ALTH & SOCIAL CARE FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN EEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE LATEST RESEARCH AND GUIDANCE IN HEALTH AND

CIAL CARE WE COLLATE IT SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO _

18th January 2019

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Please note:

Research articles and guidance are selected in accordance with agreed inclusion/exclusion criteria. This is available on request and will be reviewed regularly. In brief, research is taken only from peer-reviewed, generic public health journals; guidance is taken only from reputable national organisations such as NICE, SCIE and SIGN

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Unmet Needs: Improper Social Care Assessments for Older People in England

Author: HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH Date: 09 January 2019

Abstract: This report finds that older people in England are at risk of not getting adequate assistance to live independent, dignified lives due to uneven assessments for social services. In doing so, the United Kingdom government risks failing to secure older persons' rights to health, and to live in the community. Human Rights Watch spoke with older people and their relatives in 12 cities and towns across England. Some said that assessors appeared not to understand their disabilities and support needs. In other cases, before beginning an assessment, assessors announced that services would be cut regardless of an individual's actual need. And in some cases services were denied or cut significantly, affecting older people's health and wellbeing. The report concludes that The UK government should ensure that older people receive the support they need and are entitled to by regularly monitoring social care assessments to ensure accuracy and fairness. Authorities should also ensure that people continue to receive services during complaints and appeals processes.

Websites Human Rights Watch - Press Release; Human Rights Watch - Report

2. Supporting carers: guidance and case studies

Author: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION Date: 21 December 2018

Abstract: Councils in England receive 1.8 million new requests for adult social care a year – the equivalent of nearly 5,000 a day – and despite some helpful extra funding there is still a £3.5 billion funding gap facing adult social care by 2025 just to maintain existing standards of care. Despite these tremendous pressures this publication demonstrates current examples of how councils support adult and young carers locally in a range of different ways from respite breaks to discount cards to tailored information and advice.

Websites LGA



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

3. 10 year olds in the UK have consumed 18 years' worth of sugar

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 02 January 2019

Abstract: Children have already exceeded the maximum recommended sugar intake for an 18 year old by the time they reach their tenth birthday, according to Public Health England (PHE). This is based on their total sugar consumption from the age of 2. This figure comes as a new Change4Life campaign launches (2 January 2019), supporting families to cut back on sugar and to help tackle growing rates of childhood obesity. While children's sugar intakes have declined slightly in recent years, they are still consuming around 8 excess sugar cubes each day, equivalent to around 2,800 excess sugar cubes per year. To help parents manage this, Change4Life is encouraging them to 'Make a swap when you next shop'. Making simple everyday swaps can reduce children's sugar intake from some products (yoghurts, drinks and breakfast cereals) by half - while giving them healthier versions of the foods and drinks they enjoy.

Websites PHE

4. Mental health services for children and young people

Author: UNITED KINGDOM House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts Date: 11 January 2019

Abstract: This report finds that in 2017–18 only three in ten children and young people with a mental health condition received NHS-funded treatment, and many more faced unacceptably long waits for treatment. The government has committed to providing 'parity of esteem' between mental and physical health services, but it is still unclear what it means by this in practice. It also has no comprehensive, long-term plan for how it will fulfil its commitment to implement Future in Mind, which set out a cross-sector vision for how to support children and young people's mental health. There is now a welcome focus on improving NHS mental health services for children and young people, but there are still significant gaps in the data to monitor progress. New and important ways of supporting young people's mental health through prevention and early intervention, particularly in schools, are now being developed. The government must make urgent headway on all these fronts if it is to provide the mental health services and support that young people need.

Websites House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts

5. Local Family Offer pilot: evaluation of phase 1

Author: DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS Date: 10 January 2019

Abstract: The Local Family Offer was developed from an evidence-based understanding of the importance for child outcomes of supporting current and prospective parents. This research aimed to build learning and best practice on how local authorities can support parental relationships. The findings and lessons learned from the Local Family Offer have been used to develop the new <u>Reducing Parental Conflict Programme</u>. Through this programme, English local authorities will be supported to introduce services and approaches to reduce parental conflict into mainstream provision. This evaluation report, published by the Department for Work and Pensions, will provide local authorities and their partners with insights into the successes and challenges experienced by the local authorities participating in the Local Family Offer.

Websites Department for Work and Pensions

6. The health impacts of screen time - a guide for clinicians and parents

Author: ROYAL COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICS AND CHILD HEALTH Date: 04 January 2019

Abstract: This guide provides a summary of existing research on the health effects of screen time on children

and young people. It outlines recommendations for health professionals and families on screen time use.

Websites <u>RCPCH - Press Release</u>; <u>RCPCH - Guide</u>

7. My activity passport

Author: UNITED KINGDOM Department for Education Date: 28 December 2018

Abstract: Primary school children will be challenged to go on a nature trail, visit a local landmark or make a treasure map through a new 'passport' of activities launched by the Education Secretary to encourage more family time and help build children's character and resilience. Endorsed by organisations including the Scouts, Girlguiding and the National Trust – as well as children's charity Action for Children - the list of activities is intended to support parents and schools in introducing children to a wide variety of experiences and fulfilling activities like flying a kite, learning something new about the local area or putting on a performance. The activities are designed to be accessible so that every child and family can get involved and include milestones for each primary school year group. Tasks that schools and families can set children include:

- painting a self portrait
- posting a letter
- looking at the stars on a clear night
- playing a board game
- writing and performing a poem
- going hiking
- planning and cooking a meal
- interviewing someone

Among the list of activities will be opportunities for children to engage in social action that helps them make positive changes for themselves and others. Schools will also be able to adapt the list to meet the needs of its pupils and local communities.

Websites DfE - News; DfE - Promotional Information

8. Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England, 2018

Author: UNITED KINGDOM Department for Education Date: 08 January 2019

Abstract: Statistics and analysis on statements of special educational needs (SEN) and education, health and care (EHC) plans in England. This has be updated to include 'Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England, 2018 - national and local authority tables'.

Websites DfE

9. Key competencies in early cognitive development: Things, people, numbers and words

Author: EARLY INTERVENTION FOUNDATION Date: 19 December 2018

Abstract: This major report sets out the evidence on how best to support children's foundational cognitive development in the early years, covering their theory of mind, objects, numbers and words. Understanding these crucial areas of development is key to ensuring children are ready for school and supporting efforts to reduce income-related gaps in school attainment.

Websites EIF

10. National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies for Children and Young People (2018)

Author: HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP Date: 10 January 2019

Abstract: Epilepsy is a condition whereby individuals are prone to recurrent epileptic seizures – abnormal movement or behaviour as a direct result of a change in the electrical activity of the brain. Epileptic seizures affect 112,000 children and young people in the UK. The National Clinical Audit of Seizures and Epilepsies in Children and Young People, also known as Epilepsy12, shows incremental improvements in some areas of paediatric epilepsy service provision alongside a considerable need for improvement in others. The results detailed in the report reflect data submitted to the organisational audit by 148 Health Boards and Trusts with a paediatric epilepsy service across England and Wales. It includes the first 'yearly snapshot' of the organisation of paediatric epilepsy services for children and young people in England and Wales as well a case study of how paediatric epilepsy services have used their Epilepsy12 results to identify and undertake local quality improvement activities

Websites HQIP

11. Childhood obesity plan: interactions between modelled policies

Author: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE Date: 12 January 2019

Abstract: This policy paper sets out how the policies in chapters 1 and 2 of the government's childhood obesity plan could work together. This document considers 4 of the proposed policies in chapter 2 of the childhood obesity plan. It looks at the possible interactions between these policies and 3 of the policies in chapter 1.

Websites DHSC

12. 13-24 year olds with cancer in England: Incidence, mortality and survival

Author: TEENAGE CANCER TRUST; PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 17 January 2019

Abstract: This report examines the latest trends in the incidence, mortality and five-year survival rates for cancer amongst young people. This is the first time a detailed analysis has been conducted of cancer rates of the 13 to 24-year age group and shows an encouraging increase in survival rates. The figures, based on an analysis of young people diagnosed in England between 2001 and 2015, were extracted from Public Health England's National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS). Key findings include:

- Mortality rates of all cancers combined in 13 to 24 year olds have decreased from 42.9 per million in 2001 to 32.3 per million in 2015.
- The largest reduction in mortality by diagnostic group in England between 2001 and 2015 has been . in Leukaemias. There were also reductions seen in mortality from Central Nervous System tumours, bone cancer and in lymphoma.
- Five-year survival rates for cancer in 13 to 24 year olds have risen from 83% females / 80% males in (2001-05) to 87% in females / 84 % males (2007-11).
- There are statistically significant variations in incidence and survival rates of cancer in 13 to 24 year • olds based on geography and deprivation.
- The incidence of cancer in 13 to 24 years olds in England has increased from a crude rate of 233.1 per million in 2001, to 299.7 per million in 2015.

Websites Teenage Cancer Trust; Public Health England

18th January 2019

13. The next generation: how intergenerational interaction improves life chances of children and young people

Author: UNITED FOR ALL AGES Date: 09 January 2019

Abstract: This report shows how greater interaction between older and young people can help tackle crises facing children and young people and counter ageism in divided Britain. Bringing young and older people together can help tackle some of the big social ills facing the next generation – from poor health, anxiety and loneliness to educational attainment and social mobility. Intergenerational projects can boost confidence, skills and opportunities for children and young people while changing attitudes towards ageing. The report calls on every nursery and school, every children's and young people's organisation and every local authority to link with older people's care and housing providers, volunteers and organisations and mobilise together for the next generation.

Websites United for All Ages

14. Clustering and correlates of screen-time and eating behaviours among young children

Author: PEARSON, N Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 753

Abstract: Screen-time and unhealthy dietary behaviours are highly pervasive in young children and evidence suggests that these behaviours often co-occur and are associated. Identifying clusters of unhealthy behaviours, and their influences early in childhood, can assist in the development of targeted preventive interventions. The purpose of this study was to examine the sociodemographic, behavioural, and home physical environmental correlates of co-occurring screen-time and unhealthy eating behaviours and to assess the clustering of screen-time and unhealthy dietary behaviours in young children. Parents of 126 children, from the UK, aged 5–6 years (49% boys) completed a questionnaire which assessed their child's screen-time (ST), fruit and vegetable (FV), and energy-dense (ED) snack consumption. Categories of health behaviours were created based on frequencies of children meeting recommendations for FV and ST and median splits of frequencies for ED snacks. The study concludes that ST and unhealthy dietary behaviours cluster in children as young as 5 years of age and parents' own behaviours appear to be important influencing factors. Further research into the development of behavioural clustering in young children to identify and further understand the mechanisms underlying the synergy among health behaviours is needed. Feasibility interventions promoting reductions in both screen-time and unhealthy dietary behaviours reciprocally, while simultaneously focusing on changing parental behaviours, are warranted.

Websites **BioMed**

15. A haven of green space: learning from a pilot pre-post evaluation of a school-based social and therapeutic horticulture intervention with children

Author: CHIUMENTO, A Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 836

Abstract: Research suggests outdoor activity in green spaces is important for children's mental, emotional and social wellbeing. A recognised green space intervention is "Social and Therapeutic Horticulture" (STH). This article discusses findings from a pilot STH intervention, "A Haven of Green Space" conducted in North West England. The target group were school children aged 9–15 years experiencing behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. This exploratory study aims to assess the mental wellbeing of the children pre- and post-intervention, and assess the value of the evaluation methods and "Five Ways to Wellbeing" evaluation framework. The study concludes that a key study limitation is the pilot nature of the intervention and challenges in adapting evaluation methods to context and age-range. However, results indicate that group based socially interactive horticulture activities facilitated by trained therapists are associated with positive impacts upon the mental and emotional wellbeing of children experiencing behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Further research is needed to verify this, and to support using the "Five Ways" in intervention development and evaluation.

Websites **BioMed**

16. Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program Components and their Effects on Physical Activity Promotion

Author: DORNSTAUDER, D Journal: Education and Health Vol: 36 Part: 2

Abstract: Obese children are at risk of becoming obese adults with the potential of suffering from a variety of health consequences. Physical activity is an important element to increase the health and well-being of school-aged children. A Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program is a systematic, multidimensional approach by which schools maximize opportunities for students to become more physically active in order to allow children to meet the recommended daily sixty minutes of physical activity requirements while developing the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy physical activity throughout their lifetime. In this article, an in-depth analysis is examined on each of the five components of a Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program, as well as requirements and recommendations to successfully implement different components in order to ensure establishment and longevity of a program and avoid potential roadblocks. The analysis concludes that comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs have the ability to assist physical education teachers in making youth more physically active and improve academic performance through quality physical education, physical activity before and after school, physical activity during school, staff involvement, and family and community engagement.

Websites SHEU

17. Trends among young people

Author: REGIS, D Journal: Education and Health Vol: 36 Part: 2: Pages: 48-51

Abstract: Every year, SHEU carry out healthy lifestyle surveys with young people for local authorities and each year these surveys involve tens of thousands of young people. At the end of each calendar year, all the results from all the surveys are put together, and a report is published. These reports contain findings from over 100 health-related behaviour questions using answers from pupils in primary and secondary schools. They tell us about what they do at home, at school, and with their friends. The full press release, summarising all the headlines, is on the SHEU website (SHEU, 2018), and the complete report may be obtained in PDF format by application to SHEU.

Websites SHEU

18. Using the Intervention Mapping Protocol to develop an online video intervention for parents to prevent childhood obesity: Movie Models

Author: DE LEPEELEERE, S Journal: Global Health Promotion Vol: 25 Part: 2

Abstract: The increasing prevalence of childhood overweight/obesity caused by an unhealthy diet, insufficient physical activity (PA) and high levels of sedentary behaviour (SB) is a prominent public health concern. Parenting practices may contribute to healthy behaviour change in children, but well-researched examples are limited. The aim of this study is to describe the systematic development of an intervention for parents to prevent childhood overweight/obesity through the improvement of parenting practices. The Intervention Mapping Protocol (IMP) was used to structure the development of 'Movie Models', an intervention targeting specific parenting practices related to children's healthy diet, PA, SB, and parental self-efficacy. A clear framework for process analyses is offered, which aims to increase the potential effectiveness of an intervention and can be useful for those developing health promotion programmes.

Websites Sage

19. Health visitors' views on promoting oral health and supporting clients with dental health problems: a qualitative study

Author: LEWNEY, J Journal: Journal of Public Health: Early online

Abstract: Inequalities in dental decay in young children persist, resulting in high admission rates for general anaesthetics for tooth extractions. Health visitors have the potential to improve dental attendance and oral health in families least likely to engage with dental services. There is little evidence on health visitors views on this. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of 17 health visitors working in both affluent and deprived areas in a single UK city. The findings show that knowledge of oral health was high and health visitors requested oral health education specific to the communities they worked in. Health visitors reported effective, formal referral processes to other health services but not to primary NHS dental services even when dealing with infants in pain. Health visitors interviewed were largely unaware of specific NHS dental services which reduce barriers to dental care including interpreting services and dental services for children with additional needs.

Websites Sage



COMMISSIONING AND ECONOMICS

20. Personal health budgets mandatory data collection: guidance and data

Author: NHS ENGLAND Date: 03 January 2019

Abstract: These documents provide information for all clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in England regarding the completion of the mandatory personal health budgets data collection being implemented on a quarterly basis from July 2018 onwards.

Websites NHS England

21. A review of the role and costs of clinical commissioning groups

Author: NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE Date: 18 December 2018

Abstract: This review sets out: changes to the commissioning landscape before CCGs were established; the role, running costs and performance of CCGs; and the changing commissioning landscape and the future role of CCGs. The National Audit Office has found that while many clinical commissioning groups are performing well and within budget, others are failing to function effectively or hire and retain the high-quality staff they need. Over half of CCGs were rated by NHS England as either 'outstanding' or 'good' in 2017-18, but more than 40% were rated as either 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate', with 24 CCGs deemed to be failing, or at risk of failing. While most stakeholders provide a positive view of their engagement with CCGs, neither the Department of Health and Social Care nor NHS England have undertaken an overall assessment of CCGs' progress in achieving their policy objectives since they were introduced.

Websites NAO

22. Driving forward system working: a snapshot of early progress in collaborative commissioning

Author: NHS PROVIDERS; NHS CLINICAL COMMISSIONERS Date: December 2018

Abstract: This joint report from NHS Providers and NHS Clinical Commissioners finds that although progress is at an early stage, the relationship between commissioners and providers is on the brink of significant change. Commissioners are beginning to take a more strategic approach, commissioning for outcomes across larger population footprints, with trusts taking on or supporting activities previously undertaken by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) such as developing pathways and service specifications. This report based on interviews with leaders from CCGs, NHS trusts, national policy makers and think tanks and explores the changing relationship between commissioners and providers in the context of system working.

Websites Report; News

23. Note on CCG allocations 2019/20 to 2023/24

Author: NHS ENGLAND Date: 10 January 2019

Abstract: A document setting out the changes made to target CCG allocations for 2019/20, the pace of change rules, and the assumptions used to set the overall CCG allocations growth rate.

Websites NHS England

24. NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2019/20

Author: NHS ENGLAND Date: 10 January 2019

Abstract: This full Planning Guidance replaces the Preparatory Guidance published in December 2018 and covers system planning, the financial settlement, full operational plan requirements, and the process and timescales around the submission of plans. It is being published along with five-year indicative CCG allocations.

Websites NHS England

25. Local authority governance

Author: NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE Date: 15 January 2019

Abstract: Local authorities are accountable to their communities for how they spend their money and for ensuring that this spending represents value for money. Authorities have faced significant challenges since 2010-11 as funding has reduced while demand for key services has grown. This report examines whether local governance arrangements provide local taxpayers and Parliament with assurance that local authority spending achieves value for money and that authorities are financially sustainable. The report addresses this question in three separate parts:

- Part One examines the pressures on the local governance system
- Part Two explores the extent to which local governance arrangements function as intended
- Part Three assesses whether the Department is fulfilling its responsibilities as steward of the system

Websites NAO



HEALTH CARE PUBLIC HEALTH

26. Musculoskeletal health: applying All Our Health

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 03 January 2019

Abstract: This guidance will help front-line health and care staff use their trusted relationships with patients, families and communities to promote the benefits of maintaining good musculoskeletal health with a focus on prevention, early detection and treatment. The guidance also recommends important actions that managers and staff holding strategic roles can take.

Websites PHE

27. Third biological treatment gives more choice for people with severe asthma

Author: NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE Date: 04 January 2019

Abstract: This draft guidance states that Benralizumab is cost-effective for use on the NHS in England and Wales by some adults who have severe eosinophilic asthma and have struggled to control it with inhalers. This uncommon and relatively uninvestigated form of asthma is believed to affect around 100,000 people in the UK. Benralizumab, made by AstraZeneca and also known as Fasenra, is a biological therapy which targets and depletes the immune cells (eosinophils) in the blood which cause the condition. It is the third biological treatment for severe eosinophilic asthma approved for NHS use by NICE, following mepolizumab in December 2016 and Reslizumab in October 2017. People who are eligible for Mepolizumab or Reslizumab can now be offered Benralizumab.

Websites NICE

28. Cardiovascular disease prevention: applying All Our Health

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 09 January 2019

Abstract: Evidence and guidance to help healthcare professionals to prevent heart attacks, strokes and dementia and to improve cardiovascular health. This resource helps: front-line health professionals; team leaders or managers and senior or strategic leaders to prevent ill health and promote wellbeing as part of their everyday practice. It also recommends important actions that managers and staff holding strategic roles can take. View the full range of <u>'All Our Health'</u> topics.

Websites PHE

29. More children and adults eligible for cochlear implants on the NHS

Author: NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE Date: 04 January 2019

Abstract: More people with severe to profound deafness are expected to be eligible for cochlear implants each year, due to updated guidance in development from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

(NICE). The update comes after a review of the definition of severe to profound deafness which is used to identify if a cochlear implant might be appropriate. Severe to profound deafness is now recognised as only hearing sounds louder than 80dB HL at 2 or more frequencies without hearing aids, a lowering of the previous threshold

Websites NICE - Update guidance; NICE - News



HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

30. Clinical trial launches to develop breath test for multiple cancers

Author: CANCER RESEARCH UK Date: 02 January 2019

Abstract: Researchers have launched a clinical trial to develop a breath test, analysing molecules that could indicate the presence of cancer at an early stage. This is the first test of its kind to investigate multiple cancer types. A cancer breath test has huge potential to provide a non-invasive look into what's happening in the body and could help to find cancer early, when treatment is more likely to be effective. The trial is recruiting patients to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge who have been referred from their GP with these specific types of suspected cancer. They will be given the breath test prior to other diagnostic tests. Patients will breathe into the test for 10 minutes to collect a sample, which will then be processed in Owlstone Medical's Breath Biopsy laboratory in Cambridge, UK. By looking across cancer types, this trial will help unpick if cancer signals are similar or different, and how early it's possible to pick these signals up. Some people will go on to be diagnosed with cancer, and their samples will be compared to those who don't develop the disease

Websites Cancer Research UK

31. Cervical Screening campaign

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 04 January 2019

Abstract: The NHS Cervical Screening Programme has made a significant impact on cervical cancer mortality since it was established in 1988, saving an estimated 5,000 lives a year. However, coverage is at a 20-year low. Figures published by NHS Digital show that, at 31 March 2018, the percentage of eligible women (aged 25 to 64) screened adequately was 71.4%. Coverage is lowest amongst those aged 25 - 35. To help address this issue, in March 2019 PHE will launch its first national multimedia cervical screening campaign.

Websites PHE

32. PHE Health Harms campaign encourages smokers to quit

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 28 December 2018

Abstract: Public Health England (PHE) has released a new film showing the devastating harms that come from smoking, and how this can be avoided by switching to an e-cigarette or using another type of quit aid. The film has been released as part of PHE's Health Harms campaign, which encourages smokers to attempt to quit this January, by demonstrating the personal harm to health from every single cigarette. The film features smoking expert Dr Lion Shahab and Dr Rosemary Leonard, visually demonstrating the high levels of cancer-causing

chemicals and tar inhaled by an average smoker over a month, compared to not smoking or using an ecigarette. The results of the demonstration visually illustrate the stark contrast between the impacts of smoking and vaping. Research estimates that while not risk-free, vaping is at least 95% less harmful than smoking.

Websites PHE

33. National Diabetes Transition Audit 2011-2017

Author: HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP Date: 10 January 2019

Abstract: Diabetes is a condition where the amount of glucose in the blood is too high because the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin. Supporting lifelong management of the condition is essential for achieving the most positive outcomes for the individual. Patients making the move from paediatric to adult services are at risk of disruption in care, with both short and long-term health effects. This report examines care provision during the period when young people with Type 1 diabetes move from paediatric to adult-based clinical care in England and Wales. The findings of the report point to deterioration in annual care process completion, achievement of treatment targets and higher rates of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) when young people transition from paediatric to adult services, with considerable local service variation. The report sets out recommendations for local specialist services, clinical commissioning groups and health boards

Websites HQIP

34. Salt targets 2017: progress report

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 19 December 2018

Abstract: This report includes a detailed assessment of progress by the food industry towards meeting the salt reduction targets set in 2014 and to be achieved by December 2017. The report includes:

- background to the salt reduction programme
- an assessment of progress towards meeting the 2017 salt targets for retailers and manufacturers
- an assessment of progress towards meeting the 2017 salt targets for the eating out of home sector
- the extent to which targets for foods contributing the most to dietary sodium intakes have been met •

Websites PHE

35. New five-year partnership to drive improved health outcomes for people in later life

Author: CENTRE FOR AGEING BETTER Date: December 2018

Abstract: The Centre for Ageing Better and Public Health England (PHE) have joined forces to promote healthy ageing at a national, regional and local level. The strategic partnership, confirmed through a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), will use evidence-based public health interventions to help people maintain or prevent deterioration in their functional ability as they age.

Websites Centre for Ageing Better

36. Exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and respiratory symptoms in non-smoking adults: crosssectional data from the general population of Telemark, Norway

Author: FELL, A.K.M Journal: BMC Public Health 18 Vol: Pages: 843

Abstract: This study assessed the association between self-reported exposure to second-hand smoke (SHS) and the prevalence of respiratory symptoms among never-smokers aged 16 to 50 years from the general population who were included in a cross-sectional population-based study in Telemark County, Norway. Logistic regression analysis was used to estimate the odds ratios of symptoms among 8850 never-smokers who provided an affirmative response to questions regarding SHS; 504 (5.7%) of these reported that they lived in a home with daily or occasional indoor smoking. The study concludes that daily SHS exposure in private homes was associated with productive cough and nocturnal dyspnoea. The results suggest that preventive measures may be needed to

37. "Taking away the chaos": a health needs assessment for people who inject drugs in public places in **Glasgow**, Scotland

Author: TWEED, E.J Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 829

Abstract: Public injecting of recreational drugs has been documented in a number of cities worldwide and was a key risk factor in a HIV outbreak in Glasgow, Scotland during 2015. This study investigated the characteristics and health needs of people involved in this practice and explored stakeholder attitudes to new harm reduction interventions. A tripartite health needs assessment framework was used, comprising epidemiological, comparative, and corporate approaches. Analysis of local and national secondary data sources on drug use was undertaken; a series of rapid literature reviews; and an engagement exercise with people currently injecting in public places, people in recovery from injecting drug use, and staff from relevant health and social services. Between 400 and 500 individuals are estimated to regularly inject in public places in Glasgow city centre: most experience a combination of profound social vulnerabilities. Priority health needs comprise addictions care; prevention and treatment of blood-borne viruses; other injecting-related infections and injuries; and overdose and drug-related death. Among people with lived experience and staff from relevant health and social care services, there was widespread – though not unanimous – support for the introduction of safer injecting facilities and heroin-assisted treatment services. The environment and context in which drug consumption occurs is a key determinant of harm, and is inextricably linked to upstream social factors. Public injecting therefore requires a multifaceted response.

Websites **BioMed**

38. The development, implementation and evaluation of interventions to reduce workplace sitting: a qualitative systematic review and evidence-based operational framework

Author: MACKENZIE,K Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 833

Abstract: Prolonged sitting is associated with increased risks of cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, some cancers, musculoskeletal disorders and premature mortality. Workplaces contribute to a large proportion of daily sitting time, particularly among office-based workers. Interventions to reduce workplace sitting therefore represent important public health initiatives. The aims of this review are to identify factors important for the implementation of workplace sitting interventions and to translate these findings into a useful operational framework to support the future implementation of such interventions. A qualitative systematic review was conducted. Forty studies met the inclusion criteria. Nine descriptive themes were identified from which emerged three higher-order analytical themes, which related to the *development*, implementation and evaluation of workplace sitting interventions. The findings provided the basis for an operational framework, which is a representation of all nine descriptive themes and three higher-order analytical themes, to support workplace sitting intervention development, implementation and evaluation. Once tested and refined, this framework has the potential to be incorporated into a practical toolkit, which could be used by a range of organisations to develop, implement and evaluate their own interventions to reduce workplace sitting time amongst staff.

Websites **BioMed**

39. The effectiveness of physical activity interventions in improving well-being across office-based workplace settings: a systematic review

Author: ABDIN, S Journal: Public Health Vol: 160: Pages: 70-76

Abstract: Although the benefits of regular physical activity (PA) are widely accepted, most of the population fails to meet the recommended levels of activity. Public health bodies such as the World Health Organisation emphasise promoting PA within workplaces as a key intervention setting to reach the health and well-being of the working population. This systematic review aims to assess the effectiveness of PA interventions for improving psychological well-being in working adults. This review found mixed evidence that PA interventions can be effective in improving well-being across office settings. Although, the findings are promising, because of methodological failings, there is no conclusive evidence. Current evidence indicates that employees can improve their psychological well-being by participating in any form of PA interventions in an office setting.

Websites Science Direct

40. Motivational interviewing-based training vs traditional training on the uptake of cervical screening: a quasi-experimental study

Author: ZOLFAGHARI, Z Journal: Public Health Vol: 160: Pages: 94-99

Abstract: Cervical cancer, a major health issue affecting women, is preventable and can be successfully treated. It is essential that measures are taken to improve the uptake of screening for this cancer. The aim of this quasi-experimental study was to compare the effects of motivational interviewing (MI)-based training and traditional training on the frequency of cervical cancer screening tests in a group of working female teachers. The study concludes that MI-based training has a significant positive effect on women's compliance with cervical cancer screening tests. Therefore, it is recommended that this technique be adopted in women's health centers.

Websites Science Direct



HEALTH PROTECTION

41. Particulate air pollution on London Underground: health effects

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 09 January 2019

Abstract: This statement by the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) updates earlier advice (Dust on the London Underground - December 1998) on the evidence for health effects in the travelling public associated with exposure to particulate air pollution in the London Underground.

Websites PHE

42. Resources and waste strategy for England

Author: UNITED KINGDOM Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs; ENVIRONMENT AGENCY Date: 18 December 2018

Abstract: This strategy sets plans to double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds

(including plastic waste) by 2050. The strategy sets out how the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency will:

- preserve our stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy
- minimise the damage caused to our natural environment by reducing and managing waste safely and carefully
- deal with waste crime

Websites DEFRA; Environment Agency

43. UK National Radon Action Plan

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 18 December 2018

Abstract: The NRAP describes the national radon strategy and arrangements for managing exposure to radon in homes and workplaces.

Websites PHE

44. Weekly national flu reports: 2018 to 2019 season

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 10 January 2019

Abstract: National influenza reports, tracking seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses in the UK. The latest report shows that seasonal flu is now circulating in the community but remains at low levels. The statistics show that over the last week, GP consultations with flu-like illness, hospital and intensive care admission rates have all increased from 8.4 to 14.8 per 100,000, from 1.96 to 4.32 and from 0.32 to 0.40 per 100,000 respectively - suggesting flu is having a moderate impact on hospital admissions as well as intensive care unit and high dependency unit admissions. The report also shows that in week 1, 2019, no statistically significant excess all-cause mortality by week of death has been seen yet overall or by age group in England this season.

Websites PHE

45. Measles and rubella elimination UK strategy

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 09 January 2019

Abstract: This report explains the UK's strategy towards measles and rubella elimination. The strategy focuses on 4 core components required to maintain elimination of measles and rubella:

- Achieve and sustain \geq 95% coverage in the routine childhood programme.
- Achieve ≥ 95% coverage with 2 doses of MMR vaccine in older age cohorts through opportunistic and • targeted catch-up.
- Strengthen measles and rubella surveillance.
- Ensure easy access to high-quality, evidence-based information.

Websites PHE

46. HIV: London annual data spotlight

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 04 January 2019

Abstract: Updated reports presenting annual epidemiological data for HIV in London. These reports summarise:

- trends in new diagnoses of HIV •
- prevalence of diagnosed HIV across the PHE centre
- risk groups •
- public health implications
- advice for stakeholders •
- recommendations for the public

Websites PHE

47. Clean Air Strategy 2019

Author: UNITED KINGDOM Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs; et.al Date: 14 January 2019

Abstract: This strategy sets out the comprehensive actions required across all parts of government and society to improve air quality. The strategy sets out how we will:

- protect the nation's health
- protect the environment
- secure clean growth and innovation •
- reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry
- monitor our progress

Websites DEFRA; et.al

48. PrEP Impact Trial

Author: NHS ENGLAND Date: 11 January 2019

Abstract: Implementation of the PrEP Impact trial has been a huge success with over 10,000 participants already enrolled in this important HIV prevention measure. But, the speed of recruitment and demand for PrEP has significantly exceeded initial expert predictions and the trial researchers now consider that more places should be made available. As a result, an official request has been made by the researchers to increase the number of participants to the end of the trial in 2020 from 13,000 to up to 26,000. NHS England is supportive of the researchers' proposal and will play its part by committing to fund additional places in line with existing trial funding arrangements.

See website for more information on the PrEP Impact trial and also Local Government Association response.

Websites NHS England; PrEP Impact Trial; LGA Response

49. Syphilis epidemiology in London 2017 data update

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 04 January 2019

Abstract: This report provides an update on the epidemiology of syphilis in London. London bears a disproportionate burden of syphilis cases and this is increasing. In 2017, 3,397 London residents were diagnosed with syphilis, accounting for nearly half (49%) of all cases in England. Syphilis was diagnosed in residents of all 33 London local authorities (LAs) in 2017, and 23 LAs saw an increase in syphilis cases compared to the previous year.

Websites PHE; PHE - Report

50. Sexual health services and the importance of prevention

Author: ROBERTSON, R Date: 30 December 2018

Abstract: Between 2013/14 and 2017/18 the public health grant to local authorities decreased by 8 per cent in real terms from £2.7 billion to £2.4 billion The government has also confirmed a 2.6 per cent cut in the public health grant for 2019/20. Services providing sexual health advice, prevention and promotion have been among the biggest losers from the decrease in public health spending. This report looks at the outlook for these services.

Websites King's Fund

51. HIV rapid testing in community and outreach sites: results of a nationwide demonstration project in Italy

Author: SCOGNAMIGLIO, P Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 753

Abstract: Globally the access to HIV testing has greatly increased over the past 30 years. Nonetheless, a high proportion of people living with HIV remains undiagnosed, even in resource rich countries. To increase the proportion of people aware of their HIV serostatus and their access to medical care, several strategies have been proposed including HIV rapid test programs offered outside health facilities. The aim of this project was to evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of the HIV rapid testing offered in community and outreach settings in Italy. A national demonstration project on HIV rapid tests was offered in community and outreach settings, including nongovernmental organization (NGO) facilities, primary care services for migrants and lowthreshold services or mobile units for drug users (DU services). Those with reactive results were referred to a specialized outpatient unit for confirmatory testing and medical care. The project showed that the offering of an HIV rapid testing program in community and outreach settings in Italy is feasible and that it may reach people who have never been tested before, while having a significant yield in terms of new HIV diagnoses as well.

Websites **BioMed**

52. Changes in (risk) behaviour and HPV knowledge among Dutch girls eligible for HPV vaccination: an observational cohort study

Author: DONKEN, R Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 837

Abstract: Implementation of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination raised concerns that vaccination could lead to riskier sexual behaviour. This study explored how possible differences in sexual behaviour and HPV knowledge developed over time between HPV-vaccinated and unvaccinated girls. A random sample of 19,939 girls (16–17 year olds) eligible for the catch-up HPV vaccination campaign in the Netherlands was invited for a longitudinal study with questionnaires every 6 months over a two-year follow-up period. Possible differences over time between vaccinated and unvaccinated participants were studied using generalized equations estimation (GEE). The study concludes that overall, no indications were found that vaccination influenced sexual behaviour in girls during 2 years of follow-up. The few differences found may be related to existing disparities in the socio-demographic characteristics of the young population pointing to the importance and improvement of education with regard to safe sex practices. The findings do not suggest that vaccination status is associated with changes in sexual risk behaviour and thus it is unlikely that this might influence the effectiveness of the vaccination program.

Websites **BioMed**

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MATERNITY AND INFANTS

53. Testing Times: Supporting fathers during the perinatal period and early parenthood

Author: CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Date: 18 December 2018

Abstract: Evidence on the role of fathers and their role in supporting mothers finds that they have a significant influence on healthy behaviours in pregnancy and improve mental health outcomes following birth. When new mothers are asked about support almost two thirds identify their partner as being their primary source of support, almost three times as much as the next option (their own mother) with only 5 per cent saying health care professionals. There is also strong correlation between active father engagement and improved childhood outcomes. Substantial and high-quality father involvement from the month following birth are associated with a range of positive outcomes, including higher IQs at 12 months and 3 years. This report sets out just how much work there is to be done to promote active fatherhood, especially amongst working class fathers.

Websites CSJ

54. National Maternity and Perinatal Audit

Author: HEALTHCARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP Date: 10 January 2019

Abstract: The National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (NMPA) has published two reports. The Neonatal Report explores the feasibility of linking the NMPA data set, which contains data relating to the majority of women who give birth, to the National Neonatal Research Database (NNRD), which contains detailed information about the majority of babies admitted to a neonatal unit. The purpose of the Intensive Care Report is to describe the feasibility of linking the NMPA's maternity data to intensive care data and to evaluate the suitability of rates of maternal admission to intensive care as an indicator of care quality. It also describes the demographics of women admitted to intensive care and the reasons for admission.

Websites HQIP - Neonatal Report; HQIP - Intensive Care Report

55. Breastfeeding and dental health

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND Date: 19 December 2018

Abstract: This evidence summary and infographic for dental teams and healthcare professionals provides information on the dental and general health benefits of breastfeeding for the first year of life.

Websites PHE



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

56. History of co-occurring disorders and current mental health status among homeless veterans

Author: DING, K Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 782

Abstract: Homeless veterans are at high risk for co-occurring disorders (COD), defined as mental illnesses that include at least one alcohol or other drug use disorder and at least one non-drug related mental disorder. However, epidemiological studies examining the prevalence of COD and associated mental health status in this population are limited. The objectives of the study were: to describe a history of diagnosed mental disorders among homeless veterans admitted to a transitional housing program, and to examine the associations of the prior diagnosed COD and other mental disorders with current mental health status. The study concludes that COD prevalence among homeless veterans was within the parameter of other literature reports. Veterans with COD compared to veterans with no history of mental disorders tended to have lower mental component summary score (MCS) and empowerment scores. Veterans with COD had the same mental health status as those with other mental disorders.

Websites **BioMed**

57. Stress begets stress: the association of adverse childhood experiences with psychological distress in the presence of adult life stress

Author: MANYEMA, M Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 835

Abstract: Adverse childhood experiences (ACES) have been linked to poor health and well-being outcomes, including poor mental health such as psychological distress. Both ACEs and psychological distress pose a significant public health burden, particularly in low to middle income countries. Contemporaneous stress events in adulthood may also impact psychological distress. The aims of this study were to describe the prevalence of ACEs and psychological distress and to assess the separate and cumulative effect of ACEs on psychological distress, while accounting for the effect of adult stress. This cross-sectional study used retrospectively measured ACEs from a sample of 1223 young adults aged between 22 and 23 years (52% female) from the Birth to Twenty Plus Study. Psychological distress and adult life stress were measured with a six-month recall period. Hierarchical logistic regression was employed to assess the associations between the exposures and outcome. The study concludes that the prevalence of ACEs in this young adult population is high. A significant direct association exists between ACEs and psychological distress. Adult life stress seems to be a mediator of this relationship. Interventions targeted at psychological distress should address both early life adversity and contemporary stress.

Websites **BioMed**

58. Associations of self-reported physical activity and depression in 10,000 Irish adults across harmonised datasets: a DEDIPAC-study

Author: Mc DOWELL, C Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18: Pages: 779

Abstract: Depression is a prevalent, debilitating, and often recurrent mood disorder for which successful firstline treatments remains limited. The purpose of this study was to investigate the cross-sectional associations between self-reported physical activity (PA) and depressive symptoms and status among Irish adults, using two existing datasets; The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) and The Mitchelstown Cohort Study. Significantly higher depressive symptoms were reported by females than males. Following adjustment

for age, sex, BMI, and dataset, meeting the PA guidelines was associated with 44.7% lower odds of elevated depressive symptoms. Meeting the PA guidelines is associated with lower odds of elevated depressive symptoms, and increased volumes of MVPA (Moderate to Vigorous Physical Activity) are associated with lower odds of elevated depressive symptoms.

Websites **Biomed**

59. Mental toughness is a predictor of suicidality in university students

Author: KRUGER, J Journal: Education and Health Vol: 36 Part: 2

Abstract: In recent years, a large body of literature has highlighted numerous health concerns in regards to students of the higher education population, with a large focus on people's experiences of mental health problems. The aim of this study was to investigate the extent to which suicidality was statistically predicted by mental toughness (MT) in a student sample. The results confirmed that MT can be considered a predictor of suicidality. In terms of suicidality, results also found that students within second year exhibited higher suicidality levels. This adds to the suggestion that second year of university is more psychologically challenging, due to a number of different factors. The present findings therefore add to the view that MT is an important resource in everyday life, relating to mental health and psychological functioning. In summary, the present study is the first to examine an empirical link between MT and suicidality in university students. Findings supported the hypothesis that MT is a significant, negative predictor of suicidality. It is recommended that further research examines the potential of MT interventions to reduce suicidality in students and particularly target at risk groups.

Websites SHEU

60. The use of arts interventions for mental health and wellbeing in health settings

Author: JENSEN, A Journal: Perspectives in Public Health Vol: 138 Part: 4

Abstract: This article is focused on mental health benefits because this is an emerging field in the Nordic countries where evidence is demanded from national health agencies that face an increasing number of citizens with poor mental health and a need for non-medical interventions and programmes. A total of 20 articles of interest were drawn from a wider literature review. The studies document that participation in activities in a spectrum from clinical arts interventions to non-clinical participatory arts programmes is beneficial and an effective way of using engagement in the arts to promote holistic approaches with health benefits. Participatory arts activities and clinical arts interventions should be made more widely available in health and social settings. It is well-documented that such activities can be used as non-medical interventions to promote public health and wellbeing.

Websites Sage



WIDER DETERMINANTS

61. A vision for social housing: The final report of Shelter's commission on the future of social housing

Author: SHELTER Date: 08 January 2019

Abstract: Social housing in England has been provided to support individuals and families who are not served

by the private market. Social landlords are generally councils or housing associations. The stock of social homes has declined in recent decades; currently, around 17 percent of English households live in public housing, this is down from around a third of households in the late 1970's. In January 2018, Shelter brought together 16 commissioners from across the political spectrum and from different backgrounds and perspectives, to consider the role of social/housing in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire commission. The report recommends a historic renewal of social housing, with a 20-year programme to deliver 3.1 million more social homes. This will allow the benefits of social housing to be offered much more widely – providing both security for those in need and a step up for young families trying to get on and save for their future. Please see also Local Government Association response

Websites Shelter - Report; LGA - Response

62. Deaths of homeless people in England and Wales: 2013 to 2017

Author: OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS Date: 20 December 2018

Abstract: The first Experimental Statistics of the number of deaths of homeless people in England and Wales. Figures are given for deaths registered in the years 2013 to 2017. Main points include:-

- There were an estimated 597 deaths of homeless people in England and Wales in 2017, a figure that • has increased by 24% over the last five years.
- Men made up 84% of deaths of homeless people in 2017.
- The mean age at death of homeless people was 44 years for men, 42 years for women and 44 years • for all persons between 2013 and 2017; in comparison, in the general population of England and Wales in 2017, the mean age at death was 76 years for men and 81 years for women.
- Over half of all deaths of homeless people in 2017 were due to drug poisoning, liver disease or suicide; drug poisoning alone made up 32% of the total.
- London and the North West of England had the highest mortality of homeless people, both in numbers of deaths and per million population of the region.

Websites ONS

63. The impact of job insecurity on long-term self-rated health - results from the prospective populationbased MONICA/KORA study

Author: BARRECH, A Journal: BMC Public Health Vol: 18 Part: Pages: 754

Abstract: Job insecurity has been associated with impaired self-rated health (SRH) in cross-sectional studies, but prospective findings with short, medium and long-term follow-up yielded mixed findings. Therefore, the aim of the present study was to assess the long-term association between perceived job insecurity and SRH, after controlling for baseline levels of health status and life-style choices. Furthermore, three different followup periods (14, 19 and 24 years) were considered. The study found that perceived job insecurity during working life was independently and significantly associated with impaired SRH both cross-sectionally as well as after 14 years, but not after 19 and 24 years.

Websites **BioMed**



OTHER

64. The NHS Long Term Plan

Author: NHS ENGLAND Date: 07 January 2019

Abstract: NHS England have published the NHS Long Term Plan, setting out its priorities for healthcare over the next ten years and showing how the NHS funding settlement will be used. A new service model for the 21st century Implementation of the plan will ensure that the NHS will be more joined-up and co-ordinated in its care, more proactive in the service it provides and more differentiated in its support offered to individuals. The five major practical changes to the NHS service model over the next five years will be:

- Boosting out of hospital care to dissolve the divide between primary and community health services
- Redesigning and reducing pressure on emergency hospital services
- More personalised care to help people gain more control over their health when they need it •
- Digitally-enabled primary and outpatient care
- Increasing focus by local NHS organisations on population health and local partnerships with LA-• funded services, through ICS

Websites NHS England - Press Release; NHS England - Report

65. Cancer Outcome Metrics

Author: NATIONAL CANCER REGISTRATION AND ANALYSIS SERVICE Date: January 2019

Abstract: The quarterly emergency presentations of cancer data has been updated by Public Health England's National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS). Data estimates are for all malignant cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) and are at CCG level, with England as a whole for comparison. This latest publication includes quarterly data for April 2018 to June 2018 (quarter 1 of financial year 2018 to 2019) and an update of the one year rolling average.

Websites NCRAS

66. How is the NHS performing? December 2018 quarterly monitoring report

Author: ANANDACIVA, S Date: 21 December 2018

Abstract: This is the 27th King's Fund quarterly monitoring report which tracks and analyses and comments on the changes and challenges the health and care system is facing. The report aims to take stock of what has happened over the past few months, including the recently announced The report once more finds that patients are waiting too long for care and NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) remain under tremendous financial pressure. Midway through 2018/19 we are seeing waits for routine and emergency care that have not been seen for a decade, and half of NHS providers are forecasting a financial deficit.

Websites King's Fund

67. The Role of the NHS in Prevention: Discussion paper

Author: FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH Date: December 2018

Abstract: The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) has received a grant from the Health Foundation to undertake a policy development and research project examining the role of the NHS in the prevention of ill-health. The project began in August 2018, and the final report is expected in mid-2019. The Role of the NHS in Prevention project aims to:

• Build a better understanding of how the NHS currently delivers prevention

- Understand what 'good' prevention in the NHS looks like
- Explore the enablers and barriers for NHS organisations seeking to take a more preventative approach

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• Determine initial priorities for increased investment and focus.

This discussion paper draws together the key themes that have begun to emerge from work completed so far.

Websites Faculty of Public Health

68. Continuity of care with doctors—a matter of life and death? A systematic review of continuity of care and mortality

Author: GRAY, D. Pereira Journal: BMJ Open Vol: 8 Part: 6

Abstract: Continuity of care is a long-standing feature of healthcare, especially of general practice. It is associated with increased patient satisfaction, increased take-up of health promotion, greater adherence to medical advice and decreased use of hospital services. This review aims to examine whether there is a relationship between the receipt of continuity of doctor care and mortality. This first systematic review reveals that increased continuity of care by doctors is associated with lower mortality rates. Although all the evidence is observational, patients across cultural boundaries appear to benefit from continuity of care with both generalist and specialist doctors. Many of these articles called for continuity to be given a higher priority in healthcare planning. Despite substantial, successive, technical advances in medicine, interpersonal factors remain important.

Websites **BMJ Open**