

w/c 15th March 2021

Produced by Health Evidence Matters

Public Health England

Preconception advice for women with serious mental illness from Public Health England (PHE)

PHE partnered with NHSE, KCL and Tommy's developed an evidence review for preconception interventions for women with severe mental illness and resources for HCP's to support women with serious mental illness planning a pregnancy or wishing to become pregnant in future.

[Details](#)

Relaunch of the Act FAST campaign to improve stroke outcomes

PHE supported by the Stroke Association, is relaunching the Act FAST campaign today reminding people of the symptoms of stroke and urgency of calling 999. Data suggests people avoid seeking help for stroke during pandemic as admissions for stroke fell by 12% between Mar-Apr 2020.

[Details](#)

Four more cases of Variant of Concern VOC-202101/02 (P.1) found in England

Three cases were in South Gloucestershire and were all close or household contacts of the 2 existing P.1 cases in the area. The other case was in Bradford. They were offered testing in response to the initial cases.

[Details](#)

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises prioritising homeless people and rough sleepers for COVID-19 vaccine

The JCVI advises that local teams consider a universal offer to adults experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping alongside those in priority group 6. They should also be offered the vaccine without the need for an NHS number or GP registration.

[Details](#)

Avian influenza A(H5N8): risk assessment

Risk assessment of avian influenza A(H5N8) in the UK.

[Details](#)

Weekly national Influenza and COVID-19 surveillance report Week 10 report (up to week 9 data) 11 March 2021

Public Health Matters: The SIREN study: answering the big questions

The SIREN study looks for answers to the most important questions about reinfection and COVID-19. Find out how PHE has led the national effort to develop the science that help decision-makers control the disease.

[Details](#)

Public Health Matters: Time to talk about smoking and mental health in a pandemic: No Smoking Day 2021

Many smokers believe that smoking helps to relieve stress, anxiety and low mood, when in fact the opposite is true. This year, for the first time, the national No Smoking Day campaign will focus on the significant benefits of quitting for mental health and wellbeing.

[Details](#)

Department of Health and Social Care

Speak up and help beat coronavirus (COVID-19)

The government are seeking volunteers to take part in a study to explore how algorithms can use voice data, including cough recordings, to detect COVID-19.

By identifying if someone is more likely to need a test by using voice sounds, more cases can be found.

[Details](#)

Lateral flow device specificity in phase 4 (post-marketing) surveillance

New findings on their specificity – a measure of how good the test is at detecting true negative cases – show that for every 1,000 lateral flow tests carried out in the community, there is less than one false positive result.

[Details](#)

Health charities back vaccines drive for those at risk

People with underlying conditions including cancer, diabetes and heart disease are encouraged to come forward for a Covid-19 vaccine by leading UK health charities.

[Details](#)

Coronavirus cases by local authority: epidemiological data, 11 March 2021

Weekly watchlist giving epidemiological coronavirus (COVID-19) data for each lower-tier local authority (LTLA) in England.

Government Office for Science

Latest R number and growth rate

Last updated on 12th March 2021.

Latest R number range for the UK

0.6 to 0.8

Latest growth rate range for the UK

-7% to -4%

[Details](#)

NHS England

Involving and supporting partners and other family members in specialist perinatal mental health services: good practice guide

This best practice guidance, about involving and supporting partners and significant others, is for commissioners and those working in specialist perinatal mental health services.

[Details](#)

NHS text alerts for COVID vaccination

NHS will begin texting invitations for COVID vaccination to people to make it quicker and more convenient to book an appointment. Almost 400,000 people aged 55 and over and 40,000 unpaid carers will be the first to get a text alert.

[Details](#)

NHS rolls out colon capsule endoscopy

Miniature cameras which patients can swallow to get checked for cancer are being trialled across the NHS. An initial group of 11,000 NHS patients in England will receive the capsule cameras in more than 40 parts of the country.

[Details](#)

Update on vaccination and immunisation changes for 2021/22

NHS England has published a letter confirming the changes to the provision of routine vaccination and immunisation in general practice from 1 April 2021.

[Details](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Project CARE: Supporting people with a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 and reaching out to those in vulnerable groups

This example describes how GP practice supported patients who had received a positive test result for COVID-19 and were classed as being in vulnerable categories. Further support to these patients was provided through the setup and use of virtual clinics.

[Details](#)

Shared Learning: Black Women in Health

COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy – debunking the myths using a community engagement approach underpinned by NICE guidance

This example describes how GP's from Black Women in Health reduced COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy amongst the BAME population by debunking the myths about COVID-19 vaccines through webinars, virtual group talks, podcasts, videos in other languages and dialects.

[Details](#)

Research and analysis from academic journals – non-coronavirus-related

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Antidepressant treatment for postnatal depression

Review (11 RCTs studies; n= 1016) found limited data supporting effectiveness and safety of antidepressants, particularly for those with more severe depression. SSRIs may be more effective vs placebo with respect to response and remission rates but data is of low certainty.

[Full text](#)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Smoking cessation for improving mental health.

Review of 102 studies (n= over 169,500) found that mental health does not worsen as a result of quitting smoking, and very low- to moderate-certainty evidence that smoking cessation is associated with small to moderate improvements in mental health.

[Full text](#)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Interventions for tobacco cessation delivered by dental professionals

Review of 20 RCTs (n=14897) found very low-certainty evidence that quit rates increase when behavioural support offered to promote tobacco cessation and moderate-certainty evidence that abstinence rates increase if behavioural support offered combined with pharmacotherapy.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Mobilising evidence, data, and resources to achieve global maternal and child undernutrition targets and the Sustainable Development Goals: an agenda for action

This series highlights the evolving evidence base for nutrition, health, food systems, social protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions since the 2013 Lancet Series on maternal and child nutrition and identifies priority actions required for further progress.

[Full text](#)

BJGP: Effect of weight loss on cardiometabolic risk: observational analysis of two randomised controlled trials of community weight-loss programmes

This analysis of 2 RCTs (n=2041) found weight loss achieved through referral to community weight-loss programmes, which are commonly accessible in primary care, can lead to clinically relevant reductions in BP and glucose regulation, especially in those at highest risk

[Full text](#)

JECH: Suicide risk with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and other new-generation antidepressants in adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies

SSRI were found to be not definitely related to suicide risk (suicide and suicide attempt combined) in depression. Any new-generation antidepressant was associated with higher suicide risk in depression

[Abstract](#)

JAMA Pediatrics: Persistence of Δ -9-Tetrahydrocannabinol in Human Breast Milk

Observational study in 105 women with prenatal marijuana use found significant excretion of THC in breast milk after >6 weeks abstinence. Authors conclude recommendations for mothers to discard breastmilk until THC is undetectable is therefore unrealistic.

[Abstract](#)

The Lancet: Hearing loss prevalence and years lived with disability, 1990–2019: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

As populations age, the number of people with hearing loss will increase. Interventions such as childhood screening, hearing aids, effective management of otitis media and meningitis, and cochlear implants have the potential to ameliorate this burden. Because the burden of moderate-to-complete hearing loss is concentrated in countries with low health-care quality and access, stronger health-care provision mechanisms are needed to reduce the burden of unaddressed hearing loss in these settings.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: New dimensions for hospital services and early detection of disease: a Review from the Lancet Commission into liver disease in the UK

This review makes a number of recommendations to improve outcomes and survival rates for patients with acute and chronic liver disease requiring hospital admission.

[Full text](#)

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BMJ Open: Measuring safety in older adult care homes: a scoping review of the international literature

This scoping review identified safety indicators collected and used in older adult care homes from the international literature. This included a number of medication-related measures, identified as indicators of the failure of safety-critical processes.

[Full text](#)

Research and analysis from academic journals and preprints – coronavirus-related

BMJ: Risk of mortality in patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern 202012/1: matched cohort study

Study of 54,906 people shows the risk of dying from the B117 (UK) variant is increased by 64% (risk increased by 1.64, 95% CI 1.32 – 2.04). This appears to be a real effect - not the result of overloaded hospitals - because variant/non-variant cases were matched by age, sex, ethnicity, deprivation, and other factors

[Full text](#)

bioRxiv (preprint): SARS-CoV-2 501Y.V2 (B.1.351) elicits cross-reactive neutralizing antibodies

Antibodies from people who have been infected with the South African variant are also able to neutralise older variants and the Brazilian variant.

This suggests a booster targeting the South African variant (like Novavax's planned one) may offer broad protection against the virus.

[Full text](#)

medRxiv (preprint): Case fatality risk of the SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern B.1.1.7 in England

New study on mortality of B.1.1.7 using health records from England found the variant of concern (VOC) was 1.67 times more likely to result in death, controlling for comorbidities, age, week, region and other socio-demographics.

[Full text](#)

medRxiv (preprint): Effect of vaccination on transmission of COVID-19: an observational study in healthcare workers and their households

Study of vaccination in health care workers in Scotland suggests that the vaccine helps prevent people from passing on the virus to others - something that has been suspected but has not previously been shown.

[Full text](#)

medRxiv (preprint): What level of neutralising antibody protects from COVID-19?

Researchers found a strong association between the amount of neutralising antibodies a vaccine induces, and its efficacy. Based on the limited data for mRNA vaccines available to date, the authors estimated that the half-life for vaccine-induced antibodies (65 days) was similar to those produced by infection (58 days). Estimating how vaccine efficacy would likely reduce over time they found that a vaccine with an initial efficacy of 95% might drop to 58% after 250 days, but a vaccine with 70% efficacy could drop to 18%. However, protection from severe disease may last much longer. While a vaccine with an initial efficacy of 95% may fall below 50% after 1 year (for any symptomatic infection), efficacy against severe disease may be sustained around 75% for two years or more.

[Full text](#)

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The Lancet Infectious Diseases: Safety and immunogenicity of an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, BBV152: interim results from a double-blind, randomised, multicentre, phase 2 trial, and 3-month follow-up of a double-blind, randomised phase 1 trial

RCT (n=380) found this whole-virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine formulated with a toll-like receptor 7/8 agonist molecule (IMDG) adsorbed to alum (Algel) showed better reactogenicity, safety outcomes and enhanced humoral and cell-mediated immune responses vs phase 1 data.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health: Children and young people remain at low risk of COVID-19 mortality

Latest mortality data analysis from seven countries, comparing COVID-19 deaths to all-cause mortality in under-19s between March 2020 to Feb 2021, indicates children and young people remain at low risk.

[Full text](#)

Cell: Multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants escape neutralization by vaccine-induced humoral immunity

Study showing antibodies from people vaccinated with the Pfizer & Moderna vaccines had limited ability to neutralise the South African & Brazilian variants. This suggests even people vaccinated with high-efficacy vaccines will require a third booster dose

[Full text](#)

BMJ: Update to living systematic review on covid-19 in pregnancy

This update includes 192 studies (64 676 pregnant and recently pregnant women), 115 of which were new additions to review. The prevalence of covid-19 remained unchanged between this update and original version. Pregnant women continue to be at increased risk of severe covid-19.

[Full text](#)

BMJ Open: Change in time spent visiting and experiences of green space following restrictions on movement during the COVID-19 pandemic: a nationally representative cross-sectional study of UK adults

Overall, 63% of respondents reported a decrease in time spent visiting green space following movement restrictions. Lower social grade respondents were less likely to visit green space before *and* after restrictions were enforced. Inequalities in green space use were sustained, and possibly exacerbated, during movement restrictions.

[Full text](#)

BMJ: Severe covid-19 pneumonia: pathogenesis and clinical management

Review focuses on the epidemiologic and clinical features of covid-19, the pathophysiologic mechanisms, inpatient respiratory support, and the evidence to date on drug treatments, as well as recovery and long-term management of patients with covid-19 pneumonia.

[Full text](#)

JAMA: CDC Interim Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People: An Important First Step

These recommendations represent the first step for individuals fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 infection in US in resuming their pre-pandemic lives. This Viewpoint summarizes CDC activity recommendations including resumption of low-risk gatherings among vaccinated people.

[Full text](#)

NEJM: Neutralizing Activity of BNT162b2-Elicited Serum

Testing fully Pfizer-vaccinated people's blood against spike proteins belonging to pseudo virus of variants elicited good neutralisation results, albeit slightly lower for B1351 from South Africa

[Full text](#)

Heart: Racial differences in management and outcomes of acute myocardial infarction during COVID-19 pandemic

This multisource linked cohort study (n=73746) found BAME patients had proportionally higher hospitalisation rates (16.7% vs 10.1%), less frequently received guideline indicated care and had higher early mortality during the COVID-19 period vs pre-COVID-19 period.

[Full text](#)

Nature: Genetic mechanisms of critical illness in COVID-19

GenOMICC (Genetics Of Mortality In Critical Care) genome-wide association study in 2,244 critically ill patients with COVID-19 from 208 UK ICUs identified and replicated new genome-wide significant associations and identified potential targets for repurposing drugs.

[Full text](#)

Science: Epidemiological and evolutionary considerations of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine dosing regimes

A modelling study of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine strategies reports receiving one dose of a two-dose vaccine decreases infections in the short-term if it produces a strong immune response, but may increase potential for "escape" mutations if one-dose immunity is weak

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: School reopening without robust COVID-19 mitigation risks accelerating the pandemic

Offers recommendations to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission in schools and argues that making schools safer goes hand in hand with reducing community transmission and is essential to allow schools to safely remain open

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Urgent lessons from COVID 19: why the world needs a standing, coordinated system and sustainable financing for global research and development

Analysis highlights the positive outcomes of the recent evolution of the research and development ecosystem (e.g. accelerated development of vaccines), but advises gaps remain which must be bridged to establish a truly efficient and effective end-to-end R&D preparedness.

[Full text](#)

BMJ Investigation: The EMA covid-19 data leak, and what it tells us about mRNA instability

A cyberattack on EMA in Dec 2020 resulted in leak of classified information from EMA's analysis of Pfizer-BioNTech covid-19 vaccine. The BMJ has reviewed the documents, which show regulators had major concerns over unexpectedly low quantities of intact mRNA in some early batches

[Full text](#)

BMJ Feature: Covid-19 has made the obesity epidemic worse, but failed to ignite enough action

Obesity is a risk factor for severe covid-19 disease and death. This article discusses what this has done to boost action against this other epidemic

[Full text](#)

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BMJ Feature: How the lessons of previous epidemics helped successful countries fight covid-19

Covid-19 caught the West by surprise, but the legacy of Ebola, MERS, and SARS meant that several Asian and African nations had systems in place to mitigate the severity of the pandemic. Experts explain what Hong Kong, Liberia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Taiwan learnt and how they have made a difference.

[Full text](#)

BMJ Analysis: How can we improve self-isolation and quarantine for covid-19?

Article examines international approaches and argue for comprehensive support initiatives driven by local government and community-based teams.

[Full text](#)

[Linked editorial: Support for self-isolation is critical in covid-19 response](#)

BMJ Analysis: Preventing the next pandemic: the power of a global viral surveillance network

This Analysis article discusses how Covid-19 has exposed considerable weaknesses in the ability of global health systems to detect early, and respond effectively to, emergent pathogens, and how an early warning system is needed.

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: Booster dose will be needed in autumn to avoid winter surge, says government adviser

Speaking on The BMJ's Talk Evidence podcast, Anthony Harnden, deputy Chair JCVI, said he believed that the booster would be needed either to protect against a new variant or as a safety net, as the duration of protection is unknown.

[Full text](#)

BMJ Opinion: What has been the effect of covid-19 on suicide rates?

A year into the pandemic, Louis Appleby looks at the evidence on suicide rates. The short answer is that there has been little effect. But it's more complex than that, as it always is with suicide statistics.

[Full text](#)

BMJ Opinion: The covid-19 pandemic one year on: parallels and lessons from Spanish flu

"The lesson of the "Spanish flu" suggests we may have to brace ourselves for another year of uncertainty and mostly virtual interaction. While we now have the tools of 21st century medicine to predict virus behaviour, it remains our responsibility to adapt our own behaviour, as much as humanely possible, in accordance with what science tells us."

[Full text](#)

European Medicines Agency

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca: PRAC preliminary view suggests no specific issue with batch used in Austria

Austrian national competent authority has suspended use of a batch of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (batch ABV5300) delivered to 17 EU countries after 2 cases of thromboses. The EMA states there is currently no indication vaccination has caused these conditions; its safety committee is reviewing this issue.

[Details](#)

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MHRA response to Danish authorities' action to temporarily suspend the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine

Agency states this is a precautionary measure by the Danish authorities, it has not been confirmed that the report of a blood clot was caused by AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, and people should still go and get their COVID-19 vaccine when asked to do so.

[Details](#)

European Medicines Agency recommends COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen for conditional marketing authorisation in EU

This is the fourth vaccine recommended in EU for preventing COVID-19. Trial found a 67% reduction in number of symptomatic COVID-19 cases after 2 weeks in people who received vaccine (116 cases out of 19,630 vs. 348 of 19,691 given placebo).

[Details](#)

Biospace

Novavax Confirms High Levels of Efficacy Against Original and Variant COVID-19 Strains in United Kingdom and South Africa Trials

- 100% protection against severe disease
- Final analysis in U.K. trial confirms 96% efficacy against original strain of COVID-19 and 86% against UK variant
- Efficacy against South African variant 55% - but tentative evidence it may remain very effective against severe disease

[Details](#)

Real-world evidence confirms high effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

Data collected in Israel between 17 Jan and 6 March, when UK variant strain was dominant, suggest vaccine effectiveness (2 weeks after second dose) was at least 97% against symptomatic cases, severe and critical hospitalisations, and deaths, and 94% against asymptomatic cases.

[Details](#)

Office for National Statistics

The percentage of people testing positive has continued to decrease in the majority of English regions

12 March 2021

An estimated 1 in 270 people tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the community population in England during the week ending 6 March 2021, equating to 200,600 people, or 0.37% of the community population.

This is lower than the week ending 27 February 2021, when 248,100 people (0.45%) were estimated to have COVID-19 in England.

In the week ending 6 March 2021, there were early signs of a possible increase in the percentage of people testing positive in the South East and South West regions of England. Rates have decreased in the North East, North West, East Midlands, East of England and London. In Yorkshire and The Humber and the West Midlands, the trend is uncertain.

[Details](#)

Mortality from COVID-19 was particularly different between men and women early in the pandemic

10 March 2021

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there have been 18% more deaths from COVID-19 among men than among women in England and Wales.

Between March 2020 and January 2021, 63,700 men have died due to COVID-19, compared with 53,300 women.

However, during the early stages of the pandemic, this difference was more pronounced. Between 1 March and 30 April 2020, 21,600 men died due to COVID-19, compared with 16,600 women. Men have made up 53% of COVID-19 deaths during the pandemic, but made up 57% of deaths during March and April.

This gap became less pronounced as cases fell during summer 2020, but began to widen again as cases increased in autumn 2020.

[Details](#)

Fewest number of COVID-19 deaths since mid-December 2020

9 March 2021

There were 2,914 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales in the week ending 26 February 2021 – the fewest since the week ending 18 December 2020.

Deaths from all causes also decreased in the most recent week, although remained above average for this time of year. In total, there were 12,614 deaths in England and Wales in the week ending 26 February, of which 23.1% involved COVID-19.

[Details](#)

Return to school worries but people's mood improving

12 March 2021

Almost half (47%) of adults with dependent children were worried about their children returning to school or college this week.

The most common worries were about children catching the coronavirus (COVID-19), spreading the virus, and the impact on their children's mental health and well-being caused by changes in schools and colleges.

Responses to the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) also show levels of anxiety and other measures of well-being are continuing to gradually improve. People are reporting slightly better levels of happiness, life satisfaction and feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, although these are still lower than before the pandemic.

In the past few weeks, of those who have left home, more people have started to do so for reasons other than work, exercise, essential shopping or medical needs. Some of these other reasons were to visit a local park or green space, collect a takeaway, and to shop for things other than food or medicine.

[Details](#)

Over a quarter of students report being always or often lonely

10 March 2021

Over a quarter (26%) of the student population in England reported always or often feeling lonely, compared with 8% of the adult population in Great Britain.

Experimental statistics taken from the Student COVID-19 Insights Survey (SCIS) in England between 19 February to 1 March 2021 show that the proportion of students always or often feeling lonely is significantly higher than the adult population. Additionally, almost two thirds (63%) of students

reported that their well-being and mental health had worsened since the autumn term, broadly unchanged since January.

[Details](#)

Younger and Black adults more hesitant to accept coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine

8 March 2021

Younger people and those in a Black ethnic group are more likely to be hesitant to accept a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine.

A study into vaccine hesitancy combined data from the weekly Opinions and Lifestyle Survey from 13 January to 7 February 2021. The longer-term results show details for smaller groups of the population. Attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines have been broadly becoming more positive. Over the study period, around 9 in 10 (91%) of adults reported positive sentiment towards the vaccine, compared with 9% who report vaccine hesitancy.

[Details](#)

Quarterly alcohol-specific deaths in England and Wales: 2001 to 2019 registrations and Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2020 provisional registrations

Provisional data for England and Wales show there were 5,460 deaths related to alcohol-specific causes registered in the first three quarters of 2020 (Jan to Sept), a 16.4% increase compared with the same nine-month period in 2019.

[Details](#)

Royal Statistical Society

Ten recommendations on better use of stats and data in a pandemic

While data and statistics have been a crucial resource and central to the UK Covid response, the pandemic has highlighted the lack of an agile infectious diseases surveillance system which has hampered the ability to track the spread of Covid early on.

In a document that sets out the lessons that must be learnt from Covid-19, the RSS has made ten recommendations for how statistics and data could be better used in future crises.

[Details](#)

Social Care Institute for Excellence

Future options for housing and care: improving housing that facilitates care and support for older people

This is the first report of the Commission on the Role of Housing in the Future of Care and Support. Co-produced with people with lived experience and senior figures in the health, social care and housing sectors, it aims to provide a short overview of the key issues facing the sector, an initial vision for the future and some preliminary ideas that the Commission believes merit further exploration.

[Details](#)

Public Accounts Committee

COVID-19: Test, track and trace (part 1)

The NHS Test and Trace service in England failed to deliver its central promise to avoid a second national lockdown.

In May 2020 NHS Test and Trace (NHST&T) was set up with a budget of £22 billion. Since then it has been allocated £15 billion more: totalling £37 billion over two years. This report says that there is still no

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clear evidence of NHST&T's overall effectiveness. It also finds that it is unclear whether its contribution to reducing infection levels – as opposed to the other measures introduced to tackle the pandemic – and questions whether this can justify the costs.

[Full text](#)

[BMJ analysis](#)

National Audit Office

Local Government Finance in the Pandemic

This report examines the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's approach to local government finance in the Covid-19 pandemic. It questions whether this enabled the Department to assess and fund the costs of new services that local authorities have been asked to deliver. It also examines whether the Department fulfilled its responsibilities in securing financial sustainability across the sector. It found 41% of councils with social care responsibility say they need to make 'substantial' service savings to balance 2021/22 budgets. Examples given include reviewing social care packages and increasing client fees.

[Details](#)

The King's Fund

The health and social care White Paper explained

In February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care published a White Paper setting out legislative proposals for a health and care Bill. What recommendations does the White Paper make, and how could these proposals impact the health and care system in England?

[Details](#)

Hft

The impact of the challenges to the social care sector in 2020

This report offers an annual snapshot of the financial health of the social care sector as well as outlining the impact of some of the key challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. For the third year running, the most commonly cited cost pressure was rising wage bills, with lack of fee income at a close second. It finds that 62 per cent of providers reported a rise in absenteeism related to mental health conditions and that all social care providers funded some form of mental health support for their workforce.

[Details](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Seeking an anchor in an unstable world: experiences of low-income families over time

This report draws on the experiences of 14 low-income families over a 5-year period ending on the eve of the pandemic. In most of the families in the study, either a parent, child or both had ongoing physical and/or mental health issues. This had implications over time for families' work opportunities, income and plans. The report also examines other issues such as housing, employment, benefits, family composition, and support from formal and informal sources.

[Details](#)

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Public First

The other pandemic: the impact of Covid-19 on Britain's mental health

In February 2021 Public First polled 4,000 people and held 12 in-depth focus groups with people from across Britain. The findings, published in this report, show that coronavirus has taken a toll on mental health in all parts of society – but especially women, the less well-off and young people.

[Details](#)

Personal Social Services Research Unit

Taking a strengths-based approach to social work and social care: a literature review

The primary aim of this review is to examine the development and the potential of strengths-based models in social work and the social care sector. The literature review will address questions around how these approaches impact on practice, and what this means for individuals in receipt of social care services and their carers or families.

[Details](#)

The IQVIA Institute

Cancer won't wait: building resilience in cancer screening and diagnostics in Europe based on lessons from the pandemic

The ongoing impact of Covid-19 on health services across Europe has in most cases led to significant reductions in cancer screening, testing and diagnosis. Responses in individual countries have differed, but there are common challenges in all countries. This report highlights some of the approaches already being taken, as well as suggestions for what should be done going forward. It considers different stakeholders – from local pharmacies to national and international organisations – and their roles, as well as multi-stakeholder collaboration and co-operation. Please note that free registration is required to access this report.

[Details](#)

The Nuffield Trust

Are social care staff behind NHS workers in getting their Covid jab?

Frontline health and social care staff were close to the front of the queue when the Covid-19 vaccine programme began, and a large percentage of staff have received a first dose. But this chart of the week shows that the vaccine rates for people working in social care are well below those of health care staff.

[Details](#)

Test and Trace system has not been world beating

After a report by the Public Accounts Committee questioned the impact of NHS Test and Trace, Billy Palmer told BBC News that the promise of a world-beating Test and Trace system has just not materialised, and the eye-watering sums of public money being poured into it are set to increase even further.

[Details](#)

The Alan Turing Institute

Understanding vulnerability to online misinformation

Several large-scale research projects have started during the pandemic with the aim of understanding the nature, prevalence and spread of health-related misinformation online. However, relatively little is known about who is vulnerable to believing false information and why. This research used a survey and assessments to understand which individuals are most vulnerable to believing health-related falsities and the role played by the content that individuals are exposed to.

[Details](#)

Royal Society for Public Health

Health in all Policies – a local case study

Sally Leach, Health and Wellbeing Advisor at Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Health Promotion Advisor for Health Action Campaign, explains why Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council are taking a Health in All Policies approach to Public Health

[Details](#)