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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 public health. For more information see our website: www.gov.uk/phe

Public health news

PHE launch premature mortality website

[Longer Lives](#), a new website showing the variation in early death rates, has been launched by PHE. It has been specifically designed to provide local authorities and the NHS with an insight into the top causes of avoidable early death in their areas such as heart disease, stroke and cancer, and how they compare to other areas with a similar social and economic profile. Using a traffic-light rating system, the website ranks areas showing those above average in tackling avoidable deaths as green, while those that still have more to do, are red.

World's largest cancer database launched

The world's largest single database of cancer patients has been set up by PHE in a major step forward to harnessing the power of data to revolutionise care. This new service, announced earlier this month, will deliver near real-time cancer data and contain detailed clinical information on all 350,000 cancers diagnosed each year across the 50 million people in England. It will also include more than 11 million historical cancer records going back 30 years. This single cancer registry follows the completion of a five-year project to merge the eight cancer registries in England into a centrally managed network of registry offices working to common standards and processes. For more information click [here](#).

Levels of socioeconomic deprivation affect screening uptake for breast cancer

There is a lower uptake of breast cancer screening in more deprived areas, and some ethnic groups should also no longer be considered "low risk" of developing the disease, according to research presented at PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network annual conference earlier this month. Researchers from PHE and King's College London concluded that

women who live in more deprived areas of London are less likely to attend their first routine breast cancer screening appointment. From a separate study in Leicester, researchers at the University of Sheffield concluded that South Asian women and women in lower socioeconomic groups should no longer be considered at lower risk of developing breast cancer. To see the press release, click [here](#)

PHE reminder on illness linked to petting farms

PHE has issued a reminder to practise good hand hygiene when visiting farm attractions following a number of outbreaks of diarrhoeal illness this year. Between January and May 2013 there have been 12 outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis associated with petting farms across England affecting around 130 people. Over the past 20 years, an average of around 80 cases of cryptosporidium infection linked to visits to petting farms have been reported each year. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#)

Current consultations on screening policy

The UK National Screening Committee, which is part of PHE, advises Ministers and the NHS in the four UK countries about screening policy and supports implementation of screening programmes. Policies are usually reviewed every three years and the current public consultations on screening policy are:

- [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease](#) in adults (until 26 July)
- [Dental Disease in children](#) (until 5 September)
- [Domestic Violence](#) in adults (until 22 August)
- [Spinal Muscular Atrophy](#) in newborns (until 5 August)
- [Syphilis](#) in pregnancy (until 14 August)
- [Vision Defects](#) in children (until 24 August)

Nearly half a million new sexual infections in 2012

New sexually transmitted infection (STI) diagnoses rose 5% in 2012, mostly due to improved data collection. However, the continuing high STI rates in England suggest too many people are still putting themselves at risk through unsafe sex, especially young adults, and men who have sex with men. Chlamydia remained the most commonly diagnosed STI, but considerable numbers of genital warts and genital herpes cases were also reported last year. For further information see PHE's [press release](#)

Poorer outcomes for oesophageal and gastric cancer linked to “huge variation” in endoscopy referral rates between GP practices

Patients from GP practices with low endoscopy referral rates are at increased risk of poor outcomes from oesophageal and gastric cancers according to research presented at the

National Cancer Intelligence Network annual conference earlier this month. Research from the Department of Gastroenterology at the University of Liverpool has found that there is a wide variation in rates of elective upper gastrointestinal endoscopy between GP practices across England. Patients belonging to practices with low rates of endoscopy referral were shown to be at increased risk of a poor outcome as reflected in higher rates of emergency admission for diagnosis, lower rates of potentially curative surgery and poorer one year survival rates. This inequality was most marked in practices serving deprived populations where those in the low referring group had the poorest cancer outcomes in the country. For further details click [here](#)

Reports highlight need to improve end of life care for minority ethnic groups and increased use of inpatient specialist palliative care services

With Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME) aged 65 and over set to treble in the next 25 years, a report highlights the growing need to make end of life care more accessible and appropriate. The report, Palliative and End of Life Care for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities in the UK, commissioned by PHE and Marie Curie Cancer Care from the Cicely Saunders Institute at King's College London, highlights that the end of life care needs of BAME communities are varied, growing, and despite examples of good practice, overall not adequately met. It can be seen [here](#).

A further PHE commissioned report reveals an increase in the availability and use of inpatient specialist palliative care beds in England. Published by the National Council for Palliative Care and PHE's National End of Life Care Intelligence Network, this report shows that the mean number of patients seen in inpatient units is at its highest level in more than ten years. For more information, click [here](#).

Paper examines evidence linking obesity and disability among adults

PHE's Obesity Knowledge and Intelligence team has produced a briefing paper examining the evidence linking obesity and disability among adults. It looks in detail at the most prevalent disabling conditions in the UK, explores inequalities in relation to obesity and disability and highlights implications for health and social care. The paper can be found [here](#).

Swimming in the River Thames can carry a risk of gastrointestinal illness

Swimming in the River Thames can carry a risk of gastrointestinal illness. The evidence was produced following an investigation by PHE and event organisers Human Race into an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness amongst participants of the Hampton Court Swim which took place in October 2012 in the stretch of river between Hampton Court and Kingston Bridge. See [here](#) for the press release.

PHE campaign news

Get Going This Summer campaign to launch

On 27 July, Change4Life will be launching Get Going This Summer, a campaign to get families and adults more active. As well as providing free online activity plans for participants, Change4Life is joining up all the different events being put on by local authorities across the country under the Get Going banner. Email blaise.connolly@phe.gov.uk for more information.

New board game to engage young people around health

The Zones board game is now available free of charge to youth leaders and youth workers. Designed as part of PHE's national youth health campaign, it encourages small groups of young people aged 11-16 years, to talk about the health issues that affect them growing up. Order from [PHE Orderline](#) or call 0300 123 1002, quoting product code 2900915.

Awards for PHE

Bruce Taylor, Deputy Director of PHE's Pandemic Influenza Programme, and also of our Olympic and Paralympic Health Programme received a CBE and nurse consultant Joanne Bosanquet received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Alison Mason, health practitioner in our Kent, Surrey and Sussex Centre has been awarded the Graduate of the Year Gold Medal by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Other news

PHE welcomes consistent nutritional labelling system

PHE has welcomed the new consistent front of pack nutrition labelling system launched last week by Public Health Minister Anna Soubry. It comes after research shows that people can end up bewildered by the different nutrition labels on food. The consistent system will combine both traffic light colour-coding and nutritional information to show how much fat, saturated fat, salt and sugar, and calories are in food products. Professor Kevin Fenton, PHE's Director of Health and Wellbeing said "It will make it easier for consumers to make healthier choices and help tackle the levels of obesity and diet related disease in England. It is also very encouraging that the new system has been adopted and supported by the major supermarkets and a large number of food manufacturers". Click [here](#) for the press release.

Handbook on delivering accident prevention at local level

A ground breaking online handbook, [Delivering accident prevention at a local level in the new public health system](#) which provides guidance on how local authorities can reduce the burden of accidents by encouraging people to take responsibility for their own safety, health and wellbeing, has been published. It is produced by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, supported by PHE and funded by the Department of Health. Every year, thousands of people's lives are affected by an accident and around 14,000 people die in the UK with the majority in England and more than 700,000 will be seriously injured in England alone.

Preventing obesity and helping people to manage their weight

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has produced a [briefing](#) on obesity for local authorities and partner organisations. NICE is also inviting local authorities to [register](#) as stakeholder organisations for the development of NICE guidance on public health topics like smoking, alcohol, obesity and physical activity. Registered stakeholders can comment on draft guidance that NICE has produced.

Security Excellence in Commissioning Sexual Assault published

Roles played by local authorities and PHE in the commissioning of health care for victims of sexual violence are set out in a new publication from NHS England entitled [Securing Excellence in commissioning sexual assault services for people who experience sexual violence](#). It is accompanied by a [letter](#) to local authority chief executives, directors of public health and other partners from Ann Sutton, NHS England's Director of Commissioning (Corporate).

Events News

PHE Advisory Board first meeting

The first meeting of the PHE Advisory Board will be held on 22 July in Wellington House, PHE's Headquarters. It will include a focus on obesity and will be open to the public. For further details please contact Victor.Knight@phe.gov.uk

Coronavirus conference

PHE is hosting a conference in London on 9 July to update attendees on the global and UK situation on Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Speakers from the UK who are involved the UK's response and international experts will present their findings to date. You can book at www.phe-events.org.uk/CoV

Public Health England Annual Conference full programme available

The full five track programme for the first Public Health England Annual Conference 2013 which runs from 10 to 11 September at Warwick University is now available online. Please visit the [conference website](#) for full details.