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\* Grey literature refers to both published and unpublished research material that's not available commercially i.e., not published in journals or indexed by bibliographic databases.

**Access to unplanned or urgent care.** National Audit Office. London: NAO; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/access-to-unplanned-or-urgent-care.pdf>

This report gives a factual overview of NHS services that may be used when people need rapid access to urgent, emergency, or other non-routine health services, and whether such services are meeting the performance standards the NHS has told patients they have a right to expect.

**Assessing the experiences and impact of minimum pricing for alcohol on service users and service.** Perkins, A; et al. Cardiff: WG; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2023-06/assessing-the-experiences-and-impact-of-minimum-pricing-for-alcohol-on-service-users-and-service-providers-interim-findings.pdf>

This report is the first of two reports detailing the results of consultations with service users (harmful, hazardous, and dependent drinkers) and services across Wales at 24 months post-MPA implementation. The focus of the report is on an assessment of both the experience and impact of MPA on service users and services (including exploring the extent to which switching between substances may have been a consequence of the legislation and the impacts of minimum pricing on household budgets).

**Assistive technology in education and employment.** Winchester, N. London: House of Lords; 2023.

URL: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/assistive-technology-in-education-and-employment/>

Assistive technology can support individuals with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) to improve or maintain their daily quality of life. This includes the areas of education and employment. This report looks at the challenges those with SEND face as well as the potential solutions assistive technology can offer.

**Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health.** EuroHealthNet. Brussels: EuroHealthNet; 2023.

URL: [https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/comprehensive-approach-mental-health\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/comprehensive-approach-mental-health_en)

The initiative aims to tackle mental health through a health in all policies approach, enabling investments in training and capacity-building, mental health-promoting workplaces, and targeted support.

**Coping through crisis: COVID-19 pandemic experiences and adolescent mental health and well-being in the WHO European Region. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people's health and well-being from the findings of the HBSC survey round 2021/2022.** Health Behaviour in School Aged Children. Copenhagen: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1512752/retrieve>

This report outlines three factors of adolescent mental health and well-being (life satisfaction and psychological and physical health complaints) and focuses on links between self-reported negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (on school performance and relationships with family and peers) and adolescent mental health and well-being in 22 countries and regions of the WHO European Region. The information and data presented were collected from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children survey round 2021/2022. Thirty per cent of adolescents reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had had a negative impact on their mental health. Relatively more adolescents (37%) experienced no impact on their mental health, and 33% reported positive impacts. Adolescents who indicated a negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school performance and relationships with family and friends were more likely to report low life satisfaction and high levels of psychological and physical health complaints than the group reporting a neutral impact. Variations across countries and regions in the links between negative impacts on school performance and relationships with family and peers and mental health were wide. Girls and 15-year-olds were more likely to report low life satisfaction and high levels of psychological and physical health complaints that were linked to negative impacts of the pandemic.

**Delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services.** NHS England. London: NHS England ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/delivery-plan-for-recovering-urgent-and-emergency-care-services-january-2023/>

This plan sets out how the NHS and partners will make this a reality and begin to transform patient care. It also sets out the actions being taken in social care to support improved discharge, led by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

**Digitally enabled therapies for adults with anxiety disorders: early value assessment.** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. London: NICE; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/hte9/resources/digitally-enabled-therapies-for-adults-with-anxiety-disorders-early-value-assessment-pdf-1396179075013>

Digitally enabled therapies offer another treatment option for adults with anxiety disorders. They will particularly benefit anyone who needs more flexible access to treatment or who prefers digitally enabled therapy over face-to-face therapy.

**How does the NHS compare to the health care systems of other countries?** Anandaciva, S. London: KF; 2023.

URL: [https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-06/How\\_NHS\\_compare\\_2023.pdf](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-06/How_NHS_compare_2023.pdf)

This report draws on desk-based research and a series of interviews. The authors conducted a non-systematic literature review into previous attempts to compare the health care systems of a range of similar countries. We also collated quantitative data on health system characteristics and performance from data sources, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Burden of Disease, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), Ipsos, The Commonwealth Fund and others.

**Improving the health of people living in prisons in the WHO European Region: the work of the Health in Prisons Programme of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2022–2023.** World Health Organization. Copenhagen: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1511010/retrieve>

This document presents the Action Plan of the WHO Regional Office for Europe Health In Prisons Programme (HIPPP), adopted in 2022 for the period of 2022-2025, with the ultimate aim to improve the health of people deprived of liberty in the WHO European Region, contributing to a healthier and more humane environment within correctional facilities and impacting society at large. The Action Plan is organized according to five strategic goals, and a review of progress made until June 2023 is summarized, whilst also identifying priorities for action in the future.

**National child measurement programme (NCMP): changes in the prevalence of child obesity between 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2022.** Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: OHID; 2023.

URL: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/national-child-measurement-programme/ncmp-changes-in-the-prevalence-of-child-obesity-between-2019-and-2022.html>

This report examines the changes in the prevalence of obesity and severe obesity between academic years 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2022 using data from the [National Child Measurement Programme \(NCMP\)](#). Data collected between September 2021 and July 2022 (2021 to 2022 NCMP) is compared to the two previous years of NCMP data: data collected between September 2019 and March 2020 before the start of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic (2019 to 2020 NCMP), and data collected one year later between March 2021 and July 2021 (2020 to 2021 NCMP).

**Nurturing care framework progress report 2018-2023: reflections and looking forward.** UNICEF; World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO ; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1510379/retrieve>

The progress report looks back on the five years since the Nurturing care framework was launched. It documents achievements and presents areas for future action. Annotated with stories of change, the report provides a snapshot of progress in relation to

each of the five strategic actions of the Framework and shows the breadth of activities that have been undertaken.

**Obesity policy in England.** Balogun, B. London: House of Commons Library; 2023.

URL: <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9049/CBP-9049.pdf>

This briefing provides an overview of the work of the UK Government in preventing and reducing obesity in England, which in recent years has primarily focussed on reducing obesity prevalence in children.

**Personality disorders in prison and probation: Are specialist units working?** Brader, C. London: House of Lords; 2023.

URL: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/personality-disorders-in-prison-and-probation-are-specialist-units-working/>

Several thousand prisoners in England required support from custodial mental health services between July and September 2023, according to new research. One such service included psychologically informed planned environments (PIPEs), which are designed to support offenders with personality related difficulties. AN evaluation of PIPEs commissioned by the government analysed whether the PIPE model had been effective.

**Population health management in primary health care: a proactive approach to improve health and well-being: primary health care policy paper series.** World Health Organization. Copenhagen: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1507094/retrieve>

This publication identifies key success factors at the system, organizational and clinical levels to enable population health management in PHC. It includes 12 country examples from across the WHO European Region showing how population health management is used in PHC. The publication provides a set of 16 policy actions to help PHC providers move towards a population health management approach that are classified following the PHC levers of the WHO Operational Framework for Primary Health Care.

**Safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings.** The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1151060/Safeguarding\\_children\\_with\\_disabilities\\_in\\_residential\\_care\\_homes\\_phase\\_2\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1151060/Safeguarding_children_with_disabilities_in_residential_care_homes_phase_2_report.pdf)

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in England has published Phase 2 of their review into the abuse of disabled children, young people and young adults in residential special schools and colleges.

**Standardized package of community-based support services to improve tuberculosis outcomes. A guide for affected community and civil society organizations, national tuberculosis programmes and policy-makers in eastern Europe and central Asia.** World Health Organization. Copenhagen: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1512686/retrieve>

This document was developed in the framework of the project *Advancing people-centred quality tuberculosis care: TB-REP*, which was funded by the Global Fund and designed to support countries in eastern Europe and central Asia in ending tuberculosis through the implementation of a new model of care for early detection of drug-resistance tuberculosis and its treatment. The document pays particular attention to key populations by recommending a set of affected community-based services to engage and reach vulnerable populations, and to meet the complex and comprehensive needs of affected people. The document recommends engaging affected communities and civil society actors in service delivery along patients' pathways and provides a set of practical tools for the implementation of the standards for community-based, nonmedical services. The services outlined in this guide are meant to support and complement services delivered by health-care providers and shift the focus from medical settings to the needs of people affected by tuberculosis in their community settings. The document can be used by national policy-makers, national programme managers, and community representatives to set up service delivery to affected communities and cost options for implementation purposes.

**The National Influenza Immunisation Programme 2023-24.** Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG ;

2023.

URL: [https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023\\_06/the-national-influenza-immunisation-programme-2023-24.pdf](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023_06/the-national-influenza-immunisation-programme-2023-24.pdf)

Welsh Health Circular on Influenza immunisation.

**The transition from the acute phase of COVID-19: Working towards a paradigm shift for pandemic preparedness and response in the WHO European Region.** World Health Organization. Copenhagen: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1508359/retrieve>

The lifting of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern status by WHO on 5 May 2023, signalled the start of a new phase of the global pandemic's response and recovery – during which the WHO Regional Office for Europe will shift towards a longer-term programmatic approach to COVID-19. While the first steps towards recovery from the pandemic have been reported in the European Region multiple challenges remain. This regional transition plan outlines a comprehensive roadmap for transitioning from the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic towards a sustained response and recovery in order to strategically and sustainably invest in resilient health systems able to respond to emergencies and maintain essential services at all times. It is the moment to invest and sustain the gains made during the pandemic response and apply the lessons learned of this pandemic and other recent health emergencies, to increase the resilience of our health systems against future epidemics, pandemics and other shocks.

**The transition to a climate-neutral economy: Exploring the socioeconomic impacts.** Daheim, C; et al. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union; 2023.

URL: [https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef\\_publication/field\\_ef\\_document/ef23021en.pdf](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef23021en.pdf)

This report explores the potential socioeconomic implications of such fundamental change for different European regions and population groups, following a foresight approach. Scenario-focused engagement with stakeholders and experts was conducted to gain a better understanding of emerging economic and social inequalities at EU and regional levels. The research findings are presented together with policy pointers on developing measures to achieve a just transition that leaves no one behind.

**Tipping the scales: The social and economic harm of poverty in Scotland.** Whyte, P; Hawkey, D; Smith, C. Edinburgh: IPPR; 2023.

URL: <https://www.ippr.org/files/2023-05/tipping-the-scales-may23.pdf>

In this report the authors explore the scale of harm caused to individuals and families by the struggle to get by on a low income, and quantify some of the negative impacts this has, for example on health and participation in the labour market. We find the total shortfall in incomes is actually less than the economic harms arising from the consequences of poverty.

**Understanding the drivers of healthy life expectancy: report.** Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understanding-the-drivers-of-healthy-life-expectancy/understanding-the-drivers-of-healthy-life-expectancy-report>

A report summarising several pieces of statistical analysis and findings from a rapid literature review aimed at exploring the drivers of healthy life expectancy.

**Unpaid care and poverty: unpaid carers' priorities for change through participatory co-design.** Casey, R. York: JRF; 2023.

URL: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/59929/download?token=hsNyVUq-&filetype=full-report>

The Carers Co-design Project is a joint piece of work between JRF and London Unemployed Strategies (LUS) to co-design policy recommendations that address poverty and/or its related issues facing unpaid carers. These recommendations are evidence based, credible and underpinned by the voices of people with lived experience.

**Waiting for NHS hospital care: the role of the independent sector in delivering orthopaedic and ophthalmic care.** Coughlan, E; et al. London: Health Foundation ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/long-reads/waiting-for-nhs-hospital-care-the-role-of-the-independent-sector-in>

Addressing the elective care backlog remains a major priority for the NHS. The [elective care recovery plan](#), published in February 2022, set out an ambition to scale up elective care delivery by 30% compared with pre-pandemic activity. Much of the initial focus has been on tackling 'long waits'. The most recent target – prioritising appointments for anyone waiting more than 18 months – is due to be achieved by the end of April this year. Tackling the overall growth in the waiting list will, however, require a much more sustained effort to increase the amount of care delivered, beyond a focus on short-term targets.