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| **Minding the Gap - News Brief: No. 143** |
| **Adult Social Care and Covid-19: Assessing the Policy Response in England so Far**The impacts of COVID-19 on people using social care – adults of all ages who need care and support as a result of disability or illness – have been severe. So far there have been more than 30,500 excess deaths among care home residents in England, and 4,500 additional deaths in domiciliary care There have been examples of services being overwhelmed, leading to failings in care, and there has been a significant increase in deaths among people with learning disabilities and autism. Social care staff – mostly women and more ethnically diverse than the general population – have been around twice as likely to die from COVID-19 as other adults. The amount of unpaid care provided also appears to have increased substantially.This briefing provides a detailed description and timeline of the government’s social care response. It considers the role that social care has played in the overall policy narrative and identifies the underlying factors within the social care system, such as its structure and funding that have shaped its ability to respond. It argues that central government support for social care came too late and that policy action on social care has been focused primarily on care homes and risks leaving out other vulnerable groups and services. Longstanding issues within the system – including underfunding, workforce shortages, system fragmentation, and lack of quality data – have shaped the ability of the sector to respond.[Report](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/20200730-Adult-social-care-and-COVID-19-policy-response-so-far.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11717376_NEWSL_HMP%202020-08-04&dm_i=21A8,6Z56O,FLWQCU,S3AHG,1) |
| **Life on Hold: Children's Well-Being and Covid-19**The Coronavirus pandemic, together with the associated social distancing and lockdown measures, have had a substantial impact on health and public freedom. With schools in the UK closed to a large proportion of children for up to six months, parents left to home school with varying access to internet and other resources, and wide-scale furloughing of staff and people unable to see wider family/friends, there is widespread interest in understanding the impact on our society. The immediate and long-term effect on the well-being and mental health of children and young people is not surprisingly a key concern.This report looks in depth at the impact of coronavirus (Covid-19) and the associated lockdown on young lives. The charity’s annual survey of children’s wellbeing was completed by just over 2,000 young people and their parents between April and June. Amongst the findings were; Parents report a wide range of impacts on their family, and on their children’s happiness with friends and how much choice they have in life and they anticipate long term negative impacts on their children’s education. Encouragingly, given the range of impacts reported, only around half expect a long term negative impact on the happiness of adults/ children in the household. Most children reported having coped to some degree with the changes made as a result of the pandemic. Those areas where they had coped less well were not being able to see their friends and family. The impact on friendships was also reiterated in children’s responses and highlighted feelings of isolation. While most children are happy/satisfied, a greater proportion than usual scored below the midpoint on our preferred, and usually stable, multi-item measure of life satisfaction, which suggests that some children’s cognitive well-being has been adversely affected.[Report](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/life-on-hold-childrens-well-being-and-covid-19.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11717376_NEWSL_HMP%202020-08-04&dm_i=21A8,6Z56O,FLWQCU,S3AYR,1) |
| **Building More Social Housing** This report finds that 90,000 new social homes will be needed every year to meet the country’s housing needs and ensure the overall target of 300,000 new homes is met. With current building levels in the low thousands, only a significant increase in funding support for local authorities and housing providers, supported by broader reforms to make land more affordable and using all the receipts from Right to Buy, can provide the necessary uplift. The report considers the best ways to deliver the social housing this country needs and considers how to recreate the successes of the past within the modern housing system and sets out a blueprint for the Government to take forward.[Report](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmcomloc/173/173.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11698221_NEWSL_HWB_2020-08-03&dm_i=21A8,6YQEL,FLWQCU,S2Q93,1) |
| **Living in Poverty was Bad for your Health before Covid-19**Lower incomes are associated with worse health and this is particularly severe for people living in poverty. The longer someone lives without an adequate income, the worse the risk is to their health. This risk, in turn, can affect that person’s ability to find or sustain work, potentially resulting in a vicious circle of lower wellbeing, reduced productivity and a more limited ability to participate in society.This paper looks at the link between health and income. It explores the nature of the economic shocks experienced in recent years, including those stemming from Covid-19, and the consequences these might have on people’s health. It then considers how we might use the current crisis to build a fairer and healthier society.[Report](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/Living%20in%20poverty%20was%20bad%20for%20your%20health%20before%20COVID-19.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11698221_NEWSL_HWB_2020-08-03&dm_i=21A8,6YQEL,FLWQCU,S1JJW,1) |
| **Community Mobilisation Unlocking the Potential of Community Power**It cannot be overstated, that we face and are facing a crisis of the magnitude posed by COVID-19 like never before. Local authorities up and down the country have been stepping in to provide vital community support, which, even in better times, is restricted by other commitments to the communities they serve. Community mobilisation can and should play a central role in the life of local communities. Acting as a facilitator and an enabler, local authorities can reap the widespread benefits of an empowered community. By building relations with community groups, local authorities can equip these groups to better the areas they live in, thereby improving the lives of residents. This report highlights the benefits that are widespread when local representatives and councils grasp the opportunity to enable the communities they serve. With case studies and recommendations, this report is a helpful guide on how to unlock the potential of community power[Report](http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/wp-content/uploads/Community-Mobilisation-FINAL.pdf) |
| **The Psychology of Loneliness: Why it Matters and What we can do**Understanding the psychological factors that trigger and perpetuate loneliness can improve the effectiveness of interventions for loneliness. This report looks at how psychological approaches can help tackle loneliness. It is focused on older people but has lessons for all adults. It gathers the current research and evidence available to us about what we can learn from psychology, as well as making policy recommendations for how this learning can be applied and help the millions of lonely people across the UK. Support for loneliness can be better tailored to individual need, and so be more effective, if it recognises both the internal and external aspects of an individual’s experiences of loneliness.The report suggests that we find ourselves at the first phase of a large and very unusual recession – in addition to the health impact of the coronavirus itself. [Report](https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/wp-content/uploads/Psychology_of_Loneliness_FINAL_REPORT.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11698221_NEWSL_HWB_2020-08-03&dm_i=21A8,6YQEL,FLWQCU,S1TOT,1) |
| **The Briefing Room: How to Beat Obesity**The government says “tackling obesity is one of the greatest long-term health challenges this country faces” and has published a plan to help people in England lose weight. What’s in it, what’s not, and what more could be done? This podcast helps us to understand the whole story around the obesity levels in the UK.**Contributors include:**David Buck A senior fellow at the health think tank The Kings Fund and used to work for The Department of HealthSmitha Mundas A doctor turned journalist and a health reporter for the BBCSusan Jebb Professor of Diet and Population Health at the University of Oxford, and a member of the Public Health England Obesity Programme.Professor Corinna Hawkes Director of the Centre for Food Policy at City University and Vice Chair of the London Child Obesity Task force.[Podcast](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000l8r9) |
| **Reducing Parental Conflict Planning Tool**Reducing parental conflict is a complex issue which requires a system-wide approach. This self-assessment tool is designed to support local leaders and commissioners to identify local system strengths and areas for development, and to monitor progress over time. In this document you will find a brief overview of the evidence on parental conflict, and link to further information and an introduction to using a systemic approach to reduce the impact of parental conflict on children.[Tool](https://www.eif.org.uk/resource/reducing-parental-conflict-planning-tool) |
| **Covid-19 and the Nation's Mental Health: July 2020: Forecasting Needs and Risks in the UK**Covid-19 is increasing levels of psychological distress around the world, and the mental health impacts are greatest among those most closely affected. This includes people living in areas where there are local outbreaks of the virus and people with long-term physical or mental health conditions.The briefing warns that the combination of a possible rise in Covid-19 cases combined with seasonal flu, the absence of financial safety nets such as the furlough scheme, and a no-deal Brexit may affect the whole UK economy and have a major knock-on effect on mental health.[Briefing](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/covid-19-nations-mental-health-july-2020?utm_source=Centre+for+Mental+Health+E-bulletin&utm_campaign=099cb13ac8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_JULY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1b1a504c55-099cb13ac8-212063885&ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_JULY)) |
| **Living Standards Audit**The economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic have hit household living standards hard. As large parts of the economy were being shut down, it was already clear that the lockdown and following recession would be unequally felt. This report looks at how households were faring before the coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis, but also presents how the incomes of different groups were affected during the height of the lockdown. The report also look to the future, and discusses the importance of maintaining – and even improving – the safety net in order to protect incomes against the effects of rising unemployment in the months ahead.[Report](https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/07/living-standards-audit.pdf) |
| **National Food Strategy: Part One**The aim of this independent review is to rethink how the whole food system should work, from farm to fork. Part one of this two-part strategy contains urgent recommendations to support this country through the turbulence caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and to prepare for the end of the EU exit transition period on 31 December 2020. It focuses on making sure a generation of our most disadvantaged children do not get left behind, and on grasping the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to decide what kind of trading nation we want to be.[Report](https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NFS-Part-One-SP-CP.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11698221_NEWSL_HWB_2020-08-03&dm_i=21A8,6YQEL,FLWQCU,S32K9,1) |
| **Comparisons of All-Cause Mortality Between European Countries and Regions: January to June 2020**There has been considerable interest in international comparisons of mortality during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. This report compares the mortality impact internationally is by looking at all-cause mortality rates by local area, region and country compared with the five-year average. The report presents provisional analysis of European all-cause mortality patterns during the first half of 2020. Weekly deaths data is examined for 29 European countries where official data was available by 10 July 2020, and compares measures from week ending 3 January (Week 1) to week ending 12 June (Week 24) of 2020. Comparisons have been made for local areas (approximately local authority district or equivalent) as well as nationally for most of the countries included.[Report](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/comparisonsofallcausemortalitybetweeneuropeancountriesandregions/januarytojune2020?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11717376_NEWSL_HMP%202020-08-04&dm_i=21A8,6Z56O,FLWQCU,S3CPG,1) |
| **Resilient Health and Care: Learning the Lessons of Covid-19 in the English NHS**This analysis of the state of the health and care system in England in the run-up to the Covid-19 pandemic finds that underinvestment in social and community care left four in five hospitals with ‘dangerously low’ levels of spare beds as the crisis hit. Covid-19 is one of the biggest shocks in modern peacetime history. It has caused huge loss of life, and severely impacted both our society and our economy. It might be tempting to see the outbreak as a case of bad luck – a one-off event from which we should return to normal, as soon as possible. This would, however, be a mistake. The evidence is clear that global disease outbreaks are a growing threat. We should approach Covid-19 like a natural disaster. When flooding or earthquakes occur, it is always important to build back with flood defences and resilient construction. We need to do the same in the health and care system.The report calls for a long-term approach for the health and care service in England, to build resilience for any future crisis and to ensure the system isn’t always ‘running hot’ during normal times. Covid-19 exposed systematic injustice in the UK’s public health system, putting some at much greater risk than others. The evidence shows that the English health inequalities strategy (1997–2010) did make progress on our stubborn levels of inequality. However, with the government departing from this strategy in 2010, progress has stalled. Government should commit to restarting progress – with an overall commitment to cut inequality by at least 10 per cent by the end of the parliament. To deliver this, a new health inequality strategy should be overseen by a Cabinet Office ‘Health Inequality Committee’ chaired by the prime minister, in the model of the National Security Council.[Report](https://www.ippr.org/files/2020-07/resilient-health-and-care-july20.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11717376_NEWSL_HMP%202020-08-04&dm_i=21A8,6Z56O,FLWQCU,S44ZY,1) |
| **Universal Credit: Getting to First Payment**The Department for Work & Pensions has rolled out Universal Credit to replace six means-tested benefits for working-age households: Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. This report examines how the DWP is managing the process of getting to first payment in Universal Credit. The report explains how the process of getting to first payment works and considers the impact on claimants / It goes on to assess its performance in paying first payments on time, cost-efficiently and without fraud and error, in the period before COVID-19 and assess whether the Department supports claimants effectively through the initial claim processThe report suggests that many people claim Universal Credit at a challenging time in their lives. As such, the initial wait, which is an inherent part of Universal Credit’s design and operational processes, does not cause all the issues that claimants may face but, in the context of many claimants’ existing financial difficulties, can exacerbate their problems and that the Department needs to better understand and address the needs of vulnerable people and those with more complex claims, who may be at greater risk of struggling under the Universal Credit regime.[Report](https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Universal-Credit-getting-to-first-payment.pdf) |
| **Using Marmot Principles to Tackle Health Inequalities and COVID-19, 23 June 2020**The pandemic, and the wider governmental and societal response, have brought these health inequalities into sharp focus. There is early evidence which suggests that some of the social determinants of health, including obesity, ethnicity, deprivation, poor mental health, and socio-economic status are contributing to higher levels of COVID-19 related deaths. Measures to control the spread of the virus are likely to have significant longer term implications on health inequalities, related morbidity and mortality of certain groups of people, for example those experiencing social isolation, financial insecurity and domestic abuse.How do we mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on more deprived and excluded groups?This webinar will explore the health inequalities exposed by COVID-19 and look at how they can be addressed.This webinar is accompanied with the presentation slides are available using the link.[Webinar](https://www.local.gov.uk/using-marmot-principles-tackle-health-inequalities-and-covid-19-23-june-2020) |
| **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) |
| **Levelling Up Yorkshire and Humber: Health as the New Wealth Post-Covid**The role of health in driving economic and inclusive growth in the Yorkshire and Humber region and recognise the clear linkages between health and wealth – we know that a healthy population is a productive and prosperous one and vice versa. This report provides a plan to tackle ever-increasing socio-economic inequalities and boost health outcomes in Yorkshire and the Humber by encouraging and supporting more cross-sector working. Health and the economy are bound tightly together, and interventions designed to improve health, inclusive growth and wellbeing in Yorkshire and the Humber are in the interests of all local, regional and national partners, businesses and communities and should be a shared priority and endeavour.[Report](https://www.nhsconfed.org/-/media/Confederation/Files/Publications/Documents/LevellingUpYorkshireandtheHumberReport130720.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11677797_NEWSL_HMP%202020-07-17&dm_i=21A8,6YAN9,FLWQCU,RZG9J,1) |
| **Covid-19, Racism and the Roots of Health Inequality**This podcast discusses how is Covid-19 repeating patterns of existing health inequalities? What factors are driving the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the health of ethnic minority populations? And what needs to happen next? Helen McKenna sits down with Natalie Creary, Programme Delivery Director at Black Thrive, and James Nazroo, Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester.[Podcast](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/podcast/covid-19-racism-health-inequality?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11721172_MKPUB_Podcast%20episode%20covid-19%20and%20racism%20resend%2031-07-2020&utm_content=title&dm_i=21A8,6Z844,FLWQCU,S3K0O,1) |
| **Expert Reaction to New Rules on Household Gatherings in Greater Manchester, and Parts of West Yorkshire and East Lancashire**[Article](https://www.sciencemediacentre.org/expert-reaction-to-new-rules-on-household-gatherings-in-greater-manchester-and-parts-of-west-yorkshire-and-east-lancashire/) |
| **Marmot ‘Ten Years On!’ (Conference Postponed until the Spring)****Venue: Leeds City Hilton Hotel, Neville Street, Leeds, LS1 4BX,****Date: Monday, 21st September 2020** |
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