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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

### Government publishes childhood obesity plan

The government has published its [childhood obesity plan](#). This plan is the first step to tackling childhood obesity – one of the most important issues for the future of our children. It outlines significant steps to tackle the problem head on, including a commitment to introduce a levy on sugary drinks and an ambitious programme to reduce the level of sugar in food and drink, which PHE is leading on. For more information, read the [Department of Health blog](#).

### First major report using PHE's systemic anticancer treatment data published

The first [major report](#) using PHE's world-leading systemic anticancer treatment (SACT) data has been published by The Lancet Oncology. It shows that age, general wellbeing and where you are treated can affect 30-day mortality following chemotherapy for breast and lung cancer. The PHE SACT data gives new insights about the real-world chemotherapy treatment of patients in the NHS in England. In 2014 alone the SACT dataset included over 2 million records on over 160,000 different patients. The study will improve understanding of how people are affected by chemotherapy in the real world and help to treat patients better. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

### **PHE issues reminder to teenagers and young people to make sure they are vaccinated against measles**

A significant number of cases of measles, linked to music festivals and other large public events, have been reported to since June. This follows an increase in measles over the year, with 234 cases confirmed between January and June. There have been 38 suspected measles cases reported in people who attended events in June and July. Teenagers and young people who are unsure if they have been fully vaccinated should check with their GP and make an appointment to ensure they receive the 2 doses of MMR vaccine required. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

### **Cyclospora outbreak linked to Mexico and travel health advice**

PHE has issued advise to people planning on travelling to the Riviera Maya coast in Mexico to be aware of the risk of infection from a food and water bug, Cyclospora. There have been 204 cases reported in the UK since 1 June 2016, with 148 cases from holidaymakers who stayed in a number of different hotels and resorts on the Riviera Maya coast. Investigations into the source of infection are ongoing. Travellers to Mexico are being strongly advised to maintain a high standard of food, water and personal hygiene. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

### **PHE publishes report on syphilis**

PHE published a [new report](#) that shows rates of syphilis are three times higher in the capital than anywhere else in England. In 2015, nearly 3,000 cases were diagnosed in the capital, accounting for 56% of all cases in England (5,042). PHE recommends that anyone who suspects they may have syphilis should get screened at their local sexual health clinic as soon as possible. Most cases of syphilis are treatable with antibiotics and it is preventable through safe sex practices, which includes using condoms. For more information, read the [PHE press release](#).

### **PHE publishes advice on meningitis and septicaemia vaccinations**

PHE is calling for young people to get the MenACWY vaccine for meningococcal disease before starting university in September. Meningococcal bacteria can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). Both diseases are very serious and can kill, especially if not diagnosed early. The call for students to get vaccinated follows the introduction of a new MenACWY vaccination programme in 2015 that offers young people protection against four common meningococcal strains. Cases of MenW have been increasing

year on year, from 22 cases in the 2009 to over 200 in past 12 months. For more information, read the [PHE press release](#).

### **PHE-commissioned report on mental health published**

A report commissioned by PHE has found that nine in ten people say they are confident they know what it means to have good mental wellbeing. The [report](#) from NatCen's British Social Attitudes survey also found that the public are aware of different factors that impact on their own mental wellbeing and of the things they can do to improve it. The survey also showed that stigma is still something those with mental health problems have to face. For more information, read the [NatCen press release](#).

### **Annual hepatitis C in the UK report published**

The [annual hepatitis C report](#) for 2016 has been published, showing deaths in the UK fell for the first time in 2015. The report, which was published on World Hepatitis Day, shows latest figures suggesting improved access to treatments may be having a positive impact. Treatment rates saw an increase of around 40% in 2015, up to 8,970 from an average of 6,400 in previous years. This is likely to be the result of access to new hepatitis C drugs, funded by NHS England, which came online in 2014 to 2015, and offer improved cure rates, fewer side-effects, and are easier to administer. PHE estimates that 160,000 people in England are living with hepatitis C. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

### **Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework published**

PHE has published a newly revised [Public Health Skills and knowledge Framework](#). The framework is accompanied by a helpful user guide, setting out how it can be used by individuals, employers and educational providers working in public health. People in UK Public Health led on extensive consultation and development work which saw high levels of engagement from the workforce. The revised framework aims to be reflective of the prevailing public health landscape, ensuring the public health workforce continues to develop the skills and competences needed both now and in future.

### **UK NSC publishes recommendations following June 2016 meeting**

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) recently published its [latest recommendations](#) following its meeting on 15 June 2016. The independent expert

committee made recommendations on kernicterus, adolescent idiopathic scoliosis and toxoplasmosis. For more information, read the [PHE press release](#).

### **PHE publishes top tips for increasing uptake of NHS Health Checks**

PHE has published a [behavioural insights guide](#) featuring steps on how healthcare professionals and commissioners can take to increase the uptake of the NHS Health Check programme in their area. Advice includes what channels to take to promote the Health Check programme and what messaging is most effective to encourage people to take up their invitation.

### **Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme call for wave two expressions of interest**

Nearly half of England now covered as part of the Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NDPP). Next year a second wave of the programme will reach a further 25% of the population. In order to select areas that are best placed to participate, PHE, Diabetes UK and NHS England are asking clinical commissioning groups and local authority partners that wish to provide NDPP services in 2017/18 to work together to submit an [expression of interest](#). [Tools and resources](#) are available to support the preparation of bids, which need to be submitted by 3 October 2016.

### **CLear self-assessment tool for alcohol published**

PHE has launched a new evidence-based tool – the [CLear self-assessment for alcohol](#). The tool is based on a model initially developed by Action on Smoking and Health to provide local government and partners with a structured, evidence-based approach to improve tobacco control. It provides a framework for strategic review and analysis of local structures and delivery focusing on local outcomes and priorities, and its completion should result in the agreement of a place-based action plan. The tool aims to promote sector-led peer support initiatives through sharing good practice and case studies, highlighting innovative and effective working.

### **Update to the Public Health Outcomes Framework, Health Profiles and Local Tobacco Control Profiles**

On 2 August PHE published an update to the [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(PHOF\) data tool](#). On the same day, the online Health Profiles and Local Tobacco Control Profiles were also updated. The PHOF was refreshed in May 2016, following a consultation in 2015. This update contains data for several new

indicators in the framework. In addition, other indicators have been updated where new source data have become available since the last quarterly update.

### **Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles updated**

All abortion indicators have been updated to 2015 in PHE's [Sexual and Reproductive Health \(SRH\) Profiles tool](#). The eight abortion indicators are available at upper tier local authority and PHE centre level, and are available for under 18, under 25, over 25 and all ages. 'Wider determinant' indicators of relevance to teenage pregnancy have also been updated. These include teenagers not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and pupil absence.

### **Mental Health Crisis Care Profile launched**

PHE's Mental Health Intelligence Network launches a [mental health Crisis Care Profile](#) to give commissioners, local decision makers, health professionals and advocacy groups access to local data and intelligence across the scope of mental health crisis care, as defined by the [Crisis Care Concordat](#). The [crisis care data catalogue](#) has also been updated.

### **National Mental Health Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Network tool updates produced**

A suite of National Mental Health Intelligence Network profiling tools have been developed to support an intelligence-driven approach to understanding and meeting need. Four different tools have recently been updated. See the [Suicide Prevention Profile](#), [Severe Mental Illness Profiling Tool](#), and the [Common Mental Health Disorders profiling tools](#).

## **Recent PHE blogs**

[Increasing awareness of HIV testing among those at higher risk](#)

by Anthony Nardone, 26 July

[Health Matters: Getting active every day, whatever your ability](#)

by Justin Varney, 27 July

[What does the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment mean for public health?](#)

by Angie Bone, 29 July

[Young people are less likely to drink; does that mean it isn't a problem?](#)

by Kevin Fenton, 2 August

[Health Matters: Your questions on getting every adult active every day](#)

by Blog Editor, 3 August

[Mental health - our attitudes and awareness](#)

by Kevin Fenton, 4 August

[Public health is a priority for our National Parks](#)

by Kevin Fenton and Paul Hamblin, 8 August

['Think kidneys' to help reduce health risks](#)

by Kevin Fenton, 10 August

[Climate change and the significant seven](#)

by Jill Meara, 12 August

[Countdown to the PHE annual conference](#)

by Kevin Fenton, 16 August

[Why is syphilis making a comeback in London?](#)

by Yvonne Doyle, 17 August

[Helping local areas reduce the impact of alcohol harm](#)

by Kevin Fenton, 22 August

[Eight heatwave health myths busted](#)

by Angie Bone, 22 August

[Tackling Shigella in gay and bisexual men](#)

by Paul Crook, 23 August

[Action to tackle acute hepatitis B among men who have sex with men](#)

by Sema Mandal, 24 August

[Public health data: Going for gold](#)

by Matt Hennessey, 25 August

## News from other organisations

### Department of Health publishes dementia atlas

Department of Health has launched a new [Dementia Atlas](#) and also announced a new Dementia Friends Ambassador, actor Carey Mulligan. The Dementia Atlas is an interactive map of England that allows people to make comparisons about the quality of dementia care in their area. PHE was commissioned to produce this new tool using data and metadata provided by its Dementia Intelligence Network. PHE also launched the new [NHS Health Check Dementia pilots](#). PHE is working with Alzheimer's Research UK and Alzheimer's Society to extend the dementia risk reduction component of the NHS Health Check to all 40 to 64-year-olds at sites in Birmingham, Bury, Manchester City and Southampton City.

### CQC report Children Looked After and Safeguarding (CLAS) Inspections 'Not Seen, Not Heard'

A [report](#) from the CQC shares and celebrates examples of innovative and outstanding care to demonstrate what is possible and intends to be a resource in order to drive improvement within areas of safety and health for children in care. It also makes recommendations for how commissioners, providers and frontline healthcare professionals can strive towards protecting and promoting the health and welfare of children.

### NICE to hold stakeholder events

NICE is currently reviewing how it works to ensure that everything it produces, and the way it is presented, can best support your work. NICE is holding four themed stakeholder events across the country with the first taking place in Birmingham on the 20 September, focusing on public health. For more information and to register, visit the [NICE website](#).

## Events

### NHS Health Check conference 2017 – call for abstract submissions

The next NHS Health Check conference is taking place in February 2017. We will shortly be opening abstract applications for educational posters and/or oral presentations to be included in the conference programme of workshops and a poster competition. Abstracts are welcomed from a range of partners including local

authorities, third sector, academics, and NHS and service provider organisations. The deadline for submissions will be Friday 30 September 2016. For further details of the abstract application process, visit the [NHS Health Check website](#).

### **North of England Health Inequalities Conference to focus on devolution**

The third annual North of England Health Inequalities Conference will be taking place in Hull on 11 and 12 October. It will explore the public health potential of devolution from central to local government, and to communities, through community-centred approaches to tackle the causes of inequality. Speakers include Sir Harry Burns, Alan Johnson MP, Lord Mawson, Professor Jane South, and PHE's Duncan Selbie. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

### **Antibiotic resistance debate in September**

A public facing debate on antibiotic resistance has been organised in Manchester on 28 September at the University of Manchester. The free event is being delivered by the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy on behalf of PHE. There is an audience and panel discussion during the meeting. The panel will consist of policymakers, scientists, microbiologists, veterinarians, healthcare professionals, patients, pharmacists and members of the public. For more information and to register, visit the [Antibiotic Guardian website](#).

### **PHE Board's next open meeting**

The next open meeting of the PHE Board is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 28 September, focusing on data and data-sharing. Meeting [details](#) will be available online.