

December 2016

## PSNC Briefing 002/17: Update on the Health and Care Landscape

This briefing is part of a series issued regularly by PSNC to inform pharmacy contractors and LPCs of developments in the wider health and care landscape beyond community pharmacy. It builds on the Health & Care Review articles which are published on the PSNC website every week.

### Measles, mumps and rubella: laboratory confirmed cases in England 2016

Public Health England (PHE)'s Virus Reference Department has published its latest quarterly report and commentary on confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella.

The [three reports](#) contain information on laboratory confirmed cases in England from January to March 2016; April to June 2016; and July to September 2016.

### Health matters: increasing the uptake of HIV testing

PHE has published [Health matters: increasing the uptake of HIV testing](#), a professional resource that outlines how providers and commissioners can normalise HIV testing and reduce barriers to testing.

The resource contains infographics, a video recording of an opinion leader panel discussion, case studies, presentations and a blog.

### 13,500 people living with an undiagnosed HIV infection in the UK

PHE released [new figures](#) on World AIDS day (1st December 2016) which estimates that 101,200 people currently live in the UK with HIV; of these, more than 13,500 people are living with an undiagnosed infection.

The figures also show that of the 6,095 people diagnosed with HIV in 2015, 39% were diagnosed at a late stage of the infection.

Dr Valerie Delpech, Head of HIV Surveillance at PHE, said: "Regular HIV testing ensures that people who are unaware of their infection are quickly diagnosed and start receiving safe and effective treatment. There are now several effective ways to prevent HIV transmission. We are again working with local authorities to fund the HIV home-sampling test kit, so that those people who are less likely to visit their GP, sexual health clinic for a HIV test – can take the test at home. It is essential that health services are aware of the prevalence of HIV in their local area and the potential demand for HIV testing."

### NHS England and PHE extend HIV prevention programme

PHE will be leading an NHS England-funded [extension](#) to the national HIV prevention programme to reduce the incidence of HIV infections and support those at highest risk.

This follows a recent court ruling that NHS England, along with Local Authorities (LAs), has the power to fund drugs for the prevention of HIV, known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

The first phase of implementation will be a large scale clinical trial taking place in the 2017/18 financial year, which will include at least 10,000 participants over the next three years.

NHS England will also routinely commission 10 new specialised treatments as part of the annual prioritisation round for specialised treatments.

## The public health burden of alcohol: evidence review

An [evidence review](#), commissioned by the Department of Health (DH) and published by PHE, has been published and provides an overview of alcohol-related harm in England and possible solutions for national and local policymakers.

[Key facts](#) from the review include:

- most adults in England drink alcohol – more than 10 million people are drinking at levels that increase the risk of harming their health;
- 5% of the heaviest drinkers account for one third of all alcohol consumed;
- alcohol is the leading cause of death among 15 to 49 year olds and heavy alcohol use has been identified as a cause of more than 200 health conditions;
- alcohol caused more years of life lost to the workforce than from the 10 most common cancers combined – in 2015 there were 167,000 years of working life lost; and
- the evidence strongly supports a range of policies that are effective at reducing harm to public health while at the same time reducing health inequalities – reducing the affordability of alcohol is the cost-effective way of reducing alcohol harm.

Professor Kevin Fenton, National Director of Health and Wellbeing at PHE, said: “This evidence review will help local and national government and public services like the police and NHS to develop policies designed to reduce the harmful effects of alcohol.”

## Making Every Contact Count national resources page updated

Health Education England (HEE) has developed [practical resources](#) to support people and organisations to implement the concept of Making Every Contact Count (MECC) and made these available on the MECC website. They are designed to aid implementation in local communities and could be used by those organisations that are considering or reviewing MECC activity, developing or commissioning new MECC activity, and those reviewing or developing training resources.

HEE has worked with PHE and others to develop these resources which include sample frameworks, case studies, signposting to e-learning material and various other resources.

## Heavy workloads threaten training for doctors, warns GMC

The General Medical Council (GMC) has published the findings from its [2016 national training survey](#), featuring responses from around 55,000 doctors in training.

The survey shows that many trainee doctors are working under significant and growing pressures which threaten the training they receive to become GPs and consultants. Nearly half of doctors reported heavy workloads resulting in having to leave teaching sessions to answer clinical calls and dealing with clinical scenarios beyond their competence. Inadequate handovers with colleagues and sleep deprivation were also significant concerns reported.

## Being a junior doctor: Experiences from the front line of the NHS

The Royal College of Physicians has published a [report](#) which outlines the experiences and problems faced by junior doctors working in the NHS.

The report is based on a survey of 498 junior doctors and key findings include:

- four out of five junior doctors report that their job 'sometimes' or 'often' causes them excessive stress;
- one in four state that their job has had a serious impact on their mental health;
- over half of junior doctors (56.1%) reported going through at least one shift in the last month without eating a meal;
- nearly three quarters (73.7%) reported working at least one shift in the last month without drinking enough water; and
- 50% of respondents said that staff morale is now so low that it is having a negative impact on patient safety in their place of work.

## Missing out: the identification challenge

Carers UK has published a [report](#), based on findings from the Carers UK's State of Caring Survey 2016, which analysed how long it took for people to acknowledge they were carers, whether they had missed out on support because they were unaware they were carers and what impact this has had on their lives.

Key facts from the research report include:

- more than half of people (54%) took over a year to recognise their caring role, almost one in four (24%) took over 5 years to identify themselves as a carer, and nearly one in ten (9%) took over 10 years;
- some groups of carers, such as those caring for disabled children or people with mental health conditions, or caring at a distance, take longer than average to identify their role;
- nine in ten (91%) carers said they missed out on financial or practical support (or both) because of not identifying themselves as a carer; and
- two in five carers (42%) said missing out on support because of not identifying themselves as a carer caused them to give up work to care.

## Workload strain on GPs compromises patient safety, says BMA

The findings from a recent [survey](#) conducted by the British Medical Association (BMA) on more than 5,000 GPs in England has been published.

The survey highlights growing workload pressures with 84% of GPs reporting that workload pressures are undermining their ability to provide safe and quality care. Additionally, 57% of respondents described their daily workload as unmanageable. Only 10% of respondents said they had a manageable workload which allowed them to provide safe and effective care.

BMA GPs Committee Chair Chaand Nagpaul said: "This major survey of more than 5,000 GPs in England demonstrates that GP practices across the country are struggling to provide safe, high-quality patient care because of unmanageable workload.

Many practices are being overwhelmed by rising patient demand, contracting budgets and staff shortages which has left them unable to deliver enough appointments and the specialist care many members of the public need."

## Joining up care for older people with frailty

The Royal College of General Practitioners has published a joint report with the British Geriatrics Society, [Integrated care for older people with frailty: innovative approaches in practice](#), which highlights case studies from across the UK on innovative schemes of integrated care.

The report explores case studies showcasing care that promotes ageing and staying well, extending primary and community support, and integration in acute settings.

## LGA's Integration self-assessment tool

The Local Government Association (LGA) has published a [self-assessment tool](#) designed to support local health and care leaders through Health and Wellbeing Boards to assess their ambitions, capabilities and capacities to develop services for their local communities and citizens. It explores the key characteristics needed for successful integration and the right way forward.

The tool consists of two core modules and two optional modules, and an action planning template.

## £226 million UK investment in cancer research announced

Cancer Research UK has [announced](#) that it will be committing £190 million to 13 Cancer Research UK Centres over the next five years.

The investment will cover world class research and medical expertise to speed up advances in research and support clinical trials. It will also fund PhD students and cancer doctors at the start of their research career and provide specialist training for clinical trials staff.

## NHS England sets out steps to improve mental health care for pregnant women and new mothers and help those attending A&E in crisis

NHS England has [announced](#) that £40 million will be allocated to fund new specialist community mental health services across the country. The services will be targeted at new mothers in the immediate run up to and after birth.

Additionally, the funding will cover new or bigger teams providing specialist care for all new and expectant mothers with severe mental illnesses, as well as new perinatal consultants, specialist nurses, occupational therapist, psychologists and more.

## The challenge and potential of whole system flow

The Health Foundation and the Advancing Quality Alliance have published a [joint report](#) to provide leaders and improvement teams in local health and social care organisations with guidance on how to improve flow of patients, service users, information and resources within and between systems.

The report features an integrated organising framework supported by case studies and it focusses on four distinct levels of the system: care journeys; team and organisational capabilities; local health and social care economy enablers; and national system change levers.

It also provides the steps that national regulators and policymakers can take to create an environment that promotes effective system flow.

## CMO annual report 2015: health of the 'baby boomer' generation

DH has published the [Annual report of the Chief Medical Officer 2015](#) that focusses on the 'Baby Boomers', broadly corresponding to people born between 1946 and 1964.

It considers many factors affecting their life course such as demography, health and employment, lifestyle factors, screening and immunisations, mental health and sexual health. Additionally, it considers areas for policy action such as environment and community support for health, encouraging productivity, engaging in social activity, support for caring as well as health services and preventative interventions.

Key facts include:

- 1 in 3 of those aged 50-70 are obese;
- 6% of Baby Boomers have not engaged in any moderate physical activity lasting 30 minutes or longer in the past month;
- 34% of women and 45% of men aged 50-70 are overweight;
- 18% of women and 19% of men smoke; and
- 71% of women and 66% of men who are smokers or ex-smokers have never been asked to stop smoking by a doctor or nurse.

### Tobacco-free NHS: achieving a step change

The Chief Executive of PHE has written a [letter](#) to NHS trusts and foundation trusts chief executives in England to seek their personal commitment to achieving a step change towards a tobacco-free NHS. Specifically, the letter is seeking a commitment to reach smokers in hospital waiting rooms, consulting rooms and beds.

### Joint leadership and development framework launched

HEE has with partners developed a framework, [Developing People – Improving Care](#), to drive leadership and development in health and social care.

The framework will help create five conditions common to high quality, high performing health and care systems in every local health and care system in England, which are:

1. leaders equipped to develop high quality local health and care systems in partnership;
2. compassionate, inclusive and effective leaders at all levels;
3. knowledge of improvement methods and how to use them at all levels;
4. support systems for learning at local, regional and national levels; and
5. enabling, supportive and aligned regulation and oversight.

### New rules ban the advertising of high fat, salt and sugar food and drink products in children's media

The Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) has [announced](#) new rules to ban the advertising of high fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) food or drink products in all non-broadcast children's media including print, cinema, online and social media.

The move is designed to help protect the health and wellbeing of children, and CAP believes it will lead to a major reduction in the number of advertisements for HFSS foods and drinks seen by children.

A summary of the main changes taking effect are:

- advertisements that directly or indirectly promote a HFSS product cannot appear in children's media;
- advertisements for HFSS products cannot appear in other media where children make up over 25% of the audience;
- advertisements for HFSS products will not be allowed to use promotions, licensed characters and celebrities popular with children; and
- DH nutrient profiling model will be used to classify which products are considered as HFSS.

The rules, which will apply in media targeted at under-16s, will come into effect on 1st July 2017.

## New report looks at the mental health of children in London

PHE has published a [report](#) that looks at the mental health of children and young people (CYP) in London.

The purpose of the report was to describe the importance of mental health in CYP and why investments should be made in mental health, to provide a descriptive analysis of mental health in CYP and to summarise the evidence of good practice to inform local transformation of services. It also looked at common mental health conditions in CYP such as anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, schizophrenia, self-harm and suicide.

Key facts from the report include:

- nearly 40,000 children suffer with anxiety;
- over 10,000 children experience depression;
- just under 19,000 children are diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; and
- over 68,000 children have conduct disorder (a serious behavioural and emotional disorder).

Dr Marilena Korkodilos, a paediatrician and child health lead for PHE London, said: “Children’s and young people’s mental health is a real issue for London, and this report shows that we all need to do more. We are working with the city’s leaders and the NHS to develop a citywide vision and approach to help make London the world’s healthiest city. Alongside the Healthy London Partnership, we are supporting both work to reduce suicide and improve children and young people’s mental health care.”

## First major survey of Britain’s attitudes on obesity published

PHE has published the findings of the first British Social Attitudes survey on obesity, [Attitudes to obesity](#), which it commissioned NatCen Social Research to conduct.

The survey, conducted in 2015, included 40 questions about obesity which have never been asked before. The aim of the survey was to provide up-to-date evidence on public attitudes and how they vary across the population, assess the extent of the match between public opinion and public policy, deepen our understanding of public attitudes towards people who are obese and enhance our perspective on why people hold the views they do.

Key facts from the [survey](#) include:

- People tend to overestimate what obesity means in terms of body size:
  - 54% correctly identify when a woman is obese; and
  - 39% correctly do this for a man.
- There is widespread understanding of some, but not all, of the health risks:
  - Over 80% understand that people who are obese are more likely to have heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes; and
  - 34% understand the increased risk of liver disease.
- People who are obese are often the object of stigmatising attitudes:
  - 53% agree that ‘most overweight people could lose weight if they tried’; and
  - 75% believe that a person who is not very overweight would be more likely than one who is very overweight to be offered an office manager’s job.

## Soft Drinks Industry Levy

HM Revenue & Customs has published a [policy paper](#) which outlines details relating to the soft drinks industry levy. The paper provides a background to the measure, a summary of impacts, and how the measure will be monitored and evaluated.

## Doctors report lack of STP engagement

The BMA has published the [results](#) of its latest quarterly survey which shows that almost two-thirds of doctors have seen no clinical or public engagement on [Sustainability and Transformation Plans](#) (STPs). Only one in ten doctors supported the introduction of STPs, and six in ten doctors were unsure of their position.

The survey was sent out to 1,000 doctors between 11th October and 1st November 2016 and contained various questions relating to morale, workload, winter pressures and STPs.

## NICE calls on third sector and public bodies to work together to prevent loneliness in older people

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has, in a new quality standard, [Mental wellbeing and independence for older people](#), urged councils, housing organisations and the voluntary sector to work together to prevent loneliness in older people.

The new standard covers interventions to maintain and improve the mental wellbeing and independence of people aged 65 years or older, and how to identify those vulnerable.

NICE is recommending that vulnerable older people are identified and directed to various activity programmes such as, dance, art or swimming groups or choirs to help maintain their health and wellbeing.

Improving the mental wellbeing of older people and helping them to retain their independence can benefit families and communities and may also reduce, delay or avoid their use of health and social care services.

## UK hospitals fail to meet national standards in helping patients to quit smoking

The British Thoracic Society has launched a new report, [Smoking cessation: policy and practice in NHS hospitals](#), which reviews the smoking cessation and smoke free policies and practices of 146 hospitals across the UK between April and May 2016. The report also analysed 14,750 patient records.

Key facts from the report include:

- over 7 in 10 (72%) hospital patients who smoked were not asked if they'd like to stop;
- only 1 in 13 (7.7%) hospital patients who smoked were referred for hospital-based or community treatment for their tobacco addiction;
- over 1 in 4 (27%) hospital patients were not even asked if they smoke;
- only 1 in 10 hospitals completely enforce their fully smoke-free premises; and
- 50% of frontline healthcare staff in hospitals were not offered training in smoking cessation.

## NHS screening programmes: annual report

PHE has published [NHS Screening Programmes in England: 2015 to 2016](#), which covers screening programme data from the year across England and focusses on some of the highlights.

The report shows that during 2015/16:

- more than 21 million screening tests were carried out for all conditions;
- 2 million people were screened for bowel cancer;
- 4 million people with diabetes had eye screening and;
- cervical screening saved an estimated 5,000 lives.

## Health Survey for England, 2015

NHS Digital has published the findings from the [Health Survey for England, 2015](#) which monitors trends in the nation's health. It estimates the proportion of people in England with specific health conditions and the prevalence of associated risk factors and behaviours.

The survey collates information about adults aged 16 and over, and children aged 0 to 15. It consists of an interview followed by a visit from a nurse who takes a few measurements and samples.

In 2015, to focus on the health of children aged 2 to 15, the sample size was increased in this age group and questions relating to physical activity and wellbeing were included.

A total of 8,034 adults (aged 16 and over) and 5,714 children (aged 0 to 15) were interviewed, and 5,378 adults and 1,297 children had a nurse visit.

Key facts from the survey include:

- 19% of men and 17% of women were current smokers;
- 31% of men and 16% of women drank over 14 units in a usual week;
- 27% of adults were obese; 41% of men and 31% of women were overweight but not obese;
- 18% of adults had provided unpaid help to someone in the last month because of long-term physical or mental ill-health, a disability or problems relating to old age; and
- excluding school-based activities, 22% of children aged 5 to 15 met the physical activity guidelines of being at least moderately active for at least 60 minutes every day.

## Public health grants to LAs: 2017 to 2018

DH and the Department for Communities and Local Government have published the [public health allocations](#) to LAs for health improvement and the conditions for using the money.

In the financial year ending 2018, LAs will receive a £3.3 billion public health grant for their public health duties for all ages.

According to the [LGA](#), councils will receive £84 million less in funding for public health in 2017/18.

Chairman of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, Cllr Izzi Seccombe, said: "Central government's cutting of the public health budget is a short-term approach and we are concerned this decision could undermine the objectives we all share to improve the public's health and to keep the pressure off adult social care and the NHS."

## Extended hours in primary care linked to reductions in minor A&E attendances

A National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded [study](#) published this week shows that practices which offered additional appointments showed a reduction in the number of their patients attending A&E for minor conditions.

This study funded 56 general practices in Manchester to offer extra appointments during evenings and weekends as part of a larger programme to improve primary care. There was a 26.4% relative reduction in "minor" A&E visits (10,933 fewer visits), compared to 469 practices which did not offer additional appointments.

It was found that the costs of the additional GP appointments were greater than any costs saved in the reduction in A&E visits; additionally, there was no overall reduction in emergency visits. The study concludes that additional GP appointments, although at higher costs, may help to reduce minor A&E visits.

## Healthy futures: supporting and promoting the health needs of looked after children

The LGA has published a [document](#) which looks into the health and wellbeing of looked after children and young people. The report presents themes and key messages, the responsibilities of local councils, and seven case studies of positive initiatives in LAs around the country to share good practice and inspire other leaders to take action in their areas.

Key facts include:

- there are over 70,000 looked after children in England;
- 6% of looked after children are unaccompanied asylum seekers;
- the majority (75%) of looked after children are placed with foster carers; and
- over 60% of children in care are looked after due to abuse and neglect.

## CQC calls for action to end missed opportunities to learn from patient deaths

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published the [findings](#) of a review it conducted on how NHS trusts across the country identify, report, investigate and learn from deaths of people using their services.

CQC has raised significant concerns about the quality of investigation processes into patient deaths and said learning from deaths to take necessary action to improve care for future patients and their families was not prioritised.

Other key findings include:

- there is a wide variation in the way NHS organisations become aware of the deaths of people in their care and inconsistencies exist in the way decisions are made on whether to carry out a review after a patient has died;
- there is no agreed process that recognises which deaths may require a specific response;
- when caring and responding to patients' physical health concerns, acute and community NHS trusts do not always record whether that patient also had a mental health illness or learning disability; and
- specialised training and support is not universally provided to staff completing investigations and that many staff completing reviews and investigations do not have protected time to carry out investigations which can reduce consistency in approach, even within the same services.

## Private lives, Public health: The changing shape of contraceptive services in England post-2013 – December 2016

The Advisory Group on Contraception has conducted an [audit](#) of the impact of funding cuts and commissioning structure changes on contraceptive services in England.

The audit was conducted by analysing the results of a Freedom of Information request sent to all 152 upper tier and unitary councils.

Key findings include:

- approximately 3.9 million women of reproductive age live in areas with some form of restriction on access to contraception, either due to age or place of residency;
- more than one in six authorities (16%) decreased spend on contraceptive services during the financial year 2015/16 as a result of the cuts to public health budgets in June 2015; and

- community settings (not including GP practices) delivering contraceptive care are being closed. One in seven of the councils (14%) who responded to this question have closed sites in 2015/16 or were planning to do so in 2016/17, affecting around 1.5 million women of reproductive age. A further 13% of councils stated they are considering site closures in 2016/17.

## New report shows how clinical commissioning can help realise full potential of local economies

NHS Clinical Commissioners has published a report, [Shaping healthy cities and economies: The role of clinical commissioning](#), which looks at how clinical leaders in England are commissioning services that not only improve the health, but social and economic wellbeing in local populations.

Examples of programmes highlighted in the report include:

- across Manchester a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) led programme is supporting people to address underlying issues contributing to unemployment and help people find and maintain jobs that best suit their individual needs;
- Liverpool where the CCG is using its commissioning and procurement levers to support the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of its population; and
- Newcastle CCG is helping to drive workforce transformation and find new ways to attract and retain new staff, particularly younger people, a key need for the local economy.

The report also makes recommendations for national and local organisations on how to maximise local economic growth.

## The Winter Insight: beds pressures

The Nuffield Trust has published a [briefing](#) analysing bed occupancy levels in the NHS in England which is the first part of a new short series examining issues contributing to NHS winter pressures.

Key facts identified in the briefing include:

- pressure on beds in the NHS in England has become so acute that on any given day last winter, the equivalent of more than five extra hospitals' worth of beds had to be brought into service to accommodate all the patients who needed them;
- on the busiest day, last winter, Tuesday 26th January 2016, the number of extra beds trusts had to make available reached its highest level, when 4,390 extra beds were opened – equivalent to opening seven entire extra hospitals that day; and
- while demand for beds inevitably rises, increasing numbers of delays in discharging patients already occupying a bed – now at a 10-year high – mean not only more intensive use of beds but also involves bringing even more into use on a temporary basis.

## NHS England announces £101 million of new funding for new care model vanguards

NHS England has [announced](#) that funding worth £101 million will be awarded to support and spread the progress of the [new care model vanguards](#).

Additionally, the new care models will continue to receive support from NHS England and other national bodies to implement their plans including use of new technology and workforce development so that they are organised around patients and local populations.

The total funding allocated to new care models matches that of 2016/17; in order to secure their allocated funding, vanguards need to meet certain conditions, including:

- spread of their new care models within and across STPs, including production of guidance and materials for others to use;
- full implementation of the published care model frameworks – what good looks like within their vanguard type; and
- clear quality improvements and costs/savings.

The cost of evaluating the vanguards is not included as part of this funding and will be separately funded.

## An Inquiry into the Impact of Alcohol on Emergency Services

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm has published an [inquiry](#) on the impact of alcohol on emergency services and their staff. An Inquiry was coordinated over the past year with submissions and testimony sought from staff working in the police, A&E and ambulance services, and fire services as well as a wide range of other agencies and individuals.

Key facts from the report include:

- almost all submissions from the emergency services cited that alcohol-related incidents increase at weekends;
- from ambulance pick up, increased observation requirements, stabilisation phases and then safe discharge, all phases of emergency intervention are more time consuming after someone has been drinking heavily. Allowing those who are intoxicated time to sober up to be safely discharged also blocks beds and drains capacity;
- many submissions by the police reflected an expectation that officers will be assaulted when dealing with intoxicated individuals; and
- violence, both physical and verbal, directed toward A&E department staff is a major problem that can affect workers' wellbeing both physically and mentally.

## Demand for hospital services outstripping NHS funding

The King's Fund has published a new [analysis](#) looking at hospital admissions over the last 13 years.

The analysis shows that:

- emergency admissions from major A&E departments have increased by an average of 4.3% each year since 2003/04;
- attendances at outpatient clinics have risen by an average of 3.8% each year since 2007/08; and
- admissions for planned treatment have increased by an average of 4.3% each year since 2003/04.

The analysis also shows that these figures may jeopardise the plans set out in the [NHS Five Year Forward View](#) (5YFV), and this is likely to worsen as the first half of 2016/17 showed a 3% increase in hospital admissions compared to the same period last year in conjunction with tighter NHS budgets.

It suggests that STPs could provide the means to deliver the necessary changes, as long as they are properly funded.

## Understanding analytical capability in health care

The Health Foundation has published a [paper](#) intended to outline to policymakers and analytical leaders the impact of limited analytical capability in UK health services.

The paper built on a series of interviews and discussions with analysts, academics, clinicians and managers.

Key facts from the report include:

- good analytical support is important at all levels of the health service. Analysis can help shape care for individual patients as well as across organisations and health systems;
- good analysis is especially important for the current NHS if it is to make progress in key areas including – in England – the implementation of the NHS 5YFV and the development and implementation of STPs;
- the problems caused by limited analytical capacity and capability have been acknowledged by the National Information Board in England, who have created a working group to address the issue; and
- good analytical capability also has a role in helping to improve quality and safety by identifying areas for improvement and monitoring service delivery.

### **IPC Programme expands to improve services for millions with complex needs**

NHS England has [announced](#) that Birmingham and Solihull, Nottingham City, Hertfordshire, Islington, Sheffield and Nottinghamshire will become early adopter sites of the Integrated Personal Commissioning (IPC) programme designed to improve care for people with complex needs.

The programme aims to join up health, social care and other services including the voluntary and charity sectors to help people, carers and families have more control over their care needs.

### **Cancer deaths will drop by 400,000 in next 20 years**

New research by Cancer Research UK has [revealed](#) that in the next 20 years, 400,000 fewer people will die from cancer which equates to a 15% reduction in the overall cancer death rate.

The charity attributes this drop mainly to improvements in detection, diagnosis and treatment through advances in research.

These figures are announced as Cancer Research UK highlights the personal impact of cancer in its latest 'Right Now' campaign. A series of films showing patients going through treatment or being told test results will be broadcast over the coming weeks.

### **National health organisations publish a shared commitment to quality**

The National Quality Board (NQB) has published a new [framework](#) to promote improved quality and provide a nationally agreed definition of quality.

The framework has been agreed by NQB member organisations and is aimed at clinical and managerial leaders to provide consistency and cut unnecessary red tape to enable the system to work together more effectively.

If you have queries on this PSNC Briefing or you require more information please contact [Zainab Al-Kharsan, Service Development Pharmacist](#).