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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

Public health news

New tool shows causes of death that most contribute to differences in life expectancy

PHE's new [Segment Tool](#) provides information on inequalities in life expectancy at local authority level. This tool should help local authorities identify causes of death that contribute most to their life expectancy gaps and, therefore, enable them to target interventions appropriately. The tool provides charts and tables that segment the life expectancy gap from January 2009 to December 2011 by the major causes of death.

Update on avian influenza strains

Cases of avian influenza A (H7N9) have been reported in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. PHE urges people visiting China to minimise their exposure to live poultry, avoid visiting live bird and animal markets and poultry farms, and to practise good hand and personal hygiene. See PHE's [news story](#) for more information.

PHE is also aware of a new combination of flu, H10N8, arising in south east Asia. PHE is monitoring the situation closely but considers the emergence of this new strain of avian flu does not represent an immediate threat.

As reported in an earlier PHE [news story](#), health officials in Alberta, Canada, confirmed in January this year an isolated, fatal case of avian influenza A (H5N1) in a person who had returned from travel to Beijing, China.

New local authority excess weight data confirms that 64% of adults are overweight or obese

Local authority excess weight data, published for the first time earlier this month by PHE, confirms that 64% of adults are overweight or obese. The data, included as a new indicator in the February update of the Public Health Outcomes Framework, shows the considerable variation in the numbers of people who are overweight or obese in different parts of England. The [quarterly update](#) contains new baseline information for 15 indicators, more recent data for 46 indicators and additional lower tier local authority data for four indicators. To view a spreadsheet containing the excess weight data for all local authorities in England, visit the [PHE obesity website](#). For more information see PHE's [press release](#) and the Public Health Outcomes Framework [data tool](#).

State-of-the-art newborn and infant physical exam e-learning module receives RCGP accreditation

The new education resource for clinicians who undertake the newborn and infant physical examination has received accreditation from the Royal College of General Practitioners. The e-learning module, part of PHE's Newborn and Infant Physical Examination Programme was launched last year. For more details, see PHE's [news story](#).

Longer Lives website wins international design award

PHE's [Longer Lives website](#) which uses existing data and a unique design to present information about premature mortality across England in an accessible and engaging way has won an international design award. The website, developed by PHE's Knowledge and Intelligence teams in partnership with SapienNitro, won first place in the "disrupting" category of the 2014 Interaction Awards. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

PHE helps to lead vision for a sustainable future

With NHS England and the Local Government Association, PHE has helped to launch [Sustainable, Resilient, Healthy People & Places](#), a sustainable development strategy for the health and care system. The strategy shows how the health and care system can join forces to adapt for a more sustainable future while potentially saving millions of pounds. PHE and NHS England fund the [Sustainable Development Unit](#) to monitor key success measures identified for 2020. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

Tackling health inequalities

PHE is launching a national conversation about health inequalities to better understand the public's view in England. The project will involve speaking with public health professionals and community leaders and holding a series of workshops with members of the public. The knowledge gained will be brought together in a toolkit that will be available for local authorities and others and a national event will bring together this learning to inform national bodies and leaders. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#) or register your interest at national.conversation@phe.gov.uk.

Healthier and more sustainable catering toolkit for serving food to adults

PHE has published new [guidance](#) offering practical advice for those in large organisations on how to make catering healthier, affordable and more sustainable. The guidance contains useful information and tips and will help organisations meet government buying standards for food and catering services.

Radio adverts to help flooding clean-up operation

PHE has produced a pair of radio adverts with health advice on cleaning up safely after flooding. The adverts are being broadcast on commercial radio stations in areas affected by the recent flooding and are also available to listen to from the [Audioboo website](#). For more details see PHE's [news story](#).

PHE has also published guidance on how to clean up homes safely if they have been flooded, guidance for frontline responders on clean-up and recovery, advice on the psychological impacts of flooding and frequently asked health questions about flooding. These documents and a PHE and Environment Agency advice factsheet on what to do before, during and after a flood can be found on PHE's dedicated [flooding](#) web page.

Health Select Committee report on PHE published

The House of Commons Health Select Committee has published its [report](#) on PHE following its meeting with PHE late last year. Duncan Selbie, chief executive of PHE, said: "We are pleased the report has recognised the successful transition from over 100 predecessor organisations to the creation of PHE, while maintaining the continuity of our vital work. The Select Committee hearing was an important and necessary moment in our early development. In our first six months our job was to stabilise the system; looking forward, it will be to transform it. We will, of course, carefully consider the report's recommendations."

Shigella dysentery on the rise among gay and bisexual men

A new campaign to warn gay and bisexual men about the risk of shigella dysentery, a serious gut infection, has been launched by PHE in partnership with Terrence Higgins Trust (THT). New figures show a surge in cases likely to have been sexually-acquired over the past 12 months. London is most affected. For more details, see PHE's [press release](#) and the [THT website](#).

NHS Health Check data update and related reports published

The [NHS Health Check update](#) published by PHE this week contains data from 152 local authorities for October to December 2013. This data release also includes amended statistics for 19 local authorities for April to June 2013 and July to September 2013.

PHE has also published [NHS Health Check information governance and data flows](#) and [NHS Health Check programme standards: a framework for quality improvement](#). The Centre for Public Scrutiny has published [Checking the nation's health - The value of council scrutiny](#) which highlights scrutiny's key role in reviewing the NHS Health Check programme. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has published a [briefing](#) summarising its recommendations for local authorities and partner organisations that could be used to encourage people to have NHS Health Checks and support them to change their behaviour.

Management of HIV infected healthcare workers performing exposure-prone procedures

PHE has published interim guidance on the implementation of a policy change to remove restrictions on healthcare workers with HIV practising exposure-prone procedures. The change was announced in August 2013 by the Chief Medical Officer for England. PHE has also published an interim paper-based occupational health register. For details, see PHE's dedicated [web pages](#) and [news story](#).

PHE announces plans for national framework for HIV, sexual and reproductive health service commissioning

PHE has announced significant new plans to develop a national framework for HIV, sexual and reproductive health service commissioning in England. The initiative involves working together with the Local Government Association and NHS England and underpins PHE's commitment to improving sexual and reproductive health, reducing sexually transmitted infections and securing best outcomes for people with HIV. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat

PHE and other national organisations have committed to the [Crisis Care Concordat](#), which aims to drive up standards of care for people experiencing a mental health crisis such as suicidal thoughts or significant anxiety. Professor Kevin Fenton, PHE's Director of Health and Wellbeing, said: "The Concordat is an important commitment to joint action to ensure that people in mental health crisis get the right support quickly and in the right setting."

Researchers show effectiveness of Stoptober campaign

Researchers from University College London found that 50% more smokers (about 350,000) tried to quit in October 2012 than other months in the same year. Their [report](#) on the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of the Stoptober 2012 campaign also estimated that around 10,000 years of life were saved.

PHE's National End of Life Care Intelligence Network impact survey

PHE's National End of Life Care Intelligence Network is seeking feedback from stakeholders through a short online [survey](#) as part of an impact evaluation to inform its future. The deadline for completion is midnight on 28 February.

PHE campaign news

Be Clear on Cancer update

Further Be Clear on Cancer campaigns this quarter are:

- breathlessness campaign pilot in Oldham and Rochdale, from 24 February to 23 March, using local press, radio and posters with the message "if you're getting breathless doing things you used to be able to do easily then go and see your GP"
- blood pressure campaign pilot in Wakefield from 3 March to 30 March, using advertising (local press, posters, radio, ambient media such as pharmacy bags), a "pop-up" blood pressure testing station and free blood pressure tests in participating pharmacies. Local GPs are involved with the campaign
- ACT FAST stroke national awareness campaign from 9 March to 31 March, using updated TV ads, video on demand and black and minority ethnic advertising and outreach. The campaign call to action is to phone 999 immediately if you see any of the signs of stroke
- lung cancer national reminder campaign from 10 March now extended to the end of April

Change4Life news

Start4Life and the NHS Information Service for Parents have merged to form the [Start4Life Information Service for Parents](#) for all parents-to-be and parents of under fives. A campaign to encourage sign up has been running in digital media and some women's weekly magazines.

Change4Life has launched a new 28-day [Fruit & Veg Boost plan](#), to help encourage and support adults and families who are trying to squeeze more fruit and veg into their weekly diet.

People news

Two new non-executive members for PHE's board

PHE's independent Board is being strengthened with two new non-executive members, both [appointed](#) by the Secretary of State. Poppy Jaman is Chief Executive of Mental Health First Aid England and a founding member of the City Mental Health Alliance. Rosie Glazebrook, has significant experience in research ethics and research funding and is also on the Board of the Human Tissue Authority.

News from other organisations

Conceptions in young adults at record low in England

PHE has welcomed new Office for National Statistics figures that show conception rates among under-18s dropped 9.8% to 27.7 per 1000 in 2012, an all-time low. The number of under-18 conceptions also fell by 10.3% to 26,157, as did under-16 conceptions (5,131). Since 1998, the under-18 conception rate has decreased by 40.6% with reductions of up to 64% in some top tier local authorities in England during this period. However, regional variations remain striking, with conception rates in some areas nearly 90% higher than the England average. For more details, see PHE's [press release](#).

Breast screening figures for 2012-13 show slight fall

Breast screening figures for 2012-13 published by the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) show a slight fall in the number of eligible women, aged 53 to 70, taking up their breast screening appointments.

NICE produces briefings on preventing long-term conditions and improving access to services

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a local government public health [briefing](#) summarising its recommendations on the use of body mass index as a signal for preventive action against long-term medical conditions. It focuses on people from black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups. A further [briefing](#) summarises NICE's recommendations on improving access to health and social care services for vulnerable people who do not routinely use them.

New edition of HIV, sexual and reproductive health current issues bulletin

The [February 2014 edition](#) of the HIV, sexual and reproductive health current issues bulletin, which focuses on commissioning HIV services, has been published. The bulletin has been developed by PHE and the Department of Health, with input from and the support of the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Public Health and the English HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners Group.

Call for nominations for New Year 2015 honours

The Department of Health is keen to receive nominations of worthy candidates who have made a valuable contribution to the health and care system of people's health and wellbeing. The deadline for submitting completed [nomination forms](#) is Monday 31 March.

Public health transformation nine months on

A case studies resource that describes how a number of councils have been using their new public health powers to improve health and wellbeing has been published. The resource, [Public health transformation nine months on – bedding in and reaching out](#), covers rural and urban environments with varying levels of deprivation and affluence and was commissioned by PHE and the Local Government Association (LGA). Presentations from the LGA's annual public health conference earlier this month can be found [here](#).

Events news

PHE annual conference 2014

The PHE second annual conference will be held on 16-17 September 2014. A draft outline programme should be available in March.

Wellbeing and Mental Health National Summit

The PHE Wellbeing and Mental Health National Summit will be held on 6 March 2014 in Birmingham. It will provide the platform for the next stages of work in embedding mental health and wellbeing in public health. See [here](#) for details.

PHE Board's fifth open meeting

The fifth meeting of PHE's Board will be held in public on Wednesday 26 March 2014. Further details and papers from past board meetings can be found [here](#).

Health economics for public health practice and research course

Bangor University is holding a two-day short course on 16-17 April 2014 for those wishing to gain an appreciation of public health economics. For further information, contact Ann Lawton at cheme@bangor.ac.uk, telephone 01248 382153.

Cancer Outcomes Conference 2014

The Cancer Outcomes Conference 2014 of PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network and United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Cancer Registries will be held on 9-10 June in Birmingham. See [here](#) for details.