

[Wirral Intelligence Service Bulletin – Additional Content – March 2022](#)

Research, evidence, and reports collated for you

UK poverty 2022 – The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK

This [Joseph Rowntree Foundation \(JRF\) publication](#) considers trends in poverty across all its characteristics and impacts.

Investigating the changing landscape of pupil disadvantage

This [National Foundation for Educational \(NFER\) research](#) investigates the implications of changing patterns of disadvantage on the attainment gap and school funding. This includes looking at the impact of both the pandemic and the roll-out of Universal Credit on free school meals eligibility and exploring what this might mean for both the attainment gap and the pupil premium.

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

The Covid-19 vaccination programme has been one of the successes of the UK's response to the pandemic. Based on their interviews with a wide range of people involved in the programme, [this Kings Fund report](#) sets out what the roll-out in England has achieved.

Levelling up for the United Kingdom

The [Levelling up White Paper, from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#), is a document that sets out how the government intends to spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises a programme of systems change, including 12 UK-wide missions to anchor the agenda to 2030, alongside specific policy interventions that build on the 2021 Spending Review to deliver change now.

Inclusive neighbourhoods: promoting social inclusion in housing with care and support for older people

This [report by International Longevity Centre UK](#) explores how housing with care supports older residents from social minority backgrounds and how it works to ensure that all residents are equally valued and included.

Population screening: improving participation in underserved groups

This [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities report](#) summarises the findings of a systematic review commissioned by Public Health England and conducted by Solutions for Public Health. The review explores interventions aimed at improving participation by underserved groups in screening programmes in the UK.

Ten ways businesses can help to reduce health inequalities infographic

Businesses have direct influence on health in many ways: through employment, procurement, resource allocation, estate use and capital investment. Therefore, businesses also have a role in reducing health inequalities. [This infographic depicts](#) a framework of ten examples of how organisations can play their part in tackling health inequalities.

Reaching out: tobacco control and stop smoking services in local authorities in England, 2021

This [ASH report](#) presents findings from the eighth annual ASH/CRUK survey of tobacco control leads in local authorities in England. It explores both the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and current efforts to reduce the inequalities that define the smoking epidemic in England.

Inequalities in Health Alliance briefing on the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

The [Inequalities in Health Alliance \(IHA\), convened by the Royal College of Physicians, has issued a briefing](#) to MPs ahead of a Westminster Hall debate on the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and health inequalities. The IHA has been campaigning for a cross-government strategy to reduce health inequalities since October 2020.

Young people are the future: how can recruiters encourage more of them to join the NHS workforce?

Despite being one of the biggest employers in England, only 6 per cent of the NHS workforce is under 25. In this [Kings Fund Blog](#), they explore how more young people can be supported into employment in the NHS.

Ethnic inequalities in healthcare: a rapid evidence review

This [NHS Race and Health Observatory review](#) into ethnic inequalities in health care has revealed vast inequalities across a range of health services. Some of the largest inequalities were found for mental health care, where treatment for Black groups was particularly poor. The review also found there was a lack of research into specific areas including how outcomes may differ for ethnic minority babies in neonatal health care settings, where just one study was found to investigate health disparities in the care of ethnic minority newborn babies.

Childhood cancer inequalities in the WHO European Region

This [World Health Organization – Regional Office for Europe report](#) sets out for the first time the evidence on childhood cancer inequalities in the Region, and examines the patterns that emerge at national and regional levels of childhood cancer incidence, patient and caregiver experiences, and short- and long-term outcomes for patients.

Exploring the high intensity use of Accident and Emergency Services: Nowhere else to turn

In this [British Red Cross report](#), they look to the evidence that high intensity use of A&E is fundamentally a health inequalities issue.

Physical activity data tool

The [Physical Activity data tool](#) has recently been updated with new data for the following indicators:

- Percentage of physically active children and young people
- Percentage of adults walking for travel at least 3 days a week
- Percentage of adults cycling for travel at least 3 days a week

Short statistical commentaries accompanying the recent updates are available. The physical activity data tool presents data on physical activity, including walking and cycling, at local level for England. It also includes information on related risk factors and conditions, such as obesity and diabetes.

State of the nation 2021: children and young people's wellbeing

This [Department for Education report](#) collates and presents new analysis of published evidence on the wellbeing of children and young people over the period of August 2020 to July 2021, including statistics on the personal wellbeing of children and young people in England and the UK and a wider set of indicators on their: mental and physical health; education and skills; relationships; activities and time use; views on the self, society, and future; an analysis of Covid-19 and the psychological health of young adults; and an analysis of individual predictors of school attendance in 2020 to 2021.

Cancer Services - OHID (phe.org.uk)

The [Cancer Services profile tool](#) contains data at general practitioner (GP) practice, primary care network (PCN) and clinical commissioning group (CCG) and national level collated by the National Disease Registration Service (NDRS).

Explainer: Living safely and fairly with Covid-19

This [Association of Directors of Public Health explainer](#) gives an update on the key elements that are inherent to 'living safely and fairly with Covid-19' and the role that Directors of Public Health and their teams play in making this possible. The explainer is intended to support local and national planning and implementation.

Does the cap fit? Analysing the government's proposed amendment to the English social care charging system

This [Institute for Fiscal Studies briefing note](#) considers the effects of the government's proposed amendment to the Care Act, which would mean that means-tested support does not count for an individual's progress towards the social care cost cap.

Public perceptions of the NHS and social care: performance, policy and expectations

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major shifts in public attitudes towards health, the NHS and social care. With services still experiencing substantial pressure from the virus itself and related disruption, it is important to understand how people perceive the current state of care and priorities for the future. The [Health Foundation have produced this publication](#) examining public perceptions and expectations of health and social care.

Supporting our NHS colleagues affected by Long Covid

NHS England and NHS Improvement have recently published some new, best practice: [Guidelines for supporting our NHS colleagues affected by Long Covid](#). Developed in collaboration with colleagues from across the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care, Health Education England, NHS Employers and colleagues with lived experience of Long Covid, the guidelines offer advice and best practice for line managers and leaders. This includes details on what Long Covid is, advice on HR elements, and practical tips on the benefits of regular welling conversations.

Understanding the relationship between social determinants of health and maternal mortality

This [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists paper](#) aims to inform those involved in the care of pregnant women in the UK about the relationship between social determinants of health and the risk of maternal death.

Public health grants to local authorities

This [circular sets out the allocations of the local government public health grant for 2022 to 2023](#). It includes the conditions that apply to the grant and guidance for local authorities. It confirms that in 2022 to 2023, the total public health grant to local authorities will be £3.417 billion. The grant will be ring-fenced for use on public health functions. This may include public health challenges arising directly or indirectly from Covid-19.

Levelling up the UK: what you need to know

This [NHS Confederation briefing](#) provides an overview and analysis of the Levelling up White Paper and analyses what it means for the health and care sector.

Debt and health: preventing 'problem debt' during the pandemic recovery

This [long read from The Health Foundation](#) explores the relationship between debt and health, trends in debt up to and since the pandemic, and policy responses that can reduce the impact of problem debt on health.

The case for a men's health strategy

[Presented with expert views, this All-Party Parliamentary Group on Issues Affecting Men and Boys report](#) found that a holistic, evidence-based, positive and gender-informed approach to men's health is far more effective than the government's current disease/condition approach to men's health. The APPG notes that this is not consistent with the government's approach to women's health as outlined in its recent vision statement (which the APPG supports). It also notes that the government has produced no evidence that its current approach to men's health is working.

Running hot: the impact of the pandemic on mental health services

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on people's mental health, and the knock-on effect is putting services and partner organisations under considerable pressure. NHS Confederation members report a steep post-pandemic increase in the severity of the mental health needs of the people presenting to their services, especially in children and young people. [This NHS Confederation briefing](#) outlines the current context, the case for change in mental health support, and calls for action from the government including a comprehensive plan to respond to the growing demand for mental health care in England.

The Money Statistics (February 2022)

Worrying indicators for the UK's finances have come into full effect over December and January with households facing soaring bills, [according to the February 2022 Money Statistics, produced by The Money Charity](#).

The rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination programme in England

[According to this National Audit Office report](#), the Covid-19 vaccination programme met stretching and unprecedented targets, helping to save lives and reduce serious illness and hospitalisation. However, it concludes that there are risks to be managed as the programme continues to evolve in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to new clinical advice and evidence about vaccines. The report covers the funding and costs of the programme, supply of vaccines, access to the vaccines as well as the attempts to address inequalities in the uptake of the vaccines. The report concludes that the programme has provided value for money to date.

Adult social care: the key trends in England explained

Encompassing the first and second waves of the Covid-19 pandemic, [The King's Fund annual Social care 360 review](#) outlines and analyses the key trends in adult social care in England in recent years. Through analysis key of data on local government spending, the cost of commissioning, requests for support and many more areas of focus, this report provides a uniquely rounded '360 degree' view of the sector, and shows that it remains under immense pressure, with a number of worrying long term-trends

Understanding one of Europe's biggest climate drivers

A [new Met Office-led study](#) – reviewing evidence from previous scientific papers and climate models – reveals natural patterns of weakening and strengthening of ocean currents which influence the UK's weather and climate.

Ofsted and care leavers

[Ofsted has published the results of its survey on care leavers' views of preparing to leave care](#). The survey found that more than a third of care leavers felt they left care too early and often without essential skills such as how to cook or manage money. Many care leavers felt alone or isolated when they left care, and over a quarter of care leavers did not meet their personal adviser until they were eighteen or older despite statutory guidance that this should happen from age sixteen.

Status of Foster Carers

The [Fostering Network has published a report](#) on the status of foster carers using data from its State of the Nation Report. The report makes a range of recommendations for local government and fostering agencies, including improving social worker understanding of fostering, ensuring foster carers are seen as key members of the team around the child and providing all foster carers with annual training and development plans.

State of the North 2022

IPPR North published its flagship [State of the North 2022](#) report, highlighting the gap between the offer and possible reality on levelling up. According to this report, a long-term decline in NHS access and quality, rapidly accelerated by the pandemic, has begun a trend of people opting for private health care and products. The report warns that this growing 'opt out' is a symptom of the NHS being under-resourced and struggling to recruit and retain the workforce it needs to deliver truly universal care. It argues that tackling long waiting times and poor outcomes is vital to ensuring the long-term survival of the NHS and arresting the trend towards an unequal two-tier system that increases health inequalities.

Understanding local patterns of volunteer activity during Covid-19

[This research by The Young Foundation](#), commissioned by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, seeks to improve understanding of the ways in which volunteers were mobilised at local authority levels in England during the Covid-19 pandemic, with the overarching aim to support future policy development on volunteering. The findings reflect the experiences of community organisations, local authorities and funding bodies, among others, during the spring and summer of 2020.

Navigating the road of adolescence: young people's mental health in the UK

This analysis of data from 15,000 secondary school students across the UK reveals a stark – and growing – divide between girls' and boys' social and emotional wellbeing. [The report by STEER Education, produced in partnership with the charity Minds Ahead](#), finds that girls aged eleven are now 30 per cent more likely to suffer from poor mental health than boys of the same age. By the time girls reach eighteen, they are now more than twice as likely to experience poor mental health than boys of the same age.

Poverty and parenting in the UK: Patterns and pathways between economic hardship and mothers' parenting practices

[This London School of Economics \(LSE\) research](#) examines to what extent there are differences in parenting across income groups, and whether these differences are unique to low-income parents across the UK.

Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health

[This report from The Health Foundation](#) reviews government policies tackling smoking, poor diet, physical inactivity and harmful alcohol use in England.

Investing in regional equality: lessons from four cities

[This CIPFA report](#) sets out the findings of a study exploring what cities have been doing to reduce inequality, and which methods have proven most effective. The researchers worked with local organisations in Leipzig in Germany, Cleveland in the United States, Nantes in France, and Fukuoka in Japan to understand the initiatives and strategies that were being used to overcome inequality and provide opportunities. The findings are intended to assess what 'levelling up' looks like in a broad context, while providing evidence-based guidance so future government policies can be as impactful and targeted as possible.

The economic case for investing in the prevention of mental health conditions in the UK

[This Mental Health Foundation report](#) estimates that mental health problems cost the UK economy at least £117.9 billion annually in 2019 – approximately 5 per cent of the UK's GDP. Almost three quarters of the cost (72 per cent) is due to the lost productivity of people living with mental health conditions and costs incurred by unpaid informal carers who take on a great deal of responsibility in providing mental health support in our communities. The report, produced together with the London School of Economics and Political Science, makes the case for a prevention-based approach to mental health that would both improve mental wellbeing while reducing the economic costs of poor mental health.

Clinical commissioning groups: transferring the legacy into learning

This [NHS Confederation report](#) sets out reflections from clinical commissioning groups and 11 recommendations for integrated care systems (ICS) leaders to help them learn from this legacy.

UK Covid-19 Inquiry: draft terms of reference

The draft terms of reference, [as published by Department of Health and Social Care](#), set out the aims of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry. This follows consultation with the Inquiry Chair, Baroness Hallett, and ministers in the devolved administrations. A final terms of reference will be published once Baroness Hallett has consulted with the public, including with bereaved families and other affected groups. The public consultation on the inquiry's terms of reference is now open and responses can be submitted on the UK Covid-19 Inquiry website. The consultation will close at 23.59pm on 7 April 2022.

A women's health agenda: redressing the balance

This [Public Policy Projects report](#) highlights the importance of embracing a culture of change in the design and delivery of women's health to achieve national systems and local services fit to meet the expectations and needs of the 21st century woman. It describes the many failings of health services across the world whose default position is to treat women as second-class citizens and place unnecessary barriers to the delivery of high-quality accessible care. The report sets out recommendations, founded on common sense and rooted in the belief that women should be in control of their own bodies.

Equity and endurance: how can we tackle health inequalities this time?

There have been many attempts to tackle health inequalities over the past three decades, but none has resulted in the lasting change that is needed. [This long read from The King's Fund](#) draws out what can be learnt from the past and makes the case for developing a long-term approach to tackling health inequalities that endures.

How health has changed in your local area

Use the [ONS interactive tool](#) to explore how health changed in each local authority area across England between 2015 and 2019.

The State of Ageing 2022

This year's [Centre for Ageing Better State of Ageing report](#) suggests that England is becoming an increasingly challenging country to grow old in, with rising pensioner poverty and poor health. The report looks at past trends and our prospects if action isn't taken and includes sections on health, housing, work and communities.

Community connectedness in the Covid-19 outbreak

This [Centre for Ageing Better report](#) investigates how people across England related to their neighbourhoods as the Covid-19 pandemic challenged individuals and communities while reducing their access to traditional mechanisms of support.

Volunteering and helping out in the Covid-19 outbreak

This [Centre for Ageing Better report](#) aims to understand the patterns of formal volunteering and informal support that emerged in, and between, July 2020 and November 2020.

Fragmented UK: reconnecting people by creating communities where people love living in later life

This [Anchor report reveals](#) a disparity between what younger people believe their parents want in later life and what older people want. It calls for steps to unlock investment in later life housing and a national conversation about people's desires and expectations for later life.

Building public understanding of health and health inequalities

This [Health Foundation long read](#) explores reasons behind current public attitudes towards health and inequalities in health outcomes, drawing on polling and public attitudes research by The Health Foundation and others. It considers the role of communication approaches in bringing closer alignment between public understanding and the evidence, referencing findings from The Health Foundation's 'Thinking differently about health' project with the FrameWorks Institute, full findings of which will be published later this month.

Healthy life expectancy target: the scale of the challenge

The recent White Paper on levelling up included a target to improve healthy life expectancy by five years by 2035 and to narrow the gap between the areas with the best and worst health. This [Health Foundation article](#) considers what the measure of healthy life expectancy tells us and what different aspects of the target mean for policy plans.

Engaging young people in health services research and design: key constructs and ethical challenges

This [Association for Young People's Health scoping review](#) differentiates and maps the range of ways in which the sector is involving young people in health service research and development, identifies key concepts and definitions in the literature, and highlights governance issues and contradictions arising from the range of approaches.

Living in a Covid world: a long-term approach to resilience and wellbeing

This [House of Lords Covid-19 Committee report](#) concludes that the pandemic has shown that our current understanding of resilience and preparedness is not fit-for-purpose. It sets out a range of recommendations to improve resilience and preparedness, reconsider the role and purpose of the state, and move from a Welfare State to a Wellbeing State. The purpose of the Wellbeing State would be to secure the wellbeing of all its citizens and tackle those inequalities that hold back specific groups and communities.

Acquired brain injury call for evidence

The [Department of Health and Social Care](#) is seeking the views of people living with acquired brain injury or other neurological conditions and their families, as well as professionals working in this space. Rather than a formal consultation on specific proposals, this call for evidence constitutes a request for ideas on which the government can build. This consultation closes at 11.45pm on 6 June 2022.

NHS backlogs and waiting times in England

This [House of Commons Public Accounts Committee report](#) finds that the NHS has not met the 18-week maximum waiting time standard for elective care since February 2016 nor the eight key standards for cancer care in totality since 2014. It concludes that any transparent and realistic assessment of what elective and cancer care services can achieve by 2024–25 needs to include an assessment of the number of staff that will be available, how staff who have been working under intense and consistent pressure will be supported, and how patients will be kept informed about their own progress through waiting lists.

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

If you have any local information, research or reports you think useful to share then get in touch wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk or if the bulletin has been passed onto you and you would like to subscribe please [complete this form](#)
Thanks, John