



PHE publications gateway number 2015296

1 September 2015

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

Public health news

Five million people at high risk of type 2 diabetes

Five million people in England have blood sugar levels indicating a high risk of developing type 2 diabetes, according to a new [report](#) published by PHE. The report, compiled by PHE's National Cardiovascular Health Intelligence Network, provides the most accurate and robust estimate of how many people over 16 in England have blood sugar levels in a range indicating a high risk of developing type 2 diabetes. It was commissioned by the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP), which will support people in reducing their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by helping them lose weight, be more active and have a healthier diet. An [evidence review](#) also published by PHE shows programmes similar to the NHS DPP can be successful in preventing 26% of people at high risk of type 2 diabetes from going on to develop the condition. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

E-cigarettes less harmful than tobacco

An [expert independent evidence review](#) published by PHE concludes that e-cigarettes are up to 95% less harmful than smoking and have the potential to help smokers quit smoking. The review's key findings include that there is no evidence so far that e-cigarettes are acting as a route into smoking for children or non-smokers. PHE commissioned the review, which was led by Professor Ann McNeill of King's College London and Professor Peter Hajek of Queen Mary University of London. Following the review PHE has published a paper on the [implications of the evidence for policy and practice](#). For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE neurology briefing provides CCGs with new resources to improve provision of care

The PHE Neurology Intelligence Network has published a new intelligence [briefing](#) which provides insight into neurological outpatient activity in England, with a particular focus on the provision of local clinical commissioning group services. The briefing targets clinicians and commissioners to support and inform local commissioning priorities, help drive improvements, and effectively manage demand for neurological care. This briefing has been published alongside a suite of data tables. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

New radon map for Northern Ireland published

Households across Northern Ireland are being encouraged to test for radon gas as a new map has highlighted further at-risk areas. Radiation experts at PHE and the British Geological Survey have published [radon: an indicative atlas for Northern Ireland](#), which has increased the total number of homes at risk. The work was partially funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. PHE estimates some 155,000 homes, about one in five in Northern Ireland, are now in 'affected areas': these are places where some householders are exposed to radon at a level where protective action is recommended. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Two in every five London children are not school ready by age five

PHE has published a new [report](#) showing levels of 'school readiness' among London's children, an indicator of how prepared a child is to succeed in school cognitively, socially and emotionally. In 2013 to 2014, two in every five children in London did not achieve a good level of development by five years old – a measure used to assess school readiness – which is around 39,500 children. Even though school readiness has improved across all boroughs in the capital since 2012 to 2013, there are still inequalities in London. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

National childhood immunisation programme boosted by MenB vaccine

PHE announces the start of a new vaccination programme, which offers young children protection against meningococcal group B (MenB) disease. From 1 September 2015, the MenB vaccination will be added to the NHS Childhood Immunisation Programme in England to help protect children against this devastating disease that which can cause meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning), which are serious and potentially fatal illnesses. Babies will be offered

the MenB vaccine with the other routine vaccinations at two months, four months and 12-13 months of age. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Eligible groups for shingles vaccine announced

PHE has announced the groups eligible to receive the shingles vaccine from the start of September for the 2015 to 2016 vaccination programme. From 1 September 2015, the shingles vaccine will be offered routinely to people aged 70 years, and the catch up will extend to those aged 78 years. In addition, patients who were eligible for immunisation in the first two years of the programme but have not yet been vaccinated against shingles remain eligible until their 80th birthday. For more information see the PHE [press release](#).

New meningococcal vaccination programme expected to save lives

PHE has welcomed the start of the new MenACWY vaccination programme that will offer teenagers protection against meningitis and septicaemia caused by four meningococcal strains including MenW. All adolescents born between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997 in England are eligible for vaccination regardless of their future plans. Where possible, it is important that those who plan to go to university this year get vaccinated before they leave. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

Screening for risk of sudden cardiac death not recommended

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) has upheld a recommendation against screening for risk of sudden cardiac death. Sudden cardiac death happens when a healthy young person's heart suddenly stops beating, with little or no warning. The committee considered the evidence behind several proposed ways of screening people aged 12 to 39. However, an updated evidence review suggested that the available tests were not accurate enough to correctly identify conditions which could lead to sudden cardiac death without wrongly identifying many people with healthy hearts. Members of the UK NSC also recommended against introducing a national screening programme for Fragile X syndrome, a genetic condition affecting around 1 in 5,000 men and women in most western countries. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Hepatitis C annual report shows increase in end stage liver disease

The annual hepatitis C report for 2015 has been published, showing an increase in end stage liver disease. Although there was a small drop in deaths in 2013

compared to 2012, caution is needed as the overall trends in hospital admissions and deaths have been upwards for more than a decade. PHE estimates that 160,000 people in England are living with hepatitis C, many of whom will be unaware of their infections. However, more individuals are being tested and diagnosed; particular improvements have been seen in primary care where surveillance indicates that testing has risen by 21% in England in the last five years. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

NHS Health Check data update for April to June 2015 published

PHE has published Health Check quarter one [data](#) for 2015-16 (April – June 2015). The data shows another rise in the number of people in England having their NHS Health Check. Now over three million people have had a check since local authorities began delivering the programme.

PHE Annual Plan

PHE has published its [Annual Plan](#) for 2015 to 2016, setting out how the organisation will deliver its core functions, and outlining high level actions it will be taking over the next year to protect and improve the public's health and reduce inequalities.

Partnership and investment in the voluntary sector

Together with the Department of Health, NHS England and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VSCE) Advisory group, PHE is consulting on two aspects of [partnership working and investment](#) in the VCSE sector. The consultations are open until 6 November 2015. For more information see the PHE, Department of Health and NHS England joint [news story](#).

Report on determinants of health inequities experienced by children with learning disabilities

PHE's learning disabilities team has published a new [report](#) on the determinants of health inequities experienced by children with learning disabilities. The report summarises current scientific knowledge about the determinants of health inequities experienced by children with learning disabilities in the UK. Recommendations targeted at national and local government are included in the report.

Spend and Outcome tool updated

PHE has updated local authority data for the Spend and Outcome tool (SPOT), and includes a further year's spend and outcome data for local authorities and PDF factsheets for each. The SPOT tool allows local authorities to identify areas where changes in investment will improve local health gains and increase quality. The tool and data is available on PHE's Yorkshire and Humberside Health Intelligence [website](#).

PHE statement on its international public health support

PHE has published a [statement](#) that outlines its capabilities to support low and middle income countries to strengthen their public health capacity and to respond to outbreaks and emergencies. The statement also describes activities of relevance to higher income countries where PHE may assist on issues of global health security. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

PHE strategy on research, translation and innovation

PHE has published a new [strategy](#) outlining how it will drive research, translation and innovation to support the transformation of public health practice and services. It highlights PHE's plans, actions and measures of success for research on public and population health and health protection and outlines its commitment to working in partnership with academics, research funders, the NHS and the public. The strategy underwent full public consultation during the spring of 2015.

Recent PHE blogs

[Why Should older people get the shingles vaccine?](#)

by Catherine Heffernan (27 July).

[The Sendai Framework: Reducing the impact of disasters across the globe](#)

by Virginia Murray (30 July).

[International Development and emergency response: What we do and how we do it](#)

by Katie Carmichael (30 July).

[How we help people decide if screening is the right choice for them](#)

by Anne Mackie (3 August).

[Ensuring all children have the best start in life](#)

by Marilena Korkodilos (10 August).

[Preventing HIV- new approaches to an ongoing problem](#)

by Kevin Fenton (12 August).

[Building the evidence and changing practice in the wider public health workforce](#)

by Linda Hindle (13 August).

[Greater Manchester devolution- The public health revolution](#)

by Mel Sirotkin (14 August).

[What World Humanitarian Day means to PHE](#)

by Katie Carmichael (19 August).

[Protecting our children- Men B vaccine](#)

by Viv Bennett (24 August).

[Days in the lives- the everyday experiences of people living with a mental health problem](#)

by Kevin Fenton (25 August).

Campaigns news

Be Clear on Cancer campaign announcement

PHE, in partnership with the Department of Health and NHS England, has announced in a [letter](#) details of a national Be Clear on Cancer campaign 'Blood in Pee' to run from March to April 2016. The campaign aims to improve early diagnosis of cancer by raising awareness of symptoms and encouraging people to see their GP earlier.

News from other organisations

HSCIC publishes figures on smoking rates among young people

New [figures](#) published earlier this month by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) record smoking rates among young people. Key findings include that 24% of young people had ever smoked, 8% of young people were current smokers and girls were more likely than boys to have ever smoked.

ONS second quarter 2014 under-18 conception data

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published [second quarter 2014 under-18 conception data](#). For England as a whole, there has been an 8.3% reduction from a rate of 25.3 per 1,000 population in 2013 to 23.2 per 1,000 population in 2014. All regions bar two have seen reductions but there is considerable regional variation.

Fighting infection: NICE tackles overuse of antibiotics

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published [guidance](#) to help doctors, nurses and pharmacists promote and monitor the sensible use of antimicrobials – a group of medicines that kill or stop the growth of micro-organisms and include antibiotics, antivirals, antiparasitics and antifungals.

Research finds heroin and cocaine dependency more prevalent among homeless women than men

Data published by Homeless Link shows that the proportion of women experiencing homelessness who have recently used heroin, crack/cocaine and methadone is higher than that of men. There is also greater use of benzodiazepines and prescriptions drugs among women. PHE funded Homeless Link to develop a revised version of [a health needs audit](#) to gather evidence to improve the health services available to homeless people, and tackle health inequality.

Events

Third PHE annual conference

A detailed programme for the third PHE annual conference, from 15 to 16 September 2015 at the University of Warwick, is available [online](#). The conference will bring together over 1,400 participants from across the health and care system and will focus on the application of evidence into action. Keynote speakers include Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt, Minister for Public Health Jane Ellison and Chief Medical Officer Professor Dame Sally Davies. For more details including information on how to book, see the [conference website](#).

PHE Board's next open meeting

The next open meeting of the [PHE Board](#) will take place at 10:30am on Wednesday 23 September 2015 at Room LG26/27, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG. Meeting [details](#) are available online.

PHE National Cardiovascular Health Intelligence Network masterclasses

PHE's National Cardiovascular Health Intelligence Network is running a series of masterclasses to look at what local data is available across the cardiovascular family of diseases. The events are being delivered in partnership with NHS England's Strategic Clinical Networks. The next masterclasses are in in [Bolton on 3 September](#) and in [Southampton on 5 November](#). Further details are at www.ncvin.org.uk.

Second Annual NHS Health Check Awards

The second annual NHS Health Check awards will take place on 6 November 2015 in Nottingham. The awards will celebrate innovative ways providers and healthcare teams have implemented the NHS Health Check in their region. Applicants can enter this year's awards before 18 September. For details see the Heart UK [website](#).