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Bwletin Ymwybyddiaeth Gyfredol Hydref 2023

Cynhyrchir y bwletin ymwybyddiaeth cyfredol hwn gan dîm Gwasanaeth Tystiolaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru. Mae'r ffocws ar lenyddiaeth lwyd* a dewisir eitemau o chwilio gwefannau amrywiaeth o sefydliadau yn y DU, detholiad o ffynonellau Ewropeaidd a Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd. Y nod yw tynnu sylw at ddogfennau a gwybodaeth allweddol sydd newydd eu cyhoeddi sy'n berthnasol i iechyd y cyhoedd. Dylid anfon ymholiadau am y bwletin hwn at: evidence.service@wales.nhs.uk

Nid yw cynnwys eitemau yn y bwletin hwn yn gymeradwyaeth.

* Mae llenyddiaeth lwyd yn cyfeirio at ddeunydd ymchwil cyhoeddedig a heb ei gyhoeddi nad yw ar gael yn fasnachol, h.y. heb ei gyhoeddi mewn cyfnodolion neu wedi'i fynegeo gan gronfeydd data llyfryddol.

A rising State Pension age will leave people who are out of work due to ill health at greater risk of poverty and worsening health. Finch, D; Vreind, M. London: Health Foundation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/a-rising-state-pension-age-will-leave-people-who-are-out-of-work-due-to-ill-health-at-greater-risk-of-poverty-and-worsening-health>

The existing policy approach to increasing State Pension age in the UK, alongside a lack of action to address the relatively high numbers of people out of the labour market due to ill health, risks pushing more people into hardship. The State Pension and Pension Credit provide a relatively effective safety net for pensioners compared with working-age support. The Universal Credit standard allowance for a single working-age person aged 25 years or older is equivalent to £85 per week, rising to £174 per week for those deemed unable to work due to ill health. This compares to £201 per week for a single person on Pension Credit. Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. It brings your weekly income up to a minimum amount of £201. However, we are losing sight of a group of people with ill health, without work and approaching State Pension age. This 'lost cohort' are at risk of poverty, hardship and a consequential worsening of their health. People reaching State Pension age from April 2026 will have up to an extra year's wait to receive their State Pension due to the gradual increase of State Pension age from April 2026 to 67 years of age by 2028.

Addressing the leading risk factors for ill health – a framework for local government action. McGeoch, L; et al. London: Health Foundation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/risk-factors>

This briefing aims to support local authorities in England to maximise their local scope for action to improve health and tackle inequalities by addressing tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy food. We set out the scale of health impacts associated with these risk factors, outline the roles of national and local government in addressing these challenges and provide a framework to support local authorities to take ambitious population-level action. To support the framework's implementation, we include examples of approaches taken by different councils and identify relevant supporting legislation.

Anticipating and managing the impact of change. Fit for 55 climate package: Impact on EU employment by 2030. Fragkiadakis, K; et al. Luxembourg: Eurofound; 2023.

URL: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/publications/2023/fit-55-climate-package-impact-eu-employment-2030>

One of the core strategic objectives of the EU is to ensure that Europe becomes the first climate-neutral continent, with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To achieve this objective, EU policymakers adopted the Fit for 55 policy package in 2021, which contained more ambitious intermediate decarbonisation objectives aimed at reaching a 55% emission reduction target by 2030. In this report, we provide projections from a global macroeconomic model of how this complex policy package may affect the sectoral and occupational structure of employment in the EU by 2030, and the impacts across different regions and countries. A core finding is that the employment impacts of Fit for 55 are likely to be marginally positive at EU aggregate level but will vary across countries, regions and sectors based on their reliance on carbon-intensive industries on the one hand and their readiness to take advantage of greening opportunities on the other.

Artificial intelligence for public value creation. Introducing three policy pillars for the UK AI summit. Jung, C; Desikan, DS. London: IPPR; 2023.

URL: <https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-10/ai-for-public-value-creation-oct23.pdf>

In this paper, they argue that - if the right economic framework is set - advanced AI can help solve intractable problems and increase prosperity. But this rests on policymakers developing an industrial strategy for AI, and beginning to put in place a robust regulatory architecture akin to the model of financial regulation. Only in this way can risks be managed and public value be created.

Digital technologies for delivering specialist weight-management services to manage weight-management medicine: early value assessment. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. London: NICE ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/hte14>

Early value assessment (EVA) guidance on digital technologies for delivering specialist weight-management services to manage weight-management medicine.

Global research agenda on health, migration and displacement: strengthening research and translating research priorities into policy and practice. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373659/9789240082397-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

This publication sets out five research themes to be addressed over the next five years. It also includes an Implementation Guide and Toolkit for other actors to adapt and expand upon the research agenda at regional, national and local levels. It provides a roadmap to strengthen global research collaborations and calls for urgent investment in research and the translation of evidence into policy and practice to support leaders at all levels in creating inclusive and responsive health care systems for migrants, refugees and other displaced populations.

Growing up inside: Understanding the key health care issues for young people in young offender institutions and prisons. Davies, M; Hutchings, R; Keeble, E. London: Nuffield Foundation; 2023.

URL: https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/Nuffield%20Trust%20-%20Growing%20up%20inside_WEB.pdf

Serious challenges remain over the health and care of children in young offender institutions, as well as for younger people in prisons across the country. This Nuffield Trust analysis shows missed appointments and admissions relating to violent incidents or self-harm are far more common among younger people in prisons, while support within the system for people with neurodivergent conditions remains a concern, with diagnoses of ADHD associated with higher hospital admissions for violence among young adult males.

Impact of ultra-processed food on children's health. House of Lords Library. London: House of Lords Library; 2023.

URL: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/impact-of-ultra-processed-food-on-childrens-health/>

Ultra-processed foods have undergone a high degree of industrial processing and are typically high in calories, salt, saturated fat and sugar. Studies have linked these foods to obesity and other health risks. The government has expressed its concern over these potential links but has stated that the underlying causes are not yet fully understood. Therefore, government policy has focused on reducing the consumption of foods high in salt, saturated fat and sugar.

Living conditions and quality of life. Bridging the rural-urban divide: Addressing inequalities and empowering communities. Mascherini, M; et al. Luxembourg: Eurofound; 2023.

URL: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/publications/2021/bridging-rural-urban-divide-addressing-inequalities-and-empowering-communities>

This report documents rural-urban differences in social, political, cultural and economic outcomes. These differences may pose a serious threat to social cohesion in Europe. Indeed, this report finds that rural residents more often perceive themselves as disregarded by governments and have lower levels of trust in governments and institutions than urban residents. Moreover, public service provision in rural areas is poorer than in urban areas, and gaps in provision are continually emerging. To ensure a bright future for all areas, innovative solutions to combat economic decline must be found. This report outlines creative solutions that are being deployed across Member States to provide services in remote areas.

Policy brief on tuberculosis associated disability. Global Tuberculosis Programme. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373679/9789240077799-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

The policy brief presents the current perspectives on TB-associated disability and approaches to improving health-related quality of life during TB treatment as well as beyond completion of treatment; and aims at increasing awareness and mobilizing support for protecting human rights and improving health-related quality of life and well-being of people affected with TB.

Poverty in Scotland 2023. Birt, C; et al. York: JRF ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/60138/download?token=i6vjXDd1&filetype=full> -report

With the Scottish Government still off-track in meeting the child poverty reduction targets, action to reverse the trend of increasing levels of in-work poverty is more vital than ever. Women, disabled people and minority ethnic people in particular are at the eye of a storm of persistent low pay, unreliable and insufficient hours and a struggle to make ends meet. Of course, there are actions government can, and should, take to respond, but employers must hold up their end of the bargain in ensuring work is the sustainable route out of poverty that it should be.

Promoting physical activity for older people: a toolkit for action. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373332/9789240076648-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

This ACTIVE toolkit provides evidence-based guidance on the key approaches to promote and enable older people to be physically active, regardless of who they are, where they live, or their intrinsic capacities (for example their visual or cognitive abilities) or whether they live with chronic conditions (for example, diabetes, hypertension, and arthritis). It is designed to support all countries at national and subnational levels (particularly low- and middle-income countries with limited resources) to ensure that environments and settings support older people to be active, and that they provide physical activity services and programmes tailored to the needs, preferences and goals of all older people.

Self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health and rights to advance universal health coverage: 2023 joint statement by HRP, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA and the World Bank. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373301/9789240081727-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

According to the latest available data, over half of the world's population lack access to essential health services, and health worker shortages are estimated to reach 10 million by 2030. These contextual factors point to an urgent need to explore innovative strategies – that go beyond a conventional health-sector response – for reaching people with the health services they need. Self-care interventions offer huge potential to enhance individual agency and reduce health inequities by increasing the availability of accessible, acceptable and affordable health-care options that are in addition to and can complement services and care received at a healthcare facility. As we reach the half-way mark towards the end of the 15-year Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) period, and we look at the challenges facing the world, we need to embrace potentially transformative solutions. WHO recommends self-care interventions for every country and economic setting, as critical tools on a path to improve primary health care, reach universal health coverage (UHC), promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation. Her Majesty's Government. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stopping-the-start-our-new-plan-to-create-a-smokefree-generation/stopping-the-start-our-new-plan-to-create-a-smokefree-generation>

This paper sets out ambitious proposals to prohibit the sale of tobacco products for future generations, a wider package of measures to support current smokers to quit alongside action to curb the rise in youth vaping.

Supporting general practice at scale: fit for 2024/25 and beyond. Primary Care Network. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/system/files/2023-10/Supporting-general-practice-at-scale-fit-for-202425-and-beyond.pdf>

This report summarises the key findings from our engagement with Primary Care Network members on the state of general practice and primary care more broadly. Through this work we have identified local innovators breaking down barriers and untapped potential in integrated working, as well as bureaucracy slowing down improvements and variation in the parity of esteem between primary care and other system partners. • As a result, we have identified a set of tangible recommendations for the upcoming GP and primary care network (PCN) contracts for 2024/25 and a series of non-contractual recommendations that we believe will enable general practice and at-scale primary care to best deliver for patients in the short and medium term.

Tuberculosis action plan for the WHO European Region, 2023–2030. World Health Organization. Copenhagen: WHO ; 2023.

URL: https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373409/9789289060240_eng.pdf?sequence=1

Tuberculosis (TB) and particularly drug-resistant TB continue to represent major public health threats in the WHO European Region. This document details the Tuberculosis action plan for the WHO European Region 2023–2030 as well as its monitoring and evaluation framework and outlines the vision and strategic actions for the TB response in the Region for this period. Developed through a Region-wide participatory consultation process, the TB action plan aims to support Member States to implement their national responses to the TB epidemic and provides strategies to enable the Region to reach the global End TB Strategy targets as well as aligning to the priorities of the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”.

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence: progress against the blueprint high level action plan 2023. Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2023/10/2/1698743907/progress-against-blueprint-high-level-action-plan-2023.pdf>

The Blueprint supports a partnership approach to delivery against our National VAWDASV Strategic objectives. It seeks to influence policy and service developments, shaped by survivors, evidence, and best practice. The Welsh Government Policy team will continue to work on its ongoing responsibilities, providing funding to Regional Boards and specialist services, and working to build on good practice to support women and girls who experience domestic abuse and sexual violence.