October's Current Awareness Bulletin 2022



A new way of working: ending rough sleeping together (2022 progress report). Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping. London: Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping; 2022.

URL: http://files.localgov.co.uk/krsc.pdf

Reports on the progress that has been made in delivering on the recommendations made in the Kerslake Commission Final Report of September 2021 (Ref B58520). Explains that the report made 48 recommendations for reducing the prevalence of rough sleeping in the UK. Discusses the main achievements of the last year in reducing rough sleeping and draws attention to the main threats, including the rising cost of living and the Ukraine conflict. Reports that the number of people rough sleeping in a single night in autumn 2021 was 2440, down 9% from 2020. Looks at 25 key policy areas relating to: central government; funding; local authorities; housing associations and homelessness organisations; and health bodies. Welcomes the government's new rough sleeping strategy published in September 2022 (Ref B60631). Makes a number of recommendations including that: there is a temporary moratorium on evictions; the Homes for Ukrainians scheme is amended to allow Ukrainians to switch sponsor if necessary; and 80% of affordable housing programmes are spent on social rented homes.

Approach for respiratory viruses – technical guidance for healthcare planning. Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG; 2022.

URL:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-10/approach-for-respiratory-viruses-technical-guidance-for-healthcare-planning.pdf

Guidance Approach for respiratory viruses: technical guidance for healthcare planning (WHC 2022/026) Letter to health professionals about the approach for responding to respiratory viruses over autumn and winter.

Bending the trends to promote health and well-being: a strategic foresight on the future of health promotion. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2022.

URL: https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1472043/retrieve

The key findings in this report suggest to expand the capacity of health-promotion systems so they can bend future trends to promote health. By applying a health-promotion lens to global health challenges and opportunities, benefits can be made towards the development of healthier populations.

Childhood obesity: is where you live important? Fischer, E; et al. London: Nuffield Trust; 2022.

URL: https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/files/2022-10/lala-obs-report-final-version-1-.pdf

Childhood obesity in England is concerningly widespread, with no notable improvements in recent years. However, our understanding of what could be driving these trends and the part environmental factors might play remains limited. This new Nuffield Trust analysis looks at the association that neighbourhoods, communities and their characteristics have with obesity in children.

Creating stable futures: human trafficking, participation and outcomes for children. Hynes, P; Connolly, H; Durán-Lobato, M. London: EPCAT UK; 2022.

URL: https://www.ecpat.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=c78b9c80 -844e-40a6-b85e-0f9ace839d3f

Presents the main findings of a year-long participatory research study into how to ensure protection, support and positive outcomes for children in migration who have experienced modern slavery. Explains the background to the project and the UK's National Referral Mechanism, the framework for identifying potential victims of modern slavery. Suggests that the views of children affected by trafficking are rarely sought, even in the context of children's rights. Discusses common themes from the research: existence of structural barriers to achieving 'good' outcomes for children, particularly in the context of immigration and asylum procedures, the criminal justice system and care arrangements; the importance of focusing on strengths and capabilities, rather than the negative impacts of exploitation; and the fundamental need of children to feel safe and secure. Makes brief recommendations, highlighting that processes and decision-making should be child-centred and age-appropriate.

Developing learning health systems in the UK: priorities for action. Hardie, T; et al. London: Health Foundation: 2022.

URL

https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/developing-learning-health-systems-in-the-uk-priorities-for-action

This report aims to demystify the concept of LHSs and explores four important areas especially relevant to LHSs where action can lead to tangible progress: learning from data, harnessing technology, nurturing learning communities and implementing improvements to services. Each of these areas is important in its own right, with much to be gained by making progress on each one individually. Indeed, for those wanting to create LHSs, the first step will often be to develop one or two components. But it is ultimately by bringing these components together into a full LHS that they can become more than the sum of their parts.

Harm reduction database Wales: Drug related mortality. Annual report 2021 - 2022. Public Health Wales. Cardiff: Public Health Wales NHS Trust; 2022.

URL:

https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/harm-reduction-database-wales-drug-related-mortality/

The Harm Reduction Database Wales: Drug related mortality, Annual Report 2021-22 aims to help inform drug policy in Wales and prevent deaths. It found the most commonly reported substance group in 2021 was opioid. There were 150 deaths and 93% involved heroin or morphine.

Other key findings for 2021 included:

322 deaths due to drug poisoning were registered in Wales, an increase of 44% from the previous year. Of these, 210 were classified as drug misuse deaths, an increase of 41% from drug deaths registered in 2020.

Two thirds of drug misuse deaths involved a combination of drugs, including alcohol and prescription medicine.

The ratio of deaths amongst males and females was around 3:1. Drug misuse deaths amongst females was the highest recorded in 2021, with 57 deaths.

Most deaths occurred in those in the 40 - 44 years age group.

There were 13 drug deaths in people under the age of 25.

Drug misuse deaths were over five times higher amongst those living in the 20% most deprived areas.

International horizon scanning and learning report. COVID-proofing the educational environment: 4-18 years. World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being; Public Health Wales. Cardiff: Public Health Wales NHS Trust; 2022.

URL:

https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/covid-19-international-horizon-scan-report-october-2022/

The International Horizon Scanning and Learning reports were initiated as part of the COVID-19 public health response, to support dynamic response and recovery measures and planning in Wales. They varied in focus and scope, depending on the evolving COVID-19 situation and public health/policy needs at that time. The reports focussed on COVID-19 international evidence, data, experience, policy and public health measures, transition and recovery approaches. Learning and intelligence was collated and synthesized to understand and explore solutions for addressing the ongoing and emerging health, well-being, social, economic and environmental impacts (potential harms and benefits) of the pandemic. The scope of the reports was expanded in spring 2022 to cover priority public health topics, including in the areas of health improvement and promotion, health protection, and health care public health. The report topics and findings are aligned with and help inform decision-making and on-going work in Welsh Government, the NHS and Public Health Wales. They are also disseminated to wider network of (public) health professionals and partners nationally and internationally.

Interoperability is more than technology: The role of culture and leadership in joined-up care. Mistry, P; et al. York: JRF; 2022.

This report combines findings from a literature review, interviews and workshops to create a deeper understanding of how interoperability can be successfully achieved by using technology so multiple organisations can work together. In this report,

they define interoperability as how people, systems and processes talk and work together across organisational structures and professions, supported through technology. This technology may include asynchronous messaging tools (eg, MS Teams chat), video calls or shared care records.

Is poor health driving a rise in economic inactivity? Tinson, A; Major, A; Finch, D. London: Health Foundation; 2022.

URL:

https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/is-poor-health-driving-a-rise-in-economic-inactivity

This report looks at ways in which poor health is contributing to the rise in economic inactivity. The increase in economic inactivity since the beginning of the pandemic has generated a lot of comment – from talk of 'the great resignation' to 'the great retirement', and questions about the role of long COVID and the increase in long-term sickness. Different reasons for this change have been mooted, whether it relates to voluntary retirement or an increase in ill health. This article aims to try and unpick these differing potential causes.

Municipal solid waste incineration and reported health effects: rapid evidence review. Public Health Scotland. Glasgow: Public Health Scotland; 2022.

URL:

https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/independent-report/2022/05/stop-sort-burn-bury-independent-review-role-incineration-waste-hierarchy-scotland/documents/munic ipal-solid-waste-incineration-reported-health-effects-rapid-evidence-review/municipal-solid-waste-incineration-reported-health-effects-rapid-evidence-review/govscot%3Adocument/municipal-solid-waste-incineration-reported-health-effects-rapid-evidence-review.pdf

Presents the results of a rapid evidence review examining whether there are physical health effects associated with municipal solid waste incineration (MSWI) on individuals and communities living near incinerators. Outlines the scope and search strategy for the evidence review. Summarises the findings of a previous evidence review on health impacts of incineration published in 2009 (see Ref. B14820). Describes the new results, focusing on any association between incineration and reproductive effects and birth outcomes, cancers, respiratory issues, and other health outcomes such as cardiovascular disease and skin diseases. Reports that the rapid review findings reinforce the conclusions of the 2009 review that negative health impacts are limited and lower than in the past, with any new evidence continuing to be either absent, inadequate, limited or contradictory. Concludes that where new incinerators are planned, there is a need to take account of background air quality especially in areas with other sources of similar emissions (including road traffic and other industrial sources); and that limiting the amount of waste destined for incineration as well as using existing planning controls, should continue to minimise public exposure to potential adverse health impacts of incineration.

People, place, health: constructing a health and care ecosystem for Wales. Bevan Commission; ARUP. Cardiff: ARUP; 2022.

URL:

 $\frac{https://www.arup.com/-/media/arup/files/publications/p/people-place-health-and-care-ecosystem-for-wales-report.pdf}{}$

Looks at how to create a more effective health and care ecosystem. Uses interviews with city leaders, health board leaders, and private-sector stakeholders from across Wales. Considers the scale of the current health challenge, and the current drivers of change. Looks at best-practice case studies of places working for better health and care. Examines five measures to transform health and care in Wales: consider people and place; invest in a preventative model; drive a culture-shift; change models, from medical to social; embrace technology to bring about change. Concludes by making recommendations for the next steps to gain traction and precipitate change, and describing a longer-term program of activity to secure profound change.

Poverty and social exclusion in Wales. Carter, I; Hill-Dixon, A; Roberts, M. Cardiff: Wales Centre for Public Policy; 2022.

URL: https://www.wcpp.org.uk/wp -content/uploads/2022/09/WCPP -Poverty -and -social -exclusion -in-Wales -September -2022 -English -final -updated.pdf

Provides an overview of past, present and possible future trends in poverty and social exclusion in Wales. Draws on evidence from Welsh Government statistics and reports from several sources including the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Outlines how poverty and social exclusion is measured and includes a definition of absolute and relative poverty and an explanation of the Bristol Social Exclusion Matrix. Gives an overview of who is living in poverty in Wales and the risk of living in poverty. Highlights that in-work poverty has increased over the past twenty years, but that pensioner poverty has declined. Discusses the key drivers of poverty: reduced value of working age benefits; poor quality work; and rising living costs. Looks at the three domains of social exclusion: material and economic resources; access to public and private services; and social resources. Explores the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic finding that it has exacerbated social exclusion for those already affected. Suggests that the long-term physical and mental health impacts of the pandemic and disruption to education are likely to have

a future impact. Considers that unemployment and housing remain key issues in Wales and that there needs to be improvements to the social security system.

Poverty in Scotland 2022. Cebula, C; et al. York: JRF; 2022.

URL: https://www.irf.org.uk/file/59294/download?token=0ApebtOv&filetype=full-report

This year's Poverty in Scotland paints a bleak picture of a society in crisis. Nearly one in five households on low incomes in Scotland have gone hungry and cold this year, even before we enter the winter months. It demands action from all tiers of government to avert the worst of this crisis, and time is short.

Public perceptions of health and social care: what the new government should know. Buzelli, L; et al. London: Health Foundation; 2022.

URI 1

https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2022/What%20the%20new%20government%20should%20know RGB WEB.pdf

Explores public attitudes to health and social care across the UK, drawing on the findings of a public perceptions survey carried out during 2022. Outlines the range of challenges facing the new UK Government in relation to health and social care, and describes the research aims and methods. Looks at public views towards the National Health Service, including that staffing and waiting times remain the biggest concerns for the next 12 months. Explores public views towards social care, including poor understanding of how the social care system works. Looks at attitudes to public spending on the NHS and social care, including support for the health and social care levy. Looks at views on the nation's health and public health policies, including focusing more on preventing ill health over treatment. Considers central government's handling of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including attitudes to 'living with COVID-19'. Discusses the implications of the findings, highlighting negative public perceptions of health and social care policies and performance and support for strengthening the current systems.

Social prescribing for cycling: key learning. Anon. Glasgow: Glasgow Centre for Population Health; 2022.

URL: https://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/8842/SocialPrescribing Report FINAL.pdf

Explores the potential impacts of Social Prescribing for Cycling, a 10-week cycling project run in Glasgow which aims to support participants' mental and physical wellbeing, confidence and cycling behaviour. Describes the background to the project and to social prescribing. Explains that participants were interviewed along with Community Link Practitioners (CLPs) who supported referrals to the project, but notes that the sample size was small. Discusses the feedback from participants in relation to: their demographic profile; access to bikes; attitudes to cycling; indicators of mental wellbeing; and perceived impact of participation. Looks at the experience of CLPs in referring patients to the project and their views on the future direction of the project. Finds that the project had been well received by participants and should be considered for further funding. Notes that increasing participation in cycling and diversifying the population of cyclists can support public health and contribute towards sustainability goals. Makes brief recommendations for improving and evaluating the project in future.

Sustainable healthcare: practical steps to build back better in the English NHS. Thomas, C; Sloggett, R. London: IPPR; 2022.

URL: https://www.ippr.org/files/2022-06/sustainable-healthcare-may-2022.pdf?platform=hootsuite

Identifies learnings from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and seeks to understand where sustainability can be further embedded in the NHS in England. Draws on a literature review, calls for evidence from various stakeholders, and follow-up interviews to develop and test the proposed policy framework and recommendations. Identifies five key areas where sustainability can be strengthened: thinking differently about investment; narrowing inequalities; ending the postcode innovation lottery; connecting the health service through data and integration; and building a sustainable workforce. Discusses each of the areas setting out what has been learned during the pandemic, what works, and the barriers to achieving successful outcomes. Includes case studies of successful practice such as 'Improving the cancer journey' – a Macmillan supported scheme in Glasgow which provided a more holistic service to, particularly more deprived, people in the city. Includes proposals for each key area including having: cross-government health impact assessments for government decisions; explicit inequality targets in every NHS clinical priority; and the establishment of a national data infrastructure accelerator to spread technology that works.

The cost of caring: poverty and deprivation among residential care workers in the UK. Allen, L; et al. London: Health Foundation; 2022.

URL: https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/2022 -10/2022%20 %20The%20cost%20of%20caring.pdf

The authors looks at social/residential care workers in the UK and how they have the highest rates of poverty, experiencing financial difficulties. Yet workers in adult social care – who are mostly women – are among the lowest paid in the UK and experience poor working conditions.

The future of general practice. Fourth report of session 2022–23. House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee. London: House of Commons; 2022.

URL: https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/30383/documents/175483/default/

The report looks at the crisis in general practice and the government should set out in more detail the steps they are taking in response to this crisis in the short term, to protect patient safety, strengthen continuity, improve access and reduce GP workloads.

Tobacco and vision loss. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2022.

URL: https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1472767/retrieve

This document is the fifth in a series of Tobacco Knowledge Summaries. This document is prepared with the objective to summarize the current evidence on the association between tobacco use and vision loss. This is also intended as an advocacy tool to widely include health care professionals, in particular ophthalmologists, optometrists and other eye care specialists, in the fight for tobacco control and prevention of tobacco related adverse health effects.

Understanding substance use and the wider support needs of Scotland's prison population. Perkins, A; et al. Edinburgh: Scottish Government; 2022.

URL:

https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2022/0 9/understanding-substance-use-wider-support-needs-scotlands-prison-population/documents/underst anding-substance-use-wider-support-needs-scotlands-prison-population/understanding-substance-use-wider-support-needs-scotlands-prison-population/govscot%3Adocument/understanding-substance-use-wider-support-needs-scotlands-prison-population.pdf

Examines substance use and support needs of people in Scottish prisons, and considers the ways in which these can be addressed. Outlines the background to the study, explaining that other assessments looking at physical health (see Ref: B60693), mental health (see Ref: B60692) and social care (see Ref: B57235) feed into an overall synthesis report (see Ref: B60691). Presents the findings of a rapid evidence review looking at smoking and alcohol and drugs use in prisons. Provides the perspectives of stakeholders and people with lived experience on the issues around substance use and support services in prisons. Considers the results of healthcare data collection and analysis, and the mapping of support services for prisoners. Presents conclusions and high-level strategic and outcome-based recommendations to address the challenge, inequalities and support needs around substance use identified in the report.