

# Minding the Gap

Improving Health & Reducing Inequalities



## Yorkshire and the Humber Health and Wellbeing Monthly Update

Issue 94 – October 2023

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.*

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## POPULATIONS

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**Improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for children & young people**

**Regional Lead: Gemma Mann**

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No updates this month.

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**Promoting healthy ageing across the lifecourse**

**Regional Lead: Ali Iliff**

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### **Knowledge is Power: making life easier after a diagnosis of dementia**

DEEP, the UK Network of Dementia Voices, has published a new co-produced resource: [Knowledge is Power](#).

### **Ageing Well Without Children**

There are over 1 million people aged over 65 in the UK who have never been parents, and increasing numbers of people living far away, or possibly estranged from their children. Understanding the impact of ageing without children and how this affects older adults is important for commissioners and providers of care, support and services for those in later life. Ageing Well Without Children has produced a new [resource](#) for those running, or interested in running groups for people ageing without children.

### **ADPH position statement on healthy ageing**

ADPH has published a [position statement on healthy ageing](#). The key messages are:

- The proportion of older adults in the UK is projected to reach 24.7% by 2049 and this will bring benefits as well as challenges.
- A whole system approach is needed to support older adults to remain independent and healthy.
- A renewed focus is needed on prevention across the life course to support people to age healthily and to delay or prevent the onset of long-term conditions.
- Public health should promote the importance of ageing well and highlight the contribution and skills of older people.

The position statement includes recommendations for action at national and local level.

### **GIRFT webinar: Best practice for improving healthcare in dementia services**

Dr Ian Davidson, GIRFT national clinical lead for adult crisis & acute care mental health, invites you to join a GIRFT webinar on 15th November 2023 between 12.30 – 13.30 hrs to discuss how healthcare services can address the increasing need for dementia services.

[Register here](#)

As the population profile ages, more people will be in 'at risk' categories for dementia, and their care and support needs will change. Healthcare responses need to be dynamic and able to evolve with the person's changing presentation. Dr Adrian Hopper, GIRFT clinical lead for geriatric medicine, will present on the interface between physical health, frailty and dementia in urgent care. We will also hear a trust case study from Ben Underwood, of Cambridge & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, on the prediction of need for dementia, and from a carer expert by experience, Linda Pointon, on what good looks like in dementia healthcare.

Please share this invitation with all colleagues working in dementia services.

This webinar will take place on MS Teams Live Events. Please [register](#) and you will receive the joining link via separate email prior to the event.

### **North East and Yorkshire TEC (Tech Enabled Care) Conference 2023**

NHSE's North East and Yorkshire Ageing Well team is hosting a Tech Enabled Care Conference to focus on Care in the community on Thursday 30th November between 10:00-16:00. This will comprise of a series of presentations showcasing the great tech enabled work being carried out across the region and also there will be a marketplace for suppliers to provide information about their products. You can register to attend the virtual conference [here](#).

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

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#### **Information, resources and guidance**

**National framework for NHS action on inclusion health:** On World Homelessness Day (10<sup>th</sup> October), [NHS England published a framework for action on inclusion health](#). The framework provides practical information to support NHS systems and their partners to take action on reducing health inequalities by focussing on inclusion health groups.

A range of partners and stakeholders contributed to its development, including people with lived experience, OHID, UKHSA and VCSEs. NHS England are asking stakeholders to share the framework through your organisations and networks and encourage teams in your systems to develop practical plans to improve inclusion health. NHS England have also produced a [blog on reducing inequalities in inclusion health groups](#) and a short [YouTube video](#) featuring Prof Bola Owolabi, Director – Health Inequalities at NHS England, visiting Somerset to see a service designed to support people experiencing homelessness.

**Suicide prevention strategy for England: 2023 to 2028:** DHSC [have published the government's ambitions](#) over the next 5 years to reduce suicide rates, improve support for people who have self-harmed and improve support for people bereaved by suicide. The document does refer to some inclusion health populations on pages 15, 22 onwards and 58. There are lots of opportunities to influence the work, see the [action plan](#) for more information.

**Homeless Link, Pathway and Groundswell** have in March of this year developed and [published a set of resources](#) to support organisations to manage the risk and impact of suicide for people experiencing homelessness.

**Access to Substance Misuse Services for Homeless Migrants:** [Homeless Link](#) have produced a [toolkit](#) to help frontline staff and managers working with non-UK nationals experiencing homelessness. This toolkit aims to help said staff better understand migrants' rights and entitlements to drug and alcohol services. Whilst London focused, it is also applicable to our region.

**Winter vaccinations:** [Information](#) and [resources](#) (translated and easy read also available) for the winter flu and COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

**Allocation of asylum accommodation guidance update:** On 9<sup>th</sup> October the Home Office made a change to the suitability criteria set out to the Allocation of Accommodation Policy guidance ([Allocation of asylum accommodation policy \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)). Previously, if an individual may be a victim of modern slavery, including that they have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism and it has been found that there are reasonable grounds or conclusive grounds to believe that they are a victim of modern slavery or a decision is still pending, they are not suitable for being accommodated at Napier, the ex-MoD sites (in Wethersfield and Scampton), vessels, or for room sharing. Now, until an individual has received a positive reasonable grounds decision, they can still be accommodated on these sites or room share in the wider accommodation estate. Individuals that receive a positive reasonable grounds or conclusive grounds decision through the National Referral Mechanism will not be accommodated at Napier, the ex-MoD sites, vessels, or in room sharing.

Those with a responsibility for assessing an individual's suitability to be accommodated at these sites or room share in the wider estate are still expected to apply discretion and assess an individual's needs on a case by case.

**Homeless health consortium report on improving access to dental care:** Groundswell along with Homeless Link and Pathway form the [Homeless Health Consortium](#) to sit on the [Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Health and Wellbeing Alliance](#). The alliance is funded by the DHSC and is designed to facilitate collaboration and co-production between the VCSE sector and health system partners by bringing the voices and expertise of the sector, and the people and communities they represent, into national policy development and delivery.

As part of their work with the alliance last year they worked on a project to explore dental care for people experiencing homelessness, looking at the barriers and experience that people face and working with specialists to identify different models of care that can work to support people to access and engage with dental care. The [report](#) from the project has been published.

[Spotlight](#) has been updated to include over 40 new indicators based on data from UKHSA detailing trends in hepatitis, HIV and health behaviours in people who inject drugs, and data from Homeless Link about healthcare access and health outcomes of

people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping. The next update is scheduled for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and will include new indicators on TB in inclusion health populations from UKHSA, and healthcare access of GRT populations from Friends, Families and Travellers

**Groundswell blog and report on improving the health of people living in temporary accommodation:** Groundswell have produced [a blog and report](#) on how the health of people living in temporary accommodation can be improved.

**New commentary published in The BMJ on NHS entitlements for migrants:** The OHID national Inclusion Health team, UKHSA and Refugee Council have published a [commentary in The BMJ raising awareness among healthcare professionals on NHS entitlements for migrants](#).

**UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls** has issued on [position paper](#) on eliminating discrimination against sex workers and securing their human rights. It documents human rights abuses of sex workers globally and proposes full decriminalisation

**New Streetlink Website:** Following the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) commitment in the Rough Sleeping Strategy to improve the platform, the [new Streetlink website](#) has been launched.

The new website aims to utilise a better interface and overall design to make it more user-friendly; it is also being prioritised as the main tool for making an alert about a person who is sleeping outside rather than with the separate app previously used. Notably, **the alert system has been streamlined** – users no longer need to register to make an alert.

**WHO five themes to improve mental health care for refugees and migrants:** On World Mental Health Day (10<sup>th</sup> October) the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) published a report on mental health of refugees and migrants: risk and protective factors and access to care](#).

## Events

**Heart of the Nation: Migration and the making of the NHS** is a [multimedia project](#) inviting diverse communities to engage in fresh and surprising ways with the stories of migrants who have shaped the NHS during the 75th anniversary year of the institution. They plan to stage 'Heart of the Nation' in Trinity Leeds Shopping Centre from 10 November 2023 - 18 February 2024. It will be free to enter with a capacity to welcome 20,000 people during the 3 months.

## Research

**NHS Race and Health Observatory:** [Inequalities in Mental Health Care for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Communities Identifying Best Practice September 2023](#) This research project, funded by the NHS Race and Health Observatory, aimed to identify best practice in mental health for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities.

**The Lancet article: National public health response to an outbreak of toxigenic *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* among asylum seekers in England, 2022: a descriptive epidemiological study**

In July 2022, an increase in diphtheria cases was reported among asylum seekers arriving by small boats to England. Rising case numbers presented challenges for case and contact management in initial reception centres, prompting changes to national guidance and implementation of population-based control measures.

The increase in diphtheria coincided with a high volume of asylum seekers arriving by small boats via the channel to England during Summer 2022, and subsequently increased clinical awareness of the disease among this population.

UKHSA undertook a descriptive [epidemiological analysis](#) of cases of toxigenic *C diphtheriae* among asylum seekers arriving by small boats to England during 2022. The article discusses complex issues and identifies pressures generated by continual movements as part of the relocation pathways.

**Bridging hotels and homelessness for Afghan households research report (Local Government Association):** To monitor homelessness pressures caused by the closure of bridging hotels for Afghan nationals, in August 2023, the LGA sent an online survey to 44 councils in England with bridging hotels in their area. The findings are [here](#).

**Using a Meta-ethnographic Approach to Explore the Role of Interprofessional Education in Inclusion Health for Health and Care Staff:** To read the article for free and in full, click [here](#)

**New Research: Evaluation of a Pathway Team for Homeless Mental Health inpatients:** Cambridge University Press have published new research, which evaluates the first attempt to apply the [Pathway model](#) to mental health inpatient wards. Encouragingly, the results of the study found a marked reduction in length of stay, which constitutes preliminary support for the Pathway model in mental health services. To read the piece in full, click [here](#).

**New Blog on Population Health Management (PHM) and Inclusion Health: Professor Durka Dougall,** CEO of the Centre for Population Health, has published a [new blog on their website](#) which explores the link between PHM and inclusion health in detail. PHM is a data-driven model, which Professor Dougall argues can be applied to the inclusion health sector, albeit with some caveats. Most notably, that a data-driven model necessitates good data quality, which is often lacking in inclusion health spaces. To read more of Professor Dougall's thoughts on the topic, see [here](#)

**NIHR-funded study on specialist GP healthcare models for people experiencing homelessness:** An NIHR-funded study, led by King's College London (KCL) and University of Surrey comparing different models of primary health care provision has found [specialist GP healthcare models that help care for people experiencing homelessness are more effective than regular services](#).

**Friends, Families and Travellers** [research summary](#) exploring the experiences of suicide within Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and the impact it has on loved ones.

## **VARIOUS**

[The Children and Young People's Resettlement Fund](#) aims to support the young people on specific pathways from Ukraine, Hong Kong and Afghanistan. DLUHC fund provides grants for projects which support the specific needs of children and young people aged 21 and under who have come to, or settled in England via specific pathways from Ukraine, Hong Kong and Afghanistan.

Local authorities and VCSE organisations based in England can submit bids for grants for suitable projects. Up to £2.5 million available in funding across 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025. Deadline for applications: 1st November 2023.

[Dashboards on homelessness - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#): DLUHC Dashboards on statutory homelessness, local authority performance, homelessness flows, and support needs.

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# DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & RISK FACTORS

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

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## **Biodiversity Climate Change and Health**

The climate and ecological crises are both driven by human activities. They each have catastrophic implications for human health and their strong interconnection creates a vicious circle where each is reinforced by the other. This policy report from the [UK Health Alliance on Climate Change](#) describes the impacts of biodiversity loss on land and oceans for human health and puts forward recommendations to reduce biodiversity loss, restore nature, and achieve climate goals for the benefit of health.

## **Event: Green for health research across Yorkshire and the North East (6<sup>th</sup> December)**

This event is a celebration of current research activity linking health with green/blue space and a chance to inspire future collaborations. This is a collaborative event between Humber NHS Teaching Foundation Trust, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Teaching Foundation Trust, the York Environmental Sustainability Institute (YESI) and the Institute for Mental Health Research (IMRY) at the University of York. It is open to those involved in or wanting to become involved in related clinical and academic research. [Use this link to book your place.](#)

## **Practice example: Oxfordshire Healthy Place Shaping**

Colleagues working in Healthy Places may be interested in these [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment pages](#) in Oxfordshire that include a very nice video. If you want to see more Healthy Places examples from across the country join the [Healthy Places Knowledge Hub](#)

## **Hot Food Takeaway Planning Guide**

Do you need further resources/ support when using the planning system to promote a healthier food environment? Look no further. Dr Helen Moore, Associate Professor at Teesside University have produced an [infographic](#) and a [How To Guide](#). They are inviting a wider network of planning and public health professionals to read through the documents and to use them as they see fit. If possible, we would like you to feedback on the tool- contact [karen.horrocks@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.horrocks@dhsc.gov.uk) to arrange to do so.

## **Special issue: Town and Country Planning and Healthy Homes**

The September-October 2023 issue of [Town & Country Planning](#) is focussed on Healthy Homes and is open access.

## **Home Improvement Services: Value, challenges and the "ideal" service**

In July 2023, the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CACHE) asked policy makers, practitioners and researchers with an interest in home improvement services to respond to a call for evidence. [A summary of the results](#) can be found here.



## **Clean Air Programme Local Government Workshop. Thursday, 2 November in York**

A [workshop](#) bringing local government and clean air innovation together to proactively tackle air quality issues.

## **Housing and Health: New Research to Inform Better Policy Making (Friday 17 November 10am-1pm - Broadway House, Tothill Street, Westminster and online)**

Registration is free but essential <https://housinghealthpolicy.eventbrite.co.uk>

Hosted by ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC) as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science

This event will showcase important new evidence of the impact of housing on health which will be of use to policy makers, health planners, industry and campaigners looking to design better policies and practice to improve health outcomes

## **'Make Things Right' campaign to help social tenants make complaints launches soon**

The 'Make Things Right' campaign aims to raise awareness of the complaints process for social housing tenants and ensure those who need support know how to report issues and make complaints. People will be directed to this [online advice website](#). In addition to this, there have been updates made to the Government's ['How to Rent' guide](#).

## **Office for Place: design code pathfinder event series**

This [event series](#) takes place until 5th December and is free to attend. It is aimed at anyone with an interest in planning, design, regeneration, development, or related sectors, working in the public, private or third sector.

## **Planning Advisory Service: Planning Reform Videos and Presentations**

If you are interested in the current and future reforms to the planning system, you can access these [videos and presentations](#) for free.

## **Health Foundation Briefing: Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health – a framework for local government action**

This [briefing](#) includes a framework for Local Authority action that should be useful for Healthy Places leads in Public Health and their partners.

## **Damp and mould: understanding and addressing the health risks for rented housing providers**

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities/Department of Health and Social Care, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the UK Health Security Agency, has published the [consolidated guidance on damp and mould](#) which includes the health risks of damp and mould and actions that can be taken by social and private rented landlords and their workforce to address and reduce the risk of damp and mould in their homes. It may also be of interest to health and social care professionals, owner-occupiers and tenants. The report delivers on the government's

commitment in response to the [Coroner's 'Prevention of future deaths' report following the death of 2-year-old Awaab Ishak](#) from a severe respiratory condition due to prolonged exposure to mould in his home.

### **Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and Decent Homes Standard**

The Government has published summary report of their review of the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). The report can be found at [here](#). The Decent Homes Standard is also being reviewed.

### **Wider Determinants data update**

There has been an update of the data on the individual, social and environmental factors which influence the health of the population and impact on inequalities in health. It can be found on the [Fingertips webpage](#).

### **Cold weather and health: supporting vulnerable people**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> September UK Health Security Agency [published information to assist professionals in protecting vulnerable people from the health impacts of cold weather in England](#).

This guidance offers advice for caring for people most at risk during cold weather. It is part of a wider collection of documents providing guidance on how to minimise the health effects of adverse weather and to build community resilience.

### **Yorkshire and Humber Age Well Live Well Recorded event (26<sup>th</sup> of July on Homes and Housing for healthy ageing)**

Use the link below to access the Age Well Live Well page of the Yorkshire and Humber ADASS website where the agenda with presentations embedded can be downloaded from either the *Latest Network Resource* or *Featured Resource* section. [Age Well – Live Well](#).

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## **Achieving our Smokefree 2030 ambition**

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### **Stopping the Start: plan to support a smokefree generation**

The Government has set out ambitious proposals to prohibit the sale of tobacco products for future generations alongside a wider package of measures to support current smokers to quit alongside action to curb the rise in youth vaping.

The announcement included the following commitments:

**To create the first smoke-free generation** so children turning 14 or younger this year will never be able to be legally sold cigarettes. This will mean effectively raising the age of sale by one year each year for this generation (born on or after 1 January 2009) to prevent them and future generations from ever taking up smoking in the first place, as there is no safe age to smoke. This will implement the recommendation from the [independent review](#) last year. This has the potential to phase out smoking in young people almost completely as early as 2040. It could mean up to 1.7 million fewer people smoke by 2075 and has the potential to avoid up to 115,000 cases of strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and other lung diseases.

**To support people to quit smoking**, by more than doubling the funding available (to around £138 million) for local stop smoking services to support a total of around 360,000 people a year to quit smoking. We will also be providing an additional £5 million this year and then £15 million a year thereafter to fund national tobacco marketing campaigns to explain the changes, the benefits of quitting and support available. This is in addition to previous interventions announced earlier this year, such as the national rollout of a 'swap to stop' scheme – supporting 1 million smokers to swap cigarettes for vapes and our announcement to provide evidence-based financial incentives scheme for all pregnant women who smoke by the end of 2024. We are also currently [consulting on introducing mandatory cigarette pack inserts](#), to provide more information to help people to quit smoking.

**To curb the rise in youth vaping** by consulting on measures to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children – striking a balance with ensuring vapes are available for adults to help them quit smoking. Later this month, we will consult on: [restricting the flavours](#) and descriptions of vapes so that vape flavours are no longer targeted at children, but remain available for adult smokers; regulating [point of sale displays](#) in retail outlets so that vapes are kept out of sight from children and away from products that appeal to them, such as sweets; regulating [vape packaging](#) and product presentation, ensuring that neither the device nor its packaging is targeted to children; look at stopping the sale of [disposable vapes](#), which are clearly linked to the rise in vaping in children and are incredibly harmful to the environment and; close loopholes in the law which allow children to get [free samples](#) and buy non-nicotine vapes.

**To strengthen enforcement activity**, through new funding (£30 million a year), new powers to [fine rogue retailers](#) on the spot who sell tobacco products or vapes to people underage, action to track down [illicit tobacco](#) and vaping products, and take further steps to enhance online age verification so that age of sale law is enforced across both online and face-to-face sales.

The full published paper can be found here: [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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

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### **Consultation update**

Following release of the review of the Gambling Act (2005), the latest consultation to close (18<sup>th</sup> Oct) related to proposals for 'Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP), Remote Gambling and Software Technical Standards (RTS), and arrangements for Regulatory Panels' from the Gambling Commission.

Currently there are two gambling-related consultations open:

[NICE guidance on 'Harmful gambling: identification, assessment and management'](#) (closes 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023). The guideline will be for commissioners and providers of gambling treatment services, healthcare professionals, and anyone who experiences gambling-related harm or uses those services.

[DCMS 'Consultation on the statutory levy on gambling operators'](#) (closes 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023).

The levy aims to mandate payments from the industry to support access to treatment, support and prevention of gambling harms, and to fund high quality research. The consultation seeks views on the structure, distribution and governance of the statutory levy on gambling operators.

We encourage all submissions to one or both of these surveys, so do please share your related expertise or experience. Although responses from Y&H ADPH have been submitted, other individual and group views and voices are valued.

### **Gambling Understood**

The Y&H ADPH [gambling harms marketing campaign](#) continues – the first 'burst' of activity around exposing the realities of gambling products and their harms is extended to 6<sup>th</sup> November. Please promote the campaign through your various channels across the region – particularly those which reach men (who are at greater risk of gambling harm and the target group for this campaign). Resources are available for download on the site.

Unfortunately, the video-on-demand advert will not air due to objections from Clearcast which were problematic to overcome without significant dilution of the campaign aims. The next 'burst' of the campaign will commence in early December and should feature video-on-demand coverage.

Despite this setback, the campaign is successfully reaching audiences on social media (TikTok, Snapchat and YouTube):

- More than 680,000 impressions across all platforms, including 459,000 from YouTube
- More than 1,400 clicks
- More than 330,000 video views – with a 53% view rate, and more than half watching the whole video to completion
- More than 2,500 Snapchat swipes
- 2,200 views of the Gambling Understood website

The greatest number of impressions (>75,000) relates to potential gamblers.

The campaign impact is being evaluated by the University of Nottingham and will be available in Spring 2024.

If you have any queries relating to the campaign, please contact [simone.arratoonian@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:simone.arratoonian@dhsc.gov.uk)

### **Research colloquium**

The Bristol Hub of Gambling Harms held an [international colloquium](#) on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The hub was funded by Gambleaware via a £4m grant in 2022, introducing issues around conflict of interest due to the provenance of Gambleaware funding (voluntary donations from gambling industry).

In recognition that research on gambling harms (particularly around prevention) is lacking, there will naturally be interest in the work of this group and how the future research topics are described and pursued.

Particularly encouraging at the colloquium was the input from Lord Foster of Bath and several academics who repeatedly expressed concern about the harm originating from products and advertising, calling for stricter regulation.

While we urge for neutrality of funding streams for research and evidence so that outcomes and solutions do not inevitably align with industry narrative, it is worth watching how this agenda takes shape and whether the group takes a more visible stance around independence.

### **Greater Manchester**

Latest from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) programme on gambling harms is a report on the [‘Odds Are: They Win’](#) co-produced social marketing campaign which was launched during the World Cup in October 2022. The report discusses the approach taken, why it was so important to avoid the ‘individual responsibility’ focus and to highlight the problem with products and industry, arguing that traditional ‘safer gambling’ campaigns should be more fully displaced by this type of approach. The longer report is available to download via the link.

### **Enforcement**

In news from the Gambling Commission, another operator has faced a fine, following failures to protect customers and to avoid money laundering risk. The company [Lindar Media Ltd](#), trading as ‘Mr Q’ (MrQ.com) will pay £690,947 as part of a settlement. The frequent failure of companies such as this to ‘identify and interact with customers who may be at risk of or experiencing gambling related harms’ and to advertise in a ‘socially responsible’ way, confirms the need for stricter legislation and controls.

### **Gambling industry forum**

The Gambling Commission recently announced they will establish an [‘Industry Forum’](#), to provide the commission with ‘insight into the views of operators’. This will sit alongside existing groups advising the commission including ‘Lived Experience Advisory Panel’, ‘Advisory Board for Safer Gambling’, and the ‘Digital Advisory Panel’.

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

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**National Child Measurement Programme latest figures (2022/23) published 19th October 2023**

The latest figures for the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), from the 2022/23 school year, were published by NHS England on 19<sup>th</sup> October. The report is available here - [National Child Measurement Programme, England, 2022/23 School Year - NHS England](#)

**Headlines:**

- The 2022/23 NCMP data show that the prevalence of obesity in reception children has decreased compared with last year and is one of the lowest levels since 2006/07. However, for year 6 children although the prevalence has decreased it still remains higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2019/20.
- The prevalence of obesity for children in the most deprived areas in both age groups continues to be more than double that of those in the least deprived areas. The data for reception children shows a gap of 6.6pp between the most and least deprived areas. This is the smallest disparities gap seen since 2014/15 and has been driven by a greater drop in prevalence in the most deprived areas which is at its lowest level since 2015/16. Among children in year 6, the gap between the most and least deprived areas in 2022/23 has reduced to 17.1pp, but is still much larger than that seen in pre-pandemic years.
- Obesity prevalence also continues to vary by ethnic group. As in previous years, in both reception and year 6, the prevalence of obesity was highest for Black children (13.6% and 31.6% respectively) and lowest for Chinese children (4.2% and 15.2% respectively).

NHS England have issued a press release with the report this year. This can be accessed [here](#).

**Evaluation of an experiment to increase availability of healthier snack foods in vending machines situated within English sports facilities**

A study to evaluate the impact of increased availability of healthier options on purchasing of different types of vending snack products sold in English leisure (sports) centres was jointly undertaken by Leeds University, Leeds City Council, Wilkes Group and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Conclusions from the study suggest introducing standards to increase the availability of healthier snack products in vending machines is feasible without substantially affecting sales.

Please [click here](#) to view the full report.

## **FixOurFood Autumn Newsletter**

[Click here](#) to view the recently published newsletter from FixOurFood.

### **#FoodActive2023 Conference: 10 Years of Food Active – Reflecting on Local and National Action**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, 09.30-16.00, Museum of Liverpool, Pier Head, L3 1DG, join Food Active at their first in-person conference since the pandemic, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to reflect on how the landscape on healthy weight policy has changed and to consider opportunities both within the region and beyond to bolster existing policy, as we approach the 2025 General Election.

A live stream will also be available.

- [To register to attend the event in-person, please click here.](#)
- [To register to join the live stream event, please click here.](#)

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### **Reducing inequalities through action on drugs and alcohol Regional Lead: Andy Maddison**

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#### **Understanding recent changes in young people's drug use in the UK**

A recent Liverpool John Moores University webinar took place on 05/10/23, presenting findings from the NIHR-Policy Research Programme funded AMOUNT project (A mixed methods investigation of the individual, sociocultural, and societal factors that underlie the recent increase in substance use among young people to inform policy).

AMOUNT was an 18-month project investigating some of the reasons for these changes. The study used mixed methods, including interviews with a wide range of young people (including those in leisure settings and those attending services), secondary data analysis, and consultation with those working in the field.

In this webinar the researchers presented key findings, describing a framework developed to help understand changes, and explore the practice and policy implications of their work.

The slides (PDF) can be downloaded for offline reading. They contain a few extra speakers notes which can be viewed in Acrobat, or if you hover over the 'comment' icon on relevant slides.

Slides: [AMOUNT webinar edited.pdf](#)

Webinar (edited) : [AMOUNT Oct23.mp4](#)

Once the final report has been signed off by commissioners, LJMU hope to start publishing open access academic articles from the project, so please keep an eye out for these.

### **Action taken to help promote no and low-alcohol drinks**

A [public consultation](#) launched on the 28th September 2023 will seek views on whether to raise the threshold for describing a drink as 'alcohol free' to 0.5% alcohol by volume (ABV). This is in line with other countries around the world including the USA, Denmark, Germany, Australia, Sweden, Portugal and Belgium. The threshold in the UK is currently 0.05%.

A higher threshold could see more no and low-alcohol products on the market - increasing availability in retail and hospitality and expanding product ranges, giving consumers more options. This could encourage thousands more people to choose an alcohol-free or low-alcohol drink to make healthier choices, moderate alcohol intake and normalise alternatives to alcohol.

The potential changes could drive the productivity of businesses, help remove red tape and allow them to more easily manufacture these drinks to benefit from the multi-billion-pound alcohol-free drinks market.

### **Consultation on UK clinical guidelines on alcohol treatment**

The Department of Health and Social Care has launched a consultation seeking views on the first ever UK clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities developed the draft guidelines in collaboration with the devolved governments, senior UK clinical experts, and people with experience of alcohol treatment. They are modelled on the [UK clinical guidelines on drug misuse and dependence](#) (the "Orange Book"), published in 2017. The main aim of the guidelines is to develop a clearer consensus on good practice and how to implement interventions recommended by NICE and equivalent national guidelines across the 4 UK nations.

We are encouraging organisational responses to help us understand consensus views of organisations, but people can also respond as individuals if they want to.

The consultation launched on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and is open for 8 weeks, closing on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 11:59pm.

You can find the consultation [here](#) and we encourage you to share with your networks.

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**Promoting physical activity**  
**Regional Lead: Nicola Corrigan**

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No updates this month.

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## Tackling racism, discrimination and their outcomes

Regional Lead: Abi Brown

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### **Carer's Trust – Survey results**

Results from a [survey](#) conducted by the Carers Trust highlight that almost half of the UK's estimated 7 million unpaid family carers aren't receiving the appropriate level of support. This was particularly highlighted for ethnic minority carers, with these disparities in the findings outlined by the Race Equality Foundation [here](#).

### **'Learning the Lessons' Report: National Voices**

The findings in this report capture an exercise conducted by National Voices and supported by the Race Equality Foundation how differences in impacts during the Covid-19 pandemic, including the impacts on people from minoritized communities.

[Learn more here](#).

### **Exploring intergenerational consequences of racism in the UK: Briefing**

[This briefing](#) from the Centre for Mental Health explores the intergenerational consequences of racism in the UK and the impacts on health and wellbeing.

### **What do people from ethnic minority communities want to be done about the environmental crisis?**

As part of the Everyone's Environment programme, deliberation groups were held with 48 people from ethnic minority communities. Learn more about the findings and the ongoing work [here](#).

### **Anti-Racist Action in Arts & Wellbeing – Roundtable Event (31<sup>st</sup> October 11:30am-1pm)**

This free online roundtable event will explore health inequalities and the lived experience of men from Black and minoritized ethnic communities.

Sign up and find out more about the event [here](#).

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## Creating fair employment and good work for all

Regional Lead: Nicola Corrigan

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### **Work, health and growth: A guide for local councils (Local Government Association)**

[This briefing](#) for local councils and councillors provides a strong business case to improve work, health and economic growth within local councils. The focus is on how to support people to stay or return to work and support for those looking for employment.

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**Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all**  
**Regional Lead: Toni Williams & Karen Horrocks**

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No updates this month.

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# PRIORITY CONDITIONS AND EQUITABLE SERVICES

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**Promoting public mental health and wellbeing**

**Regional Lead: Ali Iliff**

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## **Climate change and mental health**

At the end of September [Climate Cares](#) was launched with the aim of working to understand and support mental health in the current climate and ecological crises. You can see the announcement of the launch in this [news piece](#).

The [video recording of the talks and discussion](#) is also available.

## **World Mental Health day: revised Every Mind Matters materials**

To support activity for World Mental Health Day there are new materials available on the [campaign resource centre](#) including social media assets and a presentation outlining the new Every Mind Matters campaign: *Little Big Things*. This campaign shows how the small things people do every day can make a big difference to their mental health and wellbeing and can be used throughout the year to promote positive mental wellbeing.

## **All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention: mini-inquiry focused on young people and suicide.**

According to the ONS (2018), suicide is the biggest killer of young people aged 16-24. In 2021, 611 deaths by suicide were registered for people aged 15-24 in England and Wales. Suicide rates among young people are increasing. [ONS data](#) show that females aged 24 and under have seen the largest increase in suicide rates since 1981.

This inquiry will focus on the experiences of young people from age 18 to 25, given the rising rates of suicide among this group, and seek to understand what should be done to prevent young suicides. The inquiry will explore risk factors and help-seeking experienced by young people with lived experience of suicidal thoughts, feelings and attempts.

The APPG will gather evidence through an anonymous survey, as well as a short series of evidence sessions with people with lived experience, organisations, academics and practitioners.

The survey is aimed at:

- Young people ages 18-25 with lived experience of suicidal thoughts, feelings and/or attempt(s)
- People aged over 18 who have been impacted by the suicide of a young person

The full terms of reference and link to the survey can be found here:

<https://www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/appg/>

## **Understanding inequalities in access to adult mental health services in the UK: a systematic mapping review**

This research reviewed population groups that have been shown to continually be poorly served by access to adult mental health services in the UK, including how this has been measured.

[You can read the full paper here.](#)

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### **Improving sexual and reproductive health**

**Regional Lead: Georgina Wilkinson**

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#### **HIV 2022 Official Statistics published**

The annual [HIV data and report](#) have been published today. The data tables include information broken down to regional level. HIV indicators on the [Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles](#) have been updated with 2022 data at local authority level. This [press release](#) highlights:

- HIV diagnoses continue to fall in GBMSM but have risen in heterosexual adults and particularly in women and ethnic minority groups.
- Trends in new diagnoses first made in England varied by ethnic group with the steepest fall in GBMSM of white ethnicity between 2021 and 2022 but increases were observed among GBMSM of Asian and mixed or other ethnicity. There were also increases observed among heterosexual adults of black African, Asian and mixed or other ethnicities.
- 2022 saw the highest ever uptake of HIV testing among GBMSM in sexual health services but with smaller increases in other groups.
- The number of people taking PrEP rose between 2021 and 2022 but inequalities in uptake remain by sexual orientation.
- Half of people living with diagnosed HIV were aged 50 years or over in 2022, reflecting the success of HIV treatment in enabling people with HIV to have long healthy lives.
- The majority of those previously diagnosed abroad were on treatment prior to arrival and linked to care shortly after UK arrival, ensuring good health outcomes and preventing onward HIV transmission.

#### **National Aids Trust (NAT) launches World AIDS Day website**

NAT has [launched](#) its World AIDS Day [website](#), with information and resources to support people in preparing for the day itself on 1 December. Everyone is invited to 'Rock The Ribbon' and there are ribbons available, as well as posters and social media graphics.

## **Consultation: Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010: proposed amendments**

DHSC are consulting on a number of proposed changes, including some that relate to sexually transmitted infections – details [here](#). The deadline for responses is 15 November.

## **NHSE Guidance on the confidentiality of people seeking sexual health and HIV care**

Guidance on the confidentiality of people seeking sexual health and HIV care has been [published](#). This guidance complements the UKHSA [Sexual Health and HIV Privacy Information](#) and recommends the status quo around how personal information is collected and shared by sexual health and HIV services:

- Clients of these services do not need to register for them using their NHS number and, if they are still concerned about their privacy, can register using an alias
- Healthcare records at these services are not shared with other services within the respective NHS Trust, GPs, or the NHS [Summary Care Record](#), unless explicit consent is given.

This guidance has been updated because the legacy legislation that covered the unique confidentiality safeguards of sexual health services now only applies to very few NHS Trusts and has been superseded by the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR; as a result, that legislation has been revoked.

## **Webinar: Getting PrEP'ed: FPH Sexual and Reproductive Health SIG Lunch & Learn – 28 November**

Join the Sexual and Reproductive Health SIG's second [Lunch & Learn event](#) and hear from Dr Will Nutland, co-founder of Prepster, on the evidence around PrEP inequalities and suggestions on what might be done to address them.

## **Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, England (Contraception) 2022/23 data published**

NHS Digital have published the [annual data](#). Further detail at local authority/ service level is available within the data tables. Please note this data has not yet been used to update the relevant indicators on the Sexual Health Profile in Fingertips.

**New Spotting the Signs tool**  
Brook and BASHH have published the updated [Spotting the Signs - Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation tool and guidance](#). The tool, which has been redeveloped with support from a multi-agency advisory board and input from young people, supports frontline professionals to effectively identify and respond to any harm, or risk of harm, faced by a child, young person, or vulnerable young adult.

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## Improving health and reducing inequalities through health and care services

Regional Lead: Toni Williams

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### **The Power of Community Led Health Service Design**

This paper from [IVAR](#) aims to address health inequalities by bringing together people with lived experience, VCSE organisations, the NHS and local authorities to co-design solutions. In the report, they share learning from four partnerships. Their stories illustrate the progress that can be made when communities are involved in designing services; and when cross-sector groups work together to invite people in, listen, and then make changes: improving access to cancer screening; improving rural access to healthcare; reducing smoking; and asking older people what works for them.

### **Leadership Masterclass Series: Leading Anchor Organisations**

The 7 regional NHS Leadership Academies have partnered with the Health Anchors Learning Network (HALN) and CLES, the national organisation for local economies, to develop a series of autumn masterclasses based on growing knowledge about Anchor Institutions. Further information can be found [here](#).

### **Universal Healthcare National Inquiry**

The 'Universal Healthcare National Inquiry' explored why some people have better access to the NHS than others, in ways that can't be explained by how ill they are. It did so in partnership with two communities, plus local NHS, local government and voluntary sectors – in Sussex and Yorkshire – who are even now proving how the new approach would work.

Access the report [here](#).

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# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO TACKLE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

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Regional Lead: Chris Sharp

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## **ADPH Sector-led Improvement Conference – October 2023**

Please see the link the link to the ADPH YH website and 2023 conference page for the posters and slides - [Sector-led Improvement Conference](#)

## **Public Health Taster Day – Bookings now open - 05 February 2024**

[This Public Health Taster session](#) has been designed to provide an overview Public health, some of the key public health challenges within local, national and global health and an opportunity to meet and learn from some of our experienced and dedicated public health professionals.

During the session delegates will hear first-hand from staff based in our different functional teams about;

- How we work as part of a Public Health System to protect and improve health
- Who we work with (our partners and stakeholders)
- What we 'do'

This Public Health Taster session is aimed at people who are keen to understand more about the scope and breadth of Public Health. The day will also inform what you can do to improve and protect health in your everyday practice.

**The UKHSA Conference 2023 – Prepare, respond, build** will take place on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 November at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds. Online registration is now open The UKHSA Conference 2023 will take place on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 November at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds. Details of the conference themes, thematic tracks and partnership with the Faculty of Public Health can be viewed on the [conference website](#), alongside further information on opportunities to exhibit. Online registration is now open [here](#).

**The Kings fund: Healthy Homes and Communities: working closer together to improve care: 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November:** The King's Fund is organising a two-day virtual conference on housing and health on 7–8 November. The event will explore how housing affects health and wellbeing. Speakers will include Professor Sir Michael Marmot. Please see the dedicated [event page](#) for more information, including how to register and purchase tickets.

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## ANY OTHER RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

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### **‘We’re all trying to do one thing: Live’: New Economics Foundation Report**

[This report](#) includes qualitative interview responses from women living in poverty and navigating social security. It also includes connections between the benefit system, financial insecurity and mental health.

### **‘Not just ticking boxes: Four stories illustrating the power of community-led health service design’: IVAR Report**

IVAR share learning from four partnership areas outlining how change can happen when communities are involved in designing services. [Read the findings here.](#)

### **Centre for Population Health: CEO Blog**

This blog by Professor Dr Durka Dougall, CEO Centre for Population Health looks at we can implement effective health and care strategies. [You can find the blog here.](#)

### **Climate and Health: ADPH YH Narrative**

On the 18th October the ADPHY&H launched their narrative on Climate and Health. The narrative supports and strengthens the ADPHY&H priority ambition on Climate and Sustainability. It is also a clear call to action that supports our increasing and urgent role linked to health and climate change.

You can find more information on the narrative [here](#) (available in long and short read versions).

### **Understanding and responding to eco-anxiety CPD event (7<sup>th</sup> November)**

The next climate and health CPD event is on 7th November and the theme is Eco Anxiety. This is a practical show and tell session, where Lucy Giannasi, Head of Sustainability Workspace, Department of Health, and Social Care and Sam Schofield, Environment Coordinator, NHS Business Services Authority will present and share their experiences of developing an eco-anxiety information and support pack to support. You can register [here](#) for more details.

Additional climate change and health resources can be found [here](#) (including events, news and training).