

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

Family income matters! Tracking of habitual car use for school journeys and associations with overweight/obesity in UK youth

This [study in the Journal of Transport and Health](#) suggests that car use for school journeys in early childhood is positively associated with car use for school journeys in later childhood and adolescence. Children living in the highest income households have the lowest rates of overweight/obesity, and there is an income gradient to habitual car use for school journeys. Habitual car use for school journeys through childhood and into adolescence is not positively associated with overweight/obesity in adolescence.

Smokers in England cost local care services £1.2bn each year

Smokers in England need care 10 years sooner than non-smokers, which places a considerable burden on local social care services, [research reveals](#).

The cost of smoking to the social care system

This report sets out the impact of smoking-related illness on social care need and the resulting costs in England, building on previous reports published by ASH in 2014, 2017 and 2019. Full research and analysis details are included in the accompanying technical report by Landman Economics: [The costs of smoking to the social care system and related costs for older people in England: 2021 revision](#).

The adult social care market in England

This [National Audit Office report](#) examines the current care market and the Department of Health and Social Care's role in overseeing the market now and in the future, with the aim of offering insights and recommendations ahead of future social care reforms. It finds levels of unpaid care remain high, too many adults have unmet needs and forecasts predict growing demand for care. The lack of a long-term vision for care and short-term funding has hampered local authorities' ability to innovate and plan for the long term, and constrained investment in accommodation and much-needed workforce development.

Life expectancy a decade lower for men in poorest areas

[Research by the Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) shows life expectancy for men in England's most deprived areas is nearly a decade shorter than it is for those from the wealthiest, according to their latest official analysis. Men living in the most deprived areas have a life expectancy of 74.1 years, compared with 83.5 in the least deprived areas.

Investigation into government funding to charities during the Covid-19 pandemic

In 2020, the government announced a £750 million financial support package for frontline charities. It designed the package as part of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It targeted its support at those organisations in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector providing vital services to the vulnerable. This [National Audit Office report](#) explores the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's distribution and oversight of £513 million of the package. It considers how the Department allocated funds, how financial support could be accessed by the sector and where financial support was received.

Inclusive and sustainable economies: leaving no-one behind

Supporting place-based action to reduce health inequalities and build back better.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-and-sustainable-economies-leaving-no-one-behind>.

Putting people first: supporting NHS staff in the aftermath of Covid-19

Caring for patients and service users during the Covid-19 pandemic has taken an enormous toll on NHS and social care staff. [This NHS Confederation report](#), part of the NHS Reset campaign, considers the five key factors needed for the NHS to provide the most effective environment to retain – and sustain – staff over the weeks and months ahead.

Shaping the Covid decade: addressing the long-term societal impacts of Covid-19

This [British Academy report](#) argues that the societal impacts of the pandemic have exposed several gaps in public policy-making that the government now has the opportunity to address. It suggests seven strategic goals for policy-makers to pursue: build multi-level governance; improve knowledge, data and information linkage and sharing; prioritise digital infrastructure; reimagine urban spaces; create an agile education and training system; strengthen community-led social infrastructure; and promote a shared social purpose.

Introducing our new-look COVID-19 Resource Centre

[The Lancet have made the latest research and reviews on COVID-19 more accessible and easier to navigate](#). Use the new search function to explore all content from across the *Lancet* family of journals.

A connected recovery: findings of the APPG on Loneliness Inquiry

This All-Party Parliamentary Group on Loneliness (APPG on Loneliness) inquiry makes the case [for a 'connected recovery' from the Covid-19 pandemic](#). It explored problems and identified solutions within four crucial policy areas, including: translating national policy into local action through local authorities; community infrastructure (including housing, transport, and public spaces); how to adequately fund the voluntary and community sector upon which social prescribing depends; and designing and implementing ways to test the implications of government policies on loneliness.

Skill up to level up: reducing place-based skills inequality to tackle rising unemployment

In some parts of England the proportion of people without any formal qualifications is as low as one in 40. In others it is more than one in five. [New Centre for Progressive Policy analysis](#) suggests that this disparity comes at the cost of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Covid-19 vaccination data available in LG Inform (authority) and LG Inform Plus Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA)

Data about Covid-19 vaccinations are now being made public at local authority level and an [LG Inform report on Covid-19 vaccination data is available](#). This report allows the count and rate of vaccinations to be viewed by local authority area, both in terms of overall progress and by age-bands.

Putting Good into Practice: A public dialogue on making public benefit assessments when using health and care data

[This National Data Guardian report](#) details the findings of a dialogue with more than 100 members of the public about how to make sure that health and care data is used in ways that benefit people and society. The guidance will encourage greater consistency for decisions about whether health and care data should be used for research, planning, and innovation.

Unemployment puts hundreds of thousands more at risk of poor mental health

An extra 200,000 people are at risk of poor mental health due to unemployment, new analysis has predicted. [Research by the Health Foundation](#) shows that by the winter there will be a total of 800,000 unemployed people with poor mental health.

NHS COVID-19 app: early adopter phase reports

An NHS Covid-19 app was developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The NHS Covid-19 app has been trialled in the London Borough of Newham, the Isle of Wight and among NHS Volunteer Responders. This trial period is referred to as the early adopter phase. [The NHS Covid-19 app programme commissioned a formal evaluation](#) to ascertain perceptions of the NHS Covid-19 app and (intended) usage of its features during the early adopter phase.

Longer waits, missing patients and catching up

This [Health Foundation analysis](#) looks at the impact of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic on elective care in England. The waiting list has now reached the highest level since comparable records began, with more patients experiencing long delays in diagnosis and treatment.

English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) COVID-19 sub-study aims to investigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the older population in England. There are four sub-study reports on the following areas:

- The experience of older people instructed to shield or self-isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The experience of older people with multimorbidity during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Changes in older people's experiences of providing care and of volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Financial consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for older people.

The videos and downloadable reports are available on the Elsa website: [COVID-19 | ELSA \(elsa-project.ac.uk\)](#)

PHE Reform

Following on from the announcement of the development of the Health Security Agency (UKHSA), then the focus of attention turned to the other functions of PHE. On Monday 29th March the Government published their policy paper Policy paper: [Transforming the public health system: reforming the public health system for the challenges of our times](#). It was announced a new Office for Health Promotion is being created in the Department of Health and Social Care to oversee policy development, expert advice, and implementation to promote good health and narrow health inequalities. The new office will bring together capability from PHE and DHSC.

Unequal impact? Coronavirus, disability, and access to services: government response to the Committee's fourth report

[The House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee published the original report in December 2020, and this is the government response](#). It replies to the recommendations on food accessibility, the Public Sector Equality Duty, and the impacts on health and social care and education among others. It also outlines plans for the National Strategy for Disabled People, to be published in spring 2021.

Levelling up health

This [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Longevity report](#) states that Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on the United Kingdom, exposing the nation's poor health and health inequalities – 90 per cent of those who died with Covid had significant prior poor health. The report explains why a new health care system is essential to confront how unhealthy the UK population is. It proposes a 10-year health improvement plan, and new health improvement fund, a shift in political attitudes that have impeded progress, clear priorities for action, and the need to challenge and change organisations that harm children and health.

Crisis, communities, change: demand for an equitable recovery

This [Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce \(RSA\)](#) report explores how communities have fared during the pandemic. The survey of 2,600 people in Great Britain, including a weighted sample of 1,000 people from ethnic minority backgrounds, was carried out by Savanta ComRes for the RSA. Among the findings was that discrimination in local services was twice as high among ethnic minorities: 52 per cent of Asian and 50 per cent of black respondents have faced discrimination when accessing local services – compared with 19 per cent of the white population. The data suggests that institutional distrust because of discrimination may play a role in vaccine hesitancy.

COVID-19: mental health and wellbeing surveillance report

This [Public Health England](#) report is about population mental health and wellbeing in England during the Covid-19 pandemic. It includes up-to-date information to inform policy, planning and commissioning in health and social care. It is designed to assist stakeholders at national and local level, in both government and non-government sectors.

Changing the perfect picture: an inquiry into body image

This [inquiry by Women and Equalities Committee](#) sought to determine which groups were most at risk of developing poor body image, the factors driving its increased prevalence, and the impact of poor body image on the lives of those affected by it. It considers the impact body dissatisfaction can have on physical and mental health and its relationship with advertising in traditional and social media. It also considers the role the government should play through health, education, or digital policy interventions to reduce the prevalence and impact of poor body image in the UK.

Community hubs and green space

This [What Works Wellbeing review of practice-based case studies](#) plugs some gaps in the evidence on how community hubs and green spaces can enhance wellbeing in a place. The case study evidence provides important and rich detail on these projects and activities, and how they are delivered, which will provide policy-makers and practitioners with tangible illustrations to refer to in the design and modification of interventions.

Fractured and forgotten? The social care provider market in England

This [Nuffield Trust report](#) warns that years of delay to social care reform and a fragmented market have left provider services unstable and without support for innovation. It argues that there needs to be a better understanding among policy-makers of how the market works and an acknowledgement that any reform to funding also needs to address the structural faults.

Learning from the community response to Covid-19: how the NHS can support communities to keep people well

This [Health Creation Alliance report](#) considers what all community-facing NHS organisations can learn from the community response to Covid-19. The report outlines practical guidance and recommendations to help build a future where people are at the heart of keeping communities well.

Coronavirus: Covid-19 vaccine roll-out. Frequently Asked Questions

This [House of Commons Library briefing](#) addresses commonly asked questions about the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Doing the work to end health inequalities caused by systemic racism

Report of a meeting organised by National Voices which aimed to examine ways to tackle racial inequalities in health. [Doing the work to end health inequalities caused by systemic racism | The BMJ](#)

State of health and care: The NHS Long Term Plan after Covid-19

This report from Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) [State of health and care: The NHS Long Term Plan after Covid-19](#) suggests that COVID-19 has disrupted the NHS Long Term Plan. This shows the scale of the damage done by the pandemic across several major health conditions (cancer, mental health cardiovascular diseases and multimorbidity) and outlines a package of six ambitious changes to 'build back better'.

Shaping the future of digital technology in health and social care

This King's Fund report provides a [summary of evidence](#) for how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, smartphones, wearable devices and the internet of things are being used within care settings around the world.

One dose of COVID-19 vaccine can cut household transmission by up to half

[PHE's latest research](#) shows that those who do become infected 3 weeks after receiving one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca vaccine were 38%-49% less likely to pass the virus on to their household than those unvaccinated. Protection was seen from around 14 days after vaccination, with similar levels of protection regardless of age of cases or contacts. This protection is on top of the reduced risk of a vaccinated person developing symptomatic infection in the first place, which is around 60 to 65% – 4 weeks after one dose of either vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccine animations launched to help tackle disinformation

NHSE/I has launched a series of animations aimed at tackling disinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine. Aimed specifically at encouraging uptake in ethnic minority groups, the animations are available in 17 different languages and are suitable for use on a wide range of social media platforms. They cover key topics including vaccine safety, how it was tested, how it was developed so quickly, what is in it, and what the side effects are. Original files can be downloaded from the campaign resource centre in the form of [short clips](#) and also a [longer video](#), and the English versions are also available on [YouTube](#).

COVID-19 vaccines prevented 10k+ deaths

Recent PHE analysis has indicated that [the COVID-19 vaccination programme prevented 10,400 deaths](#) in those aged 60 and older in England up to the end of March, an additional 4,300 since the previous update. The analysis compared the observed number of deaths with the number of deaths that would have been expected if the vaccine hadn't been given during this time. Using this method, we estimate that around 10,400 deaths were prevented to the end of March.

Heatwave plan for England

PHE has launched the Heatwave Plan for England and Summer 2021 Preparedness Programme. The plan and accompanying resources aims to prepare for, alert people to, and prevent, the major avoidable effects on health during periods of hot weather in England. You can access those resources on [the GOV.UK landing page](#).

Primary care networks and place-based working: addressing health inequalities in a Covid-19 world

This [Health Creation Alliance report](#) provides fresh insights from those working to address health inequalities outside the NHS about how primary care, enabled by PCNs, might access the breadth of potential solutions that are possible when they work in partnership with their communities and local partners.

The state of end-of-life care: building back better after Covid-19

This [Institute for Public Policy Research report](#) warns that the 'traumatic' final days experienced by patients sent home or to care homes to die without adequate support and resources could become the 'new normal' without significant reform to England's end-of-life care services. The analysis found that annual deaths are projected to overtake rates seen during the 2020 pandemic year spike by 2031 – potentially exposing end-of-life services to the same pressures faced last year, every year from 2030 onwards. Policy recommendations focus on 'providing everyone the right care, from the right person, at the right time'.

Public health annual report 2021: rising to the challenges of COVID-19

This year's [Local Government Association annual report](#) looks back at what public health has helped to achieve and what could have been done better during the pandemic. It also looks to the future - the new UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the publication of the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) white paper, 'Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all' and the significant organisational changes these could bring.

Pandemic patient experience II: from lockdown to vaccine roll-out

In 2020, patients told the Patients Association about their experiences of living with health and care needs during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their testimony painted a bleak picture in many ways. [This follow-up survey \(drawing on 453 responses, submitted over February, March and early April 2021\)](#) finds that many aspects of their experiences are not much better, and some are worse. Accessing general practice services remains difficult for many, and patients overall do not regard remote consultations as an adequate replacement for in-person appointments.

Wider Determinants of Health: May 2021 update

[This tool](#) brings together available indicators at England and local authority levels on the wider determinants of health with links to further resources.

Kings Fund: Assessing England's response to Covid-19: A framework

Learning the lessons from Covid-19 would allow England to better prepare for future pandemics, and understand the weaknesses and strengths of the health, care, and public health systems. [This framework](#) sets out a structure to help untangle the complicated interactions between different elements of the response in England.

Worsening waiting times and cancelled operations

Elective care, which is care planned in advance, was under considerable pressure in the NHS before Covid-19, but the [latest QualityWatch indicator update](#) on trends in the quality of elective care shows the extent of the pandemic's impact on this part of the health service. Referrals fell, waiting times for treatment have got longer, and planned procedures have been cancelled.

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Thanks, John.