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Bwletin Ymwybyddiaeth Gyfredol Medi 2023

Cynhyrchir y bwletin ymwybyddiaeth cyfredol hwn gan dîm Gwasanaeth Tystiolaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru. Mae'r ffocws ar lenyddiaeth lwyd* a dewisir eitemau drwy 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 new framework for tackling poverty. The interim report of the Poverty Strategy Commission. Poverty Strategy Commission. London: PSC; 2023.

URL: <https://povertystrategycommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PSC-Framework-Report-230831-Web-FINAL-revised.pdf>

The Commission's Interim Report summarises the findings of the Commission's work since 2022. The overall rate of poverty in the UK has remained stubbornly high, a third of children are in poverty and 7% of the population is in deep poverty. Deep poverty has become more prevalent and there has been little progress in closing the resilience gaps in outcomes like health, education, family stability and labour market opportunities experienced by people in poverty.

A snapshot of poverty in summer 2023. Bevan Foundation. Merthyr Tydfil: Bevan Foundation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.bevanfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Snapshot-of-poverty-in-summer-2023.pdf>

This report, the sixth published as part of the Snapshot series, finds that there has been no major improvements in people's living standards across Wales since the last Snapshot survey in January 2023. More than one in seven households in Wales (15 per cent) sometimes, often or always struggle to afford essential items.

A strategy for the care workforce. Trade Union Congress. London: TUC; 2023.

URL: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/a-strategy-for-the-care-workforce-23.pdf>

TUC analysis shows that across the UK care workers are earning below the real living wage and are significantly underpaid relative to pay across the rest of the economy. This leaves many care workers and their families struggling to survive - more than one in four (28 per cent) children with a social care worker parent are growing up in poverty.

A vision for community pharmacy. Baird, B; et al. London: Nuffield Trust; 2023.

URL: https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Nuffield%20Trust%20and%20The%20King%27s%20Fund%20-%20A%20vision%20for%20community%20pharmacy_WEB_FINAL.pdf

Community pharmacy needs to adapt to meet the needs of a changing population at a time of unprecedented challenge for health and care in England. The Nuffield Trust and The King's Fund were commissioned by Community Pharmacy England to develop a vision for the direction of community pharmacy and to describe the actions needed to turn that vision into reality. Our report outlines that vision, warning that it cannot be delivered without changes to the law, as well as additional funding beyond what was announced in a recent pharmacy funding boost.

Adult social care and the NHS: two sides of the same coin. Bosch, I; Isden, R. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/system/files/2023-09/adult-social-care-and-the-nhs%3A-two-sides-of-the-same-coin-%286107%29.pdf>

This report focuses on demand for and provision of state-funded social care for older people as the largest cohort drawing on care and support, but in considering workforce and market capacity trends, it is important to note need for care and support is also increasing among both working-age adults and children.

Air quality strategy framework for local authority delivery. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. London: DEFRA ; 2023.

URL:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1180706/Air_Quality_Strategy_Web.pdf

Defra's framework for local authorities to make best use of their powers and make air quality improvements for their communities. This strategy sets out the actions that Defra expects local authorities to take in support of our long-term air quality goals, including our ambitious new PM2.5 targets. It provides a framework to enable local authorities to make the best use of their powers and make improvements for their communities.

Children and gambling – evidence to inform regulation and responses in Ireland. McAvoy, H; et al. Dublin: IPH; 2023.

URL:

<https://publichealth.ie/sites/default/files/resources/Gambling%20and%20children%20report%20final.pdf>

This report presents evidence on gambling activities of children aged 16 years in Ireland. The evidence was developed to inform the development of regulation, policy, programmes and services seeking to protect children from gambling harms. The aims of the report were:

- To determine the extent of gambling, excessive gambling and problem gambling among children in Ireland
- To investigate the relationship between gambling, excessive gambling and socio[1]demographic, familial, lifestyle, substance use, and psychological factors
- To investigate the relationship between gambling, excessive gambling and different methods and forms of gambling.

Climate change and public health indicators: scoping review. UK Health Security Agency. London: UKHSA; 2023.

URL:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1180658/climate-change-and-public-health-indicators-scoping-review.pdf

The review was undertaken from spring 2021 to autumn 2022, reviewing indicators and data sources which were openly available at the time. A workshop with local authority stakeholders to inform the research was held in May 2021 with 57 participants, including public health professionals, emergency planning leads and sustainability and adaptation officers from local authorities across England.

COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care. Department of Health and Social Care. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-prevention-and-control-in-adult-social-care-covid-19-supplement/covid-19-supplement-to-the-infection-prevention-and-control-resource-for-adult-social-care>

This guidance outlines COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) measures for staff, service users and visitors in adult social care settings and services in England. This guidance should be read by adult social care providers, managers of social care services, adult social care staff, and by service users and visitors where relevant.

From emergency response to long-term COVID-19 disease management. Ending the COVID-19 emergency and transitioning from emergency phase to longer-term disease management: Guidance on calibrating the response. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/372712/WHO-WHE-SPP-2023.2-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

This is a living document that will be updated to incorporate new technical guidance in response to the evolving epidemiological situation. National plans should be implemented in accordance with the principles of inclusiveness, respect for human rights, and equity.

Get Active: a strategy for the future of sport and physical activity. Department for Culture, Media & Sport. London: HM Government ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity>

This strategy sets out how the government will help build a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity, and by making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations. There will be a focus on establishing a lifetime habit of being physically active amongst children and young people, including playing sport, supporting the sector to be welcoming to all, and ensuring the sector is prepared for both future challenges and opportunities.

Global mapping report on multisectoral actions to strengthen the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions: experiences from around the world. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/372861/9789240074255-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

This report describes the experiences of different countries, areas and territories in implementing multisectoral actions to tackle NCDs and is the first step to address their request for an analysis of such efforts.

Independent Care (Education) and Treatment Reviews: Views of commissioners and clinicians. Bottery, S; et al. London: KF; 2023.

URL: https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Independent_Care_Education_Treatment_Reviews_0.pdf

In February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care commissioned The King's Fund to carry out a process evaluation of the operation of IC(E)TRs. At the time, IC(E)TRs had been paused because of Covid-19 but the intention was to restart them in June 2021.

Research was focused on commissioners and responsible clinicians since these were the groups about which the Department of Health and Social Care had least information with respect to IC(E)TRs. We also intended to include the views of patients and family members in the research. However, despite extensive efforts, it was not possible to recruit patients and family members, and a key perspective is therefore missing from any evaluation of IC(E)TRs.

Intrapartum care. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. London: NICE; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng235/resources/intrapartum-care-pdf-66143897812933>

This guideline covers the care of women and their babies during labour and immediately after birth. It focuses on women who give birth between 37 and 42 weeks of pregnancy ('term'). The guideline helps women to make informed choices about where to have their baby and about their care in labour. It also aims to reduce variation in aspects of care.

Maximising the potential of digital in mental health. NHS Confederation. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/system/files/2023-09/maximising-the-potential-of-digital-in-mental-health-%285996%29.pdf>

This report outlines the challenges, benefits and opportunities of digital mental health and how it can improve mental healthcare and population mental health.

Pharmaceutical legislation revision. European Public Health Alliance. Brussels: European Public Health Alliance; 2023.

URL: https://epha.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/pharmaceutical-legislation-revision_epha_2023.pdf

In this short paper, the authors provide targeted recommendations to the current proposal on issues related to shortages of medicines, transparency of pharmaceutical R&D costs, the paper-based and electronic package leaflets, treatment optimisation, and incentives to develop new antimicrobials and access to new and old antimicrobials.

Poverty in Arfon in the 21st century: modern solutions for an old challenge for Wales.

Bevan Foundation. Merthyr Tydfil: Bevan Foundation ; 2023.

URL: https://www.bevanfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Poverty_in-Arfon-draft-2.pdf

Poverty is a problem in all communities across Wales. One in five people (21 per cent) lived in poverty in Wales between 2019-20 and 2021-22. Despite this, there is very little data available about poverty below national level, which means that the impact of local factors on poverty can sometimes be overlooked. The report outlines steps that could be taken to reduce the impact of poverty in Arfon.

Promoting social cohesion and convergence. Guaranteeing access to services for children in the EU. Molinuevo, D; Consolini, M. Luxembourg: Office of the European Union; 2023.

URL: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-09/ef23023en.pdf>

The European Child Guarantee was established in 2021 to ensure that children in need have access to a set of key services. This policy brief analyses trends and disparities in children's access to early childhood education and care, education, healthcare, nutrition and housing. This is done using a convergence analysis, which tracks whether Member States are improving in respect of specific performance indicators and whether disparities between them are expanding or narrowing. The analysis, where possible, also looks at the differences between urban and rural areas and between children living in households with different levels of income and risk of social exclusion. The indicators chosen for analysis highlight the links between the Guarantee, the European Semester and the Social Scoreboard.

Public Health Wales Annual Report 2022 - 2023. Public Health Wales NHS Trust. Cardiff: Public Health Wales NHS Trust; 2023.

URL: <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/public-health-wales-annual-report-2022-2023/>

Within this Annual Report, we outline the many extraordinary achievements and a wide range of delivery activities by our people throughout the year. This represents just a sample of the excellent work undertaken across the organisation. We have had a lot of highlights throughout the year across the wide range of our functions, and it is difficult to do them all justice in an introduction, so I have given a flavour of some of the highlights below.

Public perceptions of health and social care: what are the priorities ahead of a general election? Allen, L; et al. London: Health Foundation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/long-reads/public-perceptions-health-and-social-care-priorities-general-election>

This long read presents our analysis of findings from the fourth wave of our programme of public perceptions research with Ipsos that tracks the public's views on health and social care in the UK every 6 months. This survey was conducted via Ipsos' UK Knowledge Panel between 5 and 10 May 2023, with 2,450 people aged 16 and older across the UK.

Reforming adult social care: House of Lords committee report. House of Lords Library. London: House of Lords Library; 2023.

URL: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/reforming-adult-social-care-house-of-lords-committee-report/>

Government plans for adult social care have undergone several changes in the last decade. In December 2022, the House of Lords Adult Social Care Committee published a report examining the adult social care system and making recommendations to make it a "progressive, visible, fairer and kinder system". In July 2023, the government published a response. It pointed to commitments in its April 2023 white paper, including reform of the adult social care workforce, housing for people who required care and tackling delayed discharge and unnecessary admissions to hospitals.

Securing our healthy future. Prevention is better than cure. Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. London: Academy of Medical Royal Colleges ; 2023.

URL: https://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Securing_our_healthy_future_0923.pdf

This paper (supported by the 24 members of the AoMRC) lays out the importance of prioritising child health in political decision-making. It outlines ten key actions for the UK government to take to prioritise child health. These include creating a Cabinet-level Minister for Children and Young People and preventive measures in childhood to achieve healthy weight, enhance oral health, improve low vaccination uptake, implement clean air policies and support child mental health services.

Smoking and Mental Health – An exploration of data in Northern Ireland and scan of policy approaches in the UK and Ireland. Purdy, J; McAvoy, H; Reynolds, C. Dublin: IPH; 2023.

URL:

<https://publichealth.ie/sites/default/files/resources/Smoking%20and%20mental%20health%20report%20v4.pdf>

This report was developed for the Department of Health as part of the end of term review of the Tobacco Control Strategy. It responds to the recommendations made in the mid-term review of the Tobacco Control Strategy to better understand the relationship between mental ill health and tobacco use and inform an appropriate policy response. The report presents data from new analyses on mental ill health and tobacco use in Northern Ireland. It also presents insights from a document analysis of tobacco control policy documents in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Statement on the state of the science linking long-term air pollution exposure with SARS-CoV-2 infection and adverse COVID-19 outcomes. UK Health Security Agency. London: UKHSA; 2023.

URL:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182904/COMEAP-statement-on-COVID-19-and-AP-statement.pdf

COMEAP summary of the science linking long-term air pollution exposure with SARS-CoV-2 infection and adverse COVID-19 outcomes.

Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy. Department of Health and Social Care. HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-strategy-for-england-2023-to-2028/suicide-prevention-in-england-5-year-cross-sector-strategy>

The overall ambitions set by this strategy are to:

- reduce the suicide rate over the next 5 years – with initial reductions observed within half this time or sooner
- continue to improve support for people who self-harm
- continue to improve support for people who have been bereaved by suicide

WHO Policy Brief on the health aspects of decriminalization of suicide and suicide attempts. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/mental-health/9789240078796-eng.pdf?sfvrsn=7ad97429_1&download=true

Reducing the global suicide mortality rate by a third by 2030 is a target of both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO Global Mental Health Action Plan. However, an impediment to meeting this goal is the fact that suicide and suicide attempts remain illegal in at least 23 countries worldwide. Decriminalization of suicide and suicide attempts represents one critical step governments can take in their efforts to prevent suicide. The *WHO Policy Brief on the health aspects of decriminalization of suicide and suicide attempts* cites data and research to make a case for decriminalizing suicide globally. It also includes case examples from countries that have recently decriminalized suicide and suicide attempts – Guyana and Pakistan, Singapore, providing important insights to policy-makers, legislators, parliamentarians and other decision-makers.

Wider Impacts of COVID-19 on Health (WICH) monitoring tool. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: OHID; 2023.

URL: https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/covid_-19-indirect-effects/

National monitoring tool that brings together metrics to assess the wider impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) on health. 30 August 2023. Statistical data on: covid, life expectancy, mortality, food purchase, air quality, health inequalities, social determinants in health, behaviour and healthcare.

