Wirral Intelligence Service Bulletin – Additional Content – February 2022

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

The Money Statistics January 2022
The [Money Charity's complete monthly round-up of statistics](#) about how we use money in the UK.

Clearing the backlog caused by the pandemic
This [Health and Social Care Committee report](#) finds that elective recovery plans are threatened by pressure on emergency care with a record number of 999 calls and waiting times in emergency departments at record levels. It concludes that tackling the wider backlog caused by the pandemic is a major and 'unquantifiable' challenge. It calls for a broad national health and care recovery plan to include mental health, primary care, community care and social care as well as emergency care.

Time for action: Investing in comprehensive mental health support for children and young people
This [Centre for Mental Health report](#), published together with the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition, highlights the historic underinvestment in children and young people's mental health and the postcode lottery of support that has resulted. Public spending on children's mental health lags behind investment in adult mental health services and there is wide variation in the amount spent per child in different areas. The report calls for a comprehensive mental health investment strategy for 0–25-year-olds.

Inequality and the Covid crisis in the United Kingdom
This [Institute for Fiscal Studies report](#) reviews the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on inequalities in education, the labour market, household living standards, mental health and wealth in the UK. Its findings include that mental health worsened for groups who had poorer mental health before the pandemic (women and younger adults).

Are young children healthier than they were two decades ago? The changing face of early childhood in the UK
This [Nuffield Foundation review](#) explores the significant developments in young children's health over the past 20 years, focusing on seven fundamental indicators. While the review identifies improvements across these indicators, progress has recently stalled – and in some cases the situation has deteriorated. However, we conclude with evidence of policies that work and demonstrate the potential to reduce inequalities and improve the life chances of many young children.

Inclusive economies and healthy futures: supporting place-based action to reduce health inequalities
This [Local Government Association guide](#) is the third in a series of case studies on public health and inclusive growth. They have been collated to provide inspiration to anyone seeking to build a more inclusive, healthy, and prosperous economy in their local area. The case studies were largely compiled prior to Covid-19 restrictions being applied across England. Where possible, they have been updated in recent months to describe their development since restrictions were imposed.

Overcoming health inequalities in 'left behind' neighbourhoods
This [All-Party Parliamentary Group for 'left behind' neighbourhoods report, published jointly with the Northern Health Science Alliance](#), shows the devastating impact of poor health for those living in deprived areas and left behind neighbourhoods (LBNs) and makes a number of recommendations to overcome the health inequalities faced by people living in these places.

Bridges and deserts: creating a solid foundation for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller civil society

Between October 2020 and 2021, Friends, Families and Travellers carried out research into the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller civil society micro-sector of the voluntary sector. This Friends, Families and Travellers research sought to map this micro-sector to improve understanding of the type and size of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller equality organisations in the United Kingdom. This report outlines the main findings of the research, with the purpose of informing funders and others wishing to support, sustain and strengthen civil society and achieve real change.

Addressing vaccine hesitancy in different ethnic communities

Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership used insight gained from a four-stage programme to understand the impact that Covid-19 was having on ethnic minority communities, and work with the different communities to understand the causes of the vaccine hesitancy. This programme of work, which entailed partnership working between multiple agencies as well as with the various communities, led to a significant increase in vaccine uptake in just four months.

Rising from the Covid-19 crisis: policy responses in the long-term care sector

Covid-19 hit the long-term care sector hard. This Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) briefing looks at mortality rates in care homes, as well as the policy responses undertaken during the pandemic. It assesses the emergency preparedness of the sector and highlights the lessons learnt, including policies to reduce isolation, testing strategies, care workforce and co-ordination with the health care sector.

Research on place-based interventions effectiveness

Academics publish research in BMC Public Health into the effectiveness of place-based interventions to improve public health and reduce health inequalities across three elements of place and health: the physical, social and economic environments.

Towards Zero: the HIV Action Plan for England – 2022 to 2025

The plan sets out how we will achieve an 80% reduction in new HIV infections in England by 2025.

New data shows drop in HIV diagnoses due to fewer tests and less opportunity for transmission

The total number of new HIV diagnoses in England decreased by 35% in 2020 according to new data published today by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Patient experience of NHS and social care service

Using data from national patient surveys, this Nuffield Trust QualityWatch analysis looks at trends in patients' experiences of NHS and social care services. QualityWatch is a Nuffield Trust and Health Foundation programme providing independent scrutiny into how the quality of health and social care is changing over time.

Boom and bust? The last baby boomers and their prospects for later life

This Centre for Ageing Better report finds that people in their 50s and 60s today face worse circumstances than the cohort before them, with one in five people in this age group likely to face multiple, long-term problems such as poor health and poor finances, and will be at risk of loneliness and isolation. It also highlights inequality faced by people from ethnic minority groups in this age group.

Valuing the mental health benefits of woodlands

This Forest Research report suggests that the annual mental health benefits associated with visits to the UK's woodlands are estimated to be £185 million (at 2020 prices).

Our Vision for the Women's Health Strategy for England

[Details the government's Vision for the Women's Health Strategy for England](#), informed by the call for evidence. It sets out the government's vision for the women's health strategy for England, which will be published in 2022.

Find help and support if you have long COVID

If you have long COVID [there is a range of support available](#).

Children whose parents smoke are four times as likely to take up smoking themselves

A [new film from the government Better Health Smoke Free campaign](#) has been released to discuss how adult smoker can influence younger people.

Going it alone: health and Brexit in the UK

This [Nuffield Trust report](#) looks at six key areas that are being impacted after leaving the Single Market and Customs Union and outlines what NHS, government and business figures expect for the future.

How does the health and care system hear from people and communities?

People's lived experience is a powerful tool to improve existing services and identify new and better ways to meet their needs. This [Kings Fund explainer](#) looks at how the health and care system can listen and learn from the people and communities they serve and the sources of information available to them.

UK poverty 2022: the essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK

This [Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK poverty report](#) looks comprehensively at trends in poverty following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report recognises that the impact is not only financial, exploring how reduced access to suitable housing, social care and other essential public services is a threat to the health and wellbeing of the population.

Patient experience before the omicron wave: the storm before the storm

This [Patients Association report](#), based on a survey of more than 1,000 UK patients conducted over a month just before Christmas 2021, finds the disruption to health and care services caused by the pandemic is profound and long-term. The survey found: two out of three patients lack confidence that the health and care system will be able to deliver high quality care and treatment consistently after the pandemic; more than half had not been kept informed about what was happening with their care; one in four did not feel they had been treated with respect and another one in four reported not being listened to; half had not been able to access the services they needed; and half had struggled to get GP appointments.

Community pharmacy funding and capacity

This [Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) briefing](#) describes the current situation regarding community pharmacy funding and capacity, including information that was used in recent negotiations with HM Government. It may be helpful to community pharmacy contractors and local pharmaceutical committees (LPCs) in discussions with advocates such as MPs.

CPCF annual review 2021: frequently asked questions

This [Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) briefing](#) answers questions relating to the first annual review of the progress of the five-year Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) deal by PSNC, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England & NHS Improvement (NHSE&I).

The Covid-19 vaccination programme: Trials, tribulations, and successes

From the joining up of the NHS, local government, and the voluntary sector to the powerful use of data, the Covid-19 vaccination programme has been one of the major successes of the UK's response to the pandemic. Based on interviews with the people involved in the programme, this new Kings Fund report sets out what the roll-out has achieved and how its successes should be 'bottled and re-used' for other NHS services.

Bridging the gap: protecting the nation from public health threats

This Deloitte report examines the United Kingdom's policies and approach to health protection, including the availability of the specialist resources, knowledge and skills needed to tackle the many diverse and challenging public health threats.

Our ageing population: how ageing affects health and care need in England

England's population is ageing. In the next 25 years, the number of people older than 85 will double to 2.6 million. An ageing population might lead to the presumption that there will be an increased need for health and social care services. But the reality is more complicated. This Health Foundation report examines this dynamic by analysing changes in two measures of need: an estimate of social care need, drawn from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA); and prevalence of long-term conditions, as a proxy for health and health service demand.

Integrating health and social care: a comparison of policy and progress across the four countries of the UK

The integration of health and social care has been a longstanding policy priority in each country of the United Kingdom. However, there is limited evidence these policies are delivering the results expected of them. This Nuffield Trust report looks at the impact of integration across the four countries and compares the policies and approaches each one has trialled to deliver their goals.

Children and young people's mental health

This House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee report calls for urgent action to prevent mental health services slipping backwards as a result of additional demand created by the pandemic and the scale of unmet need prior to it. MPs found that despite progress in numbers of young people receiving treatment, it was unacceptable that more than half with a diagnosable condition pre-pandemic do not receive the mental health support they need.

Not just any job, good jobs! Youth voices from across the UK: a report from the Health Foundation's 'Young people's future health inquiry'

The Young people's future health inquiry was set up to identify what young people need most to make a smooth transition into adulthood and secure the building blocks for a healthy future – a home, a job, and a friend. This Institute for Employment Studies report from the Institute of Employment Studies found that achieving these goals rests on four key assets: appropriate skills and education, emotional support, social connections, and a financial and practical safety net. The importance of these assets is reflected throughout this report, as young people share stories of feeling unknowledgeable about the world of work and unsure of who to turn to for guidance, or that they lack skills needed to secure the jobs they want.

Are young children healthier than they were two decades ago? The changing face of early childhood in the UK

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Mechanisms of Impact of Blue Spaces on Human Health: A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis

Blue spaces (coasts, lakes, rivers, and canals) have been found to have significant salutogenic health improving effects. However, little is known about the mechanisms and pathways that link blue spaces and health. The [purpose of this systematic review and meta-analysis](#) is to summarise the evidence and quantify the effect of blue spaces on four hypothesised mediating pathways: physical activity, restoration, social interaction and environmental factors.

What might 'levelling up' mean for the NHS?

There has been much talk about levelling up over the past few months, with a White Paper on how it will be achieved now expected in the new year. With different parts of the country facing unique issues when it comes to delivering health care, [this Nuffield Trust long read](#) describes five issues that could affect levelling up within the NHS.

What is happening to life expectancy in England?

This [Kings Fund article](#) examines trends in life expectancy at birth up to 2020 and the impact of Covid-19 in 2020, gender differences, geographical inequalities, causes of the changing trends since 2011, and how the United Kingdom's life expectancy compares with other countries. This article was updated on 6 December 2021. It was previously updated in April 2021 and June 2020 and originally published in August 2018.

Active Lives Children and Young People Survey

This [Sport England report](#) presents data from the Active Lives Children and Young People Survey for the academic year 2020–21. Data is presented for children and young people in school years 1–11 (ages 5–16) in England. This report contains a full year of coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions, including comparisons back to summer term 2020, when school sites were closed to most pupils for much of the period.

From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives

This [Government policy paper](#) sets out the government's 10-year plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. Commitments are made across the government to break drug supply chains while simultaneously reducing the demand for drugs by getting people suffering from addiction into treatment and deterring recreational drug use.

Final report on progress to address Covid-19 health inequalities

This is the [fourth and final report summarising work undertaken by the Minister for Equalities and government departments on Covid-19 disparities](#). It provides a further update on cross-government work to address the disparities highlighted by the PHE report COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes published in June 2020. It looks back to previous quarters and sets out how our understanding of and response to the pandemic changed over the life cycle of this work.

ASH at 50: stubbing out smoking since 1971

This [ASH report](#) finds that smoking has killed nearly 8 million people in the United Kingdom over the past 50 years, with an estimated 2 million more expected to die in the next 20 years without radical changes to smoking rates. The report has been published to mark the 50th anniversary of ASH (Action on Smoking and Health). The charity was established by the Royal College of Physicians in 1971 following their landmark 1962 report recommending urgent government action to curb the harms from smoking.

Child of the North: building a fairer future after Covid-19

This [Northern Health Science Alliance report](#) paints a stark picture of inequality for children growing up in the north of England post-pandemic compared with those in the rest of the country. It looks at a wide range of factors, from child poverty to children in care, to build up a picture of 'The Child of the North'. It sets out 18 clear recommendations that can be put in place to tackle the widening gap between the north and the rest of England.

Misconduct in public office: why did so many thousands die unnecessarily?

A panel of four, chaired by Michael Mansfield QC, heard evidence from more than 40 witnesses including bereaved families, frontline NHS and key workers, national and international experts, trade union and council leaders, and representatives from disabled people's and pensioners' organisations. This [People's Covid Inquiry report](#) summarises the concerns raised, including NHS preparedness, government response, the impact on various population groups, the impact on frontline staff, inequalities and discrimination, and more.

Flexible working for older workers: evaluation of pilot projects

This [Centre for Ageing Better report](#) details the evaluation of a programme that was created to explore how over 50s can access the benefits of flexible working. Job holders highlighted that most flexible working arrangements trialled went well. However, their experience was shaped by the external context, and, with Covid-19, the picture changed dramatically.

Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence

This [NICE guideline](#) covers support to stop smoking for everyone aged 12 and over and help to reduce people's harm from smoking if they are not ready to stop in one go. It also covers ways to prevent children, young people and young adults aged 24 and under from taking up smoking. The guideline brings together and updates all NICE's previous guidelines on using tobacco, including smokeless tobacco. It covers nicotine replacement therapy and e-cigarettes to help people stop smoking or reduce their harm from smoking. It does not cover using tobacco products such as 'heat not burn' tobacco.

Community mental health survey 2021: CQC for England

People were eligible to take part in the survey if they had at least one contact with services in England between September and November 2020, with another contact either before, during or after this period. In addition, some questions ask participants to reflect on their care over the past 12 months. Therefore, [results of this Care Quality Commission survey](#) reflect experiences of care throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. This report shows that people are consistently reporting poor experiences of NHS community mental health services, with few positive results. Many people reported that their mental health had deteriorated as a result of changes made to their care and treatment due to the pandemic.

Levelling up men's health: The case for a men's health strategy

Across the United Kingdom, men's mental and physical health is unacceptably poor – with around one man in five dying before the age of 65. Covid has worsened the situation with completely disproportionate effects among men. Many services are failing to reach men in time, especially working-age men, even though there are ever more examples of how services can be designed to reach and engage men more effectively. The lesson from other countries is that introducing a men's health strategy alongside the government's planned women's health strategy can change this. This Men's Health Forum document lays out the case for change.

Understanding vaccine hesitancy through communities of place

This UK–US collaborative study highlights the importance of tapping into local knowledge and leadership in efforts to improve Covid-19 vaccine take-up. Produced together with the Institute for Community Research and Boston University in the United States, the study explores levels of vaccine engagement in four locations: Oldham and Tower Hamlets in the United Kingdom, and the cities of Boston and Hartford in the US. In all four localities, the Institute for Community Studies survey finds the authorities' 'top-down' approach to vaccine distribution and education has been ineffective, and that applying a 'community engagement approach' instead –involving community groups and trusted leaders in vaccine distribution and education – can improve take-up rates.

NICE impact: people with a learning disability

Having a learning disability can affect how a person learns new things during their lifetime. They may need a range of extra support throughout life, depending on the complexity of their learning disability. This National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) report, reviewing the impact of NICE guidance, highlights the lack of progress made in many areas. Data shows high levels of health inequality and limited positive change over time.

The government's preparedness for the Covid-19 pandemic: lessons for government on risk management

According to this National Audit Office report, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the UK's vulnerability to an emergency that affects the whole of government, society, and the economy. It suggests that the government was not fully prepared for the wide-ranging impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on society, the economy and essential public services. For example, it lacked detailed plans on shielding, employment support schemes and managing the disruption to schooling. It recommends that the government strengthens its preparations for system-wide emergencies.

The Money Statistics

This is the December 2021 edition of The Money Statistics, The Money Charity's complete monthly round-up of statistics about how we use money in the UK.

Clarifying what we mean by health inequalities for young people

This Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) briefing paper provides a definition for health inequalities that is specific to young people and a conceptual framework to help us identify causes and levers that influence health outcomes.

House of Lords Committee on a National Plan for Sport and Recreation

The Committee on a National Plan for Sport and Recreation has today published its report calling on the Government to establish a national plan for sport, health and wellbeing.

Youth Services Census

The [National Youth Association (NYA) has published](#) an interim report following the call for information for the Youth Sector Census. The report highlights that there is twice as much provision in the most affluent areas compared to the most deprived. The census will re-open if you were unable to input data about your local authority delivered youth work services previously.

Mapping national employment and skills provision

[Local Government Association (LGA) have produced a new online resource](#) which provides information of national employment and skills provision that is available in their area. The resource includes an interactive roadmap and aims to help councils understand the spatial footprints that shape local provision and how this is changing. It also looks to support local and national government to collaborate more to shape provision and maximise opportunities that arise.

Nature and wellbeing

The [Children's People and Nature survey for England has been published](#), covering the 2021 summer holidays. Findings include that almost 90% of children had access to a private garden, though this was associated with children who were white and were from higher income households. Children from low-income households were less likely to agree that looking after the environment was important to them, less likely to agree that they 'feel part of nature' and more likely to say they did not spend more time outside due to other people making them feel uncomfortable there.

Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care

The [government's new plan](#) for healthcare, adult social care, and our new funding plan.

Nature-based activities can improve mood and reduce anxiety, new study shows

Outdoor nature based activities are effective for improving mental health in adults, including those with pre-existing mental health problems, [a new study from York University has found](#).

The disease of disparity: A blueprint to make progress on health inequalities in England

The [Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) has published the Disease of Disparity](#) which estimates that if health outcomes were improved to the levels enjoyed in the places with the best health, this could reduce depression and childhood overweight and obesity by 3 percentage points, as well as add 2 extra years to life expectancy and more than 3 years to healthy life expectancy. The report identifies 6 key areas where policy incentives are misaligned with narrowing health inequalities, including NHS structure, measurement of success, short termism and lack of cross-departmental working and the need to consider the wider social determinants.

Leaving no place behind in the race to net zero

A new [Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) index](#) measuring economic vulnerability of places as Great Britain transitions to net zero.

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.