring together a range of public data about local populations across clinical, demographic and social characteristics.

It's been designed to help support hospices, local decision makers and other service providers across health and social care to plan for the future, identify unmet need and to innovate services based on intelligence about the end of life and palliative care needs of the local population.

The Population Needs Assessment Tool (PopNAT) allows you to interrogate the data by service or by local health geographic areas, and it has been designed both for people who may be new to population analysis, as well as more experienced users, who can drill down into more detail through the tool. PopNAT includes information on GP surgeries and care homes by area, and a section on different uses and ways into the data.

Hospice UK has also published a [blog about the tool](#) which provides more background to this. You can access the tool freely at <https://popnat.hospiceuk.org/>

New Age UK report: Struggling to Cope with Later Life

Last week, Age UK published a new report, '[Struggling to Cope with Later Life](#).' Analysis shows that almost one and a half million over-65s (1.465m) feel that what happens in their life is determined by factors beyond their control. Almost a million (936,642) say that their life rarely or never has any meaning for them.

The report explores these issues in greater depth and includes a checklist of top tips for older people and those around them on how to avoid getting dragged down as they age, and how to get to a better place again if this happens. Based on interviews with older people, the research finds that some who have led busy and purposeful lives can end up feeling that their contributions are long forgotten and that they don't count for anything anymore. What they are doing to help address these kinds of issues?

As part of the research, Age UK also produced a series of video interviews with older people around difficulties they feel asking for help and support, employment, debt and money worries, and choice and motivation. Watch these interviews [here](#).