

# WIRRAL HEALTH & WELLBEING KNOWLEDGE HUB

## HOME OF THE JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### Wirral JSNA Bulletin - Supplementary Content

#### Contents

Adults, Children and Older People .....	1
Climate Crisis and Sustainability .....	2
Communities .....	2
Disabilities .....	2
Environment and Place .....	3
Health.....	3
Health Behaviours .....	4
Inequalities .....	5
Mental Health .....	6
Pharmacy .....	6
Physical Activity .....	7
Poverty .....	7
Social Care.....	7
Wider Determinants.....	8

Please note content collated between April 2025 and June 2025

#### Adults, Children and Older People

##### 10 years of children's public health in local government: a series of interviews

To mark 10 years of children's public health being back within in local government, the [Local Government Association has commissioned a series of interviews](#) with leaders from across the sector on their thoughts on the impact that has been made, and what more can be done to support children.

##### Fixing the foundations: the case for investing in children's health

This [Institute for Public Policy Research \(IPPR\) analysis](#), following individuals born in a single week in 1970 throughout their lives, finds that mental health problems at age 10 have significant implications 40 years on. Children with severe mental and behavioural problems are 85% more likely to have symptoms of depression at age 51, and 68% more likely to have a long-term condition that impacts their ability to work. The IPPR argues that the findings underscore the long-term impacts of untreated mental or behavioural issues and highlight the urgent need for early intervention to prevent soaring demand on the NHS, council services and social security system.

## State of ageing summary 2025

This [Centre for Ageing Better report](#) highlights the variations in the experiences of growing older across England, with the difference in life expectancy for women in the richest and poorest areas now reaching an average of 3.7 years. It also reveals that older people living in local authority areas with the highest proportion of residents on low incomes are almost three times as likely to be disabled than those living in areas of the country with the lowest proportions of people on low incomes.

## Climate Crisis and Sustainability

### Health and climate adaptation report 2025

Under the adaptation reporting powers of the Climate Change Act, the Greener NHS programme has been invited by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to produce the health and climate adaptation reports on behalf of the sector. [These NHS England reports](#) aim to support the NHS to deliver a climate-smart, resilient health service.

## Communities

### Resetting the relationship: towards a social model of health creation and care

This [NHS Confederation report](#) summarises the findings from a national policy sprint on how the future neighbourhood health service creates the clearest path to better population health. The sprint was hosted by the NHS Confederation in February 2025 in partnership with Local Trust and supported by PPL.

### Where people meet how we celebrate, sustain and reimagine community centres

This [New Local report](#) sets out what can be achieved by celebrating, sustaining and reimagining community centres for the future. It makes the case for meaningful investment, effort and focus at both the national and local level to dismantle the challenges standing in their way. It calls for their true value to be recognised and nurtured.

## Disabilities

### Identifying SEND: final report on special educational needs and disabilities and contact with CAMHS

This is the final [Education Policy Institute report](#) of the project 'Identifying Special Educational Needs and Disabilities' (SEND), funded by the Nuffield Foundation. It summarises the research questions, methods and findings of the project, and presents recommendations for improving policy and practice. The research questions concerned which children are identified with SEND, the nature of the 'postcode lottery' reported on by Ofsted in 2010, and what inequalities exist in support for SEND. The project considers the importance of deprivation, and has a focus on social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH).

## Environment and Place

### Streets ahead: building health on the high street

Visited by millions of people every day, high streets have played a role in our lives for centuries and are the heartbeat of our cities and towns. They are where people work, shop and socialise, making the high street the perfect place to promote healthier behaviours. Over the decade since the RSPH published *Health on the High Street*, there has been no shortage of initiatives and schemes to revive high streets, but they are still not the drivers of health and wellbeing that they should be. [This report from Royal Society for Public Health \(RSPH\)](#) brings together the expertise of the public health, planning, and business communities to set out a roadmap for every local authority to put in place the facilities and services that are needed to ensure that their high streets not only thrive but support the local population to do the same.

### Designing a neighbourhood health service

The government has been clear on the need to shift care decisively out of hospitals and into communities, facilitated by the creation of a new NHS – what they call a neighbourhood health service. Drawing on interviews with senior experts from the health and care sector, [this Reform report](#) identifies examples of best practice from across the UK that should inform the government's approach – and lessons that should be taken from each – based on granting greater autonomy and resources to local providers.

## Health

### Health inequalities in health protection report

The [state of health inequalities in the UK](#), and how UKHSA aims to make health protection fair.

### Health and social care support for people with dementia

This is a [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\) report](#) on the experiences of individuals with dementia interacting with health and social care services in England, and how these services are responding. The CQC will use the findings in this report – alongside working closely with people with lived experience, charities and support organisations, and wide-ranging stakeholders with dementia expertise – to develop its dementia strategy. This work will include producing guidance for providers on how to best care for people with dementia throughout health and social care.

### Model Integrated Care Board Blueprint

NHS England has shared the first version of the Model ICB Blueprint with integrated care board leaders. The document is intended to help ICBs produce plans by the end of May to reduce their running costs by 50%. It sets out an initial vision for ICBs as strategic commissioners, and the role they will play in realising the ambitions of the 10 Year Health Plan. This [NHS providers briefing](#) provides a summary of the blueprint document, highlighting the aspects most relevant to trusts, and includes NHS Providers' view.

## General practice across England

This [Institute for Government report](#) looks at the variation in general practice performance across England, comparing GP practice characteristics to examine what might explain differences in performance around the country. It shows that patient satisfaction is higher in GP practices that have more GPs (particularly GP partners), have smaller list sizes, deliver more GP appointments, and do more of those appointments face-to-face. However, the number of GP partners continues to fall, particularly among those aged under 40. GP practices do far more appointments remotely than they did before the pandemic. The closure and merging of practices mean that patient list sizes continue to creep up.

## Fixing NHS dentistry

This [Public Accounts Committee report](#) finds that, at best, only around half of the English population could see an NHS dentist over a two-year period under current funding and contractual arrangements. Just 40% of adults saw an NHS dentist in the two years to March 2024, compared to 49% in the two years pre-pandemic. It concludes that the current NHS dental contract is not fit for purpose and calls for a complete reform with timescales and costings.

## A strain on sight: waiting for NHS specialist eye care

According to NHS statistics, of the nearly 59,000 people currently waiting for specialist eye care as of December 2024, only two-thirds (66.8 per cent) have been waiting less than the 18-week target set by government, compared to a target of 92 per cent. This [Healthwatch England research](#) reveals strong public support for greater use of staff in high street opticians. The report calls for optician services, including optometrists, to have more responsibility for managing people's eye care and referring them on for specialist treatment to help cut waiting times. Additionally, actions such as those proposed in the Optometry First model are needed to improve communications and support for people waiting for eye care.

## Health Behaviours

### Are ready meals ready for a change? A call for stronger nutritional policies

This [investigation by Action on Salt](#) has revealed that more than half (55%) of ready meals sold in the UK are excessively high in salt. Surveying 1,511 products from 11 major retailers, Action on Salt calls for urgent government action to enforce stricter, mandatory limits on salt.

### A roadmap to a smokefree country: no one starts, everyone stops, no profit in tobacco

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the UK, responsible for 74,000 deaths each year and costing society an estimated £43.7 billion annually. This [All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health roadmap](#) builds on the progress of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill and outlines the comprehensive approach needed to protect future generations, close the gap in healthy life expectancy, and reduce the burden on the NHS.

## **Crisps, nuts and popcorn: opportunities for reformulation**

With less than eight months to go until the UK's landmark advertising ban kicks in, [this report from Action on Salt and Sugar](#), based at Queen Mary University of London, reveals that most savoury snacks on supermarket shelves fail to meet the government's 'healthier' criteria due in part to excessive salt and sugars.

## **Inequalities**

### **UK mortality trends and international comparisons**

The [Health Foundation briefing](#) compares trends in mortality within the UK and with 21 high-income countries, based on new research by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The findings are stark, underlining deep inequalities in health between different parts of the UK, and a worrying decline in UK health compared with international peers. The briefing concludes by considering actions that the UK government could take to begin to address these challenges.

### **Health inequalities in health protection report 2025**

Health inequalities in health protection have a high human cost across people and places. They have a wider societal impact, including on health services and economic productivity. The causes of and solutions to addressing health inequalities are often systemic, structural and complex. [This report sets out the extent of these health inequalities. It also sets out how the UK Health Security Agency aims to make health protection fair.](#)

### **Still ignored: the fight for accessible health care**

Health services such as the NHS, as well as social care services across England, are required, by law, to offer extra support if people with hearing loss struggle when accessing services – for example, being provided with an accessible alternative to the telephone to be able to book appointments or receive test results, or communication support, such as a qualified British Sign Language interpreter. However, [this Royal National Institute for Deaf People report](#) reveals that 7 out of 10 deaf people and people with hearing loss have never been asked about their information and communication needs when accessing NHS care.

### **Bridging hearts: Addressing inequalities in cardiovascular health and care**

Health inequalities are the unfair differences between the health of different groups of people. This includes people's risk of developing a disease, differences in their access to care, and how long people can expect to live in good health. The causes of these differences are complex and include factors such as income level, sex or ethnic background. [This British Heart Foundation report](#) considers how level of deprivation, sex and ethnicity can impact a person's cardiovascular health.

## Mental Health

### Understanding and addressing inequalities in mental health

Inequalities in mental health are often aggravated by inequalities in access to and quality of mental health care, which are more likely to negatively impact people in vulnerable circumstances. This [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\) Working Paper](#) starts with an overview of inequalities in mental health status and access, and people's experiences and outcomes of mental health care. It then goes on to strengthen the evidence base on policies to address these inequalities by identifying relevant and innovative strategies already being implemented in different OECD countries.

### Mental health: shifting the focus

This [NHS Providers briefing](#) sets out the current state of the mental health sector and why there is a need to provide more clarity, coherence and alignment on what needs to be prioritised in the short-to-medium term to deliver high-quality, sustainable mental health services in line with the government's three shifts (across treatment to prevention, hospital to community, and analogue to digital).

### The mental health of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK

This [Mental Health Foundation report](#) presents evidence on the circumstances facing asylum seekers and refugees in the UK, and how these experiences can harm their mental health and even lead to suicidal feelings and actions.

### Invest in childhood: priorities for preventing mental ill health among children and young people

Mental health is a critical issue for babies, children and young people, and addressing mental ill health is essential for their overall wellbeing. The government can help to create the conditions for them to thrive, with better mental health, improved life chances, and a brighter future. This [Centre for Mental Health report](#) explores the available evidence about how government can use its powers to boost children's mental health, investing in what works, and stewarding its resources wisely.

## Pharmacy

### Economic analysis of NHS pharmaceutical services in England

[This review from Frontier Economics was commissioned by NHS England in October 2022.](#) The report looks at the full economic costs of delivering NHS pharmaceutical services, and how these costs vary across and within different types of pharmacy; different mix of dispensing activity and services; and different locations. It also evaluates the current funding model and outlines which clinical services can be most efficiently delivered from community pharmacy.

## Physical Activity

### Active Lives Adults Survey 2023/24 - official statistics published

There are now 2.4 million more active adults compared to the survey baseline in November 2015-16. [According to Sport England, for 2023/24](#), 63.7 percent of adults were active and there has been a decrease of 121,000 inactive adults. However, further work is needed. Stubborn inequalities remain, and the likelihood of adults being active still depends too much on their gender, ethnicity, age, affluence, if they have a disability, and where they live.

## Poverty

### 'Pathways to Work' Green Paper: a rapid health impact assessment of changes to the welfare system

[The Health Foundation rapid assessment](#) considers the health impacts of welfare reforms on people living in England and Wales who are directly impacted by the changes, given devolved responsibility for health and disability benefits in Northern Ireland and (partially) in Scotland. The paper makes an objective assessment of the health impact of the reforms. It does not seek to make explicit recommendations about mitigating actions.

### Alleviating child poverty – a shared endeavour: the critical role ICSs can play in the government's child poverty strategy

A virtual roundtable of integrated care board (ICB) and integrated care partnership (ICP) leaders shared work on their role in alleviating the impacts of child poverty in their local system. They highlighted the system levers available to deliver this work and proposed ways these levers could be strengthened by government. [This NHS Confederation briefing](#) summarises those discussions and highlights the key calls to government to ensure that the role of systems is used to their full potential as part of the child poverty strategy.

## Social Care

### Adult Social Care Reform: the cost of inaction

This [Health and Social Care Select Committee report](#) highlights the substantial human and economic costs of maintaining the current social care system. It makes the case that, without reform, millions of people will receive inadequate care, unpaid carers will face increasing strain, and the NHS will bear escalating pressures. The report advocates a shift in perspective to view social care as an investment that can yield significant returns rather than a financial burden.

## Wider Determinants

### Design codes for health and wellbeing

[Published by the Quality of Life Foundation, Tibbalds, the Town and Country Planning Association \(TCPA\), TRUUD and Henley Business School, this guidance](#) offers practical recommendations for tackling local health and wellbeing priorities. It is aimed at those involved in commissioning, approving, and delivering new housing, as well as broader placemaking and development.

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Thanks, John