

# Minding the Gap

Improving Health & Reducing Inequalities



## Yorkshire and the Humber Health and Wellbeing Monthly Update

Issue 97 – January 2024

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

This update is structured around four overarching themes:

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

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

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

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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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## **National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)**

NCMP updates for January 2024

1. Updated [NCMP parent feedback letters](#) – published 19 December 2023
  2. NCMP [NIHR Policy Research Programme project](#)
  3. NCMP school feedback letters [survey](#)
  4. [NCMP annual report publication 2022-23](#)
  5. [Obesity profile on fingertips](#) - update
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**Promoting healthy ageing across the lifecourse**

**Regional Lead: Ali Iliff**

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## **Health in an Ageing Society: webinar with Professor Chris Whitty**

The Yorkshire and the Humber Healthy Ageing Community of Improvement Network is delighted to welcome the Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty, to discuss his 2023 annual report: [Health in an Ageing Society](#).

The report says we need to focus on how to maximise the independence and minimise the time in ill health between reaching older age and the end of life. Quality, enjoyment and independence should be the principle aims.

The report describes how we can maintain older people's independence via two broad complementary approaches. Firstly, preventing or delaying disability and frailty. Secondly, changing the environment so that people can maintain their independence for longer. The report makes the case that older people are currently underserved in healthcare and that further research is needed into multimorbidity and social care.

Professor Whitty will outline the report's key findings and implications for practice and will then take questions from attendees.

The webinar will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 2.00 – 3.00pm and is open to **local authority staff across England** working on healthy ageing, to enable a focused discussion on the report's recommendations and how they can be put into practice.

Please note: this webinar will **not** be recorded.

Please book your place [here](#).

**Age without Limits**

This new campaign from the Centre for Ageing Better aims to change the way we think about ageing and support those working to make society more age-inclusive. The campaign will run over three years to spark debate and conversation about what ageism is and challenge the way we all think about ageing, as well as encouraging individuals, organisations and communities to join Age Without Limits in a day of action. The Age Without Limits [website](#) includes a [guide](#) on how to call out everyday ageism, a link to the [age positive image library](#) and a [challenge](#) to test whether you unwittingly hold ageist beliefs.

### **Good Practice Mentors**

The Good Practice Mentor programme brings together legacy, learning and resources from the Lottery-funded Ageing Better project, aimed at reducing loneliness for people aged 50+. South Yorkshire Housing Association, Age UK Camden, Leeds Older People's Forum and Torbay Communities are collaborating on the programme to support organisations to increase their engagement with older people.

Find out more about the programme [here](#) and see all upcoming events [here](#).

### **Live Longer Better (LLB) National Event (Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 from 10.30 – 15.30, One Birdcage Walk, London)**

Since December 2020, the LLB movement led by our Active Partnerships network and inspired by Sir Muir Gray, has worked with local networks of Age UK, national partners, NHS organisations and local authorities to increase older adults' physical ability, resilience and healthspan, and prevent falls and frailty.

This event provides an opportunity for our local and national networks to come together to share and celebrate our achievements to date.

Join us on March 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate and activate our collective ambitions to take the straightforward and necessary actions to ensure the LLB movement continues to evolve to maximise older adults' independence and minimise their time spent in ill health – improving quality of life rather than longevity.

*National and local speakers will be announced over the coming weeks.*

Places at this venue are limited so please register via this [link](#).

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

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### **Resources and guidance**

#### **Medical letter and report requests**

[A series of letter templates](#) to respond to common requests from refugees and asylum seekers has been created to help GPs and their staff respond efficiently to minimise impact on workload. A [proforma](#) has also been developed for VCSEs or individuals to

request medical information. The 'Index document for GP reports and letters' provides further details about these documents and how to use them.

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

### **Mental health assessments for UK-bound refugees: comms to be shared with GPs and primary care networks**

The OHID Migrant Health Evidence and Delivery team are part of a steering group that has been providing oversight to the development and phased roll-out of a global mental health assessment tool (GMHAT) for UK bound individuals under the UK Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme. This follows a pilot in 2016 – 2017 of 200 refugees accepted for resettlement to the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS).

GMHAT is intended to provide more information on refugees' mental health for GPs to assist with making clinical judgements on whether refugees need any further help from specialist mental services or other agencies.



GMHAT guidance  
note for GPs Final 202

The embedded comms provides further information on the tool and what actions GPs can take.

### **Ministerial letter to Local Authorities on Afghan arrivals**

People arriving via Afghan resettlement schemes [Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)] have restarted this autumn. Minister Buchan (Housing and Homelessness), Minister Mercer (Veterans' Affairs) and Minister Heapey (Armed Forces) have written to Local Authority leaders and Chief Executives setting out the plans for transitional and settled accommodation, the support and funding they are making available to local authorities, and how they are asking local authorities to support this effort.

For further details please see the embedded letter below:



MinMercer  
MinBuchan MinHeapey

### **NHSE vaccination strategy**

NHS England have launched a [vaccination strategy](#) for England setting out proposals to improve the planning and delivery of services, building on COVID-19 and established flu and routine immunisation programmes. The strategy has three priority areas:

- Improving access including an expansion of online services
- Vaccination delivery in convenient local places, with targeted outreach to support uptake in underserved populations

- A more joined-up prevention and vaccination offer

The document helpfully encourages targeted outreach services for underserved populations which we know is what is often required for inclusion health populations.

### **FFT launch new report on site provision: ‘Kicking the can down the road: The planning and provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites in England 1960-2023’**

[This report](#) was written by Dr Simon Ruston MRTPI and explores site delivery over the last 6 decades.

### **New DHSC guidance on improving the mental health of babies, children and young people**

[This framework](#) explicitly references refugees and asylum seekers and can be used by stakeholders to guide promotion and prevention activities. It details modifiable factors where there is scope to intervene to create the conditions that help keep children and young people mentally well.

### **NHS England: Guidance to support HC2 application for asylum seekers**

A [HC2 certificate](#) entitles individuals to free NHS prescriptions, dental treatment, wigs and fabric support, sight tests, vouchers towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses and necessary travel costs to and from hospital for NHS treatment under the care of a consultant. [This guidance](#) has been published for professionals supporting asylum seekers access prescriptions etc.

### **A new report written by the charity Unseen: ‘Who cares? Modern Slavery in the Care Sector’**

[This report](#) sets out the increasing scale of modern slavery in the care sector, with the latest data and insights from the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline.

### **#HEALTHNOW PARTNERSHIP report publication: The value of lived experience and reducing health inequalities**

After four years of collaboration between [Groundswell](#), [Crisis](#) and [Shelter](#) throughout England, and on a local level in Birmingham, Manchester and Newcastle, an evaluation of the #HealthNow partnership’s impact has been published.

There are various outputs from this great work to engage with, including a [launch blog](#) on the Groundswell website, a [summary report](#) and the [full evaluation report](#).

The embedded Gypsy, Roma and Traveller guidance and flyer has been developed by NHS England health and justice national team to support health and justice services when working with individuals from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The principles document provides some background to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller culture, trust issues, and current challenges with regards to health and the justice system and provides top tips for best practices and principles for supporting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.



G&T best practice flyer NHSE Health & J  
G&T principles v1 Final NHSE H&J.docx



## **Health Equity Evidence Centre report: 'What works: Fostering equitable access to primary health care for asylum seekers, migrants and refugees'**

[This brief](#) presents current available evidence on three broad categories: health service design, patient navigation services and culturally and linguistically tailored care.

### **Events and learning**

#### **Changing Lives Webinar: Neteach service (5<sup>th</sup> December 2023)**

This webinar was held as part of their series exploring Online Adult Sexual Exploitation, Sex Work and Survival Sex. The slides from the event are embedded below:



Netreach Webinar  
5th December 2023.p

#### **'Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS' (Trinity Leeds - G Floor (opposite Boots, on until 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024)**

The national touring exhibition from the [Migration Museum](#) shines a light on the stories and experiences of people who have come to Britain to work in the NHS through photography, film, oral histories and an immersive experience that brings together singing and storytelling.

From the very beginning of the NHS, people have come to Britain from all over the world to work in the NHS but their vital role has largely been ignored. The exhibition is open Wednesdays to Sundays, 11am to 5.30pm (5pm on Sundays), until 18th February 2024 and they are happy to arrange for group visits for self-directed visit or a guided tour. Alternatively, on Fridays and Saturdays they can come and visit you to lead discussions around the themes of the exhibit. Their team can deliver workshops to audiences with a variety of communication abilities.

Please email [matthewlogue@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:matthewlogue@migrationmuseum.org) or [natasha@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:natasha@migrationmuseum.org) to arrange this.

#### **York Mind Free webinar: 8 Ways to Wellbeing (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024, 10:00-11:00)**

[This webinar](#) will look at the 8 key changes you can make to your lifestyle to promote mental wellbeing, with the science behind the why.

#### **Pathways from Homelessness 2024 Conference (Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March)**

This conference will be taking place at St Mary's London, Wyndham Place, York Street, London, W1H 1PQ. There will also be options to join online, as well as at regional hubs based in Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham.

You can view the full conference programme and register for your ticket [here](#).

**Maternal Health and Diversity Conference  
(Friday 23rd Feb 2024, Leeds)**

The City of Sanctuary Maternity Stream are running the event in partnership with the White Ribbon Alliance, NCT and Leeds Playhouse. It will be at the Leeds Playhouse, see attached flyer for details.

The North East and Yorkshire Health Stream of Sanctuary are also holding their annual event in York on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. The theme this year is 'supporting the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers in the refugee sector'. They will release further details soon.

**Integrated management dashboards for homeless services and roundtable event for commissioners, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

In 2023, the Care Policy Evaluation Centre (CCEC) team at LSE completed an evaluation of the out-of-hospital care model (OOHCM) for people experiencing homelessness. They produced a collection of integrated management dashboards reporting the key metrics and performance for OOHCMs across the nation, which you can access [here](#). There are also links to a recent [presentation \(December 2023\)](#) and [Blog \(December 2023\)](#) about the use of data in social care to support better care and policy decision-making. This contains data on the value of the OOHCM.

The CCEC team have organised an in-person roundtable discussion at LSE on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** for commissioners in ICBs, Local Authorities, NHS trusts, and beyond. The event aims to discuss commitment to the dashboards, joining a partnership, and practical steps for adoption of the dashboards as a management tool by local service providers and commissioners.

To register your interest, please complete [this form](#).

## Various

Congratulations to Blerta Ilazi (Clinical Fellow for Refugee Nursing NHS England North East and Yorkshire and Health Inequalities Tutor, SYB Primary Care Workforce and Training Hub) who attended Buckingham Palace after been nominated by NHSE for outstanding contribution to the care of most vulnerable in particular refugees and the ReSTORE programme.



More information about how amazing and inspiring she is [here](#).

### **Call for good practice examples around inclusion health and sexual health service provision**

[Gill.Dowley@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:Gill.Dowley@hullcc.gov.uk) from the public health team in Hull is scoping best practice in inclusion groups (not just sex workers) regionally and nationally. If you are able to help please let her know!

### **Wide injunction ruling from Supreme Court: News item**

The Supreme Court have ruled that wide injunctions have a negative impact on the ability to pursue a nomadic way of life, but rejected an appeal lodged by FFT, London Gypsies and Travellers and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group in respect of the granting of wide injunctions against persons unknown.

[Read more here](#).

### **Making strides: Refugees' employment trajectories in Yorkshire and the Humber (IPPR)**

This study looks to understand job progression opportunities that are available to refugees and people with humanitarian leave.

[Read more here](#).



### **Red Whale: Information on identifying Scabies**

Cases of Scabies are continuing in asylum accommodation. Please find information on how to identify and manage it [here](#).

### **Suicides of asylum seekers in Home Office accommodation double in last four years: Liberty Investigates**

Records compiled by Liberty Investigates as part of its [Asylum Seeker Memorial Project](#), and shared with the Guardian, show that at least 23 people are confirmed or suspected to have died by suicide between 2020 and so far in 2023.

### **SOLACE: Recruitment for volunteer trustees**

SOLACE are looking to recruit some new volunteer trustees with a strong interest in refugee health who want to help to shape, inform and help build the organisation.

Elaine Goodwin (who many of you will know!) is Chair of the Board and can be contacted for a chat on [elaine@goodwin.org.uk](mailto:elaine@goodwin.org.uk). No prior experience of being a trustee is necessary.

### **Migrants Organise Story and 30th Anniversary**

For 30 years [Migrants Organise](#) has opened its arms to thousands of people. We've developed resources and programmes to build grassroots solidarity; provided support to individuals and families to connect and claim their rights; trained thousands of volunteers and developed holistic activities and buddying programmes to welcome people.

Please see more in their video [here](#).

### **Improving diabetes care for people experiencing homelessness project: New blog and survey launch**

With funding from the [Burdett Trust for Nursing](#) under their type-2 diabetes prevention programme, Pathway has recently been leading a partnership project focused on improving diabetes care for people experiencing homelessness. As part of this project, they are looking to collect the valuable experiences and perspectives of nurses, healthcare professionals, hostel workers, health support workers, and outreach workers involved in supporting this patient group. If this is you or you know someone who it might be relevant to, the survey can be accessed [here](#).

Sam Dorney-Smith, Pathway Nursing Practice Lead, has also written an insightful blog detailing the progress of the project and opportunities to get involved, which you can read [here](#).

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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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## **Exploring the impact of housing insecurity on the health and wellbeing of children and young people**

**(Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 1pm)**

Join the University of Sheffield online for a monthly [online masterclass](#) by one of their health research experts based in The Sheffield Centre for Health-Related Research (ScHARR).

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

## **Mapping the housing & health system: Methods adopted in participatory systems mapping with Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

This [report](#) is based on participatory work done in Manchester to map the housing system and will be of interest to anyone with an interest in housing and systems.

## **Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) in the UK: 2023 report Chapter 5. Impact of climate change policies on indoor environmental quality and health in UK housing**

Chapter 5 of this [UKHSA report](#) includes sections on Indoor Air Quality, Overheating and Noise – noting on average we spend 95% of our time indoors making this a key determinant of health.

## **Literature Review: Children's 20 Minute Neighbourhoods**

In 2023 Sustrans reviewed the research relating to children's needs in terms of urban environments, outdoor spaces, streets and local travel. This [article](#) outlines the findings and links to the full report.

## **Moving to Healthy Homes: The Health Foundation Long Read**

This [report](#) by The Health Foundation is a useful update, and a good introduction to the key housing issues in England today. It covers the key aspects of a healthy homes, provides a summary of housing related inequalities, and key actions for improvement. The report covers the private rented sector, the decent homes standard, cold homes and energy efficiency, and social housing. There are downloadable charts showing trends and inequalities.

## **Housing LIN Virtual Summit**

The week-long [series of virtual events](#) is free to attend and includes sessions on Extra Care Housing, Equality Diversity and Inclusion in older people's housing and retrofitting.

## **Energy Efficient Home campaign**

The Government has recently launched a new public campaign [Energy Efficient Home](#). The campaign provides trusted information on heat pumps, including how to

apply for a £7,500 grant for the Boiler Upgrade Scheme and promotes three energy efficiency measures – cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and solar panels.

### **Living in a cold home: A Good Home Network briefing**

This [briefing](#) outlines some of the challenges and proposes potential solutions to help home improvement services to support people living in cold homes.

This is a summary of the third meeting of the [Good Home Network](#), a hub for active learning connecting people across England who are exploring ways to improve poor quality homes in their area.

### **Building Healthy Places Collection- Homes England**

This [webpage](#) links to the [Homes England Factsheets](#) that were shared last year and contains lots of webinars and guides in one place to support your learning and development about designing healthy places.

### **Your Home Your Choice Campaign**

This [campaign](#) was commissioned in February 2023 seeking to change and influence perceptions of housing with support across West Yorkshire and to get people thinking about it as a possible option earlier, rather than later, on in life. The campaign also aimed to promote that there may be more options available in local communities than people think.

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## **Achieving our Smokefree 2030 ambition**

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No updates this month.

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

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### **In the press**

Earlier this month, the [continued fortunes](#) of Bet365 Chief Executive Denise Coates were revealed in a number of press reports – after receiving £270.6m in salary and dividends during 2022-23, up £10m since the year before. This is despite the company making a £60m loss. The fact that she has made £1.7bn since 2016 makes her one of the richest people in the world.

The gaming and betting platform [Betano](#) has been announced as the official sponsor of the UEFA European Championship 2024. Kaizen Gaming is behind the Betano brand. According to their own press release, ‘The partnership will connect one of the most prestigious sports events with a global audience of sports enthusiasts, who will be offered the opportunity to game or bet on EURO matches on one of the world’s premium platforms.’ They claim to enhance the ‘fan experience’ by offering ‘responsible gaming’. This captures the very aims of gambling marketing and sponsorship – to encourage sports gambling via mass audience reach – further underlining the importance of regulation in this area.

Elsewhere in the world, there are plans to bring in new rules around gaming. China will implement [new restrictions](#) on in-game purchases and limits on time spent. In addition to existing rules introduced in 2021 which limit time spent on gaming to one

hour on Fridays, weekends and holidays for those under 18, the new draft legislation will mean that games should not entice people to play or spend excessively. This has already had adverse market consequences, affecting share prices. The new measures are likely to require game redesign and alternative monetization strategies.

### **Prescribing advice**

In December the MHRA (Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) published advice on the risks of use of the prescription medication [Aripiprazole](#). The antipsychotic medication which is used to manage bipolar disorder and schizophrenia has been linked to increased risk of gambling at 'pathological' level, and this is regardless of prior history of any gambling-related harm. This effect is reversed on reduction or discontinuation of the medication. Users are advised not to discontinue without first seeking advice from their doctor – and, if prescribed this medication, should inform their doctor if they have a history of gambling or any difficulties with controlling impulses.

### **Research**

Of interest this month, a number of gambling-related articles:

- May van Schalkwyk and colleagues recently published two reports, one on the '[agnogenic](#)' strategies of health-harming industries (in this case, gambling) in youth education programmes – such as distortion of evidence so that these programmes are presented as evidence-based and effective despite the lack of wider, robust evidence in support of their claims. In this way, commercial interests are prioritised over effective approaches which might prevent gambling harm.
- The other article appearing in the BMJ is an opinion piece on the [need for a new gambling Act](#), citing limitations of the proposed levy under the current Act. The authors call for transformational change to address the influence of the gambling industry in the space of policy, evidence and research, without which a statutory levy will be ineffective.
- Ukhova et al (2023) in November last year published [this review](#) exploring the trends in gambling legislation around the world. They found that despite the majority of those countries examined having laws in place which permit gambling, there is a tendency to focus any measures of harm reduction on individual behaviour with little emphasis on the wider range of harms, or the breadth of interventions needed to prevent and address those harms. This focus on individual measures, frequently the approach taken by gambling companies as 'socially responsible', has the effect that 'broader, structural, and system-wide initiatives are sidelined'. Although the call for a public health lens to be applied to gambling was raised 3 decades ago, and the need for 'multimodal and multilevel' action is recognised, this has not yet translated into effective health prevention policy action.

The way that gambling is viewed and the perceived responsibility for harm is sadly demonstrated frequently in the national press – [this article](#) shows how a previous issue with gambling was reignited via an advertisement and eventually led to a prison sentence. This story illustrates multiple points for prevention and intervention, yet the focus is often on individual loss of control; there is no comment on the responsibility of the gambling industry despite the £1.6m spent by just one person.

## **Enforcement news**

The online operator 'Gameseys' has received a fine of £6m from the Gambling Commission as a result of failings relating to anti-money laundering and repeated instances of not identifying or interacting with customers at risk of harm – one customer only received attention when they had lost almost £10,000 and that interaction resulted in promotion of new games and promotions.

Liz Ritchie, co-chairwoman of the charity Gambling with Lives, expressed frustration at the repeated failings of such operators: "We know of three families who have lost people they will mourn for the rest of their lives because of the failings of this one company, and this is no doubt the tip of an iceberg."

The company operates 12 websites including [ballycasino.co.uk](http://ballycasino.co.uk), [doublebubblebingo.com](http://doublebubblebingo.com) and [jackpotjoy.com](http://jackpotjoy.com).

## **Events**

### **Words can hurt: Using the right language to talk about gambling harms – Webinar**

**(Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10am-1pm)**

Please find below details of an upcoming gambling harms language webinar, developed in partnership between Greater Manchester, Yorkshire and the Humber and the North East.

The aim of this webinar is to share the agreed approach between these three regions on communicating about gambling harms.

The agreed target audience is **local authority public health professionals and comms leads who may work on this topic/communicate about it** (not including gambling industry funded services). Please only share with colleagues within this definition.

Please sign up [here](#).

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

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## **Good Food For Children**

The Faculty of Public Health has led a coalition of health organisations and charities in publishing this report. It calls on the government to protect the health and productivity of our next generation by expanding access to the Free School Meal programme, National School Breakfast programme, and the Healthy Start voucher scheme.

[Faculty of Public Health Policy Paper](#)

### **Obesity Institute Newsletter**

Quarterly newsletter from Leeds Beckett University's Obesity Institute containing updates on research, learning opportunities and a Tedx talk from Professor Louisa Ells on person centred language.

[Edition 3 Winter 2023](#)

### **Food Active Healthy Weight Declaration**

Special Edition Food Active Bulletin giving an update on progress and reflections from Dr. Robin Ireland on the past 12 months. Includes information from the Liverpool Conference held in November, and the Impact and Influence Report 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

[Food Active HWD Bulletin](#)

### **Food Active Christmas Special**

Update on all the projects delivered by Food Active, including a report on the impact of location of HFSS products in supermarkets.

[Food Active Christmas Bulletin](#)

### **Food Active November Conference**

All the recordings and presentations from the Food Active Conference held in November 2023

[#FoodActive2023 Conference Hub](#)

### **Panorama- Weight loss drugs**

Recording of the Panorama investigation into weight loss drugs. Please find the link to watch below:

[BBC iPlayer - Panorama - Britain's Obesity Crisis: Are Weight-Loss Drugs the Answer?](#)

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

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### **ACMD prevention for young people consultation**

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) has been commissioned by the government to provide advice into drug prevention for young people, supporting the government's wider 10-Year National Drugs Strategy. The consultation seeks to gather insight into current government-led drug prevention policies and landscape across the UK and closes at 1:59pm on 13 February 2024.

Please find out more [here](#).

### **The 2023 Workforce Census**

The 2023 Workforce Census report supports the delivery of the government's [10-year drug plan](#) (2021–2031) NHS England are working with Office for Health Improvement

and Disparities (OHID) to develop the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery workforce over the coming years, in line with the 10-year drug plan.

The Census report is the most comprehensive workforce dataset available and will enable NHS England and OHID to understand the workforce profile of the drug and alcohol workforce and work together to support the workforce transformation ambitions of the government's 10-year drug plan. The Census will inform the development of the drug and alcohol service delivery and commissioning workforce. It provides the evidence to support the continued development of the workforce transformation programme and the future workforce training needs.

Following the collection of workforce data from drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and commissioners across England in 2023, the NHS Benchmarking Network has compiled the data, and the final report is now available.

The report can be accessed [here](#).

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

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### **Sport England Report**

Sport England have undertaken a comprehensive review of evidence of the impact of the rising costs of living that England has experienced since late 2021 and have highlighted what this means for sports and physical activity.

[Cost of Living Impact Report January 2024](#)

### **Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Team (PHIRST) evaluations**

In 2021, the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme engaged almost three quarters of a million children across England. Not only was there high demand, but many physical and mental health benefits for those children and their parents and carers that participated.

Building on this, the PHIRST Fusion evaluation of Southwark Council's HAF will help the council to better understand their specific programme and identify where improvement can be made for future delivery. This will ensure that the children and young people, as well as their parents and carers, are best served.

[Southwark Council HAF](#)

### **Yorkshire Sport Foundation**

Please find a weekly bulletin link [here](#).

### **Heating Public Swimming Pools**

An innovation that captures heat from data centres and uses it to warm public pools is about to scale up in Exmouth.

[Read more here](#).

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## Tackling racism, discrimination and their outcomes

Regional Lead: Abi Brown

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### **Black Health Inequalities Summit: Save the Date (Royal Society of Medicine and CAHN)**

The London Inspire Programme is a bespoke programme, specifically aimed to improve the health of Black Londoners. The Caribbean African Health Network (CAHN) is the lead partner of this programme.

In March there will be a Black Health Inequalities event. To register, please email: [hello@inspireblackhealth.london](mailto:hello@inspireblackhealth.london).

### **Anti-Racist Action in Arts & Wellbeing: Transformation Space – Free monthly online drop in events**

Flourishing Lives and the Anti-Racist Action Group (ARAG) in Arts & Wellbeing are holding informal 'drop in' meetings for anyone who is interested in exploring ways to work to support the wider arts and wellbeing sector to transform anti-racist action, and develop wider engagement in the arts and mental health.

The meetings offer a space to dream big, share news, exchange ideas, get something off your chest or just check in with and meet other like-minded people.

The meetings will be held online on the last Tuesday of the month, from 11am - 12pm. You can drop-in and take part in any or all of the discussions - everyone is welcome!

Find out more and sign up [here](#).

### **Maternal death rates rise to 20 year high: Race Equality Foundation article**

The latest set of data presented by the MBRRACE-UK Collaboration investigation into maternal deaths in the UK shows that the mortality rate for women who died during or soon after pregnancy has increased to levels not seen for 20 years.

Findings highlight the maternal death rate for women from Black ethnic backgrounds has decreased slightly from the rate in 2019-21, but Black women remain three times more likely to die compared to White women.

Read more on the Race Equality Foundation website [here](#).

### **Physical health checks for people with severe mental illness – Race Equality Foundation**

This piece outlines a project by the Race Equality Foundation which was undertaken to better understand whether African and Caribbean people with severe mental illness were aware of and accessing physical health checks, an NHS intervention to detect and treat early signs of physical ill health.

The research resulted in a report, film and an easy read leaflet.



You find out more about the project [here](#).

### **New consultation on proposed Awaab's Law**

New measures have been unveiled by the government to crack down on negligent social landlords in response to the tragic death of two-year-old Awaab Ishak in Rochdale, due to respiratory issues caused by mould in his flat. Awaab's Law, aims to bring about significant reforms in social housing to prevent similar incidents.

A consultation is currently open where you can submit your responses.

Read more background on the Race Equality Foundation website about this [here](#).

You can find the consultation [here](#). The deadline for responses is on 11:59pm on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

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## **Creating fair employment and good work for all**

**Regional Lead: Nicola Corrigan**

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### **Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Team (PHIRST) evaluations**

Walsall Council has commissioned a Healthy Workplace Programme (WHP) to support the improvement of health and wellbeing in Walsall. The WHP focuses its support at small and medium sized organisations, known as SMEs. Men, people in low paid work, and individuals who are employed in routine and manual work, are the key groups whose health and wellbeing the WHP aims to improve. The workplace health team uses needs assessment, alongside discussions with the business, to complete a health development plan for each individual business that highlights priorities and appropriate support.

[Please read more here](#).

### **WHO and Public Health Wales Impact of Covid**

There has been a major impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on women in general, but also specifically for women of working age and in the workforce. This explanatory note and accompanying infographic look at the major identified impacts of the pandemic on women of working age, whilst also taking into account existing inequalities related to employment. It uses the lens of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) which identifies both positive and negative health and wellbeing impacts and highlights the equity impacts on different population groups.

[Please read more here](#).

### **MSK Health Local Profile**

Musculoskeletal conditions are the leading cause of pain and disability in England and account for one of the highest causes of sickness absence and productivity loss. This profile's goal is to:

- ❖ provide meaningful data
- ❖ enable the commissioning of high value musculoskeletal services

For enquiries or feedback relating to the Musculoskeletal health: local profiles, email [profilefeedback@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:profilefeedback@dhsc.gov.uk)

Please see more on the local profiles here: [Musculoskeletal health: local profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](#)

### **Effectiveness of workplace HWB interventions**

Initiatives that promote mental well-being are formally recommended for all British workers, with many practices targeting change in individual workers' resources. While the existing evidence is generally positive about these interventions, disagreement is increasing because of concerns that individual-level interventions do not engage with working conditions. Contributing to the debate, this article uses survey data ( $N=46,336$  workers in 233 organisations) to compare participants and nonparticipants in a range of common individual-level well-being interventions, including resilience training, mindfulness and well-being apps.

Across multiple subjective well-being indicators, participants appear no better off. Results are interpreted through the job demands–resources theory and selection bias in cross-sectional results is interrogated. Overall, results suggest interventions are not providing additional or appropriate resources in response to job demands.

[Employee well-being outcomes from individual-level mental health interventions: Cross-sectional evidence from the United Kingdom](#)

### **DWP voluntary 2023 report on disability, mental health and wellbeing**

The Voluntary Reporting Framework was launched by the government to encourage businesses to report how many of their staff have a disability or health condition, and also to report on the health and wellbeing of staff. The framework was created in partnership with employers and charities.

[Please read more here.](#)

### **Society of Occupational Health (SOM)**

The SOM has developed a number of free webinars to support workplace health and wellbeing.

Find out more and sign up [here](#).

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**Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all**

**Regional Lead: Toni Williams & Karen Horrocks**

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### **Turner a Corner: the financial wellbeing of people in the UK**

The [abrdn Financial Fairness Trust](#) has published its latest findings from the Financial Fairness Tracker Survey. The Survey found that:

- In the past two years, an extra two million UK households have fallen into serious financial difficulties. The number of households in difficulties has risen from 2.8 million (or 10% of all households) to 4.8 million (17% of households). The overall situation in October 2023 remains similar to that of October 2022, indicating that the effects of the cost of living crisis continue to be felt by UK households.
- Those in difficulty face real hardship, however, with 9% of all households having used a foodbank in the past six months. This rises to 24% among those

receiving income-related benefits and 20% among those receiving disability-related benefits, suggesting that the level of benefits has become increasingly insufficient against a backdrop of rising costs.

- Two-in-five (39%) of respondents reported that financial worries cause them to sleep poorly at night, but this rises to nearly seven-in-eight (85%) of those in serious financial difficulty.
- A third (32%) of all households had problems with damp, mould or condensation, rising to half (51%) of those in serious financial difficulty.

## **UK Poverty 2024**

[The Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) have published their latest report on understanding poverty in the UK. Key findings include:

- Poverty has increased close to pre pandemic levels.
- Children have consistently had the highest poverty rates, while pensioners along with working age adults without children now have the lowest.
- Poverty is deepening: since 1994/95 the percentage of people in poverty who are in very deep poverty has increased.
- Some groups have particularly high levels of poverty, this includes larger families (especially those with 3 or more children), families whose childcare responsibilities limit their ability to work, many minority ethnic groups, disabled people, informal carers, families not in work, part-time workers and the self-employed, people living in rented accommodation, and families claiming income related benefits.

## **Climate and Health Update**

### **Reflection and takeaways from COP28**

With COP28 ending with a commitment to 'transition away' from fossil fuels, and a stronger recognition of the health impacts of climate change, the Faculty of Public Health and the Association of Directors of Public Health welcome steps towards necessary action to protect planetary and human health.

Read the statement from the Association of Directors of PH [here](#).

The FPH brought together public health colleagues to discuss and debrief on the Conference and think through what is next for public health action on climate and health.

Watch the recording of this event [here](#) and hear from Professor Lea Berrang Ford, Head of the Centre for Climate and Health Security, UKHSA, and Malik Amin Aslam Khan, Pakistan's former Minister of Climate Change, followed by a panel of public health professionals working in the UK.

### **The Priestley Centre at the University of Leeds: Online discussion post COP28- 'What went well, what went badly and what comes next?'**

The recording of the webinar is [now available on our YouTube channel](#). There is more information about the work of [Priestley Centre on their website](#) and find out about their activities in the run up to COP29.

If you would like to stay up to date with Priestley Centre activities and research, you can [sign up to receive their newsletter](#).

## **CPD News**

Our first Communication CPD session that focused on external influencing earlier in January was very successful. For those that have missed the session the video we have watched, alongside all links shared from the facilitators within the chat during the session will be added to the ADPH YHPHN website and gives an overview of our local discussion.

[Please see more here.](#)

Want to develop your skills and knowledge to effectively communicate about health and climate change? Sign up to our second webinar below.

## **Climate Health and Adaption Event (Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2:30pm-4pm)**

Our next CPD event, Climate Health and Adaption is a collaboration between the ADPHY&H and the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (Y&HCC) As part of our on-going work together, this interactive CPD session will explore how storytelling can help us understand the human experiences of future climate impacts and how we can best prepare ourselves and our communities. The session will be online and open for anyone with an interest in this topic to join.

### **Aims**

1. The session will focus on helping health professionals engage in the adaptation narrative, support them in developing an understanding of potential climate impacts and guide participants in exploring the links between good adaptation and reducing health inequalities.
2. The session will also pilot the YHCC's recently developed weather narratives tool and test how this tool can support health sector professionals by using stories to navigate health adaptation issues.

[Please sign up here.](#)

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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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### Framework of modifiable factors for the mental health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people (BCYP)

This [framework](#), published on 8 January 2024 and provides a set of documents to support effective system-wide action. They

- highlight the wide range of modifiable factors that interact to influence the mental health of BCYP, summarising them in a conceptual framework and highlighting the evidence behind these
- convey opportunities across the BCYP life course to both promote and minimise risks to the mental health of BCYP
- provide information on activities being taken across government that positively impact upon the mental health of BCYP

### Suicides in England and Wales: 2022 registrations

The Office for National Statistics published its latest analysis of registered deaths from suicide in England and Wales on 19 December 2023. The key findings included:

- In 2022 there were 5642 suicides registered, equating to a rate of 10.7 deaths per 100,000 people. This rate was consistent with that in 2021.
- 74.1% of suicides were in males, a rate of 16.4 deaths per 100,000. The rate for females was 5.4 deaths per 100,000.
- Among males, the age-specific rate was highest in those aged 90 years or over (32.1 deaths per 100,000) followed by those aged 45 – 49 years (23.0 per 100,000).
- Among females, the age specific rate was highest in those aged 50 – 54 years (7.8 deaths per 100,000).

For the [full analysis](#) please visit the ONS website.

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## Improving sexual and reproductive health

Regional Lead: Georgina Wilkinson

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### National HIV Testing Week 5-11 February 2024

National HIV Testing Week will start on Monday 5th February 2024. This is a campaign to promote regular testing in England, particularly among groups most affected by HIV. This testing week people will be able to order either a free self-test kit for HIV or a self-sampling kit for HIV and syphilis. More information including [resources](#), [campaign briefing](#) and [social media pack](#) are now available.

## **HIV: positive voices survey - report published**

This [report](#) presents data from the most recent Positive Voices - national survey of people living with HIV. It includes data on:

- HIV knowledge, diagnoses, and treatment
- health conditions and medication
- healthcare use and satisfaction with HIV specialist services and GP services
- health-related quality of life and well-being
- general health and health-related behaviours
- stigma and discrimination
- housing, employment and finances
- met and unmet health and social care needs
- impact of COVID-19

## **Spotlight on sexually transmitted infections in Yorkshire and Humber: 2022 data**

STIs represent an important public health challenge in Yorkshire and Humber. Out of all the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)'s regions it has the third highest rate of new STIs in England.

Read the full report [here](#).

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

**Regional Lead: Toni Williams**

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## **Health Equity Evidence Centre**

The [Health Equity Evidence Centre](#) provides data, evidence and actionable strategies to reduce inequalities in primary health care. Recently published evidence briefs include mitigating inequalities in self referral to specialist services, addressing inequalities in the uptake of cervical screening, and fostering equitable access to primary care for asylum seekers, migrants, and refugees.

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# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO TACKLE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

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Regional Lead: Chris Sharp

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**School of Public Health Spring Conference Global Public Health & Climate Change - Leeds University Campus – Registration now open for Monday 4th March and Tuesday 5th March 2024 (indicative timings 9:30am – 4pm)**

**Day 1: Global Public Health: issues, insights and priorities**

The aim of the day is to introduce public health professionals from across the region to global health through: exploration of the global health landscape, key players, and relationships of power and influence; deep dives into global health priorities; insights from professionals working in the field; and networking opportunities. We hope to encourage participants to reflect on actions they could take in their current roles to advance global health agendas and to increase their awareness of opportunities to work in the global health space.

**Date:** Monday 4th March and Tuesday 5th March 2024  
(indicative timings 9:30am – 4pm)

**Location:** University House, Leeds

[Click here to register](#)

**Day 2: Climate Change & Public Health**

Human health goes hand in hand with the planet's health. The activities that drive climate change are the same things that drive poor health outcomes. The role of fossil fuels in driving climate change is undebatable; we cannot stop or reduce the scale of climate change without addressing the powerful fossil fuel industry. Grant Ennis, the author of *Dark PR How Corporate Disinformation Harms our Health and the Environment*, joins us, alongside Greg Fell, ADPH President, to explore the playbook of tactics and powerful framing, used by the industry, which have distracted and delayed effective policies to slow climate change. We will take time to reflect and consider our roles, be it as public health professionals, public sector leaders, or as elected members, to respond, thinking about our own framing and strategies to take action locally. This will include actions to reduce emissions and achieve net zero, as well as adapting to the effects of climate change which are now inevitable.

[Click here to register](#)

**A Picture of Health: Health Intelligence pack for health improvement – North East and Yorkshire**

This [interactive tool](#) provides headline intelligence about the population health in the North East and Yorkshire (NEY). The report presents indicators against health and well-being priorities for the two regions, alongside ICS level estimates (experimental) where available, with an added functionality to select local authority level data closest to the ICSs boundaries within NEY. This refresh includes data from Fingertips

November update. Census 2021 population data has been added, replacing the previous population projections section until the latest Census based population projections are available. Please note the latest mortality trends based on Census 2021 population estimates will be available in the early part of next year, following the release of ONS rebased populations. Your feedback and views are welcome on these products including the Picture of health, please fill in this [feedback form](#).



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## ANY OTHER RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

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### **Health Inequalities, Lives Cut Short – Institute of Health Equity Report: Latest report**

In [this latest](#) report by the Institute of Health Equity (IHE) at University College London (led by Sir Michael Marmot), report author Professor Peter Goldblatt analysed the life expectancy of people across England published Office for National Statistics (ONS) data sources. Calculations were made from the number of excess deaths in the decade from 2011 in England.

Findings confirmed that one million people in 90% of areas in England lived shorter lives than they should between 2011 and the start of the pandemic and highlight the impact social determinants of health (and their inequalities) can have on health.

### **NIHR Public Health Intervention Response Studies Team (PHIRST) Newsletter**

PHIRST have released a first edition of their new newsletter. This includes more information about their latest completed evaluations and publications.

To read this first edition and to subscribe please [click here](#).

### **‘A systematic review of ‘equity-focused’ game-based learning in the teaching of health staff’: Research paper, Public Health in Practice (Royal Society for Public Health)**

This publication outlines findings of a systematic review to evaluate the effectiveness of ‘equity-focused’ game-based learning in training health staff.

Read more about the findings [here](#).

### **Healthy Places, Prosperous Lives: IPPR Discussion Report**

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) have published its third commission report on the Commission on Health and Prosperity.

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

### **The Burnout Report: Mental Health UK**

Mental Health UK have published the first of its annual burnout reports following research conducted by YouGov. This work sets to gain greater insights into public awareness and understanding of burnout, explore our relationship with stress and pressure both in and out of our working lives, and the factors that contribute to burnout for adults in the UK today.

Read the report [here](#).

### **Prevention in health and social care: healthy places: UK Parliament**

This is a House of Commons Committee report, with recommendations to government on Healthy Places.

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

**Transport poverty: a public health issue – Public Health Scotland report**

This briefing describes a multidimensional definition of transport poverty. It outlines the causes of transport poverty within and beyond the transport system and details how transport poverty can influence health and health inequalities.

Read the summary and publications [here](#).