

Public Health Intelligence

April to June 2024: Bulletin Supplementary Content

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Adults, Children and Older People

The State of Ageing 2023-24

This [latest research from the Centre for Ageing Better](#) reveals that being poor or disabled can make a person over the age of 50 up to four times more likely to experience ageism. The report highlights how ageism is embedded in our society, how it can widen inequalities, and harms us in our later lives.

Reablement, rehabilitation, recovery: everyone's business

This [report from British Geriatrics Society](#) focuses on rehabilitation for older people experiencing frailty or loss of function because of acute illness or exacerbation of a chronic health condition. It highlights variation in rehabilitation provision for older people across the UK due to a lack of services, restrictive access criteria, and limited availability of staff, equipment and space. The report sets out what high-quality rehabilitation looks like and how it should be delivered. Evidence and good practice are highlighted, myths challenged, and tips provided for senior decision-makers and health and care professionals.

Adverse childhood experiences and engagement with health care services: findings from a survey of adults in Wales and England

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are associated with poorer health outcomes yet their association with health care engagement remains relatively underexplored, particularly within the UK. [This report from Public Health Wales presents the findings of an online survey with adults' resident in Wales and England](#), developed to explore the association between ACEs and health care engagement, including comfort in the use of health care services.

Listen to mums: ending the postcode lottery on perinatal care

On 9 January 2024, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Birth Trauma (APPG Birth Trauma) set up an inquiry to investigate the reasons why women experience birth trauma, how the condition affects them, the wider social impact, and the steps that can be taken to prevent birth trauma. The picture that has emerged is one of a maternity system where poor care is all-too-frequently tolerated as normal, and women are treated as an inconvenience. [This report](#) makes a set of recommendations that aim to address these problems and work towards a maternity system that is woman-centred, and where poor care is the exception rather than the rule.

Age UK's blueprint for improving the lives of older people

[This Age UK report](#), published with the coming UK general election in mind, contains 52 separate policy recommendations covering many different aspects of later life. The nationally representative polling that informs the report shows that keeping the triple lock on the state pension, improving GP access, and reducing hospital waiting lists were top priorities for older people aged 65 and above.

New dementia surveillance factsheets

These [interactive factsheets](#) show the disparities that exist in relation to the diagnosis of people with dementia and the care they receive. There is a national factsheet illustrating data for England and the NHS regions as well as individual factsheets for each integrated care board (ICB).

Cold at home: how winter cost-of-living pressures continue to impact older people

This [report from Age UK](#) highlights concerns about the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis on older people who are not receiving support from the benefits system. Many of these people are likely to be eligible for support but will still be missing out for a variety of reasons. Government figures show that an estimated 800,000 pensioners are eligible for Pension Credit but are missing out on this much-needed support.

Children and Young People's Health Equity Collaborative: framework for the drivers of health inequalities

The Children and Young People's Health Equity Collaborative (CHEC) is a partnership between the UCL Institute of Health Equity, Barnardo's, and three integrated care systems (ICSs): Birmingham and Solihull, Cheshire and Merseyside, and South Yorkshire. The CHEC sees action on the social determinants of health as essential in improving health outcomes among children and young people and reducing inequalities in health. The [framework's main purpose](#) is to underpin action for achieving greater equity in children and young people's health and wellbeing. It will be used to support the development of pilot interventions in the three partner ICS areas.

Creating a Britain that works and cares

In 2021–22 alone, nearly 400,000 carers had to leave their jobs to care for older or disabled family members. Despite this, there is a strong desire among carers to engage in paid employment, with a majority indicating that they would work if adequate support were provided. Supporting family carers in their employment could potentially save the UK economy £6 billion annually. [This report from The Centre for Social Justice](#) proposes several key policies to facilitate carers' participation in the labour market, including delivering 10 hours of free home care to those they are looking after; providing £2,000 for home adaptations; raising the Carer's Allowance earnings threshold; and mandating five days of paid leave for carers in the workplace.

Prioritising early childhood to promote the nation's health, wellbeing and prosperity

This [Academy of Medical Sciences report](#) highlights wide-ranging evidence of declining health among children under five in the UK and calls on policy-makers to take urgent action to address the situation. It warns government that major health issues such as infant mortality, obesity and tooth decay are not only damaging the nation's youngest citizens and their future, but also its economic prosperity, with the cost of inaction estimated to be at least £16 billion a year.

Understanding differences in infant mortality rates across local areas

Improvements in infant mortality rates in England have stalled since 2014, but understanding of what is driving these trends and the part environmental factors might play remains limited. The health of children is determined by more than health care, so understanding the broader determinants of infant mortality is crucial to reducing it. [This Nuffield Trust analysis](#) assesses how local authority characteristics were associated with different rates of infant mortality in England in 2017.

Child health

[Academy of Medical Sciences report on child health](#) is the first report, published in February 2024, brings together the current evidence of the impact of the early years on long-term mental and physical health and highlights examples of effective, evidence-based interventions that can be made to improve child and lifelong health.

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Access denied: older people's experiences of digital exclusion in Wales

[In this report from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales](#), they have warned that a growing number of older people in Wales are at risk of social exclusion and being left behind as the use of digital technology continues to play an even greater role in our everyday lives.

Climate Crisis and Sustainability

Quantifying the impact of climate change on human health

This [World Economic Forum report](#) provides an in-depth economic analysis of how climate change will reshape health landscapes over the next two decades. It highlights increased risks from new pathogens, pollution and extreme weather events, and shows how these will exacerbate current health inequities, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable populations.

Communities

Pharmacy: what people want

[This report from Healthwatch England](#) explores the current state of pharmacy services. It outlines opportunities for community pharmacies and the challenges the sector is facing as the role of pharmacists continues to expand, and looks at people's experiences of and attitudes towards pharmacy services at the outset of Pharmacy First. It also presents recommendations for the government, NHS England, integrated care boards, the pharmacy sector, as well as local Healthwatch.

Co-production and engagement with communities as a solution to reducing health inequalities

[This report from NHS Providers](#) outlines the principles of co-production and actions trusts can take to apply engagement methodologies across their organisation. It provides an overview of different forms of engagement and summarises the potential benefits to trusts, including improved patient experience and outcomes, and the delivery of more inclusive health care services that better meet the needs of local communities. The report also makes the connection between engagement, co-production and the broader health inequalities agenda, unlocking the potential for collaboratively developing solutions to address complex barriers to health services experienced by some communities.

What patients want: a vision for the NHS in 2030

Using experiences of care from more than 10 million people collected over the past 10 years, [Healthwatch sets out](#) where they think the NHS should be in six years and how it can get there.

Disabilities

How community providers, alongside wider system partners, can support people living with frailty

This [NHS Providers briefing](#) highlights the benefits of supporting people with frailty in the community at every stage of the frailty care pathway, while considering the risks to be managed. It shares examples of good practice, and explores some of the barriers to further progress, looking at what can be done to address these and ensure that people with frailty receive the right care at the right time in the right place.

Preventing people with a learning disability from dying too young

Around 1.3 million people in England have a learning disability and may need more support to stay in good health. This [Nuffield Trust report](#) examines whether they are able to access the services they are entitled to in order to prevent illness. It looks at a set of five key preventive health care services and functions to understand whether they are working as they should for people with a learning disability.

Environment and Place

A manifesto for community pharmacy

Community Pharmacy England, the Company Chemists' Association, the National Pharmacy Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society [have published a joint manifesto for community pharmacy](#), ahead of the next general election. Election candidates will be asked to show their support and back a six-point plan to 'unleash the potential of community pharmacy'.

Stride and ride: England's path from laggard to leader in walking, wheeling and cycling

This [Institute for Public Policy Research \(IPPR\) report](#) makes the case that investing in active travel to increase journeys made by walking, wheeling and cycling has health, climate and wellbeing benefits, and also offers a way to create green jobs, boost the economy, and deliver safer streets.

Health

Medicines shortages

Pharmacies in the UK dispense millions of prescription items each year. Since 2021 there have been reports of increasing supply problems affecting medicines. Recent media coverage has highlighted shortages of medicines used to treat diabetes, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and epilepsy, as well as hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and others. [This House of Commons Library briefing](#) provides information on the causes and consequences of medicines shortages in the UK and internationally, and the UK government's approach to addressing supply problems.

Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health – supporting local government to do more

This [Health Foundation briefing](#) presents five proposals for national policy that would allow government in England to more to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy food.

What is happening to life expectancy in England?

This [long read from King's Fund, by Veena Raleigh \(a Senior Fellow at The King's Fund\)](#) examines trends in life expectancy at birth up to 2022, the impact of Covid-19 on life expectancy, gender differences and inequalities in life expectancy, causes of the changing trends since 2011, and how life expectancy in the UK compares with other countries.

The Cass review: independent review of gender identity services for children and young people

Led by Dr Hilary Cass, [this independent review \(The Cass review\) was commissioned by NHS England to make recommendations](#) on how to improve NHS gender identity services and ensure that children and young people who are questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria receive a high standard of care that meets their needs. The report describes what is known about the young people who are seeking NHS support around their gender identity. It sets out the recommended clinical approach to care and support that they should expect, the interventions that should be available, and how services should be organised across the country.

The economic and social costs of mental ill health: review of methodology and update of calculations

This [Centre for Mental Health report](#) seeks to calculate the costs of mental ill health to individuals, society and the economy. The analysis finds that the total cost of mental ill health in England in 2022 was £300 billion. The cost comprises three major elements: economic costs of £110 billion; human costs of £130 billion; and health and care costs of £60 billion.

How to embed action on health inequalities into integrated care systems

This [NHS Confederation toolkit](#) is a practical guide for system leaders that will help to inform future spending on health inequalities (HI) and support implementation of high-impact changes within integrated care boards to address HI. It aims to build system leaders' confidence in their ability to tackle inequalities in their organisations and is accompanied by a research report that looks at the approaches systems took to spending health inequalities money.

The unusual suspects: unlocking the potential of the wider public health workforce

Over the last year, [Royal Society for Public Health \(RSPH\) carried out engagement and research](#) with the wider public health workforce to build an evidence base and gather insight into the work the wider public health workforce does and the challenges they face. Following the research, [this report](#) calls for greater collective support for the millions of people in the UK's wider public health workforce who are positively contributing to the nation's health.

Health state life expectancies in England, Northern Ireland and Wales: between 2011 to 2013 and 2020 to 2022

The latest [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) data on healthy life expectancy](#) provides evidence of the declining state of people's health in England. It shows healthy life expectancy falling by 9.3 months in males and 14 months in females between 2011–13 and 2020–22. It also finds that within England, in 2020 to 2022, both healthy life expectancy at birth and disability-free life expectancy at age 65 were highest in the South East and lowest in the North East for each sex.

The gap between need and supply of GP practice consultations

[This paper from Midlands Decision Support Network](#) finds that the use of GP practice consultations increases with age and with levels of morbidity. Since 2008, the population has aged, and age-specific morbidity levels have increased. This suggests that need for GP practice consultations has grown, while the average number of consultations per person has reduced. It is estimated that in 2019, a patient was 12.2% less likely to receive a consultation than a patient with similar needs in 2012. An additional 36.6 million consultations (+13.9%) would have been required to meet needs in 2019 as they were in 2012.

Equity in medical devices: independent review

Evidence has emerged about the potential for racial and ethnic bias in the design and use of some medical devices commonly used in the NHS, and that some ethnic groups may receive sub-optimal treatment as a result. [The purpose of the Department of Health and Social Care review](#), chaired by Professor Dame Margaret Whitehead, was to establish the extent and impact of potential racial, ethnic and other factors leading to unfair biases in the design and use of medical devices, and to make recommendations for improvements.

Government response to the House of Lords committee report on integrating primary and community care

This [Department of Health and Social Care report](#) provides a response to the House of Lords committee report, Patients at the centre: integrating primary and community care, published on 15 December 2023. This is the government's response to the committee's recommendations contained in the report, which explored how integrating services could address the challenges facing primary and community care.

Rethinking access to general practice: it is not all about supply

This Health Foundation briefing finds that, in recent years, public satisfaction with access to general practice has plummeted. People are finding it harder to make appointments, and feeling increasingly dissatisfied with waiting times and the types of appointment offered. However, despite having fewer GPs in England than there were in 2015, general practice is now delivering record numbers of appointments. The briefing looks at ways of improving access to general practice, beyond increasing the supply of appointments.

'Dismissed, ignored and belittled': the long road to endometriosis diagnosis in the UK

This [study from Endometriosis UK](#) (based on a survey of 4,371 people who have received a diagnosis of endometriosis) shows that diagnosis times in the UK have significantly worsened over the past 3 years, increasing to an average of 8 years and 10 months – an increase of 10 months since 2020. This lengthy wait means a delay in accessing treatment, during which the disease may progress, leading to worsening physical symptoms and a risk of permanent organ damage. The report contains several recommendations for improving diagnosis times.

Assisted dying/assisted suicide

This [Health and Social Care Select Committee report](#) covers: parliament and the current law; the government's role in the debate; international examples of jurisdictions where assisted dying/assisted suicide is available in some form; the involvement of physicians and assessments of eligibility and capacity to give informed consent; and palliative and end-of-life care. It identifies the pursuit of high-quality compassionate end-of-life care as a common theme in the evidence received, as well as agency and control for the person dying.

National Bowel Cancer Audit (NBOCA): state of the nation report

This [report from National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre \(NATCAN\)](#) is an audit of the care received by people with bowel cancer in England and Wales, focusing on the 35,779 patients diagnosed between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022. It found that there was an increase in the proportion of patients presenting with stage I or II disease (from 35% in 2017/18 to 42% in 2021/22), while the number of patients presenting with colorectal cancer returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Broken hearted: a spotlight paper on cardiovascular disease

Progress on cardiovascular disease was a significant driver of better health and prosperity in the latter half of the 20th century. However, progress has recently stalled – with indications it may be in reverse. While NHS waiting lists have been steadily growing over recent years, exacerbated by the pandemic, cardiology waiting lists have tripled since 2012 – higher than the growth in overall NHS waiting lists. [In this report, The IPPR is calling on the government to implement a recovery plan for treating cardiovascular disease, helping both the NHS and the economy.](#)

Patient experience of diagnostics report

This [Patients Association report](#) analyses the opinions and experiences of more than 1,000 patients who had received diagnostic support from the NHS in the preceding six months. The survey, undertaken in partnership with Roche Diagnostics UK and Ireland, found that patients want better access to early and accurate diagnosis of health problems. Many patients would consider paying to get tests done privately if they faced a long wait for NHS tests. Nine out of ten (90%) of the people who completed the survey said it should be easier to obtain access to the diagnostic tests they need.

Integrated care systems and the health needs of babies, children and young people

This [National Children's Bureau report](#) finds inconsistency in addressing the needs of babies, children and young people in local health plans highlights the need for stronger guidance from national government. It analysed strategies and plans produced by integrated care systems (ICSs), and how well they reflected different aspects of children's health. It sheds light on the first year of the new ICSs and also acknowledges the work being developed in the challenging context of increased demand and stretched budgets. It finds that few ICSs consider integration with other key services in children's lives - such as education settings and children's social care.

Faster, simpler and fairer: our plan to recover and reform NHS dentistry

This [Department of Health and Social Care plan](#) sets out a national programme of actions for the recovery and reform of NHS dentistry services in England. It aims to prevent poor oral health, boost access to services and activity, and support and develop the whole dental workforce.

Inclusive digital health care: what you need to know

This [briefing from NHS Confederation](#) provides a summary and analysis of recent policy on inclusive digital health care.

Health Behaviours

Scale of the challenge: obesity and the labour market

The [findings of this Institute for Public Policy Research report](#) suggest a correlation between obesity and economic inactivity, as well as obesity affecting the productivity and wellbeing of people who are in work. Obesity is not a personal responsibility – it is caused by working conditions, changes in the built environment, and our broken food system. Polling for this report shows that the public are ahead of politicians: they want government intervention and a break from failed policies focused on individual responsibility. Drawing from previous IPPR research, the main recommendation is based on developing a whole-society approach to tackling obesity.

Inequalities

An analysis of the relationship between deprivation and financial wellbeing

This [study from Money & Pensions Service \(MAPS\) examines the relationship between financial wellbeing and the deprivation of a local area](#). It is already known that health outcomes are worse for people living in more deprived areas. This applies to both physical and mental health, and is why NHS England is focusing effort on the 20% most deprived areas in its Core20Plus5 programme. These links can also be found in other social dimensions, for example education. MAPS wanted to know if this also applies to financial wellbeing. Many services are delivered locally. As such, MAPS suggests that understanding the impact of local areas could help local authorities, the third sector and other players in the financial wellbeing sector to design and target services more effectively.

England's widening health gap: local places falling behind

[This Institute of Health Equity report](#) confirms widening inequalities in life expectancy between regions in England and within local authorities since 2010. These widening inequalities are associated with an average reduction in local authority spending power of 34%. The study looked at every local authority in England and, for each, plotted levels of health, inequalities in health, and cuts in their spending power. Local authorities fund many of the services (such as housing, education and social care) that support or ameliorate the drivers of health inequalities. The report shows that since 2010, central government spending cuts to local authorities were highest in areas with lower life expectancy and more health inequalities, further harming health in these places.

Health inequalities in 2040: current and projected patterns of illness by deprivation in England

[This Health Foundation report](#) focuses on inequalities in major illness in England, notably among working-age people. It reveals that growing ill health will continue to significantly impact people's lives and the economy. On current trends, 3.7 million working-age adults will be living with major illness by 2040 – up from 3 million in 2019. It warns that 80% (540,000) of this increase will be in the more deprived 50% of areas, further entrenching health inequalities and having considerable implications for local and regional economies.

Children's services in North face £25bn care burden

Children's services in the North face a £25bn care burden due to 'deeply rooted social inequalities' and the 'North-South divide', a new report has revealed. Published by Health Equity North on behalf of the Child of the North All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), the [report](#) shows the disproportionately high rates of children in care in the North when compared to the South

Who is experiencing food insecurity in the UK?

This [House of Commons Library Insight](#) discusses why food insecurity in the UK has risen and which groups are most likely to not have food security. It finds that the recent increase in food prices has particularly affected people in low-income households who spend more of their money on essentials.

'Always at the bottom of the pile': the Homeless and Inclusion Health Barometer 2024

[This report from Pathway](#), the first of its kind from the homelessness charities Pathway and Crisis, reveals how the national crisis facing both England's health and housing systems leads to worsening health for people in inclusion health groups. Drawing on 85 pieces of published literature from the past two years, and a survey of frontline medical and health care professionals, the findings reveal how those who are most excluded in our society struggle to access health services due to inflexibility, discrimination and stigma.

Health Inequalities, Lives Cut Short,

The [UCL Institute of Health Equity report, Health Inequalities, Lives Cut Short](#), has confirmed that a million people in 90% of areas in England lived shorter lives than they should between 2011 and the start of the pandemic.

Inequalities in life expectancy: how the UK compares

This [Health Foundation analysis](#) compares the variations and inequalities in UK life expectancy with those in select European and high-income countries

Using financial incentives to tackle health inequalities

Finance staff have a key role in ensuring that financial incentives are designed effectively and form part of a wider financial strategy to reduce health inequalities. Financial incentives should be considered as one tool of many, not to be used in isolation but as part of a wider change programme. They work best when they are simple, predictable, use a clear evidence base, and are designed to avoid the pitfalls. [This briefing from Healthcare Financial Management Association](#) summarises the financial incentives that are already built in at a national level, and looks at opportunities for individual systems to use financial incentives at a local level.

Health hubs: a community-centred prevention initiative to address health inequalities

This [NHS Providers briefing](#) explores what health hubs are, how they can improve access to services for groups facing health inequalities, and the role of trust leaders in their development.

Healthy places, prosperous lives

This [Institute for Public Policy Research report](#) finds that there is a stark divide in health and wealth throughout the UK, leaving many 'bad health blackspots' as health inequalities cluster in the same places. Poorer and sicker areas are getting poorer and sicker the most quickly. The UK now has among the largest health inequalities of any advanced economy, with 1 in every 4 people in England and Wales who are economically inactive living in the unhealthiest 50 local authorities.

Mental Health

Not in school: the mental health barriers to school attendance

[This report, produced in collaboration with the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition](#), highlights the need to address the underlying causes of school absence. By increasing the availability of mental health support (both in schools and in the community), improving access to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) diagnoses and support, and reducing the use of sanctions-based approaches, the government can boost attendance and support children to learn.

Building a mental health workforce for the future

Drawing from a roundtable on the mental health workforce, co-hosted by the Centre for Mental Health, Mind and the NHS Confederation's Mental Health Network, [this briefing highlights the challenges facing the NHS as it seeks to implement its Long Term Workforce Plan](#). By bringing together people from across the health and care system, representing different professions and organisations, as well as lived experience, the report looks at how transforming the workforce can be achieved in practice.

Mental health in later life: understanding needs, policies and services in England

This [Centre for Mental Health briefing](#) summarises evidence about the mental health of older people in England. It finds that ageist attitudes underpin a system that discriminates against older people, while fatalistic assumptions about what people can expect for their mental health in later life undermine the provision of effective support to promote wellbeing, prevent mental ill health, and treat mental health difficulties. The briefing finds that while older people may possess many protective factors for good mental health, they face numerous risk factors, including poorer physical health, reduced mobility and, for some, poverty and racism.

We've only just begun: action to improve young people's mental health, education and employment

This [Resolution Foundation publication](#) – the final report of a three-year research programme funded by the Health Foundation – explores the relationship between young people's mental health and work outcomes, and how policy-makers should respond. It finds that young people are now more likely to experience a common mental disorder (CMD) than any other age group – a complete reversal compared with two decades ago, when they were least likely to. Also, the economic consequences are greatest for those whose poor mental health outcomes combine with poor educational outcomes, with 1 in 3 young non-graduates with a CMD currently workless.

Strong foundations: why everyone needs good emotional health – and how to achieve it

This [Demos paper](#) is part of a Demos project exploring the role that emotional health can play in building the foundations of good mental health. It calls for a 'prevention revolution' to promote people's emotional health rather than simply treating the symptoms of growing levels of mental ill health. It argues that prevention must be at the core of improving all public services, not just some of them, and sets out recommendations for how the UK government can achieve good emotional health for all.

The burnout report 2024

This [Mental Health UK report](#) is a new benchmark annual study exploring the experience and prevalence of high or extreme pressure and stress in our daily lives, and the factors that contribute towards or alleviate the risk of burnout.

Local Government and Policy

The state of local government finance in England 2024

This [annual survey by Local Government Information Unit](#) finds that the local government sector in England is increasingly in a state of financial crisis. Over half of respondents to the survey said they were likely to declare effective bankruptcy in the next five years, and 9% said they were likely to do so in the next financial year. Respondents from councils with responsibility for social care say that children's social care is by far the most urgent short-term pressure, and adults' and children's social care together make up the most serious long-term pressure.

Pharmacy

Pharmacy: what people want

[This report from Healthwatch England](#) explores the current state of pharmacy services. It outlines opportunities for community pharmacies and the challenges the sector is facing as the role of pharmacists continues to expand, and looks at people's experiences of and attitudes towards pharmacy services at the outset of Pharmacy First. It also presents recommendations for the government, NHS England, integrated care boards, the pharmacy sector, as well as local Healthwatch.

Results of a survey of pharmacists practising in England about their experience of prescription charges

Pharmacists have warned they are increasingly seeing patients in England declining to take vital medicines due to the cost of prescription charges. [Responding to a joint survey by the Pharmacists' Defence Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society](#), more than a third of pharmacists (35%) said they have seen an increase in patients declining prescriptions in the past 12 months.

Poverty

The relationship between disability, long-term illness and financial wellbeing

Previous research has shown that financial wellbeing is lower among people with disabilities or long term health conditions. [This Money & Pensions Service \(MAPS\) study examines how this varies for people with different types of disability or condition](#). It finds that financial wellbeing varies considerably between people with different types of disability. It also finds that within the disabled population, wellbeing is lowest for women, single parents, unemployed people and those living in deprived areas. These are some of the same groups that have lower financial wellbeing among the non-disabled population. This suggests that there is some intersectionality, i.e., that these other characteristics can compound the financial impact of disability.

UK poverty 2024: the essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK

[This report from Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) looks across a range of data sources and published insights to build up a comprehensive picture of the current state of poverty across the UK. Poverty can lead to negative impacts at all stages of life, so it is critical to look closely at the available information to work out who is worst affected, determine how levels have changed over time, and see what the future prospects are likely to be.

Social Care

Reforming adult social care in England

This [Public Accounts Committee report](#) looks at adult social care in England and finds understaffing, rising waiting lists and patchwork funding that places sustained financial pressure on local authorities. It calls for stronger leadership, long-term financial support, and a clear workforce strategy to address key shortfalls in the sector.

A report into the state of health and social care in Britain today

[In this report, the Times Health Commission](#) was given the task of suggesting reforms to improve the NHS. Three core principles became clear and underpin this report, backed up by detailed research, case studies and recommendations. The core principles are: the system must be rebalanced away from hospitals and a greater emphasis put on prevention and community care; health is an intricate ecosystem so there is no solution that does not involve reform of social care; and technology has the power to transform health care.

Wider Determinants

Crime in England and Wales, victim characteristics: year ending March 2023

[ONS have published](#) (6 March 2024) an overview of who is at risk of victimisation using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). This also includes information on non-household populations' experiences of crime using non-survey data including existing administrative data. Findings include an increased risk of CSEW headline victimisation for disabled people and single parent households, while people aged 55 years and over had decreased odds of experiencing CSEW headline crime compared with 16 to 24 year olds.

Prevention in health and social care: healthy places

This [House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee report](#), published by the Health and Social Care Committee, calls on the government to proceed without delay in the steps needed to update the Decent Homes Standard for social housing tenants and set out a timetable for its extension to cover the private rented sector.

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Thanks, John