

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

High COVID 19 transmission potential associated with re opening universities can be mitigated with layered interventions

Re-opening universities while controlling COVID-19 transmission poses unique challenges. UK universities typically host 20,000 to 40,000 undergraduate students, with the majority moving away from home to attend. In the absence of realistic mixing patterns, previous models suggest that outbreaks associated with universities re-opening are an eventuality. [This research](#) suggests that priority should be given to understanding the role of asymptomatic transmission in the spread of COVID-19. Irrespective of assumptions about asymptomatic transmission, our findings suggest that additional outbreak control measures should be considered for the university setting. These might include reduced face-to-face teaching, management of student mixing and enhanced testing. Onward transmission to family members at the end of term is likely, without interventions.

Childhood obesity

This [National Audit Office report](#) examines the effectiveness of the government's approach to reducing childhood obesity in England. It finds that to date progress with the programme has been slow and many commitments are not yet in place, although the new strategy announced in July 2020 has signaled new legislation and greater willingness to act to reduce obesity. The report says that the government will need to act with greater urgency, commitment, co-ordination, and cohesion if it is to address this severe risk to health and value for money.

Vulnerability in childhood: a public health report

These [two reports from Public Health England](#) are aimed at local government and their partners to inform their coordinated approaches to reduce vulnerability and adversity in childhood. A public health informed approach looks at the factors for individual children, their families, and the communities in which they live that make it more or less likely that vulnerability and adversity in childhood has a lasting impact on their lives. This holistic, multi-agency approach addresses inequality and the broader causes of vulnerability that might otherwise be overlooked.

The whole society approach: making a giant leap on childhood health

[This IPPR report](#) looks at the government's 'obesity strategy' announcement in July 2020 and considers how it could be used to address growing levels of 'health risk' faced by children. This report outlines a 'whole society' approach to expand ambition from obesity to all health issues; tackle the link between childhood health and issues such as marginalisation, poverty and deprivation; and ensure the full range of levers offered by a collective approach are being used.

The good childhood report 2020

[This Children's Society report](#) finds that there has been a continued decrease in average happiness with life among 10 to 15-year olds in the UK. It discovered that 15-year olds in the UK were among the saddest and least satisfied with their lives in Europe and that the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic affected children's happiness due to the lack of choice they had in life.

Worlds of influence: understanding what shapes child well being in rich countries

[This UNICEF report](#) looks at children from the world's richest countries and offers a mixed picture of their health, skills, and happiness. For many, issues such as poverty, exclusion and pollution threaten their mental wellbeing, physical health, and opportunities to develop skills. It finds that even countries with good social, economic, and environmental conditions are a long way from meeting the targets set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our place: local authorities and the public's mental health

This [Centre for Mental Health report, produced together with the Local Government Association](#), examines the initiatives of nine local councils that are rising to the challenge of promoting good mental health and preventing poor mental health in their communities. [These councils seek to improve population mental health](#), reduce inequalities and prevent mental ill health in their communities through a combination of strategic and practical approaches. The report presents learning from these areas, prior to the pandemic and in the midst of the challenges brought by Covid-19, alongside an overview of the evidence for prevention and the national policy context.

Social prescribing

Social prescribing is a means for GPs and other health care professionals to refer patients via a link worker to non-clinical services in the local community. Social prescribing link workers help people to understand the underlying issues affecting their health and wellbeing and work with them to co-produce a personalised care and support plan. This [House of Commons Library paper](#) details the development of social prescribing policies in England and provides an overview of schemes in the devolved nations.

The Black Report at 40: Health inequalities remain stark across the UK

The larger story of radical challenges to healthcare today are similar to what they were in 1980 when the death rate for men in the lowest social class was twice that for men in the wealthiest [as reported 4 decades later in this 'i' newspaper article](#). The [Department of Health and Social Care relaunched its Health and Wellbeing Alliance project](#) last week, the aim of which is to promote health equalities and reduce health inequalities across the UK. The larger story of radical challenges to healthcare today are similar to what they were 40 years ago, when the Department of Health and Social Security, as it then was, published The Black Report – the report of the expert committee into health inequality chaired by Sir Douglas Black, a Scottish physician and medical scientist who played a key role in the development of the National Health Service.

Rolling out social prescribing: understanding the experience of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector

This [report sets out the findings of research conducted by National Voices](#) for NHS England to explore the perspectives and experiences of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in relation to the NHS rollout of social prescribing. National Voices spoke to more than 300 people through a series of interviews, workshops and online engagements between December 2019 and June 2020.

The black community and human rights

The [Joint Committee on Human Rights commissioned ClearView Research to conduct polling](#) about black people's experiences in the UK in relation to whether they feel their human rights are equally protected. The research found, among other things, that the majority of black people (more than 60 per cent) in the UK do not believe their health is as equally protected by the NHS compared with white people.

A research paper: suicide prevention in Gypsy and Traveller communities in England

[This report](#) outlines the findings of Friends Families and Travellers' research on suicide inequalities within Gypsy and Traveller communities. The papers finds that that only 5 out of 79 local suicide prevention plans in England mention Gypsy and Traveller communities, despite the fact that members of Gypsy and Traveller communities are 6 to 7 times more likely than the general population to die by suicide.

Independent Prosperity Review: Reviewers' Report

The Greater Manchester Independent Prosperity Review was established to undertake a detailed and rigorous assessment of the current state, and future potential, of Greater Manchester's economy. Ten years on from the path-breaking [Manchester Independent Economic Review \(MIER\) \(opens in a new tab\)](#), it provides a fresh understanding of what needs to be done to improve productivity and drive prosperity across the city-region.

[Independent Prosperity Review: Reviewers' Report: ONE YEAR ON](#)

The [Greater Manchester Independent Prosperity Review](#), which was initially issued in response to the coronavirus pandemic but has now been updated, argues that the levelling up agenda will only be effective if it supports people employed in the sectors hardest hit by COVID-19 and helps to improve people's health and well-being.

Vulnerability in childhood: a public health informed approach

A public health informed approach looks at the factors for individual children, their families, and the communities in which they live that make it more or less likely that vulnerability and adversity in childhood has a lasting impact on their lives. This holistic, multi-agency approach addresses inequality and the broader causes of vulnerability which might otherwise be overlooked. A [narrative report about improving health outcomes for vulnerable children and young people](#) has been developed for each upper-tier local authority. The reports summarise data and evidence at local authority level to support decision-making and prioritisation.

Life on hold: children's well being and Covid 19

This [Children's Society](#) report looks in depth at the impact of coronavirus (Covid-19) and the associated lockdown on young lives. The charity's annual survey of children's wellbeing was completed by just over 2,000 young people and their parents between April and June. It found 18 per cent of children were dissatisfied with their lives overall. That is a marked increase in a figure that has ranged from 10 per cent to 13 per cent over the past five years, and the coronavirus crisis and lockdown is likely to explain the worrying surge.

Over exposed and under protected: the devastating impact of Covid 19 on black and minority ethnic communities in Great Britain

This report by [Runnymede Trust](#) illuminates why BME groups are at greater risk from Covid-19: they are more likely to be working outside their home, more likely to be using public transport, more likely to be working in key worker roles, less likely to be protected with PPE and more likely to live in multigenerational, overcrowded housing, so much less able to self-isolate and shield.

Population based estimates of healthy working life expectancy in England at age 50 years: analysis of data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

Retirement ages are rising in many countries to offset the challenges of population ageing, but people's capacity to work for more years in their later working life (>50 years) is unclear. [This study](#) aimed to estimate healthy working life expectancy in England.

Covid 19 and English council funding: how are budgets being hit in 2020 21?

This [Institute of Fiscal Studies report](#) examines the scale and nature of forecast impacts on spending and income from sales, fees and charges, and commercial and other sources. It explores how impacts may vary across council types, regions, and council characteristics, and considers the implications for future funding policy.

Telephone befriending: a valuable service during lockdown

In response to the coronavirus outbreak, Healthwatch Enfield staff and volunteers staffed a telephone befriending scheme from April to August 2020. This [report](#) gives a snapshot of issues raised by residents identified as being vulnerable or at risk by the scheme. It highlights the impact of social isolation on health and wellbeing including mental health issues on residents, with those with ongoing health needs being particularly affected.

Hear us: the experiences of refugee and asylum seeking women during the pandemic.

This [report from Sisters Not Strangers](#), a coalition of eight organisations, describes the experiences of 100 asylum-seeking women from England and Wales during the Covid-19 pandemic. Its key findings highlight how the pandemic has impacted on this group's physical and mental health and access to food and housing.

Mental health services and Covid 19: preparing for the rising tide

Mental health services have faced unprecedented challenges due to Covid-19. They quickly and effectively moved to different ways of working to protect service users and staff. As we move to the next phase of the pandemic, we expect demand for mental health support to increase and to remain high for some time. This will have serious implications on resourcing and staff wellbeing. This [NHS Confederation report](#) from the NHS Reset campaign considers what mental health services need to prepare for the expected surge in demand. It also highlights how the health and care system can 'reset' the way care and support are planned and delivered in aftermath of Covid-19.

Social care and obesity

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown into sharp relief the urgent need for long-term reform and sustainable funding for adult social care. All areas of adult social care, and its interdependence with health care, need to be considered in the round in a comprehensive action plan. One area that places high demands on social care and exerts significant pressures on costs and resources is obesity, yet it is often overlooked. This [Local Government Association report](#) suggests that the focus to date has centred on obesity-related costs and pressures on the NHS, rather than on social care.

Deaths from Covid 19 (coronavirus): how are they counted and what do they show?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) is the name given to the disease associated with the virus Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). This virus was unknown some months ago, but now is having a profound effect on the lives of us all – most profoundly and tragically when it kills. This [Kings Fund article](#) examines how deaths from Covid-19 are counted and what the numbers show to date.

Fixing social care: the fundamental choice

This [Centre for Policy Studies report](#) weighs up the three leading options for social care reform, ranking them by cost, political feasibility and impact on supply. It concludes that, of the options being considered, a pension-style model would be most cost effective, while also increasing supply and meeting the increasing demand for social care. It would also better protect people's assets and benefit a greater number of families.

How has Covid 19 and associated lockdown measures affected loneliness in the UK?

This What Works Centre for Wellbeing [briefing](#) highlights findings from the Covid Social Study, as part of ongoing data analysis work with University College London. This study has surveyed more than 70,000 people since March 2020, asking different questions about their experiences and wellbeing over the past few months, including asking people about loneliness.

Health and Care Women Leaders Network (HCWLN): Covid 19 and the female health and care workforce

The [HCWLN commissioned a survey](#) to better understand the impact the pandemic has had on women working across health and care services. More than 1,300 women responded, and this report (plus an accompanying slide deck) explains the findings. It describes the struggles, pains and fears women working in health and care services have faced during the pandemic. The physical and emotional impact due to caring responsibilities both in and outside of work are significant. It also draws out some of the positive experiences, such as opportunities for learning and the strength of support many have received from their managers.

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Making the Most of Green Space for People's Health

University of Exeter have created [new guidance for Local Authorities](#) and other stakeholders on the ways in which green space benefits health, and can be improved, expanded and promoted to maximise benefits for people and place.

Public Health England Improving access to greenspace: A review for 2020

This PHE review, '*Improving access to greenspace review*', has been published. [The paper](#) includes the recent evidence linking greenspace to health outcomes, intervention approaches, valuation of greenspace, and advice on how to strengthen local policies and strategies.

The psychology of loneliness: why it matters and what we can do

This [report](#) looks at how psychological approaches can help tackle loneliness. It is focused on older people but has lessons for all adults. It gathers the current research and evidence available to us about what we can learn from psychology, as well as making policy recommendations for how this learning can be applied and help the millions of lonely people across the UK.

The impact of Covid 19 on the health and care voluntary sector

The health and care voluntary sector continue to provide invaluable information and support to millions of people with long-term conditions as statutory health and care services refocus their efforts on Covid-19. National Voices, together with the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance (ARMA) and the Neurological Alliance, [asked its members](#) about the impact of the coronavirus emergency on their services and their income. Forty charities responded between 17 April and 13 May 2020.

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Thanks, John