Wirral Intelligence Service Bulletin – Additional Content – February 2021

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

UK poverty 2020/21

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation report highlights early indications of how poverty has changed in our society since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, as well as the situation revealed by the latest poverty data, collected before the outbreak. It examines overall changes to poverty, with sections looking at the impact of work, the social security system and housing. It also benefits from powerful insights from members of JRF's Grassroots Poverty Action Group, who have direct experience of living on a low income.

Care Quality Commission: coronavirus insight report (December 2020)

Our COVID-19 Insight reports highlight the coronavirus-related pressures faced by the services we regulate. Read issue 6 of CQC COVID-19 Insight report.

Pandemic pressures

This Resolution Foundation note explores why so many low-income families report spending more, not less, since Covid-19 gripped the nation in spring 2020. It brings together the findings from two online surveys of a representative sample of working-age adults in the UK fielded by the Resolution Foundation in May and September 2020, and a number of vivid accounts from parents and carers themselves, drawn from the ongoing Covid Realities participatory research programme. The report highlights how increased financial worries amplify the negative impact of the pandemic on the mental health of parents and carers on a low income.

Covid-19 rapid guideline: managing the long-term effects of Covid-19

This NICE guideline covers identifying, assessing and managing the long-term effects of Covid-19, often described as 'long Covid'. It makes recommendations about care in all health care settings for adults, children and young people who have new or ongoing symptoms four weeks or more after the start of acute Covid-19. It also includes advice on organising services for long Covid.

Science advice in a crisis

This Institute for Government paper draws on interviews with key players including current and former officials, scientific advisers, and SAGE members. It concludes ministers must improve the way they use and communicate science advice or risk repeating mistakes made during the coronavirus crisis. While ministers have faced extraordinarily difficult choices, the government's response to the pandemic has too often been undermined by misunderstanding the role of science advice and using it inconsistently.

Coronavirus: long Covid

This House of Commons Library briefing provide an overview of long Covid, the impacts of this condition and the development of clinical guidance and services for those affected. It also provides links to further reading and Parliamentary material.

Controlling transmission: the need for improved self-isolation

The Covid-19 vaccine campaign brings much hope, but it is clear that for the foreseeable future we also very much need to control transmission. One key way to do so is effective self-isolation, but data suggests that adherence in the UK with self-isolation rules is low. Nuffield Trust look at possible lessons from overseas on how to improve compliance.

Investigation into preparations for potential Covid-19 vaccines

This National Audit Office report examines the government's progress in securing potential vaccines and determining how they will be deployed to the public. It looks at the government's approach to identifying potential vaccines and its progress to date, how the government is organising itself to work at pace, and challenges the government needs to manage as it deploys the vaccine. The report covers the period from April to 8 December 2020

The Covid-19 vaccine communication handbook: a practical guide for improving vaccine communication and fighting misinformation

A [team of scientific experts, led by the University of Bristol, have created an online guide](#) to help fight the spread of misinformation about the Covid-19 vaccines. Topics in the handbook include public behaviour and attitudes, policy, facts, and misinformation. The guide aims to arm people with practical tips and provide up-to-date information and evidence to help them to talk reliably about the vaccines, reduce fear and constructively challenge associated myths. It includes: key facts and messages about vaccines and uptake; how to engage with someone expressing vaccine uncertainty; and evidence-informed communication approaches to address myths and reduce misinformation.

What do user-led groups need?

This [National Survivor User Network report](#) is the result of 19 interviews commissioned by the National Survivor User Network (NSUN) with community organisations and groups using lived experience to deliver mental health support in England. The research looked to understand what challenges user-led mental health organisations face and to explore what might help user-led organisations delivering mental health support to meet their aims and sustain and develop their activities.

The IFS Deaton Review of Inequalities: a new year's message

This [Institute of Fiscal Studies report](#) examines the impact of the pandemic on educational, economic, social and health inequalities in the UK. It outlines data and evidence on the groups that have been most heavily impacted by widening inequalities and Covid-19.

Covid-19: pre-existing health conditions and ethnicity

This [report was commissioned by the Race Disparity Unit following the publication of the Public Health England report](#), 'Covid-19: view of disparities in risks and outcomes'. The aim of this analysis is to provide further evidence of the role of pre-existing health conditions in ethnic inequalities in diagnosis, deaths, and survival from Covid-19.

Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2020: health trends and variation in England

After a brief section on the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in England, [the main report](#) consists of a collection of charts that present a broad and high-level overview of the nation's health across a range of health outcomes and public health indicators. A key theme is the variation in health that exists across different dimensions: over geographies, over time and between groups of people.

Cancer services recovery plan

One of the most significant impacts of the coronavirus pandemic was a sharp reduction in the number of people coming forward and being referred urgently with suspected cancer and referred from screening programmes. This [NHS England plan](#) has several aims, including restoring demand at least to pre-pandemic levels and reducing the number of people waiting more than 62 days from urgent referral.

UK vaccination policy

This [House of Commons Library](#) briefing provides an overview of UK vaccination policy. It includes an introduction to the science of vaccination and covers UK vaccination programmes, as well as considering the response of the government to the UK's loss of the World Health Organization's measles elimination status.

Health charities and the NHS: a vital partnership in peril?

This [London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) report](#) was commissioned by the National Garden Scheme in partnership with the following six nursing and health charities: Macmillan, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Queen's Nursing Institute, Parkinson's UK and Carer's Trust. The report focuses on the work of the charities, in particular their vital performance through the pandemic in hugely challenging circumstances. It highlights the enormous benefits that they could bring to the public's health and care and calls for a stronger partnership between charities and the NHS so that their contribution can have an even bigger impact in the future.

Better housing is crucial for our health and the COVID-19 recovery

Housing can contribute positively to people's mental and physical health – but all too frequently it does not. [This long read from the Health Foundation](#) sets out the links between housing and health and explores the inequalities in housing across different groups and types of tenures. It then considers the impact of COVID-19 on housing so far, future risks and possible ways forward.

SACN statement on nutrition and older adults living in the community

This [position statement by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)](#) provides an overview of the currently available evidence on nutrition in older adults and its impact on healthy ageing. It considers evidence relating to adults aged 65 years and over living in the community.

Health on the high street: embedding healthy living into urban regeneration after the pandemic

This [Social Mobility Foundation report](#) argues that town centres where shops and offices fall vacant should be used to establish new 'health hubs' combining GP surgeries, health and social care services and gyms. The report profiles examples where local authorities and health care bodies are already developing such hubs, which it suggests could be a model for other areas in the future.

A new deal for prevention

This [series of articles from Reform](#) discusses the benefits of a preventive approach to public health and the obstacles that stand in the way of its realisation. It brings together experts from the scientific research community and the health and social care sector to consider the future of prevention in the UK.

The rising tide of Covid infections in prisons

There has been a steep rise in coronavirus cases in prisons in recent months, with new data showing that infections rose more rapidly in December than they did across the general population. [This Nuffield Trust chart of the week](#) considers this worrying trend in context, and the burden the pandemic is placing upon prisoners.

Emergency admissions for children under five from 2009-19

A [new briefing from Nuffield Trust](#) analyses pre-Covid hospital data between 2009 and 2019 to look at the increase in emergency admissions for children under five during that time. It explores the possible underlying reasons for the rise, and sets out recommendations for policy-makers, researchers, data providers and data users in light of the research.

Ageing: science, technology, and healthy living

This [House of Lords Science and Technology Committee report](#) finds that while life expectancy in the UK has continued to increase year on year, healthy life expectancy – the time an individual can expect to live in good health – has not kept pace. It identifies approaches from science and technology that could help to increase healthy life expectancy and assesses the role of public health interventions and national regulations in helping people to age more healthily.

2020: the health policy year in 12 charts

The wheels of health policy turn quickly. So, as 2021 begins [Kings Fund looks back](#) at the key health policy moments of 2020 to consider the challenges and opportunities the year brought.

Building common purpose: learning on engagement and communications in integrated care systems

Partnership working has been the hallmark of the health and care response to Covid-19. It has provided a strong foundation to reset the way the NHS, local government, and the voluntary sector work together and engage with the public, staff and partners to deliver a step change in health and care. [This NHS Confederation report](#) distils the learning.

The UK response to Covid-19: use of scientific advice

This [House of Commons Science and Technology Committee report](#) analyses the way the government has received, and applied, scientific evidence and advice during the first period of the coronavirus pandemic up to autumn 2020. It considers the nature and function of official scientific advisory structures, the transparency of scientific advice, and the use of data in informing the UK's Covid-19 response.

The 2021 Prince's Trust Tesco Youth Index - UK

This report from The Prince's Trust examines the happiness and confidence levels of young people in the UK across a range of areas – from working life to both physical and mental health. This report, which surveyed 2,180 16 to 25-year olds across the UK, suggests that more young people are feeling more anxious than ever in the twelve year history of the Index.

Ethnic inequalities in Covid-19 mortality: a consequence of persistent racism

This briefing (published in collaboration between Runnymede Trust and the Centre of Dynamics of Ethnicity) discusses the reasons for ethnic minority people experiencing a much higher risk of Covid-19-related death. Ethnic inequalities in relation to Covid-19 mirror longstanding ethnic inequalities in health. A large body of evidence has shown that these inequalities are driven by social and economic inequalities, many of which are the result of racial discrimination.

Young people's mental and emotional health: trajectories and drivers in childhood and adolescence

Based on data from the Millennium Cohort Study, this report prepared by the Education Policy Institute, reveals insights into the determinants of young people's wellbeing, including how it is affected by their relationships, background, and use of social media. The study examines the personal experiences of young people in England, at age 11, 14 and 17. The research shows that while the wellbeing of all young people declines by the end of their teenage years, there is a strong gender divide within this: girls see far lower levels of wellbeing and self-esteem than boys – driven by a sharp fall of both during mid-adolescence.

Covid-19 and the Northern Powerhouse Tackling inequalities for UK health and productivity.

The Northern Health Science Alliance commissioned this report working with the Northern ARCs (NIHR Applied Research Collaborations: ARC North East and North Cumbria, ARC Greater Manchester, ARC North West Coast, ARC Yorkshire and Humber) to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and productivity in the Northern Powerhouse and to explore the opportunities for 'levelling up' regional health and productivity, across the life course. The report shows the unequal health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Northern Powerhouse. As it develops its post-COVID-19 'levelling up' industrial strategy, central government should pay particular attention to the importance of supporting the physical and mental health and development of the Northern Powerhouse as a route to increased prosperity. Geography: Northern England/Northern Powerhouse

Care Quality Commission - COVID-19 Insight: Issue 7

In this month's report, CQC share further data on the designated settings scheme for adult social care, and also look into more detail on data on deaths from COVID-19.

Because we all care: unpaid carers

The pandemic has brought new pressures to bear on carers. It is now more important than ever we hear their views. Give feedback to Care Quality Commission on your experiences on care you have received or seen provided.

Sixth Carbon Budget: December 2020

The Sixth Carbon Budget report produced by the Climate Change Committee is based on an extensive programme of analysis, consultation and consideration by the Committee and its staff, building on the evidence published last year for our Net Zero advice.

The state of children's mental health services 2020/21

This report from the Children's Commissioner examines the progress that has been made over the past five years as well as looking at the impact the Covid crisis has had on children's mental health. It finds that while there has been an expansion of children's mental health services over the past four years, services are still nowhere near meeting the needs of many hundreds of thousands of children.

Working for babies: lockdown lessons from local systems

This [Parent Infant Foundation report](#) summarises the impacts on babies of Covid-19 and the spring 2020 national lockdown. The report also explores how local systems responded to the challenges presented by Covid-19. It seeks to understand the factors that have shaped the response by services that support babies and their families. Most importantly, the report seeks to ensure that lessons are learnt for the future of service provision for this age group.

Brexit and beyond

This [collection of essays by UK in a Changing Europe](#) looks ahead to the scale and scope of the agenda that confronts the UK post-Brexit. It takes a broad look across public policy (including health and social care policy), public opinion, politics, and the economy.

Let's do this: the promise of fixing social care

This [NHS Confederation report](#) shares the seven key principles for social care reform set out by the Health for Care coalition and publishes members' views on fixing social care from the perspectives of the user, clinician, voluntary sector and health care leader.

Coronavirus: no going back to normal

Life after coronavirus will not feel like life before. [This Institute for Government viewpoint](#) states that it is best that governments acknowledge that and start planning now in order to capture the best that can come out of a very tough period while not raising expectations that life will suddenly snap back to an almost forgotten normal.

Sport England publishes new 10-year strategy - Uniting the movement

[Sport England: Uniting the Movement](#) will focus time and resources on the following three key objectives:
1. Advocating for movement, sport, and physical activity
2. Joining forces and collaborating on five big issues
3. Creating the catalysts for change

And the following five key issues:
1. Recover and reinvent: recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant, and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
2. Connecting communities: focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
3. Positive experiences for children and young people: unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
4. Connecting with health and wellbeing: strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health, and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
5. Active environments: creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

Healthier lifestyles motivated by COVID-19

[A public health survey of 5,000 adults](#) reveals that seven in ten adults are more motivated to lead healthier lives this year as a result of the pandemic. To support the public in making these changes, Public Health England has launched its latest [Better Health new year campaign](#) to encourage the nation to work towards a healthier lifestyle.

Loneliness Annual Report: the second year

The [second Annual Report](#) on tackling loneliness provides a progress update since the publication of the cross-government Loneliness Strategy in October 2018.

Loneliness, social isolation, and COVID-19

The Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) have jointly produced [this practical advice](#) for Directors of Public Health and others leading the local response to the loneliness and social isolation issues arising from the COVID-19 outbreak. It follows on from our guidance about the public mental health impacts across the life course.

A glass half-full: 10 years on review

This [reflective LGA report](#) considers again an asset-based approach that sees citizens and communities as co-producers of health and wellbeing; promotes community networks, relationships and friendships as a way of providing mutual help and support; and, most importantly, empowers communities to control their futures and create tangible resources for themselves.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these republished articles are those of the original authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Wirral Council and its staff.

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.

- [Tackling health inequalities can help us live longer in better health (The Times (£)](#)
- [UK will miss healthy ageing targets without urgent action, inquiry concludes](#) [(The BMJ)](#)
- [Over-50s who lose jobs much more likely to stay unemployed, study finds](#)
- [Real "levelling up" means greater social justice](#)
- [Arts and Public Health – Reaching the Parts Other Approaches Cannot Reach](#)
- [Pandemic could impact children's mental health for years, report warns](#)
- [School closures could cost hundreds of billions in lost earnings](#)