

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Review: data and analysis, March to October 2020

A [thematic overview](#) of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic between March to October 2020 and how Office of National Statistics data and analysis has been able to provide insight and understanding of the impacts of the pandemic on health, society and the economy.

Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2020: wave 1 follow up to the 2017 survey

This is the first in a series of follow-up [reports by NHS Digital](#) to the Mental Health and Young People Survey (MHCYP) 2017, exploring the mental health of children and young people in July 2020, during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and changes since 2017. Experiences of family life, education, and services, and worries and anxieties during the Covid-19 pandemic are also examined.

Children and young people's mental health review: findings from a questionnaire to health and wellbeing boards on local actions

This [CQC report](#) contains an update on work carried out in 2018 looking at the quality of mental health services for children and young people, as well as the access to these services. It sets out the findings of a 2019 independent follow-up self-assessment questionnaire, to find out the extent to which health and wellbeing board areas in England had progressed with implementing the local recommendations made.

Health service use in the last two years of life

This [series of reports, by the Strategy Unit](#), describes the health services that patients use in the last two years of their lives. Reports are available for the Midlands region as a whole and for each of the 11 sustainability and transformation partnerships (STPs) or integrated care systems in the region. The reports contain important insights into: how the patterns of service use change as patients approach death; differences in experience by ethnicity, deprivation and cause of death; the costs of hospital treatment at the end of life and how this varies by STP; levels of non-beneficial treatments; and the additional hospital capacity that may be required to accommodate the projected increase in deaths over the next decade.

Quarterly report on progress to address Covid-19 health inequalities

This [Race Disparities Unit report](#) summarises the work undertaken by the Minister for Equalities and government departments on Covid-19 disparities.

Hospital food review published

An [independent review of hospital food](#) commissioned by the government has made eight recommendations for NHS trusts to prioritise food safety and provide more nutritious meals to staff and patients. An [expert NHS group](#) is being recruited to decide the next steps for implementation.

Minds that matter: understanding mental health in later life

This [Independent Age report](#) looks at the life events and circumstances that can affect people's mental health in later life, including bereavement, loneliness, ill health and caring responsibilities. Focusing mainly on anxiety and depression, the report also describes people's mixed experiences of seeking support from GPs, therapists, and other services. It highlights the common barriers and makes recommendations for what needs to change to improve support for older people and ensure they can live a mentally healthy later life.

The impacts of volunteering on the subjective wellbeing of volunteers: a rapid evidence assessment

There is a growing body of research on the links between volunteering and wellbeing. This [What Works Centre for Wellbeing review](#) (co-published with Spirit of 2012, and in partnership with the Institute of Volunteer Research) brings together the most relevant studies. It focuses on the experience of adult formal volunteers and looks at the key factors involved in improving wellbeing through volunteering.

The impact of Covid-19 to date on older people's mental and physical health

This [Age UK research](#) finds that some older people are coping with the pandemic, but a sizeable minority are finding life incredibly tough. Those who are not very well and have long-term health conditions were particularly likely to report that this is an extremely challenging time for them. The research was made up of a survey of older people, their friends, families, and loved ones (promoted across the Age UK social media channels for two weeks in August 2020 and completed by 569 people) and representative online polling of 1,364 people over the age of 60, conducted by Kantar Polling in September 2020.

Caring behind closed doors: six months on

[Carers UK carried out an online survey between 11–28 September 2020](#). A total of 5,904 carers and former carers responded to the survey. It finds that carers are desperately worried about how they will continue to care safely through the coming winter, and that they are already exhausted and close to burn-out. Without urgent action from the government, many carers simply do not think they will be able to cope in the coming months.

Out of sight, out of mind: the continuing impact of Covid-19 on people living with kidney disease

This [Kidney Care UK report](#) (compiled using 860 responses from an online survey open from 28 August to 21 September 2020) finds that the majority of kidney patients have been expected to return to work once shielding ended and the furlough scheme ends. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63 per cent) said they were concerned for their safety but had to return regardless. Almost one in five (19 per cent) said that their employer has been 'very unhelpful' or 'unhelpful' in their return. The report states that the government needs to take immediate and long-term action to protect the wellbeing of around 70,000 vulnerable kidney patients.

GP premises survey: post Covid-19

With the emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting many patients' access to GP services, this [Patients Association survey](#) investigated what patients felt about their GP's premises, and whether they would be confident to return to them. It found ongoing high levels of confidence about visiting GP premises, and a strong expectation among patients that they would feel welcome, confident, and safe on future visits. The survey responses also shed further light on patients' access to GP services during the pandemic, with many being offered phone consultations, and relatively few getting online video calls. For a substantial minority of patients, online contact was not sufficient to resolve their issue, and they needed to make an in-person visit.

How coronavirus has affected equality and human rights

This [Equality and Human Rights Commission report](#) summarises evidence that helps in understanding the effects of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic on different groups in society. It highlights potential long-term risks to equality and human rights covering key issues in the areas of work; poverty; education; social care; and justice and personal security. It makes targeted recommendations for the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments to ensure equality and human rights considerations are integrated into the policy response to the pandemic.

Health and wellbeing interventions in healthcare: a rapid evidence review

NHS Employers commissioned the Institute for Employment Studies to investigate the evidence base of health and wellbeing interventions used in health care and their implications for wellbeing outcomes. [The findings](#) add to current knowledge about wellbeing interventions that are commonly implemented, if there is any evidence of their efficacy, and what future research still needs to be undertaken in this area.

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

This [Skills for Care report](#) shows there had been a slight reduction in job vacancies, but employers still need to fill around 112,000 job vacancies on any given day. The report also reveals that the percentage of days lost to sickness in adult social care across England during the pandemic increased to 7.5 per cent between March and August 2020, compared with 2.7 per cent pre Covid-19.

A telling experience: understanding the impact of Covid-19 on people who access care and support – a rapid evidence review with recommendations

This [Think Local Act Personal report](#) aims to identify what worked well, and to highlight areas that people found difficult, both generally and in relation to social care during the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic, seen through the lens of personalisation.

Moving, always moving: the normalisation of housing insecurity among children in low income households in England

The [Children's Society report](#) looks at the impact of insecure housing on children and young people. It reviews previous studies on the impact on health and finds that children who frequently move home are likely to have worse health outcomes (both physical and mental) and that this can follow through to adulthood.

Updating ethnic contrasts in deaths involving the coronavirus (Covid-19), England and Wales : deaths occurring 2 March to 28 July 2020

This [ONS report](#) confirms that when adjusting for age, rates of death involving Covid-19 remain greater for most ethnic minority groups, and most notably so for people of black African, black Caribbean, Bangladeshi and Pakistani ethnic backgrounds. The statistical modelling shows that a large proportion of the difference in the risk of Covid-19 mortality between ethnic groups can be explained by demographic, geographical and socio-economic factors. It also found that although specific pre-existing conditions place people at greater risk of Covid-19 mortality generally, this does not explain the remaining ethnic background differences in mortality.

Endometriosis in the UK: time for change

An inquiry by the APPG on Endometriosis has highlighted the devastating impact endometriosis can have on all aspects of a person's life. The [inquiry surveyed](#) more than 10,000 people with endometriosis, and interviewed health care practitioners and those with the condition about their experiences. Among the findings was that average diagnosis times for endometriosis have not improved in more than a decade and it still takes eight years on average to get a diagnosis. The inquiry report sets out a series of support measures it asks all UK governments to commit to.

How will Brexit affect the UK's response to coronavirus?

This [Nuffield Trust briefing](#) considers how leaving the single market might affect UK health and social care services in the short term as they try to deal with coronavirus while maintaining normal services. It also looks at what difference a deal might make, and the options for the UK and the EU.

Health equals wealth: the global longevity dividend

This [International Longevity Centre UK report](#) (launched ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting) looks at the significant, and growing, economic contributions of older people across the G20. It argues that leveraging the economic contributions of older people will be instrumental in the global post-pandemic recovery, and that addressing health barriers to spending, working, caring, and volunteering for longer can unlock a significant 'longevity dividend'. The analysis finds that countries that spend more on health as a proportion of GDP see higher employment participation, volunteering, and spending by older people. Furthermore, increasing preventive health spending by just 0.1 per cent is associated with a 9 per cent increase in annual spending by people aged 60 and over.

British Social Attitudes 37

As the UK prepares to leave the single market and the customs union at the end of 2020, [new research from the British Social Attitudes Survey](#) reveals a nation that is divided on Brexit, has had its confidence in its politics shaken by Brexit yet is more politically engaged, with clear expectations about what should happen when it finally fully leaves the EU. Among the findings is three in five respondents (60 per cent) think care workers should have priority in the immigration queue.

State of the nation 2020: children and young people's wellbeing

This [Department of Education report](#) collates published evidence on the wellbeing in children and young people over the period of March to August 2020, including statistics on the personal wellbeing of children and young people in England and the UK. It also includes a wider set of indicators on their relationships, health, education and skills, personal finance, activities, and where they live.

Stories of shielding: life in the pandemic for those with health and care needs

When lockdown began, Local Voices created a digital platform – Our Covid Voices –for people with health and care needs to share their experiences of the impact of the pandemic. This provided the unfiltered views and stories from people at great risk of all the effects of the pandemic, including anxiety, uncertainty, and changes to their care. Contributors also discuss their relationships, their jobs and dealing with the everyday aspects of life in the pandemic. This [National Voices report](#) is a compilation of the contributions, to help inform any decisions taken in the future regarding the way the needs of this group of people are addressed.

The experience of older people instructed to shield or self-isolate during the Covid-19 pandemic

A vital weapon in the fight against Covid-19 has been the shielding of clinically extremely vulnerable individuals at high risk, and instructions to clinically vulnerable people at moderate risk to stay at home and avoid face-to-face contact as far as possible. The consequences of this advice for mental health and wellbeing are not well understood. The [English Longitudinal Study of Ageing \(ELSA\) Covid-19 Substudy](#) provided an opportunity to evaluate the impact on mental health, quality of life, social connectedness, worries, and health-related behaviour in more than 5,800 older men and women (mean age 70 years).

The experience of older people with multimorbidity during the Covid-19 pandemic

The risk of severe Covid-19 disease is known to be higher in older individuals with multiple long-term health conditions (multimorbidity). This [ELSA briefing reports](#) on the latest findings from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing Covid-19 Substudy (ELSO) on the experiences of older people with multimorbidity during the pandemic.

Unequal impact? Coronavirus, disability, and access to services: interim report on temporary provisions in the Coronavirus Act

This [House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee report](#) looks at Care Act easement provisions and temporary Mental Health Act provisions as well as local authority duties to children and young people with special educational needs. It concludes that these provisions have the potential to substantially restrict or curtail rights that disabled people rely on for their quality of life.

The long shadow of deprivation: differences in opportunities across England

[This report](#) finds that social mobility in England is a postcode lottery, with large differences across areas in both the adult pay of disadvantaged adults, and the size of the pay gap for those from deprived families, relative to those from affluent families. It also finds inequalities in infant health outcomes and mental health in areas with average lower pay.

Early detection and diagnosis of cancer: a roadmap to the future

[This Cancer Research UK roadmap](#) aims to unite fragmented efforts across the UK to drive progress in early detection and diagnosis of cancer. It articulates a shared vision, from discovery to implementation, for a long-term future where early detection and diagnosis of all cancers is a routine reality. It also highlights the current challenges impeding progress and makes recommendations for research, development, health system delivery and government policy on how to overcome these challenges.

Health, care, and cash: improving the lives of older people in 'red wall' England

This [Age UK briefing](#) discusses the social policies that could be beneficial to older people living in the 'red wall'. This includes looking at issues such as access to the NHS, waiting times, health outcomes, funding of social care, housing, and financial support.

Sugar reduction: report on progress between 2015 and 2019

This [report](#) includes a detailed assessment of progress by the food industry, between 2015 and 2019, towards meeting the 20 per cent reduction ambition by 2020 for the sugar reduction programme. It also includes the first assessment of industry progress towards the sugar reduction ambition for juice and milk-based drinks, and assesses progress made by retailers and manufacturers and in the eating out of home sector.

A comprehensive recovery package is needed to tackle rising tide of childhood vulnerability caused by the Covid crisis

While for some children there were certain aspects of the pandemic that brought benefits such as spending more time with their families [this report](#) sets out how for many of the most vulnerable children the disruption of the past six months has been damaging and compounded existing inequalities. It calls for a comprehensive recovery package for children and provides a roadmap for what should be done to help children to recover from their experiences of the past six months and the ongoing crisis.

Report on APPG inquiry into support available for young people who self-harm

This [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention inquiry](#) explored the experiences of young people who self-harm in accessing support services. In particular, it examined: support services currently available in both clinical and the wider community settings (including schools); plans for improving and expanding this support; and the changes needed to ensure that support is made more effective and widely available. It concludes that young people who self-harm are often made to wait until they reach crisis point before receiving support.

Worst hit: dementia during coronavirus

'Exhausted' family and friends spent 92 million extra hours caring for loved ones with dementia since lockdown

Since the coronavirus (Covid-19) lockdown on 23 March, [this investigation](#) found family and friends have spent an extra 92 million hours caring for loved ones with dementia, due to the double impact of lockdown making dementia symptoms worse, and the chronically underfunded social care system leaving them nowhere else to turn. It states that the government must fix social care now, learning lessons to avoid further winter tragedy, as dementia carers struggle with depression, insomnia, and exhaustion.

From precarious to prosperous: how we can build back a better labour market

To prevent extreme insecurity, in-work poverty and exploitation arising from this pandemic, [this latest Centre for Progressive Policy report](#), is calling for urgent legal reform to the labour market. The paper has been covered by The Guardian and reviews the scale and nature of insecure work in the UK, identifying those most at risk of insecurity and recommending policy solutions based on legal guidance to help safeguard workers.

COVID-19 in New Zealand and the impact of the national response

COVID-19 in New Zealand and the impact of the national response: a [descriptive epidemiological study](#).

Oxford coronavirus vaccine seems to produce an immune response in people over 55

The University of Oxford coronavirus vaccine candidate has been found to produce an [immune response in people](#) over the age of 55. The results are encouraging because older people are at an [increased risk](#) of becoming severely ill and dying from covid-19, partly because the immune system [weakens with age](#). The finding, which has not yet been published, builds on results from July which found that the vaccine also produces an [immune response in younger adults](#), aged between 18 and 55. The vaccine candidate is being developed by pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca in partnership with the University of Oxford. "It is encouraging to see immunogenicity responses were similar between older and younger adults," an AstraZeneca spokesperson [told CNBC today](#).

Household recycling 'soared' during pandemic

Some councils saw household recycling soar by 100% during the COVID-19 pandemic, council leaders have revealed. The [Local Government Association \(LGA\) has reported](#) that eight in 10 councils saw an increase in the amount of recycling being collected since the start of lockdown. Half of councils said they were collecting up to 20% more recycling than normal, with a third collecting up to 50% more. The LGA warned this has led to increased costs for councils and the Government should ensure all extra cost pressures on waste and recycling services as a result of the pandemic are met. It also wants urgent clarity on the Government's waste and recycling reforms that are due to be implemented from 2023.

12 million people in Britain will struggle to pay bills, watchdog says

Some 12 million people in Britain are likely to struggle with bills and loan repayments as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak economic havoc, [a Financial Conduct Authority survey tracking consumer financial resilience showed](#). The survey, conducted in July, found 12 million people in Britain had low financial resilience and also found that one-sixth of those people had become financially vulnerable since February, after lockdowns to control the virus slashed incomes and led to thousands of job cuts. The survey, in which 7,000 people took part, showed that almost a third of adults have suffered a drop in income, while income for households has fallen by a quarter on average. Black and Minority Ethnic respondents fared even worse, with 37% reporting a hit to their incomes.

Health Secretary warns of long-term effects of COVID-19 as new film released

A [new study today from King's College London](#), using data from the COVID Symptom Study App and ZOE, shows one in 20 people with COVID-19 are likely to have symptoms for 8 weeks or more. The study suggests long COVID affects around 10% of 18 to 49-year olds who become unwell with COVID-19. Public Health England have found that around 10% of COVID-19 cases who were not admitted to hospital have reported symptoms lasting more than four weeks and a number of hospitalised cases reported continuing symptoms for eight or more weeks after discharge.

Ethnic inequalities in Covid-19 are playing out again – how can we stop them?

Despite the inequalities exposed earlier this year, there has been little effort to stop Covid-19 hitting minority ethnic communities hardest as we enter the second wave. Without urgent action, the effects of pandemic are set to be felt unequally again.

[IPPR and Runnymede Trust estimate](#) over 58,000 and 35,000 additional deaths from Covid-19 would have occurred if the white population had experienced the same risk of death from Covid-19 as the black and south Asian populations respectively.

- IPPR estimate comorbidities lead to the black population being only five per cent more likely to die from Covid-19 than the white population.
- Higher deprivation levels explain the disparities to a greater extent, but the majority of the additional risk of death from Covid-19 experienced by minority ethnic communities is unexplained.

IPPR are calling on the government to set out a comprehensive strategy to mitigate ethnic inequalities this winter. Our research suggests this strategy should:

- Delivers an emergency health protection funding package to all local authorities this winter; These community-based approaches are critical to reach marginalised populations, who are often less likely to receive and act on public health messaging
- Includes ethnicity as a risk factor in any triaged testing system; If testing cannot be scale up quickly, a triage system to allocate scarce resource should be devised. This would help ensure that groups of people who are more likely to be exposed to Covid-19, more likely to expose others to Covid-19 or more at risk of suffering worse consequences from Covid-19 are able to access testing first.
- Offers temporary accommodation to people who need to isolate but cannot do so due to their living conditions
- Ensures that isolation pay support is available to all, including those with no recourse to public funds visa stipulations and those without immigration status
- Immediately stops charging patients to use the NHS during this crisis. The NHS charging regulations, part of the hostile environment, demand upfront payment at 150 per cent of the cost of treatment and threaten data sharing with the Home Office

Families and healthy weight approaches: qualitative review

A [scoping review](#) of the qualitative evidence, exploring the barriers and facilitators to supporting families with children most at risk of developing excess weight.

Mobile phone base stations: radio waves and health

[Information](#) on the different types of mobile phone base station, and how exposures are measured.

Evidence summary for policy: the role of arts in improving health and wellbeing

This [evidence summary](#) draws together literature on the role of arts in improving health and wellbeing. It focuses on how arts engagement can impact on social outcomes, youth development and the prevention of mental and physical illness. It also considers how social prescribing programmes that have used arts interventions can impact on the above three outcomes. This report was commissioned prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and completed in March 2020.

Public health on the frontline: responding to COVID-19

What has it been like to be on the frontline of the fight against the virus? [Directors of public health from across the country talk about the local response to COVID-19](#). This month, we interviewed directors of public health from Walsall, Warwickshire, North Somerset, Kirklees, and Cheshire West and Chester.

Tackling obesity: Government strategy

The [Government's obesity strategy](#) sets out the actions the Government will take to tackle obesity and help adults and children to live healthier lives.

COVID-19: mental health and wellbeing surveillance report published

On Tuesday 7 September we published the first [Mental health and wellbeing surveillance report](#) which will be published regularly moving forwards. The report looks at population mental health and wellbeing in England during the COVID-19 pandemic by compiling routinely updated indicators from multiple sources and summarises important findings from ongoing surveys. It is designed to assist stakeholders at national and local level, in both government and non-government sectors.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in 10 charts

From the number of infections to changes in daily routine, statistics tell us a lot about the ongoing impact of COVID-19. ONS have published 10 charts that show how the pandemic has affected life, society and the economy. [Read the ONS article](#)

Why investing in physical activity is great for our health – and our nation

[Sport England commissioned the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University](#) to calculate the social impact and the economic importance of sport and physical activity in England. Every £1 spent on community sport and physical activity generates nearly £4 for the English economy and society. The findings, which are revealed in a new report by the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University, show that investment creates a return across health and social care, improves wellbeing, builds stronger communities, and develops skills in the economy. The report, which we commissioned, shows that investing in community sport and physical activity plays an important role in boosting the economy and provides the opportunity to help level up inequalities within communities, and build a healthier, happier and more prosperous society generating £3.91 in value for every £1 spent.

Pushed from pillar to post: improving the availability and quality of support after self-harm in England

[This report by the Samaritans](#) finds that there is no consistently effective support available to people who self-harm. The research identified four key support needs for people who self-harm, which are seen as essential to providing effective care: distraction from immediate self-harm urges; emotional relief in times of stress; developing alternative coping strategies; and addressing the underlying reasons for self-harm. The report makes several recommendations for how the needs of people who self-harm can be met more effectively.

An intergenerational audit for the UK

The focus of this [intergenerational audit undertaken by Resolution Foundation](#) is on economic living standards in Britain. It considers living standards within four domains: jobs, skills and pay; housing costs and security; taxes, benefits, and household income; and wealth and assets. It finds that coronavirus has impacted on physical health and social interaction across cohorts, while the nature of the pre-pandemic economy has largely driven the impacts on living standards. This has manifested itself in physical health risks to older adults, and a clear distinction between the economic experiences of pensioners and working-age families during the lockdown.

Reducing health inequalities for people living with frailty: a resource for commissioners, service providers and health, care, and support staff

This [Friends, Families and Travellers resource](#) aims to share practical recommendations and examples of how commissioners, service providers and health, care and support staff can overcome barriers to health care for people at greater risk of frailty, including people experiencing deprivation, people who are homeless, people experiencing substance misuse, people with learning disabilities, LGBT people, people with mental health needs, people from Gypsy and Traveller communities, and vulnerable migrants. It offers insights on how services can work in collaborative, holistic and inclusive ways to reduce health inequalities for people living with frailty and offer individuals the support needed to manage the condition in the long term.

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The long shadow of deprivation: differences in opportunities across England

This [Social Mobility Commission report](#) finds that social mobility in England is a postcode lottery, with large differences across areas in both the adult pay of disadvantaged adults, and the size of the pay gap for those from deprived families, relative to those from affluent families. It also finds inequalities in infant health outcomes and mental health in areas with average lower pay. [Tables of best and worst social mobility places in England](#).

A Telling Experience: Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on people who access care and support – a rapid evidence review with recommendations

[This report from the Think Local - Act Personal \(TLAP\) Insight Group](#) aims to identify what worked well, and to highlight areas that people found difficult, both generally and in relation to social care during the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic, seen through the lens of personalisation.

State of Care 2019/20: The annual assessment of health care and social care in England

State of Care looks at the trends, highlights examples of good and outstanding care, and identifies factors that maintain high-quality care. [Read this year's State of Care online](#)

Brexit likely to impede the NHS's Covid-19 efforts – especially if there is no deal

A [new briefing](#) from Nuffield Trust describes how the end of the Brexit transition period could impede the NHS's ability to combat Covid-19. It also looks at the difference a deal might make, and the options the UK and the EU have. In comments [covered by the Independent](#), Mark said the effects of leaving the single market will be felt immediately in the NHS.

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

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the adult social care workforce in England and the characteristics of the 1.52 million people working in it. Topics covered include: employment information, recruitment and retention, demographics, pay, qualification rates and future workforce forecasts. [Download a copy of the report](#) and the [infographic](#) showing all the key findings.

Upwardly Mobile: How the UK can gain the full benefits of the 5G revolution

This [report from the Centre for Policy Studies \(CPS\)](#) highlights that if 5G coverage reaches a quarter more of the population than the Government's current target of 51%, it will produce GDP gains of £41.7 billion by 2027. In order to achieve this, the report recommends:

- The Government must legislate to ensure the Electronic Communications Code is the overriding legislation.
- To discourage vexatious behaviours that delay site works, judges should be given more powers to backdate imposed rental agreements and to grant broader rights.
- A list of 'trusted practice' land agents that work to the intentions of the new Code should be established and promoted to landowners.
- The Treasury should explore whether further investment is needed to specifically support 5G innovation in local public services, to encourage councils that have incurred a shortfall in revenue through Code changes to support contiguous and continuous coverage by helping them to understand and take advantage of the benefits of that better connectivity.
- Government should reform the strategic planning framework to compel local authorities to ensure that the needs of future mobile connectivity are adequately addressed in Local Plans and that new developments are assessed on how they might impact, or could support, local connectivity.
- A time-limited cross-government team of officials should work with the National Infrastructure Commission to better coordinate national and local infrastructure programmes.
- The budget, staffing and remit of the Barrier Busting Task Force inside the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) must be ring-fenced.

The Value of People power

[In this report, Nesta make the case for](#) 12 ways in which the benefits generated by people power can be articulated. Some of their key findings include:

- The contributions of citizens are huge - we give at least 3.5 billion hours of time each year helping each other.
- But 'people power' is undervalued. From our work supporting over 100 people-powered innovations, we have increasingly seen that much of the value of these approaches can be missed when using current means of evaluation and measurement.
- NESTA attempted to estimate the economic value of people power and found it creates between at least £103 billion and £122 billion a year in measurable economic benefit to the UK.
- People power also creates a lot of value that cannot be measured by economic means: from improving health and wellbeing to increasing social connection, and from increasing trust in public services to creating a better functioning democracy.

Key policy recommendations:

- Public service commissioners and funders should expand what they measure to capture the full value of people power, focusing on outcomes such as wellbeing, connection, and purpose.
- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports should establish a new evidence centre for people power to develop new methods of evidencing the value of people power.
- The UK Government should create new ways to include the full value of people power in decisions about public spending, through actions such as updating the Social Value Act and including the value of people power in official accounting measures of activity.

Levelling up: where and how?

This [report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies](#) assesses which areas might be classified as 'left behind' and in need of 'levelling up', and how this might be affected by the economic fallout from COVID-19 and Brexit. Some key findings include:

- The UK is one of the most geographically unequal countries in the developed world; compared with 26 other developed countries, it ranks near the top of the league table on most measures of regional economic inequality.
- The UK's regional inequalities are deep-rooted and complex: even well-designed policies could take years or even decades to have meaningful effects. 'Levelling up' will need to be a long-term, multifaceted agenda.
- the traditionally 'left-behind' areas are not those most exposed to the short-term economic impact of COVID-19. This complicates the picture with regard to 'levelling up'.
- the centres of some Northern and Scottish cities (such as Liverpool, Glasgow, and Dundee) face the 'double whammy' of being both 'left behind' and vulnerable to the immediate economic fallout from the pandemic.
- There are at least eight existing place-based spending programmes relevant to the 'levelling-up' agenda. Rather than reinventing the wheel, the government could seek to build on these schemes.
- The Chancellor should pay particular attention to the important role that local governments will play in 'levelling up' – potentially as a part of a broader devolution strategy.

The broken plate 2020: the state of the nation's food system

[This report presents](#) 10 vital signs that document the health of our food system, how it impacts on our lives, and why we must change the food environment. It highlights the struggle for lower-income families to afford a healthy diet, arguing that 20 per cent of households with the lowest levels of disposable income would have to spend 39 per cent of their disposable income in order to eat a healthy diet, as defined by the government's recommended Eatwell Guide.

The state of child poverty 2020 - UK

This [report from Buttle UK](#) provides an insight into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic inside the homes of some of the most vulnerable families in the UK. This qualitative study was carried out at the point lockdown restrictions started being lifted in June 2020 and is based on a survey of nearly 1000 support workers who have been interacting daily with families throughout the crisis.

UK health inequalities: 20,000 more cancer cases a year in the most deprived areas

This [Cancer Research UK report](#) finds that there is a clear variation between socio-economic groups in the determinants of both cancer incidence and outcomes in the UK. It also calls for urgent action to address this and reduce the disproportionate burden of cancer on those individuals from the most deprived areas.

Coronavirus: Adult social care key issues and sources

This [House of Commons Library briefing](#) aims to provide a high-level overview of policy in relation to adult social care since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in early 2020, including the development of key UK government guidance. It also provides information on some key issues that have been raised during the course of the outbreak, including statistics on deaths in care homes, funding for adult social care, and testing for care home staff and residents.

Activity habits in early weeks of lockdown revealed

Activity levels in England were on course to reach record highs before the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic hit, according to [Sport England our latest Active Lives Adult Survey](#). The findings, which, cover the 12 months from mid-May 2019 to mid-May 2020 and include the first seven weeks of lockdown restrictions imposed to prevent the disease from spreading. In lockdown itself, positive government messages about getting outside once a day for exercise played an important role in reminding people about the importance of activity for their health. The report also shows that the number of people cycling for leisure or sport increased from 6.1m to 7.2m (+2.5%) from mid-March to mid-May compared to the same period 12 months prior. As cycling for travel was down by 773,000 (-1.7%), the number of people cycling in total was up by 715,000 (+1.5%) overall.

Swab tests on more than 85,000 people across England have shown an increase in R and that coronavirus infections are growing nation-wide.

An interim report led by Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI, which includes tests taken between 16th and 25th October, shows that the prevalence of infection has more than doubled [since the last round of testing](#), with 1.28% infected. This means an estimated 128 people per 10,000 of England's population has the virus that causes COVID-19, compared to 60 as of 5th October. These findings from the [REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission](#) (REACT 1) programme are available [in a pre-print report](#) and will be submitted for peer-review.

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Thanks, John