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[Adults, Children and Older People](#)

Profile of the older population living in England and Wales in 2021 and changes since 2011

An [ONS overview of the characteristics of people aged 65 years and over in 2021 living in England and Wales](#), including legal partnership status, living arrangements, ethnicity, religion, health, disability, caring status and changes since 2011.

Oral health survey of 5-year-old children 2022

[Results of the National Dental Epidemiology Programme survey](#) which took place in the academic year 2021 to 2022.

I just want to be me: trans and gender diverse communities' access to and experiences of palliative & end of life care

This [Hospice UK report](#), based on first-hand research with the trans and gender-diverse community and those working in end-of-life care, explores the barriers faced by trans and gender-diverse people when accessing end-of-life, hospice and palliative care, and sets out recommendations for how to tackle them.

Nobody's listening: what families say about prison healthcare

According to this [Pact report](#), involving families more proactively in prisoners' health care would reduce deaths in custody, relieve pressure on the NHS and the criminal justice system, and cut crime. It makes a series of recommendations to improve the way that health care providers and prisons can involve families more proactively. They include diverting more appropriately risk-assessed people with mental health problems to community treatment and secure treatment settings; training for staff to ensure that they understand how to involve family members; and a single point of contact at every prison to champion the role of families in the health care process.

Fixing the foundations: Why it's time to rethink how we support older people with health problems to stay well at home

A [new in-depth report from the Charity Age UK, 'Fixing the Foundations'](#), reveals how our under-funded and overstretched NHS and social care system is struggling and sometimes failing to cope with the needs of older people. Longstanding problems, predating the pandemic but exacerbated by it too, are piling pressure on families and carers and leaving the NHS in constant crisis mode, contributing massively to ambulances being stacked up outside hospital emergency departments at the moment, and long waits for people of all ages to access urgent care.

Why have older workers left the labour market?

Economic inactivity has been increasing in the UK. [This House of Commons Library Insight](#) discusses why older workers may have left the workforce and whether they might return to work. It finds that there are two main explanations for the rise in economic inactivity among older workers: they are choosing to retire early, or they are unable to work for health reasons.

The importance of ethnicity for understanding young people's experiences of health inequalities: themes from available data

In this [Association for Young People's Health data report](#), the Association for Young People's Health reviewed a range of publicly available data sources for information and shared the data to highlight the health inequalities experienced by young people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Public health annual report 2023: supporting communities in difficult times

The [Local Government Association \(LGA\) 11th annual public health report](#) (jointly published with the Association of Directors of Public Health) reflects on the past year and focuses on how councils have responded to the rising cost of living.

State of the nation 2022: children and young people's wellbeing

The wellbeing of children and young people has been a focus of Government policy for a number of years. The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has further emphasised the importance of supporting our children and young people's wellbeing, which is why it remains a central part of the Department for Education's plans for recovery. [This report, the fourth State of the Nation, focuses on trends in mental health and wellbeing over the 2021/22 academic year](#), when a range of recovery-focused activity was in place across Government, which included the Department for Education's education recovery programme.

State pension age review 2023

[This report](#) explains the government's position and provides proposals for next steps regarding any changes to the state pension age. It confirms that the planned pension age rises from 66 to 67 for those born after April 1960 remains appropriate and that this change will come into effect by the end of 2028.

Fit for the future: how a healthy population will unlock a stronger Britain

[This paper from Tony Blair Institute for Global Change](#) argues that improving population health and prevention is the best way to alleviate burdens on the NHS. It argues for increased political attention and investment directed towards preventive-health measures alongside support for drivers of good individual health, including personal, environmental and workplace factors.

Understanding the fundamental role of racism in ethnic inequities in Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy

This [Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity briefing](#) from the Runnymede Trust and the University of Manchester's Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity uses data from the UK Household Longitudinal Study to show that institutional and community-level factors, driven by structural and institutional racism, explain the large majority of ethnic inequities in vaccination rates.

People, partnerships and place

Integrated care systems are now legally responsible for leading the charge on using a localised approach to bring multiple aspects of the health care system closer together, and for working better with social care and other public services. But this is far from a new aspiration - why should it be any different this time? The Nuffield Trust hosted a series of roundtables to discuss concerns with stakeholders and experts and understand how to ensure the aims are achieved. [This Nuffield Trust briefing](#) consolidates these findings and offers ways forward as the new era gets underway.

Preconception, pregnancy and healthy weight in children

This [Food Foundation report](#) argues that the government must do more to break the cycle of health inequalities that have resulted in more than one fifth of children in England starting school with overweight or obesity.

Preconception health among migrant women in England

Migrants are known to be at risk of poorer health. This [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities analysis](#) is designed to increase understanding of the health of mothers in this group. It looks at preconception indicators among women who are likely to be migrants including social factors, health behaviours and pre-existing medical conditions to better understand health inequalities experienced by this group.

When will the government and national agencies act to ensure that ethnicity coding in health records is fit for purpose?

All governments in recent decades have committed to reducing health inequalities, including among ethnic minority groups. But, [The King's Fund ask in this blog](#), is ethnicity coding in health records fit for purpose?

Childhood vaccines: parental attitudes survey 2022

[Findings from the 2022 attitudinal survey](#) of parental attitudes to childhood vaccines.

Gypsies' and Travellers' lived experiences, culture and identities, England and Wales 2022

This [qualitative Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) research](#) into the lived experiences of Gypsy and Traveller communities across England and Wales provides a detailed exploration of cultural identity and experiences both generally and with regard to key policy themes such as homes, health, education and employment, and justice.

Voices of children in care

A [new report by Coram Voice](#), 10,000 voices, highlights what children in care aged 4 - 18 have said about their well-being. The report found that the vast majority of children in care felt their lives were improving and many spoke positively of their experience.

National Child Measurement Programme

NHS Digital's National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) statistics have been published in full for 2021/22, the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, and these are now in LG Inform and can be viewed in the [reception obesity](#) and [year 6 obesity](#) reports.

Bereavement is everyone's business

This [UK Commission on Bereavement report](#) shows how bereavement impacts us all. From dealing with complicated administration, to coping with financial and housing insecurity. It explores the challenges of returning to work or school after a bereavement and highlights the challenges being bereaved throws up in every area of life.

The good childhood report 2022

This [Children's Society report](#) aims to show the latest trends in children's wellbeing. This year's report shows that around 1 in 16 children (6 per cent) aged 10 to 15 in the UK are unhappy with their lives, and almost 1 in 8 (12 per cent), an estimated 562,000 of 10–15-year-olds, are unhappy with school. It finds that the current cost-of-living crisis is having a significant effect on families, with 85 per cent of parents and carers surveyed in 2022 saying they are concerned about how it will affect their families in the next year, especially as over a third of parents and carers reported they already struggled with costs of school trips and uniform over the past year.

Women's Health Strategy for England

[Details the government's 10-year ambitions and the actions](#) they are starting to take to improve the health and wellbeing of women and girls in England.

The health effects of universal early childhood interventions: evidence from Sure Start

This [Institute for Fiscal Studies working paper](#) evaluates the short- and medium-term health impacts of Sure Start, a universal integrated early childhood intervention that ran for 11 years. It finds that one additional Sure Start centre per 1,000 eligible children increases hospitalisation by 10 per cent at age 1 but reduces them by 8 to 9 per cent across ages 11-15.

Environment and Place

Impacts of air pollution across the life course – evidence highlight note

This [review of evidence by Imperial College London](#) highlights the impact air pollution has on health across the life course, from before birth through to old age. The report was commissioned by the Greater London Authority via Imperial Projects and carried out by researchers from Imperial College London's Environmental Research Group. The report brings together findings from a range of key studies, to highlight the serious and life-limiting risks of air pollution and how it affects multiple aspects of physical and mental health over the course of pregnancy and birth, and child development, through to adulthood.

How the Natural Environment provides health improvement

Research and evidence that Natural England, along with NHS England, have recently commissioned. These evidence notes highlight the links between natural environments and mental, physical health and in supporting children and young people.

- [Links between natural environments and mental health \(EIN065\)](#)
- [Links between natural environments and physical health \(EIN066\)](#)
- [How the Natural Environment can support Children and Young People \(EIN067\)](#)
- [Useful infographics which highlight the key findings from these notes has also been produced.](#)
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Health and place: how levelling up health can keep older workers working

[This report](#) finds that a quarter of a million older people could have stayed in paid employment longer had the levelling up health targets been achieved a decade ago.

Cities outlook 2023

This [Centre for Cities report](#) provides a deep dive into the latest economic data on the UK's cities and largest towns. In doing so, it explores the link between increasing poor health and economic inactivity and it highlights inequalities in access to health care experienced across different parts of the UK.

Supporting and expanding green social prescribing to address mental health inequalities in London

Based on four months of research and engagement with a wide range of Londoners, [this Mental Health Foundation report](#) suggests ways to expand green 'social prescribing' in London and identifies why some are missing out on what's available. Social prescribing offers health and social care professionals the option of referring people to community-based activities they are most likely to enjoy. Green social prescribing links individuals with nature-based activities in the community.

How your area has changed in 10 years: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics

[Find out](#) how life changed for people living in different local authority areas in England and Wales. [Read about](#) changes in median age, working hours, ethnic group, religion and more, with a whole article dedicated to each individual local authority area. You can also read about housing, health, disability and unpaid care.

The role of homes and buildings in levelling up health and wellbeing

This [House of Commons research briefing](#), prepared to support a Westminster Hall debate on the role of housing in reducing health inequalities, explores the link between housing and health and summarises the statistics and current government position on this topic.

Overcrowding in England

As well as looking at the scale of overcrowding as measured in the English Housing Survey, this paper looks at the impacts on families who deem themselves to be living in overcrowded conditions. [The report from National Housing Federation](#) explores the impact overcrowding has on a family's physical and mental health, wellbeing, daily lives and relationships.

The preventative state: rebuilding our local, social and civic foundations

This [Demos essay](#) makes the case for a new paradigm in public services, which puts prevention first. It argues that there needs to be investment in foundational support for neighbourhoods, and a move away from reactive public services towards more relational public services that don't just service problems but try to prevent them from happening again.

Income, Poverty

Does it work? Measuring impact for community wealth building

Determining the effectiveness of real-world interventions like community wealth building is notoriously hard. Unlike testing new drugs, where randomised control trials can be used to attribute cause and effect, determining the impact of community wealth building on a local population has to be attempted in the context of the world around us – with all the messiness that entails. This [CLEES \(et al\) paper](#) provides crucial evidence of impact: community wealth building can provide an effective model for economic development that leads to substantial health benefits for local people and communities. ([MJ Article on paper](#))

Healthy people, prosperous lives: the first interim report of the IPPR Commission on Health and Prosperity

[This IPPR report](#) concludes that poor health harms both individual and national prosperity. Looking across the pre-pandemic and pandemic periods, it finds that experiencing a physical health condition was associated with a drop in annual earnings of £1,800 (in 2014–19) and £1,700 (in 2020–21), and that mental illness was associated with a drop in annual earnings of £2,200 (in 2014–19) and £1,700 (in 2020–2021). It also found, between 2020–21, that the long-term physical illness of another household member was associated with a fall in annual earnings of £1,224.

Women, men and economic inactivity

There has been a recent increase in the numbers of people who say they are economically inactive (that is, not in work for various reasons), with rises in long-term sickness a particular challenge for health services. This [Nuffield chart of the week from John Appleby](#) shows, however, there were some notable differences between men and women in the reasons they gave for being inactive.

Poverty and the health and care system: The role of data and partnership in bringing change

Poverty causes ill health, drives inequality in health outcomes and increases use of health services. [This King's Fund long read with the Centre for Progressive Policy](#) considers how successful sharing and acting on data can support health and care systems in mitigating, reducing and preventing poverty's effects on health.

Why preventing food insecurity will support the NHS and save lives

This [NHS Confederation long read](#) from the NHS Confederation highlights how rising food insecurity is increasing the prevalence of physical and mental health conditions caused by hunger and unhealthy diets.

Anxiety nation? Economic insecurity and mental distress in 2020s Britain

Amid rocketing rates of diagnosis for anxiety, and with 7.3 million English adults already having received antidepressants by 2017-18, this [Joseph Rowntree Foundation report](#) establishes many connections between financial insecurity and poor mental health. It calls for more to be done to protect those millions of Britons, and not just those on the very lowest incomes, at a time of increasing prices and interest rates.

Fuel poverty and data infrastructure: report and fuel poverty risk index

This [Open Data Institute report](#) reveals the sections of society that are most affected by fuel poverty, as well as the areas of the country where the problem hits the hardest. It paints a surprising picture of fuel poverty in England today, with renters, the young, large households, lone parents and those with young children disproportionately impacted.

How is health affecting economic inactivity?

The number of working-age people who can't work because of long-term sickness has been increasing since before the coronavirus pandemic. It rose from 2 million at the start of 2019 to 2.5 million as of November 2022 to January 2023. [This House of Commons Library Insight](#) explores how people leaving the workforce because of ill health affects economic inactivity.

Child poverty and the cost-of-living crisis: a report prepared for the APPG Child of the North

Children of the North are more likely to live in poverty than the rest of England, and increasingly so as living costs rise [according to this report All-Party Parliamentary Groups \(APPG\) and Northern Health Science Alliance \(NHSA\)](#). This situation is not inevitable. Historical child poverty trends in the North and recent declines during the pandemic across the UK show that policy can work. Yet progress has rapidly been undone. Children in the North are amongst the least protected from the current cost of living crisis. Many families already have insufficient or insecure income to meet their needs and are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to cope with rising prices. The uneven nature of our national economy and local labour markets, which mean lower wages and job security in the North, as well as issues with accessing suitable childcare and transportation, inadequacies in the design of the social security system as a safety net, and forms of marginalisation and discrimination (based on ethnicity, disability, age and other aspects of identity) all contribute. Child poverty, including fuel poverty and food insecurity, are higher in the North than the rest of England and minority ethnicity families, families with younger children, families in which someone is living with a disability, renters, larger families and lone parents, are all more likely to be going without, falling behind with essential bills, or taking on debt as living costs rise, reflecting real harm and suffering. Poverty is the lead driver of inequalities between children in the North and the rest of England. Rising living costs will lead to immediate and lifelong harms for children: worsening physical and mental health outcomes; undermining children's learning, social wellbeing and education; and risking lower lifelong health and productivity.

Tackling the cost-of-living crisis and impacts on health and wellbeing: key actions health and care policy makers, commissioners and provider organisations can take

[This resource, launched by members of the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance](#), discusses how the ongoing cost of living crisis is having a significant impact on health and wellbeing, with particularly acute challenges being faced by those who already experience health inequalities. It identifies six key actions health and care policymakers; commissioners and provider organisations can take to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on people's health and wellbeing.

UK poverty 2023: the essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK

This [Joseph Rowntree Foundation report](#) sets out recent trends in poverty across the UK and how levels of poverty differ between groups of people and regions. It also describes the impact it has on people's lives, including physical and mental health.

Going under and without: Joseph Rowntree Foundation's (JRF's) cost of living tracker, winter 2022/23- UK

The [JRF cost of living tracker](#) highlights the pressure that low-income household finances are under due to the cost of living crisis in the UK.

Cost of living latest insights

This provides [ONS data and trends](#) about the cost of living. Explore changes in the cost of everyday items and how this is affecting people.

Cost of living hub

[LGiU Cost of Living hub](#) includes case studies, resources and data to help councils deliver support to residents on the cost of living. The hub features eight key sections covering a variety of topics including food insecurity, fuel and energy, health and wellbeing, money and debt, partnership-working and skills and employment.

Rising living costs: the impact on NHS, staff and patients

This [NHS Providers survey of NHS trusts leaders](#) looks at the impact that rising living costs are having on the health service, staff and patients.

Fuel poverty factsheet 2022

A [summary of the 2020 headline fuel poverty figures](#) and the key characteristics of the fuel poor in 2020.

Worries about the rising costs of living, Great Britain: April to May 2022

[An ONS article](#) covering people's worries about the rising costs of living, using data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey collected between 27 April and 22 May 2022 and based on adults in Great Britain aged 16 years and over.

Fuel poverty, cold homes and health inequalities in the UK

This [Institute of Health Equity report](#) reviews the evidence on both the direct and indirect impacts of fuel poverty and cold homes on health; the inequalities in who this affects the most; and the relationship between health inequalities and climate change. It makes the case for prioritising reducing fuel poverty through policy suggestions at both the national and local level.

Could the energy crisis cause a public health emergency?

This [NHS Confederation long read](#) discusses how rising energy costs low incomes and energy inefficient homes may push half of British households into fuel poverty. It argues that cold homes cause both physical and mental illness and risk further straining overstretched NHS services.

Valuing health: why prioritising population health is essential to prosperity

This [British Medical Association \(BMA\) report](#) calls on the government to consider the health of the population as crucial to sustainable economic growth, rather than being dependent on a prosperous economy. Raising alarm about rapidly declining population health and widening health inequalities, the report identifies that the nation is facing a ‘ticking time-bomb’ of ill health with current government policies insufficient to meet the scale of the challenge. To date, principal discourse centres on health care and treatments, rather than developing and sustaining trajectories that preserve health.

The link between investing in health and economic growth

This [NHS Federation analysis](#) finds that growth in health care investment has a clear relationship with economic growth. The analysis brings together longitudinal data from multiple sources linked at the local level across all of England. It shows that for each £1 spent per head on the NHS, there is a corresponding return on investment of £4 – showing an economic benefit to investing in our National Health Service.

Poverty and the health and care system: the role of data and partnership in bringing change

Health and care systems can mitigate, reduce and prevent poverty's effects on health, but to do this they need to be much better at sharing and acting on data. This [Kings Fund long read](#), published in partnership with the Centre for Progressive Policy, sets out the available data, explores existing good practice and what needs to happen next.

Is poor health driving a rise in economic inactivity?

The increase in economic inactivity since the beginning of the pandemic has generated a lot of comment – from talk of ‘the great resignation’ to ‘the great retirement’, and questions about the role of long Covid and the increase in long-term sickness. Different reasons for this change have been mooted, whether it relates to voluntary retirement or an increase in ill health. This [Health Foundation article](#) aims to try and unpick these differing potential causes.

Health

Health equity North 2023

[This report from Health Equity North](#) finds a pattern of lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and worse health and wellbeing in the north of England. It provides a snapshot of the health issues facing the North and adds to a growing body of evidence highlighting the urgent need to address regional health inequalities and improve productivity in the North.

Supporting people living with dementia: evidence from research

[This Institute of Public Care briefing](#) distils the research evidence on what can enable people to maintain independence and wellbeing, and how best to support people living with dementia to have a quality of life grounded on what matters to them, and to their carers and family members.

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Green social prescribing: perceptions among clinicians and the public

[National research](#) focussing on public and clinical perceptions of green social prescribing.

Junior doctor strikes: facts and figures on UK doctors in training

[A summary of key facts and statistics from the Nuffield Trust](#) to help understand the junior doctor strike action.

The rise and decline of the NHS in England 2000–20: how political failure led to the crisis in the NHS and social care

Between 2000-2010, there were improvements in NHS performance due to multi-year funding increases and reforms, but since 2010 performance has declined. What are the factors behind this? [Read this report from the Kings Fund by Professor Sir Chris Ham's new report to find out.](#)

GP referrals: part 1 – the referrals black hole

[HealthWatch commissioned Panelbase to carry out an online survey covering two distinct groups who had an appointment with their GP practice in the past 12 months.](#)

Firstly, those who either expected or requested a referral for tests, diagnosis or treatment, but didn't get one, and secondly, those who were referred for tests, diagnosis or treatment. Panelbase heard from 2,144 people overall. The figures quoted in this briefing are based on the 626 patients who fall into the first group. Fieldwork was completed October 2022. The survey was also shared via the Healthwatch network (1,825 respondents overall, of which 357 respondents were in the 'not referred group'), and comments from both surveys are used to support the analysis and pro-vice quotes for this briefing. The briefing shares people's experiences and the impact behind these figures.

GP referrals: part 2 – the hidden waiting list

[The figures quoted in this accompanying briefing](#) are based on the 1,518 patients who were referred by their general practice for tests, diagnosis or treatment. The survey was also shared via the Healthwatch network (1,825 respondents overall of which 1,458 respondents were in the 'referred group') and comments from both surveys are used to support the analysis and provide quotes for this briefing. Considering how long it can take for a patient to be told they are being referred, combined with the time it takes to get onto a waiting list, the total time the patient has been suffering from their symptoms or condition can be much longer than official waiting time statistics would suggest. There are gaps in measurement for some parts of the referrals process – creating a dangerous blind spot. This briefing shares people's experiences and the impact behind these figures.

Tuberculosis in England, 2022 report (data up to end of 2021)

[Incidence, treatment and prevention of tuberculosis \(TB\) in England](#) using data up until the end of 2021.

Hepatitis B in England

[Latest UKHSA hepatitis B virus report](#) and supporting document for England.

Shooting Up: infections among people who inject drugs in the UK

[This report](#) describes the extent of infections and injecting-related harms among people who inject drugs (PWID) in the United Kingdom.

Continuing to pay the price: the impact of prescription charges on people living with long term conditions

A [survey of more than 4,000 people with long-term conditions](#) has found that having to pay for a prescription stops some people getting the medicines they need. The survey also showed people with long-term health conditions who cannot afford their medication are visiting their GPs and A&E more than before. There has also been an increase in hospital stays, mental health issues and time off work. The Prescription Charges Coalition brings together around 50 organisations and professional bodies to campaign to scrap prescription charges in England for people with long-term conditions.

Making health for all policies: harnessing the co-benefits of health

The Health in All Policies (HIAP) movement has sought to achieve health goals through intersectoral action. This [European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies policy briefing](#) explores solutions that have resulted in co-benefits and win-win solutions for all sectors when working on HIAP principles in order to support better health for all.

Understanding ‘early exiters’: the case for a healthy ageing workforce strategy

Compared with before the pandemic, there are over 100,000 more people aged 50-64 who are no longer in work because of a long-term health condition. [This Demos report finds that the UK is the only high-income country that has seen a sustained rise in economic inactivity among this age group since the start of the pandemic.](#) It calls for the first ever Ageing Workforce Strategy: a cross-government approach, including tax incentives to improve access to occupational health, better integration of health and employment support, and more scientific and physiological research to weaken the link between ill health and older age.

Health in England: 2015 to 2020

This [Health Index from Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) provides a systematic, independent view of health in England. It enables users to compare health over time and across geographies. It provides a picture of health in its broadest sense, recognising the importance of health outcomes, risk factors and the social, economic and environmental drivers to support health to improve now and for the longer term. The Health Index provides a framework to understand health pre-pandemic, including whether health issues were persistent, improving or deteriorating and to explore how the pandemic impacted on health in 2020, and consider whether these changes are temporary or enduring.

Health and wellbeing boards: guidance

The Health and Care Act 2022 (the 2022 Act) introduced integrated care boards (ICBs) and integrated care partnerships (ICPs) to the health and care system. [This non-statutory guidance](#) sets out the roles and duties of health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) and clarifies their purpose within the new system architecture introduced by the 2022 Act. It should support ICB and ICP leaders, local authorities and HWBs to understand how they should work together to ensure effective system and place-based working, following the principle of subsidiarity. The guidance also includes case studies that illustrate how HWBs are adapting to the changes introduced by the 2022 Act and using their influence as leaders at place.

Technical report on the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

This is a [Department of Health and Social Care technical report](#) on some of the scientific, public health and clinical aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic in the four nations of the UK. This is from the UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA), UK deputy CMOs most closely engaged in the Covid-19 response, NHS England National Medical Director, and the UK Health Security Agency Chief Executive. It is written for a specific audience: future CMOs, GCSAs, National Medical Directors and UK public health leaders facing a new pandemic or major epidemic in the UK and who were not part of the public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PIF TICK member directory: your guide to producers of trusted health information

The [new Patient Information Forum \(PIF\) PIF TICK toolkit](#) aims to help health care professionals provide trusted information to their patients. It includes a directory of more than 85 Trusted Information Creators, sorted by therapy area, and every organisation signposted in the directory has undergone a robust, independent assessment of their health care information production process.

Pandemic preparedness for the real world: why we must invest in equitable, ethical and effective approaches to help prepare for the next pandemic

This [Institute of Development Studies report](#) warns the global health community to think beyond vaccines and lockdowns, proposing investment in a five point action framework for pandemic preparedness that responds to people's experiences, knowledge and needs. The proposed five areas for investment are: health professionals; diverse knowledge, expertise and perspectives; reform of health, social and other systems and structures to support resilience to disease crises; people's trust in politics; and ethics and social justice.

Hewitt Review: an independent review of integrated care systems

The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt was commissioned [to lead an independent review](#) of integrated care systems in November 2022.

Deaths at home during the Covid-19 pandemic and implications for patients and services

This [Nuffield Trust report](#) sheds light on the services used by people who died at home in England, both before and during the first year of the pandemic, including looking at variation between socio-economic and ethnic groups, and by cause of death. A patient and public involvement group provided an important perspective on the findings based on their own experiences of end-of-life care.

The A&E crisis: what's really driving poor performance?

This [Reform briefing paper](#) seeks to understand what is actually happening in emergency departments and, using publicly available data, challenges some of the arguments frequently heard about the A&E crisis. It identifies areas for further investigation that the authors believe could be key to stabilising the system.

Hepatitis C in England and the UK

[Latest UKHSA hepatitis C virus \(HCV\) reports and supporting documents](#), for England and the UK.

Hepatitis B in England

[Latest UKHSA hepatitis B virus report](#) and supporting document for England.

How does UK health spending compare across Europe over the past decade?

This [UK health spending comparison analysis from the Health Foundation](#) considers how health care spending in the UK compares with that of European Union (EU) countries in the decade preceding the pandemic.

Health Profile for England: 2021

The [fourth annual profile](#) combining data and knowledge with information from other sources to give a broad picture of the health of people in England in 2021.

A vision for pharmacy professional practice in England

This [Royal Pharmaceutical Society \(RPS\) document](#), produced in partnership with The King's Fund, outlines key ambitions for the future of pharmacy in England over the next decade. It sets out how pharmacy teams can support better patient care and address key challenges facing the nation's health. It calls for the complete integration of pharmacy professionals across health and care systems to enable a transformation in patient care, supported by a comprehensive pharmacy workforce strategy, improved use of data and research to drive better patient outcomes, and strong skilful leadership and collaboration to inform professional practice.

Health and Brexit: six years on

This [Nuffield Trust report](#) finds that Brexit and its changing relationships with neighbouring countries are exacerbating the severe challenges facing health and social care in the UK today in terms of staffing, accessing essential medicines and the overall economic picture.

Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report 2022: Air Pollution

Air pollution affects us all. It is associated with impacts on lung development in children, heart disease, stroke, cancer, exacerbation of asthma and increased mortality. This year's [Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report](#) focuses on Air pollution and makes recommendations for how councils and their partners can improve air quality and the health and wellbeing of communities through their responsibilities for parks, green spaces, leisure, urban planning, public health, active travel and increasing physical activity levels.

Celebrating 175 years of the role of the Director of Public Health

In 1847, Liverpool became the first city in the world to appoint a Medical Officer of Health when it appointed Dr William Henry Duncan. The Association of Directors of Public Health and the LGA are commemorating this special anniversary by [publishing a series of eight interviews](#) with current Directors of Public Health.

Sexual health services

The LGA's new report, [Breaking point](#), warns of the pressures facing local sexual health services and highlights that there were over 4 million consultations at sexual health services in 2021, a 16 per cent increase compared to 2020 and an increase of 36 per cent since 2013. At the same time, over £1 billion has been cut from councils' public health grant over the last seven years, resulting in a 17 per cent reduction in spending on STI testing, contraception and treatment.

UKHSA and ONS release estimates of excess deaths during summer of 2022

A [joint report by UKHSA and the Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) shows the effect of this summer's record temperatures on excess mortality.

Ipsos Global Health Service Monitor 2022

This [Ipsos annual study](#) explores the biggest health challenges facing people today and how well-equipped people think their country's health care services are to tackle them. The survey was run in 34 countries between 22 July and 5 August 2022. Key findings include for a third year, coronavirus remains the biggest health problem facing people around the world (47 per cent globally, down from 70 per cent in 2021); and mental health (36 per cent) has experienced a five-point increase from 2021, making it the second biggest concern – for the first time, it is ahead of cancer (34 per cent), which is now third.

What scientists have learnt from COVID lockdowns Nature (Sept 2022)

[Nature's report suggests](#) that restrictions on social contact stemmed disease spread, but weighing up the ultimate costs and benefits of lockdown measures is a challenge.

The Lancet Commission on lessons for the future from the COVID-19 pandemic The Lancet (Sept 2022)

[This Commission report](#) aims to contribute to a new era of multilateral cooperation based on strong UN institutions to reduce the dangers of COVID-19, forestall the next pandemic, and enable the world to achieve the agreed goals of sustainable development, human rights, and peace that governments are committed to pursue as members of the UN.

Easing the pain: rehabilitation, recovery and reducing health inequity

This [Chartered Society of Physiotherapy report](#) raises awareness of health inequities in rehabilitation and recovery services across the UK. It finds that those people who experience systemic discrimination and marginalisation, and those who live in poor communities, are missing out on rehabilitation after experiencing illnesses such as strokes, cardiovascular disease or cancers.

Inquiry to assess the impacts of menopause and the case for policy reform: concluding report

This [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Menopause report](#) outlines how menopause symptoms can have a debilitating impact on the day-to-day lives of women. The findings of the report demonstrate that widespread action is needed across all spheres to improve the situation for those going through the menopause, and the families, friends and colleagues affected by it. It raises concerns about the socio-economic divide emerging between women who are able to access the right treatment, and those who lose out in the postcode lottery and do not have the financial means to seek treatment elsewhere. It makes 13 recommendations for the government, NHS and other bodies to initiate change and dispel the long-held taboo around menopause.

The bet against the NHS – how likely is a two-tier healthcare system in the UK?

This [Centre for Health and the Public Interest briefing](#) unpacks the background and policy landscape creating increased concerns for the health care system in the UK. It explains how for-profit health care provision has grown in the past two decades, the role of the government in creating an environment that encouraged this growth, and the effect this has on patients and the way we access treatment based on ability to pay rather than level of need.

Introducing integrated care systems: joining up local services to improve health outcomes

This [National Audit Office report](#) examines the setup of integrated care systems (ICSs) by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, and their partners and the risks they must manage. The report is not an assessment of whether the programme has secured good value for money to date because ICSs have only recently taken statutory form. Instead, it is an assessment of where they are starting from and the challenges and opportunities ahead. It makes recommendations intended to help manage those risks and realise those opportunities.

The state of health care report: what you need to know

This [NHS Confederation briefing](#) provides a summary and analysis of the Care Quality Commission's annual report on the state of health and care in England.

Public health grant: what it is and why greater investment is needed

Investment in prevention represents excellent value for money compared with health care spend. Yet announcements have continued the trend of disinvesting in the wider funding that helps to maintain and improve people's health. The public health grant has been cut by 24 per cent on a real terms per person basis since 2015/16. [Read The Health Foundation.](#)

Snowballs and eels: a rapid review of national funding for cross-sector partnership building in health and care in England from 2019 to 2022

This [National Association for Voluntary and Community Action report](#) considers the results of a rapid review of the national funding available for cross-sector partnership building in health and care over the past three years. Considering the longer term, it finds that since the launch of the 42 sustainability and transformation partnerships in 2016, through to the placing of integrated care systems (ICSs) onto a statutory footing in July 2022, much progress has been made. It concludes that external funding and support for the voluntary and community sector (VCS) continues to have a part in supporting local partnerships to develop and thrive and play a full role in ICSs.

Diabetes care: is it fair enough?

This [Diabetes UK report](#) reveals that less than half (47 per cent) of people living with diabetes in England received all eight of their required checks in 2021-22, meaning 1.9 million people did not receive the care they need. It calls for urgent action to be taken to address the routine diabetes care backlog and prevent avoidable deaths of people living with diabetes.

Alcohol treatment services

This [House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts report](#) finds that an estimated 10 million people in England regularly exceed the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk drinking guidelines, including 1.7 million who drink at higher risk and around 600,000 who are dependent on alcohol. It says that 82 per cent of those 600,000 dependent drinkers in England are not in treatment despite success rates of around 60 per cent and evidence that, on average, every £1 spent on treatment immediately delivers £3 of benefit and significantly more in the longer term. It finds that there has been an increase in alcohol-related deaths, which rose by 89 per cent over the past 20 years, with sharp rises since 2019.

Health Behaviours

Tackling obesity: improving policy making on food and health

This [report by Institute for Government](#) finds that every government since 1992 has missed targets to reduce obesity – with the UK’s rising obesity rates harming people’s health and life opportunities, burdening the NHS and damaging the economy. It tries to identify the reasons behind these policy failures and sets out how to make progress. It finds that tackling obesity has suffered from ministers fearing the perception of nanny statism, despite there being public support for ambitious measures. It details how, over three decades, there have been at least 14 strategies, hundreds of policies and a succession of institutional reforms, with key agencies and teams created and then abolished.

Smoking prevalence projections for England based on data to 2021 (cancerresearchuk.org)

[Cancer Research UK projections](#) which have recently been updated after the latest smoking prevalence figures were updated, show that England will likely not hit 5% prevalence until 2039. They suggest that the most deprived quintile will take around 4 times longer than the least deprived to reach 5% so well into the mid-2040s.

Tobacco Control Dashboard

The [Tobacco Control Dashboard](#) brings together key indicators on tobacco control in an infographic style visual.

New update to the patterns and trends in child and adult obesity data slide

[Data from the 2021/22 National Child Measurement Programme \(NCMP\) has been used to update the regional and local authority child obesity slide sets.](#) There is one downloadable file for each region and upper tier local authority displaying data on the trends in overweight and obesity prevalence and patterns in prevalence by age, sex, ethnic group, area deprivation, and geographic area.

The adult obesity slide set has also been updated and shows the latest data on overweight and obesity prevalence and raised waist circumference at national level using data from the Health Survey for England. Trends in overweight and obesity are shown, and patterns are examined by age, sex, ethnic group, region, and socioeconomic status.

Childhood obesity: is where you live important?

This new [Nuffield Trust analysis](#) looks at the association that neighbourhoods, communities and their characteristics have with obesity in children. Childhood obesity in England is widespread, with no notable improvements in recent years. However, our understanding of what could be driving these trends and the part environmental factors might play remains limited.

Evaluating the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on sales-based alcohol consumption in Scotland at three years post-implementation

This [Public Health Scotland report](#) and briefing paper looks at the impact of minimum unit pricing for alcohol (MUP) on alcohol sales in Scotland after three years of implementation.

Diet-related health inequalities

This [UK Parliament report](#) describes the impact of poor diet on health, the underlying causes and policy approaches to address them. Poor diet is one of the biggest preventable risk factors for ill health. Inequalities in diets contribute to overall inequalities in health. The recent cost-of-living crisis and food price increases have drawn attention to wider inequalities in access to healthy food across the population. This report gives an overview of the population most at risk of adverse diet-related health outcomes, the underlying causes of inequalities in access to healthy food and the evidence on the effectiveness of current policy approaches. It also summarises stakeholder perspectives and discusses government strategies.

Active ageing and tackling inactivity and economic disadvantage programmes: final evaluation report

Sport England has worked with 25 Active Ageing partners over the past five years to support more than 30,000 older adults into sport and physical activity. The programme has provided learning on how to provide positive, inclusive physical activity experiences that support older adults to build sport and physical activity into their daily lives. [This Sport England guide](#) summarises this learning and provides inspiration and actions for organisations wishing to help people become more active.

Innovation Sweet Spots: Food innovation, obesity and food environments

Over the last decade, a surge of research and investment has given rise to a host of food innovations. Apps let us order from a myriad of different restaurants at the touch of a button and we're now growing meat in laboratories. [This Nesta analysis](#) shows that globally, venture capital investment into food tech has increased 40 times in the last ten years, reaching a new high of £26.9 billion in 2021. But is the future of food headed in the right direction?

Dietary and Health Inequalities

The Obesity Health Alliance (OHA) is a coalition of 50 health organisations including the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Diabetes UK, the British Medical Association and medical royal colleges. [This document outlines the known evidence base](#) for the relationship between overweight and obesity and health inequalities, and the recommendations supported by the OHA to address health inequalities through action to reduce the prevalence of obesity.

ASH resources on youth vaping

[This brief](#) sets out our policy recommendations for Government in the light of growing evidence of increases in underage vaping.

Active Lives Survey – 2021/22, England

Sport England's Children and Young People Active Lives Survey has been added to LG Inform. 91.6 per cent of children aged 5 to 16 in England [participated in an activity once a week or more](#) in 2021/22. 30.1 per cent of [children are less active](#) (less than 30 minutes of at least moderate intensity a day). The [percentage of children who are active for an average of 30 plus minutes a day, outside of school hours](#) is 55.1 per cent. 69.8 per cent of [children participated in sporting activities, during school hours once a week](#) and 71.6 per cent outside school hours.

Putting health at the heart of convenience

This [Impact on Urban Health report](#) shares insights from the Good Food Wholesale and Retail pilot. The pilot was set up to improve access to healthier food options in the London Borough of Southwark, by increasing the range of healthier products sold in the borough's local convenience stores. The project was co-funded by Impact on Urban Health and Southwark Council and delivered by Rice Marketing – a marketing agency specialising in local retail.

Investing to reduce tobacco usage and tackle associated health inequalities

This [Healthcare Financial Management Association \(HFMA\) short briefing](#) brings together the key messages from the policies and guidance that support work to reduce tobacco usage in England. It also identifies the funding streams in place to enable the work to be undertaken.

Sport and Recreation Alliance Research: community sport and recreation clubs are under severe financial pressure

[New evidence produced by the Sport and Recreation Alliance](#) shows that community sport and recreation clubs are under severe financial pressure and are struggling to cope with the dual impact of steeply rising energy costs and the recovery from COVID-19. Access to facilities and public spaces is the main concern for over three quarters of clubs – with closures and service restrictions already happening across the country, this is an urgent priority for clubs who depend on them to provide activity.

Sport England publish 2022 Active Lives Children and Young People Survey

[The survey](#) provides the most comprehensive insight and data into the physical activity levels of children and young people (aged 5-16) across England. It [reveals strong growth](#), particularly for teenage girls, within the past year - showing that efforts to help children get active again post-pandemic are working.

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England, 2021

The [survey report](#) presents information on the percentage of pupils who have ever smoked, tried alcohol or taken drugs and on their regular use.

Understanding local variations in the sport and physical activity sector

[Sport England has produced a breakdown of the social value figure of each local authority and active partnership](#) to help them explain the importance of sport and physical activity in their area. They also combined the set of [residential-based area classifications](#) by the Office for National Statistics from the 2011 Census with their [Active Lives survey](#) to get an insight on how the characteristics of a local area and its population contribute to local variations in sport and physical activity. The result is a series of sport and physical activity profiles for each of the ONS' classification Groups and Supergroups

Mental Health

Understanding and supporting mental health in infancy and early childhood: a toolkit to support local action in the UK

This [UNICEF UK resource](#) aims to support service leaders, commissioners and policy teams to develop a whole-system approach to support the mental health of babies and young children, and to enable them to develop the capacities to be mentally healthy throughout their lives. Evidence shows that the mental health needs of babies and young children – which present differently than in older children and young people – are not well understood and often overlooked. This toolkit acknowledges that it can be harder for professionals to work together to promote and protect mental health at this life stage, as understanding varies across sectors. It suggests practical steps to help all services play their role and work together and will facilitate shared understanding and constructive discussions about the needs of babies and young children in local communities.

Progress in improving mental health services in England

Despite funding and staffing levels for mental health services increasing, and more patients being treated, millions of people with mental health needs are still not accessing services, with some facing lengthy waits for treatment, [according to a new National Audit Office report](#).

Mental health and the cost-of-living crisis report: another pandemic in the making?

This [Mental Health Foundation policy briefing paper](#) provides an overview of the current and likely effects of the so-called 'cost-of-living crisis' on mental health. It sets out MHF's evidence-based recommendations for governments across the UK to tackle the mental health impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. The paper emphasises that the priority must be to ensure suitable financial support schemes are available to all who need them to prevent people from experiencing poverty, financial stress and related mental health problems. The paper also stresses that the income support announced to date does not go far enough to meet the needs of low-income people who continue to go without essentials such as food and heating.

The impact of body image on mental and physical health: government response

This [Department of Health and Social Care report](#) sets out the government's formal response to the recommendations made by the Health and Social Care Committee in its report on the impact of body image on mental and physical health.

“It's hard to talk.” Expanding Mental Health Support Teams in education

Children’s charity Barnardo’s is calling on the Government to expand the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) programme to every school and college in England following its latest [report ‘It's Hard to Talk - Expanding Mental Health Support Teams in Education’](#).

The report highlighted that for every £1 invested in MHSTs, there is a predicted return of £1.90 to the state. This is through savings in further health care costs and the indirect benefits of improved school attendance and educational attainment. The report states that this investment would provide crucial early intervention for children who are experiencing poor mental health, including low mood, mild to moderate anxiety, and difficulties regulating their emotions, which could be exacerbated in the coming months.

As well as MHST expansion, Barnardo’s is supporting our ask for every school to have a trained and accredited school counsellor. Expansion of MHSTs, alongside access to a school counsellor service, would mean young people could avoid long waits for specialist support and reduce the chances of their mental health spiralling into crisis before help is available. You can [read the full report on the Barnardo's website](#).

The public health impact of loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic BMC Public Health (Dec 2022)

Social distancing measures have been effective in mitigating the spread of COVID-19; however, they have imposed a significant burden on population mental health and well-being. [This study](#) aimed to identify factors associated with loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to describe the relationship between loneliness and the risk of worsening health outcomes and behaviours.

A new way of working: ending rough sleeping together – progress report

The [Kerlake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping report](#) assesses the steps made towards ending rough sleeping in England and considers the impact of the current economic crisis. It tracks the progress against its original recommendations made last September – grading them as green, amber or red – as well as providing an updated set of recommendations reflecting the present cost-of-living emergency.

‘It feels like being seen’: how can local authorities know if their mental health services are working well?

This [Centre for Mental Health briefing](#) describes research that focused on two core questions relating to the role of local authorities that commission and provide adult social services in assessing and meeting people’s mental health needs: what does it look and feel like when support effectively considers people’s social and psychological wellbeing as part of mainstream assessments and care planning?; and what does it look and feel like when there is good collaboration in the commissioning and planning of mental health services and support?

Rural mental health

In this [Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee report](#), MPs express concern about how isolation, poor public transport and a relative lack of digital connectivity have contributed to poor mental health outcomes for all categories of people across rural communities in England, but especially among farm workers and vets. It calls for greater joined-up planning and action from the government to address the issue.

Social Care

Prevention in health and social care: proposal to the House of Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee inquiry

In January 2023 the Health and Social Care Select Committee announced an inquiry into prevention in health and social care. In recognition of the wide-ranging nature of this issue, the committee invited proposals from organisations to help them agree a scope for the inquiry. [This proposal from the NHS Confederation](#) emphasises the need to take a system-wide approach and to view prevention through the lens of the second core purpose of integrated care systems (ICS), which pertains to population health, health inequalities and prevention. The proposal also encourages the committee to consider how embedding prevention could be an interdepartmental endeavour by highlighting that 80 per cent of what drives health and wellbeing are factors outside the health system.

Supporting people with a learning disability and autistic people to live happier, healthier, longer lives bitesize guide for local systems

[This guide](#) draws together a number of resources and provides a one-stop shop for professionals who put in place services and approaches to support children, young people and adults who have a learning disability or who are autistic to lead healthier, happier, longer lives.

Bailed out and burned out? The financial impact of Covid-19 on UK care homes for older people and their workforce

This [Financial Impacts of Covid-19 on Care Homes \(FICCH\) report](#) reveals that government support worth more than £2 billion helped the care home sector avoid financial collapse during the peak of the pandemic. However, when the support was removed, the sector experienced a crisis due to workforce shortages, inflation and continuing infection outbreaks. Furthermore, only a small fraction of the additional government funding was spent directly on supporting the workforce even though the sector weathered the storm thanks to staff working long-er hours and putting themselves on the line to continue to provide vital care services. The report offers evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and care home providers on how to ensure the financial and operational sustainability of the sector and prepare it for future pandemics.

Learning disability: applying All Our Health

[Evidence and information](#) for health and care professionals and the wider public health workforce to support people with a learning disability and their families.

NICE health and care system resource

The health and care system is under pressure, and recovering core services and improving productivity is an immediate priority. To help with this, [NICE has developed a new web resource that pulls together relevant guidance and recommendations supporting this work in one place](#): Supporting the health and care system in improving productivity It includes relevant NICE guidance and recommendations aligned to each of the NHS 2023/24 priorities and operational planning guidance and priority areas of the NHS Long Term Plan.

Adult social care in the four countries of the UK

In this updated series of explainers, [Nuffield Trust take a closer look at social care across all four countries of the UK](#), and shed light on where the systems diverge and the direction that each country is now taking.

Making sense of the drop in the numbers of unpaid carers

With the recent census data showing an unexpected drop in the overall numbers of unpaid carers in England and Wales, [Nuffield Trust's Charlotte Paddison explains more about what the new data shows](#), and argues why the fall in unpaid carer numbers is a cause for concern.

Carers' costs

[Carers Trust has published a report](#) highlighting that unpaid family carers are experiencing unprecedented financial hardship with many now using food banks. The report found one in seven unpaid carers have had to use a food bank and almost two-thirds of carers are worried about being able to afford energy bills. We have said the Government must ensure that unpaid carers are supported through the cost-of-living crisis and [work with councils to develop long-term solution for the funding of social care](#).

The cost of caring: poverty and deprivation among residential care workers in the UK

This [new analysis by The Health Foundation](#) shows that one fifth of residential care workers are living in poverty. Care home staff are far more likely to experience poverty and deprivation than the average UK worker.

Falling short: how far have we come in improving support for unpaid carers in England?

People who provide unpaid care for a family member or a friend due to illness, disability or a mental health condition provide a vital role bridging gaps in state-funded support. But despite the laudable policy statements in support of carers, [this Nuffield Trust report](#) looking at the policy history and latest data shows that the reality for unpaid carers has been one of diminishing help over time.

The state of the adult social care sector and workforce in England 2022

[Key findings from this year's Skills for Care annual report](#) include: there are 165,000 vacant posts – an increase of 52 per cent and the highest rate on record; the number of filled posts (posts with a person working in them) has dropped by 50,000 – the first drop in the number of social care workers ever; average vacancy rates across the sector are at nearly 11 per cent, which is twice the national average; care workers with five years' experience are paid 7p per hour more than a care worker with less than one year's experience; and the average care worker pay is £1 per hour less than health care assistants in the NHS that are new to their roles.

Autistic people's healthcare information strategy for England

This [NHS England document](#) sets out an initial strategy for the development of information about the health of, and health care received by people with autism in England, from sources already collected or in the process of being established.

Adult social care workforce in England

This [House of Commons Library research](#) briefing gives an overview of key issues and policy concerning the adult social care workforce in England. Around 1.5 million people worked in the adult social care sector in England in 2021/22, more than in the NHS. The workforce was more diverse than the population as a whole and the majority of workers were women. Around a quarter of the workforce were on zero-hours contracts, including 55 per cent of home care workers.

Councils supporting disabled residents through tough times: a new toolkit

The UK Government's Food Strategy aims to deliver ministers' ambitions for a prosperous UK agri-food sector, contributing to levelling up, greater food security in an unpredictable world, and healthier, affordable and more sustainable diets for all. Local government is expected to play an important role in delivering the priorities. [Read LGiU report.](#)

Building a resilient social care system in England: what can be learnt from the first wave of Covid-19?

This [Nuffield Trust report](#), written in collaboration with the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, analyses the structural and systemic factors that influenced that initial national response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid had far-reaching impacts on social care and exacerbated many longstanding issues. This work seeks to highlight progress and identify where action is needed to create a more resilient system.

Wider Health Determinants

Better housing for better health

This [Healthier Housing Partnership paper](#) highlights the need for housing to be an essential part of future strategies to improve health and for making better use of resources to achieve better health outcomes.

All Together Fairer: Health equity and the social determinants of health in Cheshire and Merseyside

The IHE is working with local authorities up and down the country to do what they can, to implement the right approaches to reduce health inequalities. The Population Health Board of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (HCP) commissioned IHE to support work to reduce health inequalities through taking action on the social determinants of health and to build back fairer from COVID-19. [The report, All Together Fairer: Health equity and the social determinants of health in Cheshire and Merseyside, is the latest in a series of 'Marmot Reviews'.](#)

The cost of poor housing by tenure in England

This [BRE Group \(British Research Establishment\) report](#) analyses the impact of substandard housing to the NHS, broken down by tenure type (owner occupied, private rental and social housing). The research finds that more than 700,000 homes in England are defined as excessively cold and that the NHS spends more than £540 million a year treating people affected by the worst properties.

Better housing for better health

This [Healthier Housing Partnership paper](#) highlights the need for housing to be an essential part of future strategies to improve health and for making better use of resources to achieve better health outcomes.

The cost of poor housing in England by tenure

Poor quality housing is costing the NHS billions of pounds a year, [a new Building Research Establishment \(BRE\) study has revealed.](#)

Tackling Loneliness annual report March 2023: the fourth year

The [Government has published the Tackling Loneliness annual report](#). This year's annual report captures the ongoing and new actions that the government and partners are undertaking over the next two years to address loneliness.

Housing our ageing population

This [Local Government Association report](#) makes a number of recommendations to government on how we can best meet the needs of people in later life, with case studies demonstrating how councils are addressing the housing needs of an ageing population. It highlights how the suitability of the housing stock is of critical importance to the health of individuals and impacts on public spending, particularly adult social care, and the NHS.

Where does specialist public health sit across the UK?

There are four nations in the UK, three Crown Dependencies and 14 UK overseas territories. Public health functions look very different across these 21 administrations. [This explainer from Association of Directors of Public Health](#) aims to provide an overview of where functions sit in different nations.

Association of Directors of Public Health: manifesto for a healthier nation

The UK's health is declining and health inequalities are widening – strong leadership is required to change the current situation. Austerity and Covid-19, among other factors, have left lasting scars and poor economic performance is both a cause and a consequence of poor health. [This manifesto from ADPH](#) calls for all political parties across the UK to set out long-term plans to improve public health and reduce health inequalities.

Inequalities

The IFS Deaton Review of Inequalities: health inequalities

[This report](#) finds that there are marked differences in life expectancy between the regions of England, the countries in the UK, and the UK and other wealthy countries. It argues that the austerity measures enacted after the financial crisis of 2008 not only harmed many people directly and unequally, through reductions in public services, but may also have played a role in the anaemic reduction in mortality rates observed for adults after 2010. For policy to improve the health of those left behind to be properly implemented, more and better data is needed.

Public health strengths and risk tool

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) and the Local Government Association (LGA), in consultation with SOLACE, have developed a tool to support system leaders in local authorities in defining and ensuring good public health at place.

Healthcare inequalities: access to NHS prescribing and exemption schemes in England

This [NHS Business Services Authority \(NHSBSA\) report](#) looks at health care inequalities in relation to NHS prescribing and exemption schemes in England. It considers uptake in deprived and other under-served communities, providing actionable insights with a focus on three clinical areas of prescribing: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension, and severe mental illness (SMI).

Tackling health inequalities: delivering accessible pharmaceutical care for everyone

This [Royal Pharmaceutical Society position paper](#) outlines how the cost-of-living crisis is adding to widening health inequalities and aims to help pharmacists and pharmacy teams to take action. It describes how services that are already being provided can help reduce health inequalities such as helping patients to get the best from their medicines, to improve their health and to live well. However, the focus is on how these services are provided so they are accessible to those that need them.

The rising cost of living: a review of interventions to reduce impacts on health inequalities in London

This [Institute of Health Equity report](#) presents the results of the second in a series of rapid reviews looking at the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in London. It explores interventions that local authorities, the GLA and other system partners could make to help reduce health inequalities at this time.

Reducing inequalities by investing in health-promoting care

Ahead of the launch of the imminent European Care Strategy, [EuroHealthNet has published a policy précis](#) that sets out models of 'health-promoting' care. Such models value care workers and empower those who need care, such as children, older people and those with chronic diseases or disabilities. They strengthen collaboration across sectors and encourage and enable people to become more socially engaged, and to participate in the formal economy, thereby contributing to an 'economy of wellbeing'.

Social prescribing interfaces

[This new report published by the Primary Care Division, Public Health Wales](#), highlights the distinctions and synergies between social prescribing and physical and mental health services, wellbeing activities and community assets. Five recommendations have been identified that are intended to inform strategic direction and policy development in relation to social prescribing, with the goal of supporting and improving the wellbeing of both current and future generations in Wales.

The continuing impact of Covid-19 on health and inequalities

This [Health Foundation long read revisits](#) the conclusions of The Health Foundation's Covid-19 impact inquiry, published in July 2021, to consider the further direct impact of Covid-19 on health outcomes and the broader implications for health and the wider determinants. It also discusses the extent to which previously highlighted risks to health have been addressed and the implications for the country of 'living with Covid-19'.

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If you have any local information, research or reports you think useful to share then get in touch wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk or if the bulletin has been passed onto you and you would like to subscribe please [complete this form](#).

Thanks, John