

More information

Healthwatch and Dementia services

Since the beginning of 2015, more than 1,000 people across the country have spoken to local Healthwatch about their experiences of dementia care - access report [here](#) and local Healthwatch Wirral undertake *Enter and View visits* to Wirral University Hospital as part of their annual work programme - access those reports [here](#)

Progress made by poor pupils in primary school is virtually wiped out at secondary level

and the gap has widened since 2012, [according to research commissioned by the Social Mobility Commission](#). It suggests that among the causes are how children on free school meals are treated and the expectations made of them and the level of support provided at home. Access the research [here](#)

Salt and sugars content of breakfast cereals in the UK from 1992 to 2015

[This study of the salt and sugars content of breakfast cereals](#) sold in the UK uses cross-sectional surveys on salt and sugars content collected from the nutrition information panel of breakfast cereals in 1992, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. More information [here](#)

The health and care of older people in England

[Age UK's 2017 analysis of data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing](#) suggests to Age UK that without change there is a genuine risk that the social care system may collapse in the worst affected areas this year or next. It found:

- 2 million people aged 65 plus don't receive the support they need with essential daily living activities, representing a 17.9 per cent increase on last year and 48 per cent since 2010.
- The percentage of older people receiving social care support fell from 15.3 per cent in 2005/6 to 9.2 percent in 2013/14.
- There has been a £160m cut in total public spending on older people's social care in the five years to 2015/16 during a period of rapidly rising demand.
- Nearly two thirds of older carers have a health condition or disability.
- Between August 2010 and July 2016 the number of days of delayed discharge waits for home care increased by 181.7 per cent, from 12,777 to 35,994 days. Waits for residential care increased 40 per cent, from 13,459 to 18,973

Access the report [here](#)

Data packs on mental health for CCGs have been published

These have been [published by NHS RightCare](#) and they allow local areas to compare their performance with their ten most similar CCGs. More information [here](#)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport publishes annual progress report on 'Sporting Future'

The government has [published its first annual progress report](#) on its new sport strategy that aims to get the nation more active for the positive impact it has on people's health, local communities and the economy. More information [here](#)

Case studies on child obesity

These have been [published by the Department of Health \(DH\)](#) showing 8 examples of action being taken by local authorities, businesses, families and schools. Access [here](#)

Drug misuse treatment in England

This [evidence review for drug misuse treatment in England](#) highlights what outcomes can be expected of the drug treatment and recovery system in England, with advice on future policy. More information [here](#)

Combating High Blood Pressure

This [guidance, in Health matters](#), is a professional resource that outlines how providers and commissioners can reduce blood pressure in the population. Access [here](#)

How does incarcerating young people affect their adult health outcomes?

[This study](#) sought to quantify the association of youth incarceration with subsequent adult health outcomes. More information [here](#)

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms in England: supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs

The Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists has [published this report on the special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) reforms in England](#). The report outlines the findings of a survey on its members' experiences of the SEND reforms, associated successes, challenges and areas for improvement. Access report [here](#)

Working to support positive parenting and relationships. What can councils do?

Over the years, councils have focused primarily on helping children. That is clearly still important, but now it's time to do more to help parents as well. Councils want to work with families and support parents, to equip them to deal with some of the challenges of daily living and overcome the hurdles that get in the way of building safe, stable and nurturing environments that all children can thrive in. [These six case studies show how councils are working to support positive parenting and relationships](#)

Adult social care market shaping

This [Department of Health \(DH\) guidance](#) is aimed at people who buy social care services, including local authority and clinical commissioning group commissioners, as well as personal budget holders and people who fund their own care, care service providers and potential investors in the care sector. Access [here](#)

Preventing children and young people's mental health and substance use problems

[This paper](#) produced by [Mentor ADEPIS](#) intends to provide teachers, educators and the wider school workforce with practical guidelines on how to prevent children and young people from developing mental health problems as a result of alcohol and drug misuse.

Childcare for all: the role of the local offer

As part of their 'Local Offer', local authorities have a legal duty to provide information about services and support - including early education and childcare -for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in their area. [The Family and Childcare Trust's report](#) looks at the quality of information about childcare provided in all local authority's Local Offer. Access report [here](#)

State of child health

[This report by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#) has analysed data on 25 child health measures. The data provides an across the board snapshot of child health and wellbeing. It points out that nearly one in five children in the UK is living in poverty and facing much worse health compared with the most affluent. Despite some improvements in children's health in the last few decades, there is a clear disparity with Europe. The UK ranks 15 out of 19 Western European countries on infant death and has one of the highest rates for children and young people in Western Europe. Breastfeeding has shown minimal improvement since data recording commenced in 1975 with no improvement over the last five years, and remaining lower than many comparable countries. Across the UK one in five children in the first years of primary school are overweight or obese and there has been minimal improvement in prevalence over the past decade. The report makes recommendations to the UK governments to improve child health and wellbeing. Read more [here](#)

Local support for people with a learning disability

Good progress has been made by the Department of Health and NHS England in setting up a programme to close hospital beds for people with a learning disability, but the programme is not yet on track to achieve value for money. [The report](#) examines how the NHS in England and local authorities seek to improve the lives of the 129,000 people aged 18 to 64 who use local authority learning disability support services. [Full Report](#) or [Summary](#)

Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2016-17 to 2021-22

Debates over living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK are often hampered by the fact that official data on household incomes are available only with a significant lag. Currently, the latest statistics are for 2014-15. [In this report](#), the Institute of Fiscal Studies, attempt to fill this gap by estimating what has happened to household incomes between 2014-15 and 2016-17 based on other data sources and changes to direct tax and benefit policy. IFS estimate how the incomes of different households would evolve up to 2021-22 if current tax and benefit policy plans are kept to and if the macroeconomic forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) - for things such as earnings and employment - were correct. They also consider macroeconomic scenarios that are more and less optimistic than the OBR's central forecast. Access [here](#)

Stigma stopping young people talking about mental health

[Research by The Princes Trust](#) reveals that one in four young people (24%) would not confide in someone if they were experiencing a mental health problem, with many fearing that it could affect their job prospects. [The research, funded by Macquarie, based on a survey of 2,215 respondents aged 16 to 25](#); found that the vast majority of young people (78%) think there is a stigma attached to mental health issues. A third (32%) of those young people who would keep quiet about their mental health worries think admitting to a problem could affect their job prospects, 57% wouldn't want anyone to know they were struggling and 35% fear it would make them "look weak". Conducted anonymously online, the research found that almost half (47%) of young people have experienced a mental health issue. More information [here](#)

State of the nation's foster care 2016: what foster carers think and feel about fostering

The [Fostering Network has collated the views of foster](#) carers through this State of the Nation survey, which it conducts every two years in order to find out what key issues need to be addressed. More information [here](#)

Staying put: developing dementia-friendly care and support for people with a learning disability

[This report](#), written by a partnership of voluntary sector organisations, calls for an improvement in the way that the needs of people with learning disabilities and dementia are addressed. It focuses on how best to support the growing number of people with dementia or learning disabilities from a policy, research and practice perspective. Access [here](#)