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| **Minding the Gap - News Brief: No. 136** |
| **Welcome to the One Hundred and Thirty Sixth edition of the ADPH Minding the Gap News Brief, the Yorkshire and Humber Health inequalities Programme.** **To keep updated follow us on** [**https://twitter.com/mindingthegapyh**](https://twitter.com/mindingthegapyh)**For past editions and information click here:** [**https://yhphnetwork.co.uk/links-and-resources/minding-the-gap/**](https://yhphnetwork.co.uk/links-and-resources/minding-the-gap/) |
| **Location Data Says it all: Staying at Home During Coronavirus is a Luxury** This article explains that many lower-income workers continue to move around, while those who make more money are staying home and limiting their exposure to the coronavirus. Although people in all income groups are moving less than they did before the crisis, wealthier people are staying home the most, especially during the working week. Not only that, but wealthier people began doing so days before the poor, giving them a head start on social distancing as the virus spread.The article offers evidence of a divide laid bare by the coronavirus pandemic, one in which wealthier people not only have more job security and benefits, but also may be better able to avoid becoming sick.[Article](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/03/us/coronavirus-stay-home-rich-poor.html) |
| **Homelessness, Health and Housing: Joining up Services**In this blog, Nicholas Pleace at the Centre for Housing Policy at University of York considers how housing and health can better support those sleeping rough, through collaboration between the two sectors, strong leadership and a willingness to listen.[Blog](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2020/03/homelessness-health-and-housing?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11402758_NEWSL_HWB_2020-03-30&dm_i=21A8,6SEFA,FLWQCU,R5XRA,1) |
| **Making Housing Affordable Again: Rebalancing the Nation’s Housing System**The homes people want, in the places they need to live, are becoming more and more unaffordable. Ordinary people are struggling with housing costs and for some this means being pushed deeper into poverty, leaving no money behind once their rent or mortgage have been paid. For the most vulnerable families and individuals in our society, having nowhere suitable to live has lasting and damaging consequences.This report suggests that something has gone fundamentally wrong with the housing system and what it offers local people. The report illustrates that more and more households – in both urban and rural areas – are facing housing stress or cannot afford to repair or heat their homes. Unaffordability has become a feature of all housing types and forms. It is now a serious concern, particularly for large numbers of low-income households.[Report](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b9675fc1137a618f278542d/t/5e784f7e087a892473a3ff8a/1584942982786/Making%2BHousing%2BAffordable%2BAgain%2B-%2BFull%2Breport.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11402758_NEWSL_HWB_2020-03-30&dm_i=21A8,6SEFA,FLWQCU,R8VO2,1) |
| **£3.2 Million Emergency Support For Rough Sleepers During Coronavirus Outbreak**Rough sleepers, or those at risk of rough sleeping will be supported by £3.2 million of initial emergency funding if they need to self-isolate to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).The funding will be available to all local authorities in England and will reimburse them for the cost of providing accommodation and services to those sleeping on the streets to help them successfully self-isolate.[Press Release](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-2-million-emergency-support-for-rough-sleepers-during-coronavirus-outbreak) |
| **How Covid-19 has exposed inequalities in the UK food system: The case of UK food and poverty [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]** The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the profound insecurity of large segments of the UK population; increased unemployment, reduced hours, and enforced self-isolation for multiple vulnerable groups is likely to lead to an increase in UK food insecurity, exacerbating diet-related health inequalities. The social and economic crisis associated with the pandemic has exposed the fragility of the system of food charity which, at present, is a key response to growing poverty. A vulnerable food system, with just-in-time supply chains, has been challenged by stockpiling. The resultant is food supply issues at food banks, alongside rapidly increasing demand and reduced volunteer numbers, has undermined many food charities, especially independent food banks. In the light of this analysis, the authors make a series of recommendations for social security policy, ‘emergency’ food provision, and retailers. Theye call for an immediate end to the five week wait for Universal Credit and cash grants for low income households. We ask central and local government to recognise that many food aid providers are already at capacity and unable to adopt additional responsibilities. They urge supermarkets to commit to paying their employees the Real Living Wage to mitigate against food insecurity amongst their staff now and in the future. The government’s -- impressive -- response to the economic crisis associated with Covid-19 has underscored a key principle: it is the government’s responsibility to protect population health, to guarantee household incomes, and to safeguard the economy. Millions of households were in poverty before the pandemic, and millions more will be so unless the government continues to protect household incomes through policy change.[Paper](https://emeraldopenresearch.com/articles/2-11/v1) |
| **Protecting Workers’ Safety in the Coronavirus Pandemic**Keeping the economy running must be balanced with workers’ welfare and wider public health objectives. While many good employers are working with employees to agree safe working practices – making changes to their usual ways of working, developing appropriate risk assessments, and communicating clearly with staff, however, there are too many employers across a range of sectors that are not making the practical changes needed to keep work as safe as possible for their staff. This includes unsafe working practices in services and sectors including retail, logistics, energy, waste management and parts of the public sector (including schools).This article is call on the government to provide further direction to employers on what they need to do to ensure safe working, and to set out the enforcement action that they will take against those that refuse and sets out five key asks of the government. [Article](https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/protecting-workers-safety-coronavirus-pandemic) |
| **Coronavirus: Advice And Practical Tips For People Affected By Dementia**Living with dementia at any time brings everyday challenges for the person and the people around them. Coronavirus is making daily life much harder. During the coronavirus pandemic the Alzheimer's Society have advice and practical tips for people living with dementia and those supporting them – either in the same household or from a distance.You may feel anxious, scared or lonely. But you are not alone – help is available.[Advice](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=dotdigital&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GenNewsletter&utm_content=26032020&dm_i=57EL,6JDB,2DU87D,ON4Y,1) |
| **Coronavirus Food Alert: Call for Government Action on Food for Vulnerable People**Many will struggle to follow the advice to self-isolate either because they already cannot afford enough food to cover this period; because their income is likely to drop substantially, placing pressure on their finances; or because they do not have support to access food and other basic necessities.This article is calling on the Government urgently to release funds to eradicate household food insecurity, and to ease certain costs and welfare constraints, as a priority response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak. This unprecedented situation requires an urgent and unprecedented level of response.[Article](https://www.sustainweb.org/blogs/mar20_coronavirus_call_to_action/) |
| **Expertise by Experience is Essential to Getting the COVD-19 Response Right.**Whilst the government have announced some support for people struggling but significantly more needs to be done and fast. Activists from across the country are describing situations where people who are already trapped in rolling waves of poverty are drowning, self-isolating and unable to afford food or medication.The Addressing Poverty by Lived Experiences (APLE) Collective, would like to be part of these conversations. They have something important to offer, given their experiences and expertise on poverty and inequality. APLE will be putting together some solutions based what is going on for people living in poverty and experiencing the effects of COVD19.[Please see this article](https://www.aplecollective.com/?p=327) |
| **Families Borrowing to Buy Food a Week into UK Lockdown**More than 1.5 million adults in Britain say they cannot obtain enough food. Half of the YouGov poll sample reported that they were self-isolating, and 53% of NHS workers were worried about getting food.This article explains how half of parents on low incomes with children eligible for free school meals said that they had not yet received any substitute meals to keep their children fed, despite government promises to provide food vouchers or parcels. Around 830,000 children are therefore likely to be going without daily sustenance.[Article](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/28/families-borrowing-buy-food-week-of-lockdown?CMP=share_btn_tw) |
| **People with Mental Health Problems Need More Financial Support during Coronavirus Crisis**This research looks at the financial challenges people with mental health problems face during the coronavirus outbreak – and what government, regulators and firms should do to address these problems. In particular, it raises concerns that people with mental health problems will struggle to access benefits and the government’s new support measures during the current crisis. The research calls for the government to do more to protect people with mental health problems from dramatic income drops, and to ensure they can access the financial support they need. They also want regulators and firms to make it easier for people to access essential services, and to make sure no one gets cut off.[Research](https://www.moneyandmentalhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Money-and-mental-health-coronavirus-policy-note.pdf) |
| **Guidance on Shielding and Protecting People Defined on Medical Grounds as Extremely Vulnerable from Covid-19**This guidance is for people, including children, who are at very high risk of severe illness from Covid-19 (coronavirus) because of an underlying health condition, and for their family, friends and carers. It is intended for use in situations where the extremely vulnerable person is living in their own home, with or without additional support. This includes the extremely clinically vulnerable people living in long-term care facilities, either for the elderly or people with special needs.[Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11402758_NEWSL_HWB_2020-03-30&dm_i=21A8,6SEFA,FLWQCU,R6KF8,1) |
| **Commissioner Guide: Reducing Parental Conflict** This guide is designed to be modular and interactive. You don’t need to be an expert in ‘parental conflict’ to use this guide, but it is specifically written for public sector leaders and commissioners with responsibility for family services. It is intended to support them to use the best available research and practice evidence on interparental conflict in their work to get the best outcomes for children. Each section is written to stand alone, to directly address the questions that you want an answer to, whether that is to develop your understanding of the evidence, to find ways to measure the impact of what you are doing, or something else. Each question also has links to further detail, and tools and resources that can help you.[Guide (Print)](https://www.eif.org.uk/files/pdf/commissioner-guide-reducing-parental-conflict-print.pdf)[Guide (Interactive)](https://www.eif.org.uk/files/pdf/commissioner-guide-reducing-parental-conflict.pdf) |
| **Marmot Review 10 Years On**It has been ten years since the publication of The Marmot Review, for the first time in more than 100 years life expectancy has failed to increase across the country, and for the poorest 10% of women it has actually declined. Over the last decade health inequalities have widened overall, and the amount of time people spend in poor health has increased since 2010.#Marmot2020 confirms an increase in the north/south health gap, where the largest decreases were seen in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in the North East, and the largest increases in the least deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in London.There are a number of key points made within the report, but the principle point I would like to make is that, the more deprived the area, the shorter the life expectancy. This social gradient has become steeper over the last decade, and women in the most deprived 10% of areas for whom life expectancy fell from 2010-12 and 2016-18. There are marked regional differences in life expectancy, particularly among people living in more deprived areas, a general point is that the North is doing worse than the South.Mortality rates are increasing for men and women aged 45-49 – perhaps related to so-called ‘deaths of despair’ (suicide, drugs and alcohol abuse) as seen in the USA. Child poverty has increased with children’s and youth centres have closing and the reduction in funding for education. There is a housing crisis and a rise in homelessness, people have insufficient income to lead a healthy life and there are more ignored communities with poor conditions leaving people with little reason for hope, aspiration and tangible possibility to improve their lot!Marmot Review 2020[Executive Summary](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_executive%20summary_web.pdf)[Full Report](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_full%20report.pdf) |
| **As Coronavirus Deepens Inequality, Inequality Worsens its Spread**As inequality has risen, health disparities have widened. Preventive care and health education have steadily tilted toward the educated and the well-off. As the coronavirus spreads across the globe, it appears to be setting off a devastating feedback loop with another of the gravest forces of our time: economic inequality. Research suggests that those in lower economic strata are likelier to catch the disease. Poor people are more likely to die from it and for those who remain healthy, they are more likely to suffer loss of income or health care as a result of quarantines and other measures.[Article](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/world/europe/coronavirus-inequality.html) |
| **COVID-19: Tips For Housing Sector on End of Life Care**We are all aware of the develops associated with Covid-19, the lives of residents of sheltered housing are at risk and those who are vulnerable may die of their current long-term condition. This briefing set out a number of tips for the housing sector on end-of-life care and signposts a selection of useful links and practical advice.[Briefing](https://www.housinglin.org.uk/_assets/Resources/Housing/Support_materials/Practice_briefings/HLIN_Briefing_EoLC-COVID-19.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11432231_NEWSL_HMP%202020-03-31&dm_i=21A8,6T15Z,FLWQCU,RA13Q,1) |
| **Local Authority Research System Call Commissioning Brief**The NIHR recognises that local authorities differ in their health research activity and wishes to continue exploring how it can enable more local authorities to become more research active. NIHR already provides the NHS with significant research infrastructure to enable it to be research active. The NIHR is now looking to explore how it can strengthen its support to research in the local government environment.This call provides specific funding (up to £50,000 per site) for up to 10 sites across the UK. This funding will be available between May and September 2020 and is to fund the exploration of how a local authority might form the basis of a research system that will enable that authority to become research active. The deadline for applications is Friday 24 April 2020, at 1pm.[Application process](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/2030-local-authority-research-system-call-commissioning-brief/24480) |
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