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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

PHE remit letter published

PHE has received its [remit letter](#) for the coming year from the Public Health Minister Jane Ellison. The letter sets out the role that the government expects PHE to play in the health and care system and the priorities of PHE in the period from April 2016 to March 2017. This should be read alongside [PHE's strategic plan](#), which was published in early April.

Health Matters: giving every child the best start in life

PHE has launched the [fifth edition of Health Matters](#), a resource for policy makers and practitioners, which brings together the facts, figures and evidence of effective interventions to tackle major public health problems. This edition focuses on giving every child the best start in life and specifically the crucial period from pregnancy to the age of 2. For more information, read the [Health Matters blog](#).

Oral health survey of 5-year-olds shows decline in tooth decay

The [oral health survey of five year olds](#) published by PHE reveals that less than 25% of the cohort suffers from tooth decay. This continues the downward trend seen since 2008 when 31% of 5-year-olds suffered tooth decay decreasing to 27% in 2012. Overall there are 6% fewer cases of tooth decay since 2008. The pattern of dental health improvement among the age group shows the impact parents and carers can have in establishing good dental care habits from an early age. The data is provided to local authority level. For more information, read the [PHE press release](#).

PHE responds to National Obesity Forum opinion paper

PHE has responded to an opinion paper published by the National Obesity Forum and the newly-formed Public Health Collaboration. It is PHE's view that the paper's calls for people to eat more fat, cut out carbohydrates and ignore calories, in the face of all the evidence, is irresponsible and misleads the public. PHE's independent experts continue to review all the available evidence, run full-scale consultations and go to great lengths to ensure that there is no bias. International health organisations agree that too much saturated fat raises cholesterol, increasing the risk of heart disease, and that obesity is caused by consistently consuming too many calories. For more information, read [PHE's published response](#).

PHE launches online cancer dashboard

PHE and NHS England have launched a new dedicated [online dashboard of cancer-related information](#) to support clinical commissioning groups and providers. The aim is to show comparative performance across the country at CCG and provider level using metrics like 1-year survival, cancer patient experience and the number of cancers diagnosed through emergency presentation to help reduce variation and improve services. The dashboard is in response to recommendation number 1 of the [Independent Cancer Taskforce Report](#) published last July. For more information, read the [public health matters blog](#).

Heatwave Plan for England published

PHE has published the [Heatwave Plan](#) which sets out the dangers of high temperatures and the steps that people can take to protect their own health, and to reduce the risks of illness and death in the most vulnerable people due to excessive heat. The Heatwave plan provides a range of recommendations and advice for the health system and local organisations.

Applications for HIV innovation fund invited

Following the quality of applications for the 2015/16 HIV Prevention Innovation Fund, PHE has announced a further fund for 2016/17. The fund will support projects that offer new and innovative ways of delivering HIV prevention, aiming to turn around the increasing numbers of new HIV diagnoses among certain groups of the population. This year, PHE is especially interested in proposals that address HIV and STI diagnosis, stigma, wider determinants of risk behaviour such as drug and alcohol use, and the further integration of HIV prevention into sexual and reproductive health services. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

Local Alcohol Profiles for England updated

PHE's latest [Local Alcohol Profiles for England](#) includes the addition of 2015/16 alcohol-related hospital admission data, three new indicators showing alcohol-related admissions by age and a new indicator relating to alcohol-related cancer incidence. These profiles have been designed to help local government and health services assess the effect of alcohol use on their local populations.

Review of the public health workforce published

PHE has published [Fit for the Future – Public Health People, a review of the public health workforce](#). With input from colleagues and organisations across the public health system, the report outlines recommendations to achieve a workforce that can meet future public health challenges. The review will help inform national strategy that will be refreshed by the Department of Health in the coming months. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

Hundreds visit exhibition on PHE Harlow plans

PHE held its first public exhibition last week, which unveiled plans for a £400 million capital investment to create a public health science hub in Harlow. More than 300 people visited the exhibition at Science Alive at Harlow Leisurezone, where staff were on hand to outline PHE's proposals for the vacant GSK site, timescales for the programme, and the job, training and education opportunities it could provide for the town. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

PHE hosts developers in search for new digital health tools

Digital creatives, clinicians and public health professionals met at the Health X Hackathon event in Manchester on 11 & 12 May to seek innovative solutions to help children eat more healthily and be more active. From using new wearable technology devices to developing apps and online tools, the possibilities from new technologies to encourage children to have a balanced diet and be more active are endless. The Health X Hackathon is one way that PHE ensures it continually gathers the best ideas. For more information, read the [PHE news story](#).

Crisis care data catalogue published

The National Mental Health Intelligence Network has published a [crisis care data catalogue](#) to enable commissioners, policy makers, planners and service providers

to identify available data on crisis care, and to inform their work to ensure there are adequate and effective mental health crisis care services in England. The catalogue shows all the available metrics and datasets relevant to mental health crisis care, and includes links to data sources and details regarding availability of data and the geography at which the data is published.

Active travel briefing for local authorities released

PHE has published [Working together to promote active travel](#), a new briefing for local authorities. This briefing aims to help transport planners, those working in the built environment, and public health professionals to deliver healthier places by highlighting the link between active travel, road transport and health. It demonstrates how we can build active travel into everyday life for a range of benefits for health, wellbeing, the environment and the economy.

Quarterly Public Health Outcomes Framework published

The quarterly data update for the [Public Health Outcomes Framework \(PHOF\)](#), official statistics on [Local Alcohol Profiles for England](#), [Health Profiles](#) and the [Local Tobacco Control Profiles for England](#) were released on 4 May. This is the 14th quarterly PHOF data update presenting more recent data for 19 indicators and equalities/inequalities breakdowns for 10 indicators. Changes have been made to 3 indicators to take account of revisions to the underlying data. Supporting information on the percentage of the population aged under 18; 65 and over; and from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups has been added to the tool.

Segment tool updated

[The Segment tool](#), which was updated on 18 May, has been developed by PHE's Epidemiology and Surveillance team and provides information on life expectancy and the causes of death that are driving inequalities in life expectancy at local area level. Targeting the causes of death which contribute most to the life expectancy gap should have the biggest impact on reducing inequalities.

PHE staff member wins Norman Veall Medal

Steve Ebdon-Jackson, PHE's Head of Medical Exposure, has been awarded the Norman Veall Medal by the British Nuclear Medicine Society. The medal is awarded annually to a clinical scientist who has made an outstanding contribution to science or the practice of nuclear medicine in the UK.

Recent PHE blogs

[Vaccination is a life-long benefit- make every contact count](#)

By Viv Bennet, 28 April

[European Immunisation Week- a round-up](#)

Blog editor, 1 May

[Will climate change make the effects of pollen worse?](#)

By Bernd Eggen, 4 May

[Moving our websites to Gov.uk](#)

Blog editor, 10 May

[Health Matters- Giving every child the best start in life](#)

Blog editor, 12 May

[Health Matters- Giving every child the best start in life- tools and resources](#)

Blog editor, 12 May

[International nurses day- how nurses are helping to fight obesity](#)

By Viv Bennet, 12 May

[New cancer dashboards- so much data; enough information?](#)

By Jem Rashbass, 13 May

[The HealthX Hackathon- can health and tech join forces to fight obesity?](#)

By Kevin Fenton, 13 May

[Why bosses matter when it comes to mental health](#)

By Justin Varney, 17 May

[Improving the mental health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans individuals](#)

By Justin Varney, 19 May

[Giving teenage mothers and young fathers the support they need](#)

By Alison Hadley, 20 May

[Time to tackle tooth decay in children](#)

By Kevin Fenton and Sandra White, 23 May

[Taking the Antibiotic Guardian campaign on the road](#)

By Diane Ashiru-Oredope, 24 May

News from other organisations

Tailored review of Public Health England: call for evidence

The Department of Health is undertaking a [tailored review](#) of PHE during 2016 to 2017. Tailored reviews form an important part of the Department's stewardship and assurance function, and also feed into the wider cross-government programme of reviews led by the Cabinet Office assessing the function, form, and efficiency of arm's length bodies. This tailored review looks at PHE's performance and effectiveness, efficiency and governance. The Department of Health Tailored Review Team have issued a call for evidence, inviting individuals and organisations that engage with PHE or have a wider interest in its operations to contribute. The call for evidence is running from 12 May to 24 June 2016. Responses can be provided by accessing the information and [completing the questionnaire](#).

Draft NICE guidance produced on physical health in prisons

New [draft guidance](#) from NICE, published on 16 May for consultation, sets out that people in prison should receive the same level of care as those in society. When finalised, the guidance will support their health and wellbeing throughout time spent in prison. It will also assist prisoners upon their release. For more information, read the [NICE press release](#).

Tackling Drug-Resistant Infections Globally: final report and recommendations published

Lord Jim O'Neill's global review on antimicrobial resistance, published on 19 May, has set out its final recommendations, providing a comprehensive action plan for the world to prevent drug-resistant infections and defeat the rising threat of superbugs – something that globally could kill 10 million people a year by 2050. The review sets out 10 areas where the world needs to take action to tackle AMR, including a focus on reducing the unnecessary use of antimicrobials and looking at how we can increase the supply of new antimicrobial drugs. For more information, read the [Review online](#).

NHS sets out plans to deliver world class cancer service

The National Cancer Transformation Board, has published a [plan designed to increase prevention, speed up diagnosis, improve the experience of patients and help people living with and beyond cancer](#). PHE has a key role in delivering all these ambitions and the plan outlines new investment to support earlier and faster diagnosis, including creating a National Diagnostics Capacity Fund, and highlights the establishment of cancer alliances across the country. These local alliances will review all data for their area and use it to identify areas to drive local improvements in cancer outcomes for their populations. For more information, read the [NHS England news story](#).

Sustainability and transformation plans – quick guides published

NHS England has published indicative figures for how much each part of England could see its NHS budget grow by 2020, and the funding available for transformation. This will help local health and care leaders develop their sustainability and transformation plans (STPs), using the growing funding envelope available to each area. Final decisions on allocations and its phasing will be taken following sign off of the plans. [Quick summary guides](#) to key system priorities have also been published by the national bodies to the support development of STPs. The guides detail existing guidance/information from other publications and do not contain new asks or priorities.

Revalidation scheme for all UKPHR registrants opened

The UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) has opened a [12-week consultation](#) on a proposed revalidation scheme. UKPHR plans to introduce a mandatory requirement for all registrants (with some exemptions) to undergo revalidation every 5 years during their registration. It is intended that this requirement will replace the existing 5 yearly re-registration. The consultation is open until Friday 5 August.

NHS England relaunches learning environment

NHS England's [Learning Environment](#) has been relaunched following a redesign. An online tool that offers a selection of more than 160 good-practice case studies, the Learning Environment showcases innovative commissioner-led partnerships and public engagement projects. To find out more, or to submit a case study, contact england.len@nhs.net.

Events

Booking now open for PHE annual conference 2016

Bookings are now open for the [PHE annual conference](#), taking place on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 September at Warwick University. The theme of this year's conference is 'Evidence into action'. The conference will promote and showcase the application and translation of science and research, to support effective local and national action to improve public health. Six parallel tracks of sessions covering a wide range of topics will run on both days. For more information and to book your place, [visit the conference website](#).

Early Years, Parenting and Family Relationships Conference 2016

The Early Intervention Foundation is holding a conference, funded by PHE, on Tuesday 12 July 2016 in Birmingham. The conference will focus on the early years, parenting and family relationships. It will be an opportunity to hear the latest evidence from two significant EIF What Works reviews relating to the early years, parenting and family relationships as well as other important reviews relating to PHE's Healthy Child Programme. For more information, visit the [EIF website](#).

PHE Board's next open meeting

The next open meeting of the [PHE Board](#) is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 20 July, focusing on mental health. Meeting [details](#) will be available online.