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PHE Bulletin, Public Health England's regular update, provides news and information on PHE and the public health landscape for all those concerned with the public's health. For more information see our website: [www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

## Public health news

### National NHS Diabetes initiative launched in major bid to prevent illness

PHE with NHS England and Diabetes UK has launched the first National NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme. It aims to significantly reduce the four million people in England otherwise expected to have type 2 diabetes by 2025. The programme will initially target up to 10,000 people at a high risk of developing type 2 diabetes, with national roll-out thereafter. Seven innovative demonstrator sites around the country have been chosen to take part in the initial phase of the programme. For more information see the joint [press release](#) from PHE and NHS England.

### Scarlet fever: second year of high activity

PHE has reported a continued substantial increase in scarlet fever notifications across England. This is the second year in a row of exceptional activity. A total of 754 new cases were reported in England in the 2 to 8 March week and 5,746 since the season began in September. This compares to 2,833 cases for the same period last season. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### Travellers to the Caribbean warned about chikungunya

Latest PHE chikungunya annual data show a 12-fold increase from 24 cases in 2013 to 295 cases in 2014 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The majority of cases (88%) were acquired on trips to the Caribbean and South America. Chikungunya fever is a travel-associated viral illness with similar symptoms to

dengue fever, and does not occur in the UK. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### **Meningococcal group W immunisation advised for 14 to 18 year-olds**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that immunisation for meningococcal group W (MenW) disease be offered to 14 to 18 year-olds. The advice follows a report from PHE that showed a continuing rise in cases of MenW since 2009. The Department of Health has accepted JCVI's advice and is planning the implementation of a combined Meningitis A C W Y strains immunisation programme. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

### **Annual tuberculosis update 2015**

PHE has published the 2015 edition of its annual tuberculosis (TB) update. The [newsletter](#) contains information on frontline TB projects, research and other regional, national and international TB news. It also includes an update on the collaborative TB strategy for England 2015 to 2020.

### **Human papillomavirus immunisation programme review published**

PHE has published a [review](#) of the human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme for adolescent girls over the last six years. The programme aims to reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in women. Over 2.3 million girls have received three doses of HPV vaccine in England since the start of the programme in September 2008. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Updated guidance for NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme**

From April 2015 women in England will be offered first trimester screening for the rare chromosomal conditions, [Edwards' syndrome and Patau's syndrome](#). These conditions are already screened for in England in the second trimester. The change follows updated [guidance](#) for the NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme.

### **LGBT youth suicide prevention toolkits**

PHE has been working with the Royal College of Nursing to develop a new lesbian, gay and bisexual youth suicide prevention toolkit with an accompanying document on trans youth suicide prevention. The [toolkits](#) are aimed at nurses who work with children and young people.

### **Ebola news update**

Earlier this month [a UK military healthcare worker in Sierra Leone](#) was diagnosed with Ebola and evacuated to the UK for treatment. [Four additional workers](#) identified as contacts of the individual were also returned to the UK for precautionary monitoring. PHE worked with government and NHS England colleagues to co-ordinate the return of these, and a small number of other healthcare workers, who have been returned to the UK for assessment and monitoring over the past month.

### **Guidance on protecting pupils' emotional health and wellbeing**

In partnership with the Children & Young People's Mental Health Coalition, PHE has published [Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing: A whole school and college approach](#). The eight principles outlined in the guidance document are informed by evidence and practitioner feedback about what can help protect and promote student emotional health and wellbeing.

### **NHS and Cancer Screening Programme websites are changing**

Public information on screening has moved to [NHS Choices](#). Screening information for professionals will move to the gov.uk website by June and screening education and training materials will be moving to a new home in due course.

### **Screening in England 2013-14 report published**

PHE has published [Screening in England 2013-14](#), the annual report of the NHS Screening Programmes, highlighting the programmes key achievements and successes in this period. These include the lowest ever rates of mother-to-baby HIV transmission in pregnancy.

### **National Mental Health, Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Network information updates published**

PHE's National Mental Health, Dementia and Neurology Intelligence network has updated some online tools and resources. These include the Mental Health Intelligence Network's [common mental health disorders tool](#) and [severe mental illness tool](#) which incorporate the latest available datasets, and a new [suicide prevention profile](#). The Neurology Intelligence Network has developed a [technical briefing](#) defining adult neurological conditions.

### **Building public mental health skills**

PHE has published a new [framework](#) to build mental health skills in a wide range of professions working with children and adults in all areas of life, including work settings. The framework aims to extend the responsibility for improving public mental health beyond those professions on the public health register, or with a specific role in public health. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

### **Third all breast cancer report gets back to basics**

PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network has published the [third all cancer breast report: back to basics](#). This report looks at how, routinely, cancer incidence rates are measured by the number of tumours registered, rather than the number of patients registered with a tumour. The report highlights the importance of looking at both indicators when trying to get the most instructive measure of incidence.

### **Patient reported outcome measures for gynaecological cancer published**

PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) and NHS England have been working on a pilot to record patient reported outcome measures for gynaecological cancer. They have now produced three reports, published on the NCIN website, on living with and beyond [cervical](#), [ovarian](#), and [womb](#) cancer. These describe the findings of a series of surveys undertaken with women diagnosed with these cancers.

### **New Commissioning for Value packs**

NHS England, working with PHE and NHS Right Care, has published new [commissioning for value packs](#). The packs focus on integrated care pathways urgent care, complex cases and system management and are intended to support local public health teams and clinical commissioning groups in improving population health.

### **Updated evidence base for Healthy Child Programme**

PHE has published a [rapid review](#) of the evidence base supporting for the Healthy Child Programme, ahead of the transfer of the commissioning of the 0-5 children's public health services from the NHS to local government in October this year.

## Parliamentary report on PHE's grant to local authorities published

The Public Accounts Committee has published its [report on Public Health England's Grant to Local Authorities](#). PHE chief executive Duncan Selbie said: "We welcome their acknowledgement that we have made a good start in our responsibility to protect and improve the public's health. We agree there is more to be done and the committee's recommendations will help guide us in our work with local government and the NHS."

## Recent PHE blogs

[The week at PHE: online highlights, week beginning 16 March 2015](#)

by [Blog Editor](#) (22 March 2015).

[Five facts every home owner should know about radon](#)

by [Neil McColl](#) (20 March 2015).

[Sierra Leone Ebola labs project – beating the outbreak at source](#)

by [Neil Bentley](#) (18 March 2015).

[The week at PHE: online highlights, week beginning 9 March 2015](#)

by [Blog Editor](#) (15 March 2015).

[It's time for more conversation](#)

by [Linda Hindle](#) (13 March 2015).

[The week at PHE: online highlights, week beginning 2 March 2015](#)

by [Blog Editor](#) (8 March 2015).

[Want to be a scientist? It's not just for boys](#)

by [Blog Editor](#) (6 March 2015).

[Tick Recording Scheme – being vigilant for new UK species](#)

by [Kayleigh Hansford](#) (4 March 2015).

[The week at PHE: online highlights, week beginning 23 February 2015](#)

by [Blog Editor](#) (1 March 2015).

[How can we make a contribution to work on rare diseases?](#)

by [Ann Tonks](#), [Judith Rankin](#) and [Sarah Stevens](#) (27 February 2015).

## Campaigns news

### Rise Above campaign for 11-16 year olds

PHE's new Rise Above campaign for 11-16 year olds is on topics that concern them including puberty, relationships, alcohol, smoking, drugs, peer pressure and mental health. The campaign's aim is to help them build emotional resilience by equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to make informed decisions and also to help them deal with the pressures of growing up.

### Be clear on cancer campaign continues

PHE, in partnership with the Department of Health and NHS England, has announced the next national ['Be Clear on Cancer' symptom awareness campaign](#) that will focus on breast cancer in women over 70. The campaign is likely to include TV, press, digital, out of home advertising and roadshow events to reinforce its message that one in three women who get breast cancer are over 70. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

## News from other organisations

### Dental health survey shows general fall in child tooth decay

The Health & Social Care Information Centre has published the [2013 Children's Dental Health Survey](#), which is partly funded by PHE. The survey, which is run every 10 years, showed an overall fall in tooth decay levels and that a third of five-year-olds and almost half of eight-year-olds have decay in their milk teeth.

### Health visitor case studies published

Stories from health visitors and service users demonstrating the work and benefits of the health visiting service have been [published](#) by the Department of Health

### Maintaining a healthy weight and preventing excess weight gain

A new National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) [guideline](#) recommends behaviours that may help people maintain a healthy weight or prevent excess weight gain. To help put the guideline and other NICE guidelines into practice, NICE has produced two pathways tools on [obesity](#) and [diet](#).

### **Next steps for better health for London**

The Greater London Authority has published [Better Health for London: Next Steps](#) which builds on the work of the London Health Commission. The Mayor of London, PHE, NHS England, London Councils and 32 clinical commissioning groups have come together to outline how they will work towards London becoming the world's healthiest major city.

### **Reducing excess winter deaths and morbidity and the health risks associated with cold homes**

NICE has published a [guideline](#) with recommendations on how to reduce the risk of death and ill health associated with living in a cold home. To help put the guideline into practice, NICE has also produced a [pathways tool](#).