



June 2017

PSNC Briefing 042/17: 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.

Quarterly Monitoring Report: June 2017

The King's Fund has published the latest [Quarterly Monitoring Report](#) which reveals the views of NHS trust finance directors and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) finance leads on productivity challenges, and provides an update on key NHS performance data.

Key facts include:

- 43% of trust finance directors expect to overspend their budget in this financial year;
- 50% of CCG finance leads say that achieving this year's financial forecast is likely to depend on delaying or cancelling spending;
- during 2016/17 2.5 million patients spent longer than four hours in A&E, an increase of over 685,000 on the year before; and
- 362,000 patients waited longer than 18 weeks for hospital treatment in March 2017, an increase of almost 64,000 on the previous year.

The crisis in social care staffing – could more compatible flexibility be the answer?

Timewise has published a new [report](#) focussing on the practical actions needed to help social care providers address the reasons why care workers continuously leave their jobs at a disproportionately high rate. The report also contains a series of recommendations for industry care providers and policy makers to help improve recruitment and retain greater levels of staff, to improve the quality of care for clients.

The key constraints on providing jobs which are compatible with carers' responsibilities outside of work, highlighted in the report are:

- the unpredictability of rotas;
- the absence of slack in the system;
- unsociable hours;
- downtime in the middle of the working day; and
- the need to travel long distances between clients.

Adult inpatient survey 2016

The Care Quality Commission has published [Adult inpatient survey 2016](#), an analysis looking at the experiences of adult patients in hospital. The survey includes responses from 77,850 participants and took place during July 2016. The findings of the survey demonstrate that there have been some statistically significant improvements in a number of questions, which includes patients' perceptions of the quality of food, standards of hospital cleanliness and the quality of communication between medical professionals and patients.

The results also indicate that some questions had less positive responses, such as patients' perceptions of being involved in decisions about their care or treatment, information sharing when leaving hospital, waiting times, and support after leaving hospital.

BMA analysis shows that NHS patients endured one of the worst winters on record, with year-round crisis set to become the norm

The British Medical Association (BMA) has published new [analysis](#) which shows that last winter was one of the worst winters on record, with all key performance markers showing a health system that is struggling to cope with demand.

Key facts from the analysis include:

- the increase in delayed discharges is in part due to the growing inability to provide patients with the means to care for themselves at home;
- over the first three months of 2017, bed occupancy on general and acute wards was 91.4% which is the highest figure recorded;
- mental health bed occupancy at the end of the year was 89.7% which is the highest figure recorded;
- between November 2016 and March 2017, almost 20% of patients waited over four hours to be seen at major A&Es; and
- between the start of December 2016 and the middle of March 2017, 94 of 152 trusts issued major alerts on at least one day; two-thirds of the most serious alerts were issued by just ten trusts.

Minority of NHS commissioners making active use of Social Value Act

National Voices has published the [findings of research](#) it conducted relating to CCGs' state of readiness with regard to the Social Value Act, which requires commissioners to consider broader social, economic and environmental benefits to their area when making commissioning decisions. It was a response to the risk of competitive tendering focusing solely on cost at the expense of other forms of value.

Social Enterprise UK and National Voices submitted Freedom of Information (FoI) requests to gather information on how CCGs and their commissioning support units to assess how they are using the Act; responses were received from 91% of CCGs.

The research found that only 13% of CCGs can clearly show that they are actively committed to pursuing social value in their procurement and commissioning decisions.

Nuffield Trust Snapshots

The Nuffield Trust has published a [playlist](#) of one-minute 'snapshot' videos of experts discussing a wide range of key issues facing the NHS. Topics currently included are waiting times, finances, the growing and ageing population and how it impacts care as well as the impact of Brexit on staffing and NHS costs.

The playlist will be updated as new videos are added on.

Getting a Brexit deal that works for the NHS

The Nuffield Trust has published a [briefing](#) which examines the impact of Brexit on the NHS, and what it would take to get an effective Brexit deal for the NHS.

Key points in the briefing include:

- the NHS is depending on EU migrant nurses to prevent the serious problem of understaffing from getting even worse. There must be a commitment either to continue to allow substantial nurse migration after Brexit, or to step up domestic training, even if this proves more difficult and more expensive than current policies anticipate;

- social care faces a shortfall of as many as 70,000 workers by 2025/26 if net migration from the EU is halted after Brexit. Either substantial net migration from the EU will have to continue, or wages in the sector will need to rise to attract more domestic workers; and
- if all the British pensioners who currently receive health care in other countries through EU agreements had to return, caring for them would require the NHS to spend an extra £1 billion a year. This is twice as much as we pay for them to receive care abroad, and there would also be a need for extra beds equivalent to two new hospitals. Every step should be taken to try to secure a deal that allows them to keep receiving care where they now live.

Seven health innovations could save the NHS £18.5 billion

The International Longevity Centre has published a new [report](#) looking at the UK's progress with innovating to improve health outcomes and reduce costs to the NHS.

The report showcases seven innovations with a strong evidence base of success and calculates that a saving of £18.5 billion could be achieved for the NHS and £6.3 billion for the social care sector if they were implemented between 2015 – 2030. It concludes that the UK is often not doing enough to implement innovations despite being well placed to innovate.

NHS cancels thousands of child operations

The BMA has issued a [news story](#) which highlights that thousands of NHS hospital operations for children are being cancelled every year due to a lack of beds, staff and equipment.

The Labour Party submitted an FoI which revealed that in the last four years, there were at least 46,211 cancellations for operations and last year, 12,349 procedures which include operations to repair broken bones and tooth extractions were cancelled.

The BMA highlights that these figures are likely to significantly underestimate the true figure as the results of the FoI request only cover around half of NHS England's NHS hospital trusts.

Majority of GPs ready to close lists in workload protest

GPonline has released the [findings](#) of a poll it conducted on 583 GPs which reveal that 54% said they would be prepared to participate in a mass closure of patient lists to highlight the pressure facing general practice.

The finding comes after GP leaders at last month's LMC conference 2017 in Edinburgh backed a motion calling for the GPC to 'ballot GPs as to whether they would be prepared to collectively close their lists' in response to the crisis facing general practice.

Is general practice in crisis?

The King's Fund has published an [article](#) examining whether general practice is in crisis.

The article highlights that due to the increasing pressures on GPs, people are finding it more difficult to access their GPs. The increase in volume and intensity combined with the larger numbers retiring and leaving puts the profession in a recruitment and retention crisis.

The article elaborates on different possible causes whilst highlighting that the GP patient survey showed that public satisfaction with general practice remains high. Other contributing factors include the GP triage scheme in A&E departments and the lack of available GPs to staff the service.

Finally, the King's Fund's view is included before the article ends which is that workload in general practice has grown significantly but this has not been matched by growth in funding or workforce.

NHS Health Check quarterly statistics: June 2017

Public Health England (PHE) has published the [latest data](#) relating to NHS Health Checks from 152 local authorities (LAs) for January to March 2017 and cumulative data from April 2013 to March 2017.

The data shows that in the last quarter:

- 3% of the total eligible population were offered an NHS Health Check;
- 4% of the total eligible population received an NHS Health Check, meaning 55% of people who were offered an NHS Health Check received one; and
- during 2016/17, 49.9% of people offered an NHS Health Check received one.

NICE to work with partners on developing new ways to measure quality of life across health and social care

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has [announced](#) that it is taking part in a research project, *Extending the QALY*, which examines how quality of life measures used to evaluate healthcare treatments can be extended into social care and public health sectors.

It was believed that existing measures of health-related quality of life might not capture other aspects impacting quality of life beyond health interventions such as relationships with family or friends and emotional wellbeing.

The project began in May 2017 and will last two and a half years. During this time, the team will conduct interviews and surveys with patients, social care users, carers and the general public to explore what aspects of quality of life are important and identify the best questions to ask to measure quality of life.

Adult smoking habits in the UK: 2016

The Office for National Statistics and PHE have published a [statistical bulletin](#) with information on cigarette smoking among UK adults in 2016.

Key facts from the bulletin include:

- in 2016, of all adult survey respondents in the UK, 15.8% smoked which equates to around 7.6 million in the population;
- in the UK, 17.7% of men were current smokers in comparison to 14.1% of women;
- those aged 18 to 24 in the UK experienced the largest decline in smoking prevalence of 6.5% since 2010;
- among current smokers in Great Britain, on average men smoked 12 cigarettes daily whereas women smoked 11 cigarettes daily – some of the lowest levels observed since 1974; and
- in Great Britain, 5.6% of respondents in 2016 stated they currently used an e-cigarette in 2016.

Statistics on Smoking, England

NHS Digital has published a [statistical report](#) presenting a broad picture of health issues relating to smoking in England and covers topics such as smoking related ill health, prescription items for smoking cessation, smoking patterns, availability and affordability of tobacco and attitudes to smoking.

Key facts presented in the report include:

- in 2016, 15.5% of adults aged 18+ currently smoke, down from 19.9% in 2010;
- there were estimated to be around 474,000 hospital admissions attributable to smoking in 2015/16, an increase from 458,000 in 2005/06;
- there were estimated to be around 79,000 deaths attributable to smoking in 2015, 16% of all deaths;
- prevalence of e-cigarette use among 16 to 24 year olds increased from 2% in 2015 to 6% in 2016; and
- in 2016, tobacco was 27% less affordable than it was in 2006.

NHS Digital has also published [statistics](#) relating to women's smoking status at time of delivery, which show that 10.5% of pregnant women were known to be smokers at the time of delivery. This is down from 15.1% in 2006/07 and is the second consecutive year that the proportion has been below the national ambition of 11% – an ambition that 104 out of 209 CCGs met.

Lack of focus on health and wellbeing of children in majority of STPs 'major cause for concern'

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has published a report, [The state of Child Health: STP](#), which highlights that the majority of [Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships](#) (STPs) are failing to take into account the needs of infants, children and young people.

The report is based on a review of the 44 published STPs and highlights that:

- the majority of STPs do not demonstrate appreciation of the life-long impact of poor health on childhood;
- to date, STPs have not demonstrated that they have met their statutory duties to engage with children, young people and their families, including vulnerable and hard to reach groups, and those with complex needs and disabilities. There has also been limited engagement to date with paediatricians and other child health clinicians; and
- STPs do not make clear how workforce shortages will be addressed, as data shows that the number of hospital admissions for children in England has risen by 25% between 2013/14 and 2015/16.

Tuberculosis (TB): regional and devolved administration reports

PHE has [published](#) the annual regional reports for the epidemiology of tuberculosis during 2015. It is aimed at healthcare professionals involved in the diagnosis and/or treatment of TB patients, commissioners and public health professionals.

NHS Expenditure briefing

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing](#) which focusses on expenditure on the NHS since it was created in 1948, a summary of the structure of the NHS and how it is financed.

Type 2 diabetes prevention programme

NHS England has [announced](#) that the [NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme](#) (DPP) has now gone live in [13 new areas](#) to patients identified at risk of developing type 2 diabetes as part of NHS DPP wave 2.

Wave 2 areas will cover another 25% of the population, with an estimated 130,000 referrals and up to 50,000 additional places made available thanks to the expansion. Funding has also been agreed for another 12 months in the 27 sites currently up and running.

To mark Diabetes week, NHS England has produced an [animation](#) following a fictional character's journey on discovering he was at risk of type 2 diabetes and how the NHS DPP has helped him on his journey to becoming healthier and reducing his risk of getting the condition.

Child and maternal health data and intelligence: a guide for health professionals

PHE has made available a [guidance page](#) on their website which explains how healthcare professionals, service planners and commissioners can use child and maternal health data and intelligence to help inform decisions about services and outcomes.

New report highlights ways the independent sector is working with the NHS to reduce delayed discharges of care

NHS Confederation has published an [article](#) which explains how innovative partnerships across the country have helped tackle delayed transfers of care in the NHS. They are used as examples to demonstrate what can be done when the expertise and innovation of the NHS and independent sector is combined.

The article discusses two partnerships:

1. Healthcare at Home's Recovery at Home and Admission Avoidance service, which allows patients to receive complex clinical care in their home via 'virtual wards', rather than as inpatients in a hospital; and
2. Four Seasons' Health Care which works with 100 LAs and 120 CCGs, operating a discharge-to-assess service as well as rehabilitation and intermediate care.

More A&E funding to help hospitals prepare for winter

The Department of Health has [announced](#) that 27 hospitals in England have been allocated a further £20.74 million as part of the dedicated funding announced in the Spring Budget to ensure A&Es are prepared for additional winter demands. This follows an initial £55.98 million given to 70 hospitals in April.

The funding will enable hospitals to 'stream' patients when they arrive in A&E by a clinician and to build GP practices within A&E units where patients with less urgent needs can receive treatment.

Project unveils 25 years of lifestyle changes

NHS Digital has made available a new [tool](#) which shows how people in England's smoking, drinking and dietary habits have changed over the last 25 years in a user-friendly format.

The interactive portal will also chart when some major health policy or legislation came into effect which allows users to see the direct effects of such changes. It will chart changes across a total of seven key health and lifestyle indicators and can be broken down into different age groups or gender.

Health behaviour in school age children (HBSC): data analysis

PHE has published an [analysis](#) which explores the different factors in a young person's life which may have an effect on their mental health. The analysis features three reports that focus on self-harm, cyberbullying and the emotional wellbeing of adolescent girls.

Key facts identified in the reports include:

- 22% of 15-year-olds reported that they had ever self-harmed;
- nearly three times as many girls as boys reported that they had self-harmed (32% of girls compared to 11% of boys);
- self-harming behaviour was found to be more prevalent among young people living in one-parent households;
- girls scored lower for life satisfaction than boys and gender difference increased with age;
- 9% of 11-15 year olds reported being cyberbullied. This compares to 32% having experienced face-to-face bullying; and
- girls were twice as likely as boys to report being cyberbullied.

What impact will Brexit have on the health and social care workforce?

The King's Fund has published an [article](#) which outlines the different ways in which Brexit could affect the health and social care workforce.

Key issues identified in the article are:

- approximately 60,000 of the 1.2 million NHS workforce are from other European Union (EU) countries, including more than 10,000 doctors and more than 20,000 nurses and health visitors;
- in adult social care, 90,000 of the 1.3 million workers employed by LA and independent sector employers come from the EU;
- the number of EU nationals registering as nurses in the UK has fallen by 96% since the referendum; and
- securing the rights of EU nationals working in the NHS should be a top priority in the Brexit negotiations.

NHS England to invest in building the right support for people with a learning disability

NHS England has [announced](#) a £10 million investment to help patients with a learning disability, autism, or both lead more independent lives.

The funding will support fourteen local Transforming Care Partnerships – made up of NHS organisations, LAs and NHS England commissioners, working closely with people who use services, their families and providers – to develop new, high-quality, community services for people in their area.

New models of care in practice

NHS Providers has published an [article](#) which showcases a series of case studies of new models of care in practice.

The nine case studies highlighted are:

- Better Care Together (Morecambe Bay);
- Connecting Care – Wakefield District;
- East Midlands Radiology Consortium;
- Wellbeing Erewash;
- Mid Nottinghamshire Better Together;
- North East Hampshire and Farnham vanguard;
- Royal Free London;
- Tower Hamlets Together; and
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG.

Launch of new toolkit to help healthcare professionals measure their impact on the public's health

The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) in collaboration with PHE has published a toolkit which aims to help healthcare professionals record and measure their impact on public health.

The publication, [*Everyday Interactions*](#), focusses on four of the key healthcare professions including nurses and midwives, dentists, allied health professionals and pharmacists. The impact pathways produced in *Everyday Interactions* will support healthcare professionals to record what they 'do' in their interactions with individuals, what data can be collated and also the possible impacts from these interactions.

The key recommendations made in the toolkit are:

- healthcare professionals to start to record and measure the impact of brief interventions;
- Health Education England, employers and professional bodies to invest in training for healthcare professionals in [*Making Every Contact Count*](#)/brief interventions;
- individual healthcare professionals to increase the number of public health priorities that they invest in; and
- NHS England to build recording of brief intervention activities into electronic records.

Let festival-goers and clubbers test their drugs to reduce harm

The RSPH has published an [article](#) calling on drug testing facilities to be made available on all music festivals where drug use is common in order to minimise the risk of serious health harm as a result of recreational drug use.

The RSPH also believes that drug testing facilities should be provided in city centre nightlife areas with clubs as a standard feature in response to a recent increase in deaths related to the use of recreational 'club drugs'.

A breath of fresh air: smokefree workplaces 10 years on

The Local Government Association has published a [report](#) looking at the impact of the ban on smoking in public places, ten years after the ban was introduced.

Key facts in the report include:

- in the mid-1970s nearly half of people smoked but by the time the smoking ban was introduced, that had dropped to just over 20%;
- the proportion of secondary-school pupils trying smoking has also halved to 18% since the introduction of the ban;
- in the five months following the legislation, 19% of smokers who made a quit attempt reported they had done so in response to the smoke-free law; and
- NHS stop smoking services also reported a 23% increase in quit attempts translating to a 22% increase in the number of people who were not smoking four weeks later.

PHE resources on adult weight management services

PHE has published a [series of resources](#) focussing on tier 2 adult weight management services aimed at LAs, CCGs and NHS institutions.

The resources are:

- *A guide to commissioning and delivering tier 2 adult weight management services;*
- *Qualitative opportunities into user experiences of tier 2 and tier 3 weight management services;*
- *Capturing data: a tool to collect and record adult weight management service data;*
- *Let's talk about weight: a step-by-step guide to brief interventions with adult for health and care professionals* (with an accompanying infographic); and
- *Changing behaviour: techniques for tier 2 adult weight management services.*

Healthy living: mosques

A new [guide](#) has been published by PHE West Midlands, in partnership with Birmingham City Council and KIKIT – Pathways to Recovery, intended to support mosques in their work to improve health of people and to prevent illness in their locality.

The guide contains a series of recommendations and demonstrates how they link to teachings of the Islamic faith with case study examples from local mosques. A self-assessment checklist is also included in the guide to encourage reflection on current initiatives, identify gaps, recognise achievement and development of future projects.

A Healthy State of Mind: improving young people's mental fitness

Localis has published a [report](#) which focusses on the mental health system for children and young people and calls for its reform. The report makes six key recommendations on how the quality of mental health support offered to young people can be improved.

Key facts identified in the report include:

- an estimated 60% of GP referrals to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are inappropriate and between 21-29% of young people referred to CAMHS overall are inappropriately referred;
- 22% of appointments in CAMHS were not completed in 2014/15, either through cancellation or not being attended by the child or young person; and
- 58% of CCG areas are not on course to hit their target of treating 25% of young people who have a clinically diagnosable mental health condition.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs): annual data tables

PHE has published [figures](#) relating to STI diagnoses and sexual health services in England.

Key facts include:

- in 2016, there were approximately 420,000 diagnoses of STIs in England:
 - 49% were chlamydia;
 - 15% were genital warts;
 - 9% were gonorrhoea; and
 - 27% were other STIs;
- there was a 9% decline in chlamydia tests and a 2% decline in chlamydia diagnoses reported in young people aged 15-24 years between 2015 and 2016;
- compared to those aged 25-59 years, STI diagnosis rates in 15-24 year olds are twice as high in men and seven times as high in women; and
- overall, the largest proportional increase in STI diagnoses between 2015 and 2016 was reported for syphilis (12% increase).

NHSCC and NHS England publish report on lay members and NED involvement in STPs

NHS Clinical Commissioners (NHSCC) and NHS England have published a [report](#) on the role of law member and non-executive directors (NEDs) in STPs.

The report is based on regional workshops that were held and reflects on the discussions that took place during the workshops such as the importance of governance and accountability and developing working relationships across STP footprints. Good practice case studies are featured in the report as well as recommendations for NHS England and NHS Improvement.

Provider voices: Where next for commissioning?

NHS Providers has published a report, [Provider voices: Where next for commissioning?](#), the first in a series aimed at promoting the views of leaders of trust and other parts of the service on key NHS issues.

The report is based on interviews to address concerns including the role of STPs and Accountable Care Systems, the challenge of integrating health and care commissioning, and the future of the purchaser-provider split.

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