Community Bulletin

innovation physical health Dept of Health and Social Care
evidence mental health CQC
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NHS Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust
Community and Mental Health Services

3 January 2024

Reports

[COVID-19: evaluation of pilot projects to support self-isolation](#)
Evaluation reports from a programme of pilot projects to support self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Assistive technology research and development work: 2022 to 2023](#)
Sets out government-funded projects supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of assistive technology.

Guidance

[Proactive care: providing care and support for people living at home with moderate or severe frailty](#)
This guidance is for integrated care boards (ICBs) and provider organisations involved in the design and delivery of proactive care.

[Communicable disease outbreak management: operational guidance (Updated Dec 2023)](#)
Roles and responsibilities of key agencies and the agreed procedures during local and national outbreak investigations.

[Care data matters: a roadmap for better adult social care data](#)
This document sets out the government's roadmap for transforming adult social care data in England.

Briefings

[Boosting referrals into urgent community response services to benefit patients](#)
How community providers can work with system partners to increase referrals to UCR services for the benefit of patients and system flow.

Publications

[RCN New Definition of Nursing: Background research and rationale](#)
This summary explanation aims to provide the background to developing the revised RCN definition of nursing in support of the professional framework. It explains the reasons for the choice of language terms and the emphasis placed on the definition.

[What's driving increasing length of stay in hospitals since 2019?](#)
For over two decades before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were sustained reductions in the average length of patient stays in hospital. This allowed the NHS in England to deliver more inpatient care while gradually reducing the number of hospital beds. However, as shown by our previous analysis, 2022 broke this trend. Compared with 2019, the average length of a hospital stay increased by 14% in 2022 (from 7.3 days to 8.3 days). This was mostly driven by emergency admissions, which saw an increase in average length of stay from 7.9 days in 2019 to 9.1 days in 2022.

[Moving to healthy homes](#)
Health starts at home. It's central to where many of the building blocks for a good life are created, including safety, warmth, family connection, community, good education and work. But for some people, home is making them sick.

News

[COVID JN.1 variant: RCN seeks assurance on new PPE advice](#)
We've contacted chief nursing officers in all 4 UK countries and the UKHSA to find out what action will be taken in response to WHO's statement on a new COVID-19 variant of interest.

[UKHSA and ONS release latest Winter COVID-19 Infection Study Data](#)
UKHSA and ONS have today published the latest data from the Winter Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Study, known as the Winter CIS.

[Ongoing brain injury caused by COVID-19 may not always be detected by routine tests](#)
A new study published recently in Nature Communications details that markers of brain injury are present in the blood many months after COVID-19 infection, despite inflammation blood tests being normal.

[Overhaul of training needed to support general practice staff to provide remote health care](#)
Training for GP practice staff has not kept pace with changes in the way care is provided since the pandemic, the findings of a new study in UK general practice reveals.

[Smokers encouraged to quit this new year for their health](#)
The NHS is launching a brand new smokefree campaign to encourage all 5.3 million smokers in England to make a quit attempt this January.

[Six million vital checks carried out at local diagnostic centres](#)
NHS patients benefit from six million more checks at centres across England.

[NHS boosts health support for new mums](#)
All new mums in England will receive a more comprehensive mental and physical check-up from their GP in the weeks after they give birth, thanks to new NHS guidance published today.

[NHS expands lifesaving home testing for bowel cancer to catch disease earlier](#)
Hundreds of thousands more people will be sent a home-testing kit that can help to detect signs of bowel cancer, as the NHS expands its lifesaving screening programme to individuals aged 54 in England.

[Another record-breaking year for NHS cancer checks](#)
More people than ever before are getting tested for cancer with almost 3 million checks over the last 12 months, new analysis shows today.

[NHS exercise advice sought every 12 seconds at new year](#)
The number of visits to the NHS website's running programme is expected to quadruple in the first week of January as people attempt to achieve their new year's resolutions.

[Loneliness can take as much toll on mental and physical health as smoking and lack of exercise, say psychologists](#)
The BPS has warned that loneliness can be as dangerous to people's mental and physical health as behaviours such as smoking and a lack of exercise.

[Wegovy: why half the people taking the weight loss drug stop within a year – and what happens when they do](#)
Despite the effectiveness of the newer generation of anti-obesity drugs – called GLP-1 receptor agonists – few can tolerate them in the long run. A new study, published in the journal Obesity, reveals that of people prescribed weight-loss drugs, just 44% were still taking them after three months and only 19% after one year.

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[Using digital tech to help improve parent-child interactions](#)

This project, called Baby Talk for York was developed as part of our fairer start local programme. We wanted to explore how digital technologies and social media could be combined with the latest learning from behavioural science to help parents and carers embed playful activities in their day-to-day routines with their children, which we know can have a positive effect on child development. We drew on activities in the Look Say Sing Play resource developed by NSPCC.