

February 2016

PSNC Briefing 017/16: 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.

Older people encouraged to get shingles vaccine

Figures [published](#) by Public Health England (PHE) show that shingles vaccine uptake has dropped by 2% for 70 year olds in September – November 2015 compared to the previous year. Uptake has also dropped by 0.4% for the catch-up cohort (78 year olds).

As a result, PHE is reminding older people to get vaccinated if they are eligible.

Principles for revolutionising urgent care for older people outlined

Eight key principles to improve urgent care for older people have been outlined in the [Commission on Improving Urgent Care for Older People's](#) report, *Growing old together*.

The Commission was launched by the NHS Confederation in March 2015. It draws on the expertise of various specialists across the care system and produces guidance for people involved in designing care for older people. Underpinning the report is information extracted from a literature review, communications with stakeholders, organisational site visits and 60 evidence submissions.

Delivering a healthier future – how CCGs are leading the way on prevention and early diagnosis

The impact of clinically led commissioning on healthcare has been highlighted in a new publication by NHS Clinical Commissioners, [Delivering a healthier future: How CCGs are leading the way on prevention and early diagnosis](#).

The report is a compilation of case studies demonstrating how Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are able to:

- take the lead in preventing illness and causes of ill health;
- help to ensure that people are diagnosed earlier and given the required support; and
- work across boundaries to build on what people want and need to help them lead longer and healthier lives.

NHS England Chief Executive Simon Stevens, who provided the foreword for the report, welcomed it saying: “The case studies in this report show commissioners across the country are taking prevention and early diagnosis seriously. It’s heartening to see that CCGs are driving improvements in a wide range of areas including mental health care, early diagnosis of cancer and stroke prevention.”

Productivity in English NHS hospitals

An independent report for the Department of Health (DH) by Lord Carter of Coles, [Operational productivity and](#)

[performance in English NHS acute hospitals: Unwarranted variations](#), has been published. It serves as a review of efficiency in hospitals and shows how large savings can be made by the NHS.

The review looked at productivity and efficiency in English non-specialist acute hospitals and compared them using a series of benchmarks. The review found unwarranted variation in prices paid for supplies and services, hours of care provided per patient on wards, stockholding, infection rates, sickness absences and running costs.

The report contains 15 recommendations that need to be acted upon to deliver a £5 billion saving over the next three to four years. The recommendations include optimising resources, such as staff, products and suppliers, implementing good hospital management practices, standardising procedures and engaging with other trusts and national bodies.

Health as a social movement

Building on the agenda set out in the [Five Year Forward View \(5YFV\)](#), NHS England has launched a new [three year programme](#) to support social movements in health and care, supported by the Transformation Funding.

The programme will work with six new [vanguards](#) across England and aims to:

- identify and develop exemplar social movements;
- demonstrate what works effectively; and
- support spread to enable local approaches to be adapted in other communities.

The six vanguards chosen to participate represent diversity in terms of type of vanguard, geography and type of social movement.

The New Economics Foundation, Nesta and Royal Society of Arts have all been appointed by NHS England to provide the overarching learning, development, support and evaluation.

Public satisfaction with the NHS in 2015

A [survey](#) carried out between July and October 2015 asked a nationally representative sample of more than 2,000 people about their overall satisfaction with the NHS. More than 1,000 people were also asked about their satisfaction with individual NHS services.

Overall, the survey showed that public satisfaction with the NHS fell by 5% in 2015 to 60%. Dissatisfaction with the NHS rose by 8% to 23%, equivalent to the levels reported in 2011/13. This is the largest single-year increase since 1986.

The three main reasons people gave for being satisfied with the health service were the quality of care in the NHS, the fact that the NHS is free at the point of use and the range of services and treatments available.

The three main reasons that people gave for being dissatisfied with the health service were long waiting times, staff shortages and lack of funding.

NatCen Social Research will publish a more detailed analysis exploring the impact of different population groups on satisfaction levels in the summer of 2016.

Teenage pregnancy and young parents: a progress report

A [report](#) published by the Local Government Association (LGA) and PHE reviews the progress made since the establishment of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy over 15 years ago.

The under-18 conception rate in England has halved since 1998 and is now the lowest it has been since records began in the late 1960s. The rate, however, still remains higher than a number of other European countries, and the progress made so far still varies by region.

Significantly higher than average under-18 conception rates still exist in a third of local authorities across England. In areas with a lower than average rate, inequalities still exist between different wards.

Continuing to reduce the rate of under-18 conceptions is one of the key objectives of DH's [Framework for Sexual Health Improvement](#) and is also one of the 66 indicators in the [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#).

Case studies across England which highlight good practice and lessons learnt have also been included in the report.

Making Every Contact Count

PHE has published [Making Every Contact Count \(MECC\): implementation guide](#), a guide to support people and organisations to aid local implementation of MECC activity. An accompanying document, [Making Every Contact Count \(MECC\): quality marker checklist for training resources](#), has also been published.

[MECC](#) is a concept which aims to improve people's lifestyle and reduce health inequalities through day to day interactions. It encourages conversations based on behaviour change, empowering healthier lifestyle choices and exploring the wider social determinants that influence people's health.

The PHE resources are for use by organisations that are:

- considering or reviewing MECC activity;
- developing or commissioning new MECC training;
- undertaking a review of existing MECC training resources; and
- developing and providing MECC training resources.

Making devolution deals work

The current devolution deals process, its history, the opportunities and challenges it presents has been discussed in a [report](#), published by the Institute for Government.

The report contains key questions that all those involved in negotiating devolution deals should consider.

Additionally, it also covers information on setting up the devolution process and testing and assessing the readiness of different representatives for devolution.

Devolution: the next five years and beyond

A report, [Devolution: the next five years and beyond](#), published by the House of Commons is the first report of session 2015/16. The report was set out to examine the contents of The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, and whether Greater Manchester's deal is a model for other areas. The way in which devolution in England is moving ahead in other places such as the Tees Valley, Liverpool, Leeds and Cornwall was also looked at and reviewed by the report.

The authors of the document strongly support the principles of devolution. However, they call for a greater public consultation and engagement at all stages in the devolution process. The recommendation is that the public should be kept informed and involved in devolution proposals, negotiations and outcomes.

At the heart of health: Realising the value of people and communities

A [report](#) has been published by Nesta and the Health Foundation, which explores the value of people and communities at the heart of health. The report is intended to support the 5YFV vision to develop a new relationship with people and communities.

The report intends to bring together a wide range of person- and community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing, as well as helping commissioners, policymakers and practitioners understand the range of approaches available.

It highlights the need for health and care services to work alongside individuals, carers, families, social networks and thriving communities.

Implementing the Forward View: supporting providers to deliver

A [report](#) has been published for NHS provider organisations, which sets out key priorities in delivering high quality health and care.

It has been published by NHS Improvement in collaboration with various other leaders and organisations such as the LGA, NHS Clinical Commissioners and NHS Confederation.

The report is part of a series of planned roadmaps that draw on messages from the [NHS Planning Guidance](#) and reflects a shared vision for the NHS as set out by the 5YFV. It outlines the current challenges faced, a set of recommended activities and how they can be implemented as well as the support available to NHS providers.

Delivering the benefits of digital health care

The Nuffield Trust has published a report, [Delivering the benefits of digital health care](#), defining the possibilities to transform health and care through digital technologies.

The report draws on extensive literature and evidence reviews to enable NHS organisations to expand their understanding of digital healthcare. It also outlines ways in which they can meet productivity challenges that lie ahead, and offers practical advice to avoid costly mistakes.

Seven key areas of opportunity have been identified in the report:

1. More systematic, high-quality care;
2. More proactive and targeted care;
3. Better coordinated care;
4. Improved access to specialist expertise;
5. Greater patient engagement;
6. Improved resource management; and
7. System improvement and learning.

These opportunities for information technology will support changes in services and ways of working that would drive improvements in quality, efficiency and population health.

Sugar tax could prevent 3.7 million obesity cases over next decade

Cancer Research UK and the UK Health Forum have published a report, [Short and sweet: why the Government should introduce a sugary drinks tax](#), to lend its support to the sugar tax campaign.

The report is calling on the Government to take action to put a tax on sugary drinks, ban junk food adverts on TV before 9pm, and introduce targets for reducing the amount of fat and sugar in food as part of a public health intervention strategy.

The key findings of the report are:

- the introduction of a 20% excise tax on sugar-sweetened drinks could avoid 3.7 million people being obese by 2025;
- unless action is taken, obesity levels in the UK could increase from 29% in 2015 to 34% by 2025; and
- implementing the 20% excise tax on sugary drinks could save approximately £10 million in direct NHS healthcare and social care costs in the year 2025 alone.

A modelling analysis in the report predicts the impact of a tax on the number of obesity-related cancer cases in the future.

The report also highlights sugary drink taxes implemented around the world.

Alison Cox, Cancer Research UK's Director of Cancer Prevention, said: "The ripple effect of a small tax on sugary drinks is enormous. These numbers make it clear why we need to act now before obesity becomes an even greater problem."

How is the NHS performing? February 2016

The latest [quality monitoring report](#) has been published by The King's Fund. The report is based on survey responses from 83 trusts carried out between 7th January and 25th January 2016.

Respondents were asked about their organisation's financial situation and the financial outlook for their local health economy over the past financial year and the state of patient care in their area.

They were also asked about their financial situation looking ahead to 2016/17, the key organisational challenges facing trusts and CCGs and workforce issues.

The report's main findings are:

- NHS Trusts' deficit at the end of 2015/16 is estimated to be £2.3 billion;
- just over half (53%) of trust finance directors said that quality of care in their local area has worsened in the past year;

- just over half (53%) of trusts are concerned that they will not be able to meet nationally imposed caps on their agency staff spending;
- nearly two-thirds (64%) of trusts are reliant on extra financial support from the Department of Health or drawing down their reserves;
- 2% of patients are still waiting for a planned hospital admission after 18 weeks in December – the first time the target has been missed since it was introduced in April 2012; and
- 9% of patients waited longer than 4 hours in A&E over the quarter up to the end of December 2015 – the worst quarterly performance since 2003.

Recent trends in life expectancy at older ages

PHE has published a report on [recent trends in life expectancy at older ages](#).

According to the report, there has been an overall upward trend in life expectancy at older ages in England since the 1980s. The report shows:

- men can now expect to live for a further 19 years at age 65, 12 years at 75, 6 years at 85 and 3 years at 95; and
- women can expect to live for a further 21 years at age 65, 13 years at 75, 7 years at 85, and 3 years at 95.

PHE is developing its programme of work on this topic with its external mortality surveillance advisory group.

The figures vary by region and local authority. Professor John Newton, Chief Knowledge Officer at PHE said: “The reasons for the variation in trend between local areas are not yet clear. PHE will continue to monitor these trends and analyse the data for 2015 as soon as possible.”

New standard primary medical care contracts

NHS England has published guidance and links to further [resources](#) following changes to the General Medical Services, Personal Medical Services and Alternative Provider Medical Services contracts that will apply in England. The new core contract terms from the 2015/16 GP contract agreement have been introduced in the new standard primary medical care contracts, to ensure a consistent contractual framework is in place across the country.

NHS providers urged to take more action to counter pressures

An update on the analysis of the operational and financial performance of NHS providers has been published in a [quarterly report](#) by Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority. The report also highlights the joint action being taken by the two organisations to tackle any concerns and drive improvements in the NHS.

The report calls on NHS providers to continue driving on financial improvements in order for patients to receive quality care in the future.

Jim Mackey, Chief Executive Designate of NHS Improvement, said: “At NHS improvement, we intend to work with the providers to identify improvement opportunities, both recognising strong performers and supporting those who are struggling.”

The future of child health services: new models of care

A [report](#) highlighting the current problems surrounding healthcare services for children and young people has been published by the Nuffield Trust.

The report highlights difficulties with service delivery in the UK and examples of new ways of delivering care for children and young people to eliminate those problems.

It has described an ideal child health system as one that is specific to the needs of the child and their families, has accessibility to high quality paediatric experts and linked-up, timely information, data and care.

This briefing is the first in a new series by the Nuffield Trust investigating the future of service delivery in various organisations within the NHS.

NHS commits to major transformation of mental health

A [Five Year Forward View for Mental Health](#) for the NHS in England has been created by the independent Mental Health Taskforce along with care leaders, experts and service users.

The report provides an overview of the current state of the mental health and care system, highlighting existing problems and makes a string of recommendations.

The recommendations fall under three tiers; the first is for the six NHS arm's length bodies to achieve the ambition of valuing mental health as equally as physical health.

The second tier outlines where wider action is needed, such as providing decent living environments, jobs and enabling mental health patients to have good quality relationships with their local communities.

The third tier focuses on tackling inequalities at local and national level.

NHS England publishes latest staff survey results

NHS England has published the results of the [NHS 2015 Staff Survey](#). The survey involved nearly 300,000 people, approximately a quarter of the permanent NHS workforce, and was carried out between September and December 2015.

Despite showing significant improvements in key areas such as staff engagement, employee health and wellbeing and prioritisation of patient care, it still reveals a number of challenges being faced such as stress, staffing levels and discrimination.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will analyse and examine the results as part of their ongoing work to ensure essential safety and quality standards are met.

Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England, said: "This feedback from 300,000 frontline NHS staff contains encouraging signs that the health service is steadily becoming a more supportive employer, but it also includes continuing warning signs about the importance of every employer tackling discrimination, bullying and harassment, supporting staff health and wellbeing, and giving staff the support they need to provide compassionate high quality care. The best NHS employers know that staff wellbeing and high quality patient care are two sides of the same coin."

Winterbourne View – Time for Change report launch

A new report, [Time for Change: The Challenge Ahead](#), has been published by the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations.

An original report, *Winterbourne View – Time for Change*, was published following the failure of the Government to address the abuse revealed by the Winterbourne View scandal. In this report, the author made recommendations for radical changes in the way people with learning disabilities were treated and cared for.

Subsequent proposals were made to deliver these changes to rectify the problems.

However, the new report reveals that the proposals were based on over-optimistic assumptions and demands the appointment of a Learning Disabilities Commissioner, whose role would be to promote and protect the rights of people with learning disabilities and or autism in England.

Evaluating mobile health apps for patient engagement

A [report](#) published by the Commonwealth Fund evaluates the findings of an analysis of smartphone apps targeting individuals with chronic illnesses and the extent of usefulness of these apps in patient engagement.

The authors also developed a framework consisting of a set of general criteria to evaluate apps on the basis of patient engagement, quality and safety. The criteria can be used when judging whether or not an app should be recommended to patients.

Air pollution, health and cancer – a new report calls for action

A report, [*Every breath we take*](#), has been published by experts from the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health highlighting the profound impacts of air pollution.

The report describes the dangerous effects of air pollution exposure on the risk of various diseases such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

It also sets out major reform proposals outlining action points for the public, policymakers and NHS England.

Breast cancer: proportion of women screened after their first invitation falls to decade low

New information released by the Health & Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) revealed that women who attend breast cancer screening after their first invite is at a decade low.

The [*Breast Screening Programme, England, 2014-15*](#) report shows that the proportion of women aged 50-70 screened for breast cancer after their first invite decreased to 63.3% in 2014/15, down from 70.1% in 2004/05.

Currently, eligible women will usually receive their first routine invitation for breast cancer screening between the ages of 50 and 53 and will normally be invited every three years until they are 70.

Shared delivery plan: 2015 to 2020

DH has published its [*Shared delivery plan: 2015 to 2020*](#).

DH has outlined its vision and commitment to provide the highest quality and most compassionate health and care services in the world. It will place a greater emphasis on safety and transparency. It will also focus as much on the prevention of poor health as it does on treating illness.

It then set out 10 objectives:

- improving out-of-hospital care;
- creating the safest, highest quality healthcare services;
- maintaining and improving performance against core standards while achieving financial balance;
- improving efficiency and productivity of the health and care system;
- preventing ill health and supporting people to live healthier lives;
- supporting research, innovation and growth;
- enabling people and communities to make decisions about their own health and care;
- building and developing the workforce;
- improving services through the use of digital technology, information and transparency; and
- delivering efficiently: supporting the system more efficiently.

The shared delivery plan has been jointly prepared with various other organisations such as NHS England, PHE, HSCIC and the CQC.

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