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## **Current Awareness Bulletin August 2023**

This current awareness bulletin is produced by the Evidence Service team at Public Health Wales. The focus is on grey literature\* and items are selected from searching the websites of a range of UK organizations, a selection of European sources and the World Health Organization. The aim is to highlight newly published key documents and information relevant to public health. Enquiries about this bulletin should be sent to: [evidence.service@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:evidence.service@wales.nhs.uk)

Inclusion of items in this bulletin is not an endorsement.

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\* Grey literature refers to both published and unpublished research material that's not available commercially i.e., not published in journals or indexed by bibliographic databases.

### **Ambulance services and integrated care systems: lessons for effective collaboration.**

Sansum, J; Perrin, I. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/system/files/2023-08/ambulance-services-and-integrated-care-systems%3A-lessons-for-effective-collaboration--%285998%29.pdf>

Key points:

- England's ten ambulance trusts occupy a unique position in serving large health populations, each spanning footprints of multiple integrated care systems. In the context of system working and place-based models of care, ambulance trusts are negotiating emerging systems within their geographic remit, adopting new ways of working to meet the needs of diverse systems across the populations they serve.
- With the move away from clinical commissioning groups to the new integrated care system framework, many want to see a rethink in how systems engage with their ambulance trusts to ensure co-design and co-production from their services as part of a holistic strategy for population health.
- To support this, we interviewed a range of NHS leaders from both integrated care boards and ambulance services to explore how they might evolve their relationship, and to examine the principles that underpin effective and practical collaboration.
- Interviewees identified four key priorities for effective collaboration: thinking creatively about the role of the ambulance service; focusing on data sharing; fostering cultures of collaborative planning; and nurturing relationships.
- By focusing on these four areas, system and ambulance service leaders can design arrangements and relationships that deliver vast improvements to their population's health in the years ahead.
- Interviewees made practical recommendations for national and local partners about how this can be achieved. These include expediting the implementation of Provider Selection Regime; where appropriate, developing multi-ICB governance structures; and considering how ambulance service data can be used at neighbourhood, place, system, regional and national levels to maximise its impact.

### **Anticipating and managing the impact of change. Green, clean and keen to converge? A convergence analysis of environmental quality of life in the EU.** Mizsei, B; et al. Dublin: Eurofound; 2023.

URL:

[https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef\\_publication/field\\_ef\\_document/ef23022en.pdf](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef23022en.pdf)

In order to explore the multifaceted issue of environmental quality of life in the EU, the report investigates environmental indicators through a convergence analysis. The results suggest that the EU is on the right track to becoming carbon neutral, although the speed of the greening process varies among the Member States. A fast and steady improvement in performance can be seen for most of the indicators. One noteworthy finding is that the economic downturns of the past two decades negatively affected the household level indicators examined, which focused on energy poverty.

### **Clinical management of COVID-19: Living guideline, 18 August 2023.** World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1525057/retrieve>

The WHO COVID-19 Clinical management: living guidance contains the most up-to-date recommendations for the clinical management of people with COVID-19. Providing guidance that is comprehensive and holistic for the optimal care of COVID-19 patients throughout their entire illness is important.

### **Deaths of children and young people due to traumatic incidents: vehicle collisions, drownings, violence and maltreatment and unintentional Injuries.** Williams, T; et al. Bristol: NCMD; 2023.

URL: [https://www.ncmd.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/NCMD\\_Trauma-Thematic-Report.pdf](https://www.ncmd.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/NCMD_Trauma-Thematic-Report.pdf)

This report includes child deaths as a result of vehicle collisions, drowning, violence or maltreatment, fire, burns or electrocution, falls, falling objects, drug or alcohol poisoning (excluding deaths as a result of deliberate overdose), animal

attacks, choking or foreign object consumption/inhalation, accidental suffocation or strangulation, and any other traumatic injuries. A full description of these categories, and limitations of this report are described in Methodology and Limitations.

**Empowering youth in health emergencies: an implementation tool.** World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1524769/retrieve>

Young people are critical agents for change in their active participation and engagement in health emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Between January and March 2023, the most recent work on youth engagement in health and humanitarian emergencies carried out by the WHO European Regional Office was reviewed to inform an implementation tool that offers practice-based tips for national and local health authorities, United Nations agencies, youth-serving organizations and other interested organizations on how to involve youth in all stages of emergencies. Strategies to develop this implementation tool included discussions with WHO experts at global, regional and national level carried out in February 2023. Further, a content analysis to identify themes that emerged was analysed, summarized and reported. As a result, the present implementation tool offers practice-based tips on how to meaningfully involve youth in emergency preparedness, readiness, response and recovery.

**Exploring and understanding the VCSE sector in provider collaboratives.** Binks, V; Cunnett, J. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/system/files/2023-08/Report-Exploring-and-understanding-VCSE-sector-in-provider-collaboratives.pdf>

Insights into the unique offer the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector has to support provider collaboratives. The aim of the project, commissioned by NHSE, was to gather insight, elicit learning and share examples of collaboration in action.

**Glasgow communities of colour failed by employability services and workplace racism.** Yaqoob, T; Shahnaz, I. York: JRF; 2023.

URL: [https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/60068/download?token=dXMSI\\_vT&filetype=full-report](https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/60068/download?token=dXMSI_vT&filetype=full-report)

Labour market inequality is driving poverty for those in minority ethnic communities in Scotland. This report looks at the experience of people from those communities directed by people from the same communities. It exposes a distressing picture of life at work and a disappointing one about the support to access work. The situation demands action from local and Scottish Government but also from employers. Kind words and strategy need to come off the page and start making a real impact.

**Guidance for local areas on planning to deal with potent synthetic opioids.** Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fentanyl-preparing-for-a-future-threat/guidance-for-local-areas-on-planning-to-deal-with-fentanyl-or-another-potent-opioid>

Incident planning for potent synthetic opioids arriving into the illicit drug market.

**Guidance on developing national COVID-19 vaccination policy and integrating COVID-19 vaccination into national immunization programmes and broader health care delivery mechanisms in the WHO European Region: August 2023.** World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1523726/retrieve>

The epidemiological situation of COVID-19 has evolved considerably over the past three years, with the emergence of new variants and the development of population-level immunity due to vaccination, infection-induced immunity or both (hybrid immunity). While SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to circulate, the third year of the pandemic has seen a marked reduction in rates of hospitalization, admission to ICU and deaths across all age groups, globally. Certain population groups continue to be at greater risk of severe disease. Aligned with the updated recommendations from the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), this document outlines considerations for the countries of the WHO European Region in developing their national COVID-19 vaccination policy, and planning, implementing and monitoring integration of COVID-19 vaccination into national immunization programmes and broader health systems. The efforts of the countries to integrate COVID-19 vaccination within their broader health systems will lay the grounds to operationalize the strategic priority of life-course vaccination of the European Immunization Agenda 2030.

**How do the public and NHS staff feel about virtual wards?** Thornton, N; Horton, T; Hardie, T. London: Health Foundation ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/how-do-the-public-and-nhs-staff-feel-about-virtual-wards>

NHS England's *Delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency services* commits to an expansion of virtual wards (also known as 'hospital at home'), and there are similar commitments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In March 2023, the Health Foundation commissioned a survey of 7,100 nationally representative members of the public (aged 16 years and older) and 1,251 NHS staff members to explore what people think about virtual wards and what factors will be important for making sure they work well.

**Immunisation inequalities. Data and information sources.** UK Health Security Agency. London: UKHSA; 2023.

URL: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1168428/immunisation-inequalities-data-and-information-sources.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1168428/immunisation-inequalities-data-and-information-sources.pdf)

This report covers data and information sources to measure inequalities in immunisation, developed to support the national strategy addressing inequalities in immunisation.

**Living conditions and quality of life. Social services in Europe: Adapting to a new reality.** Buitrago, M; et al. Luxembourg: Eurofound; 2023.

URL: [https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef\\_publication/field\\_ef\\_document/ef22007en.pdf](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef22007en.pdf)

This report addresses the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on social services in the EU. While the pandemic negatively affected social services, it nevertheless provided lessons on how to adapt them in response to new challenges and social risks. One lesson, for instance, is that policies should be developed to make better use of digitalisation in the sector, to improve access to new technologies and training for both workers and services' target groups. And, most importantly, there is a need for clear contingency plans and funding for adaptation in times of crisis. An increase in public expenditure on social protection, healthcare and education was a critical part of the pandemic response. However, there is uncertainty about the future development of social services in the context of the overarching policy interest and investment in the green and digital transition. This implies that the contribution of social services to the resilience of European societies needs to remain in the policy debate and that policies should be further fine-tuned.

**Major conditions strategy: case for change and our strategic framework.** Department of Health and Social Care. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/major-conditions-strategy-case-for-change-and-our-strategic-framework/major-conditions-strategy-case-for-change-and-our-strategic-framework--2>

This major conditions strategy begins with one question: how should our approach to health and care delivery evolve to improve outcomes and better meet the needs of our population, which is becoming older and living with multimorbidity? There are 6 groups of conditions to focus on: cancers, cardiovascular disease (CVD) (including stroke and diabetes), musculoskeletal disorders (MSK), mental ill health, dementia, and chronic respiratory disease (CRD). [One in 4 adults has at least 2 health conditions](#). The conditions they are focusing on together account for over 60% of ill health and early death in England. Improving outcomes in each of these areas would transform the lives of millions of people and fulfil the UK government's aims to increase healthy life expectancy and reduce ill-health related labour market inactivity. This strategic framework sets out our approach to addressing the challenge over the life course. It is not the full answer, but a framework for change. It begins by focusing on how we bear down on the principal lifestyle drivers of ill-health and disease, such as obesity and smoking. Almost everyone recognises that the hardest yards but biggest gains are found in primary prevention - and so we set out several things we want to do now, and several priority areas for ongoing development ahead of publishing the final strategy.

**Pouring over public opinion: Alcohol policies in the UK.** Alcohol Health Alliance UK. London: Alcohol Health Alliance UK ; 2023.

URL: <https://ahauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Pouring-over-public-opinion-Alcohol-Policies-in-the-UK-FINAL.pdf>

This Alcohol Health Alliance (AHA) report analyses recent public opinion polling data, carried out by YouGov Ltd. on behalf of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). It shares insights into how the public currently view action on alcohol, and what public

support there is for policies to tackle alcohol harm. It also sets out our 'AHA Manifesto' for policymakers, which centres around four focus areas that would have the biggest collective impact on alcohol harm: 1. Protect children and support people impacted by alcohol harm 2. Empower individuals and build thriving communities 3. Strengthen the NHS and frontline services 4. Preserve the public purse.

**Prevention in health and social care: vaccination.** House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee. London: House of Commons; 2023.

URL: <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41050/documents/199887/default/>

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has adopted recommendations made by the WHO that at least 95% of children should be immunised against vaccine-preventable diseases.

**Public health and climate change: a One Health approach.** Wolmuth-Gordon, H; Mutebi, N. London: POST; 2023.

URL: <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0701/POST-PN-0701.pdf>

This report summarises how the One Health approach can be used to tackle key impacts of climate change and threats to public health. It outlines the key features, challenges, and opportunities of implementation. This briefing takes a global perspective on implementing the approach, with areas of focus on UK policy.

**Risk factors for the development of mental illnesses: An agile scope of the literature.** Okolie, C; Morgan, H. Cardiff: Public Health Wales NHS Trust; 2023.

URL: <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/observatory/evidence/evidence-documents/mh-agile-scope-2023/>

The lead consultant in mental wellbeing for Public Health Wales requested the Public Health Wales Evidence Service to undertake a series of scoping reports on prevention of mental health inequalities. This scoping report provides an overview of the available secondary evidence on the risk factors for predicting the development of diagnosable mental illnesses.

**Scaling innovation within healthcare systems: practical considerations.** NHS Confederation. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/system/files/2023-08/Scaling-innovation-within-healthcare-systems-practical-considerations-FNL.pdf>

This guide is based on extensive research and interviews with NHS Confederation members. It identifies learning from case studies that have successfully adopted and scaled innovation. Each section highlights key issues to consider when adopting or scaling a proven innovation, to help ensure success.

**The asylum in-tray in 2025.** Morris, M. London: IPPR; 2023.

URL: <https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-08/asylum-in-tray-aug23.pdf>

This report makes clear is that there is no scope for asylum policy to be side-lined after the next election. While it may be tempting for the government to focus on other priorities, given the multiple challenges facing the UK, without urgent action the asylum system will be fall into a still deeper crisis. Whoever forms the next government, asylum will have to be a priority in the early days of the new parliament.

**The neglected pollutants: the effects of artificial light and noise on human health.** UK Parliament Lords Select Committee. London: House of Lords; 2023.

URL: <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/40937/documents/199438/default/>

This report focuses on the health effects of chronic exposure to environmental light and noise. The scope of our inquiry is effects on human health and the significant evidence for impacts on non-human animals. Our report first considers the scientific evidence for these health impacts and then the Government's overall policies on light and noise pollution.

**WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2023: protect people from tobacco smoke.** World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1523141/retrieve>

The report shows that many countries continue to make progress in the fight against tobacco, but efforts must be accelerated to protect people from the harms of tobacco and second-hand smoke. Includes a link to the updated Tobacco Fact Sheet.

**Winter respiratory vaccination programme: autumn and winter 2023 to 2024.** Welsh Government. WG; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-08/winter-respiratory-vaccination-programme-autumn-and-winter-2023-to-2024.pdf>

This is a Welsh Health Circular on winter respiratory vaccinations programme in Wales.