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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

Evidence into action: protecting and improving the nation's health

PHE published yesterday its priorities document [From evidence into action: opportunities to protect and improve the nation's health](#), having looked closely at the evidence to determine where it can most effectively focus its efforts. It sets out PHE's seven priorities over the next five years to make greater progress on obesity, smoking, alcohol, assuring a better start in life, reducing dementia risk and robustly tackling tuberculosis and antimicrobial resistance. Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of PHE, said: "We have an opportunity, with the [NHS 5 Year Forward View](#) and the momentous return of public health to local authorities, to put the evidence into action." For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

NHS leaders set out road map for healthcare in England

The [NHS Five-Year Forward View](#), published yesterday, outlines the vision of an NHS that can deliver better care and a better experience for patients. It sets out why the NHS needs to change, the actions they will take to deliver transformed care for patients and the help they need from others. The document argues that unless we take decisive action now, in five years' time the country will face a growing health and care quality gap. It has been produced by NHS England, PHE, Monitor, the NHS Trust Development Authority, the Care Quality Commission and Health Education England, advised by patient groups, clinicians and independent experts. For more information, see the joint [news story](#).

New report reveals increase in use of antibiotics linked to rising levels of antibiotic resistance

A new report from PHE shows that between 2010 and 2013 there was a 6% increase in the combined antibiotic prescribing of GPs and hospitals. There was also an increase of 12% in the number of bloodstream infections caused by *Escherichia coli*, with varying levels of resistance to key antibiotics for this infection of between 10% and 19%. The data is from the first annual report of PHE's [English surveillance programme for antimicrobial utilisation and resistance](#), published earlier this month. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Get everybody active, every day

PHE has published [Everybody active, every day](#), an evidence-based approach to improve the nation's health through everyday activity. The framework proposes national and local action to address the national physical inactivity epidemic, which is responsible for one in six deaths and costing the country an estimated £7.4 billion a year. PHE has co-produced the approach with over 1,000 national and local leaders in physical activity. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Local Authority Liver Disease Profiles show geographical variation in a preventable killer of young people

PHE has launched the [Liver Disease Profiles](#), which reveal significant variation in mortality across the country. Liver disease is the only major cause of mortality and morbidity that is on the increase in England while it is decreasing in the rest of Europe, and it is one of the leading causes of premature mortality in England. The profiles contain rates of hospital admissions and mortality rates from these risk factors showing each local authority's position compared to the England average. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE cold weather plan for 2014 released

The 2014 [Cold weather plan](#) for England has been released. It aims to prevent the major avoidable effects on health during periods of cold weather in England by alerting people to the negative health effects of cold weather, and enabling them to prepare and respond appropriately. The plan is published by PHE, the Local Government Association and NHS England.

For more information see PHE's [press release](#). PHE's [winter health watch](#) weekly summaries will resume in early November.

PHE Ebola update

PHE's Ebola efforts continue to focus on supporting the international response and ensuring the UK is prepared and protected. PHE is publishing information for a wide range of audiences, including medical practitioners, humanitarian workers, travellers, people from the affected West African countries and the general public. Information can be found in the [Ebola virus disease: clinical management and guidance collection](#) and [Ebola: public health questions and answers](#). PHE is also deploying PHE staff to support the creation of vital laboratory facilities in Sierra Leone and is helping to roll out enhanced screening for Ebola at Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham airports and the St Pancras Eurostar terminus, some initial details of which are given in PHE's 14 October 2014 [press release](#).

Alcohol, drugs and tobacco joint strategic needs assessment support pack

PHE's alcohol, drugs and tobacco division has published [a joint strategic needs assessment \(JSNA\) support pack](#) to help local areas develop JSNAs and local joint health and wellbeing strategies that address public health issues relating to alcohol, drug and tobacco use. The pack consists of eight resources covering young people's substance misuse and adult alcohol, drug and tobacco use. For each topic area there are good practice prompts to support local areas to assess need and to plan and commission effective services and interventions. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Take care when picking mushrooms, poisons experts warn

Every year dozens of people in the UK have to seek medical advice after picking and eating wild mushrooms that make them ill. This is because some varieties that grow wild in the UK are poisonous and can make foragers ill when consumed; some types can even be fatal. So far this year the PHE-commissioned National Poisons Information Service (NPIS) has been consulted for advice on 84 cases. In 2013 the NPIS was contacted about 237 times after people who had eaten mushrooms fell ill. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Chronic kidney disease prevalence model

PHE's National Cardiovascular Intelligence Network has published a [model](#) that provides estimates of total chronic kidney (CKD) disease prevalence for adults aged 16 and over in England. The model will help commissioners and health professionals to assess the impact of CKD on local populations. It includes CKD estimates for local authorities and clinical commissioning groups.

“Legal high” and e-cigarette poison queries climb

Poisons specialists have flagged rises in calls and online queries about treating users of new psychoactive substances, misleadingly known as “legal highs”. The PHE-commissioned National Poisons Information Service yesterday published its [annual report for 2013 to 2014](#). In the past year, enquiries about so-called “legal highs” from clinicians treating users increased 13-fold. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE sponsors sexual health award

PHE is sponsoring a new award for best practice in whole systems commissioning for sexual health in England. The award is to be presented at the [Brook](#) and [FPA](#) hosted [UK Sexual Health Awards 2015](#). The whole system commissioning award will join nine other awards that celebrate best practice in sexual health, reproductive health and HIV at the annual event. Nominations close on 5 December 2014. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

PHE launches new children and young people's mental health profiling tool

PHE's [Mental Health, Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Network](#) has produced a new children and young people's mental health [profiling tool](#). It brings together a wide range of publicly available data on prevalence, risk, health, social care and education, focusing on vulnerable children and how a range of services support them. Information is presented by local authority and clinical commissioning group, and can be benchmarked against other local areas, similar populations or England.

Screening information for public moving to NHS Choices

The [NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening programme](#), which is part of PHE, has just had its public-facing website information transferred to the [NHS Choices](#) website. The pages include information about why screening is offered, when it is offered and what happens during screening. This marks the first transfer of the screening programmes' public information to the NHS Choices site, with the other seven adult, antenatal and newborn programmes moving over soon. Screening programme information for professional audiences will remain on their current websites while they are transferred to the [GOV.UK](#) website.

PHE launches Clinical Excellence Awards 2014

PHE has launched the employer-based Clinical Excellence Award (EBA) process. Academics apply for EBAs through the NHS organisation at which they hold their honorary contract. PHE is the 'NHS' employer for public health academics. All applications to PHE must be submitted to cea2014@phe.gov.uk by 9 November 2014. For details and the application forms see the PHE [news story](#).

How to avoid Delhi belly and the plight of the bite

PHE and the National Travel Health Network and Centre are reminding travellers from the UK visiting friends and relatives in the Indian subcontinent during the festivities of Diwali to practise good food and water hygiene and to avoid insect bites. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Recent PHE blogs

[Preventing avoidable deaths this winter](#) by Angie Bone (21 October 2014). Angie Bone discusses the Cold Weather Plan for 2014, part of the national effort to reduce an estimated 25,000+ excess winter deaths in England each year.

[Better health for Londoners](#) by Yvonne Doyle (21 October 2014). PHE's Yvonne Doyle looks at how Lord Darzi's 'Better Health for London' recommendations for might impact on the capital.

[How to become a Registered Nutritionist](#) by Alison Tedstone (16 October 2014). Advice to anyone considering a career in nutrition.

[Expert interview: Is Ebola a risk to the UK?](#) by Brian McCloskey (15 October 2014). PHE's Brian McCloskey answered some of the public health questions being raised in the media and via social media about Ebola.

[Data blog: Deaths in the 21st century – 12 years, 1300 causes, 6 million deaths](#) by Julian Flowers (9 October 2014). Julian Flowers looks at Office for National Statistics data on deaths and wonders what stories it tells.

[Single homelessness under the spotlight](#) by Kevin Fenton (8 October 2014). Kevin Fenton asks how we can provide better health outcomes for homeless people.

[Making the case for local tobacco control](#) by Kevin Fenton (7 October 2014). Kevin Fenton shares some of the tools and resources that local authorities can use to tackle smoking in their area.

[Breast screening – a personal choice](#) by Anne Mackie (6 October 2014). Anne Mackie presents the evidence for and against breast screening, explaining that everyone should be informed about this personal choice.

[Reducing health inequalities – key resources](#) by Ann Marie Connolly (3 October 2014). Ann Marie Connolly brings together examples of tools and interventions to reduce health inequalities.

[Introducing a new PHE Global Health Strategy](#) by Anthony Kessel (30 September 2014). Anthony Kessel explains how PHE's international work to date has informed its global health strategy.

[Liver disease: a preventable killer of young adults](#) by Julia Verne (29 September 2014). Julia Verne discusses liver disease, the only major cause of mortality and morbidity that is on the increase in England.

Campaigns news

Be Clear on Cancer

Be Clear on Cancer will be running a first national oesophago-gastric cancer campaign from 26 January to 21 February 2015. The campaign is aimed at men and women aged 50 years and over and focuses on key symptoms of oesophageal and stomach cancers. The campaign plans are likely to include TV, radio, press, digital and out of home advertising. Messages will be: “*Having heartburn, most days for 3 weeks or more, could be a sign of cancer - tell your doctor*” and “*Food sticking when you swallow could be a sign of cancer – tell your doctor*”. For more information please see the recent [tri-partite letter](#).

Alcohol Concern and PHE partnership on Dry January 2015 campaign

Alcohol Concern and PHE are working in partnership on the behaviour change campaign Dry January 2015. The campaign focus is to encourage sign ups to go alcohol free for a month and change behaviour by cutting down the amount they'd drink for the rest of the year.

News from other organisations

Better Health for London report

The London Health Commission led by Lord Darzi has published [Better Health for London](#), a report to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, on how to improve the health and wellbeing of Londoners. The Lord Darzi report proposes tough measures to combat the threats posed by tobacco, alcohol, obesity, lack of exercise and pollution, which harm millions of people. It contains over 60 recommendations and sets out 10 ambitions for the city. For more information see the London Health Commission's [press release](#).

Alcohol-related liver disease: new map highlights regional hotspots

The Health and Social Care Information Centre has published a [regional map](#) that highlights regional hotspots of emergency hospital admissions for alcohol-related liver disease in the country alongside [new data](#) at national, area team and clinical commissioning group level.

Call for more completely smoke free mental health services

The Department of Health's Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb told a PHE sponsored Smoke Free conference earlier this month that people with mental health conditions are two or three times more likely to smoke than the general population and have worse life expectancy. In a [video address](#) he said we should be doing all we can to provide equal access to smoking cessation programmes tailored to the need of disadvantaged communities and to extend the number of mental health services that are completely smoke free.

NICE guidance on oral health and briefing on its use of evidence

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published [new guidance](#) on local authority strategies to improve oral health. The guidance offers advice to local authorities to improve community health through better advice and support in oral hygiene, by encouraging people to visit the dentist regularly, and through eating and drinking more healthily. For more information see the NICE [press release](#).

NICE's local government briefing on [using evidence in practice](#) summarises the approach it takes to assessing what evidence to use as the basis of public health recommendations. It provides an introduction to how to use evidence to inform decisions about public health issues.

Total NHS alcohol-related admissions in England nears 10 million

A new map of alcohol harm published by Alcohol Concern has shown that the total number of alcohol-related NHS admissions, including inpatient, outpatient and A&E visits, hit almost 10 million in England during 2012-13. The [map](#) shows the number of people drinking at unsafe levels, the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions, alcohol-related healthcare costs and alcohol-related deaths in England. Data can be viewed by local authority or by clinical commissioning group area.

New European code against cancer launched by European Commission

The European Commission has published the fourth edition of the [European Code Against Cancer](#). This current code outlines 12 recommendations of how people can take action for themselves to reduce their risk of cancer, and that of their families.

LGA publications on FGM and making every contact count

The Local Government Association (LGA) has published a [guide](#) that is designed to provide councillors with an introduction to female genital mutilation (FGM).

LGA's [Making every contact count](#) document, also published this month, is an approach to improving health and reducing health inequalities developed by the NHS and local government.

Events news

PHE Board's next open meeting

The ninth open meeting of PHE's Board will take place on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at Skipton House, 80 London Road, London SE1 6LH. It will include a panel discussion on mental health. Meeting [details](#) including board papers for earlier meetings are available online.