



PHE Bulletin

News and views for the public health sector

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PHE Bulletin, Public Health England's regular update, provides news and information on PHE and the public health landscape for all those concerned with the public's health. For more information see our website: www.gov.uk/phe

Public health news

PHE welcomes stakeholder comments on its collaborative TB strategy

PHE has launched its collaborative tuberculosis (TB) strategy for [consultation](#). It is aimed at bringing together best practice in clinical care, social support and public health to strengthen TB control. The strategy, published on 23 March 2014 to mark World TB day, includes PHE's five-year ambition to see a sustained annual decrease in TB and a reduction in health inequalities associated with the disease. England now has the second highest TB rate in Western Europe. The consultation deadline is 5pm on 24 June 2014. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Fluoride monitoring report finds lower levels of tooth decay in fluoridated areas and no evidence of harm to health

Children in local authorities with water fluoridation schemes (where the level of fluoride is adjusted to 1 part per million) have less tooth decay than those in local authorities without such schemes, says a new report by PHE. The report, "[Water fluoridation: health monitoring report for England 2014](#)", also says there is no evidence of harm to health in fluoridated areas. PHE, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health, is required by legislation to monitor the effects of water fluoridation schemes on the health of people living in the areas covered, and to produce reports at no greater than four-yearly intervals, of which this is the first.

Scarlet fever cases increase across England

PHE has reported significant increases in scarlet fever notifications across England, with a total of 3,548 new cases since September 2013. An average of 1,420 cases

were reported for the same period in the previous 10 years. The last season to have this level of scarlet fever activity was 1989 to 1990, when 4,042 notifications were received. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE's 2014 Child Health Profiles published

The [Child Health Profiles 2014](#), published last week by PHE, presents a picture of child health and wellbeing for each local authority in England using 32 key health indicators. They contain data on a wide range of issues on child health, from levels of childhood obesity, MMR immunisation rates, teenage pregnancy and underage drinking, to hospital admissions, educational performance and youth crime. PHE's [Child and Maternal \(ChiMat\) Health Intelligence Network's website](#) also provides interactive maps and charts for users to create their own views of the data. This is the first time PHE is responsible for publishing this annual update. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

Diabetes no longer leading cause of blindness thanks to screening

For the first time in over 50 years diabetic eye disease is no longer the leading cause of blindness in adults of working age. Although many factors have likely contributed to the results, it is safe to say that public health interventions such as screening have played a key role. The NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme was introduced by the UK National Screening Committee, part of PHE. The new study was carried out in affiliation with Moorfields Eye Hospital and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology. For more details, see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE welcomes prospect of new meningitis B vaccine

PHE has welcomed the announcement from the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommending the inclusion of a new vaccine against Group B meningococcal disease (meningitis B) to the routine childhood immunisation schedule. The JCVI, which advises UK health departments on immunisation, published its [recommendation](#) last week after concluding that evidence submitted to the committee has shown that the Bexsero vaccine would be effective, and could represent good value for money within the NHS if it was made available at a low price. Meningitis B predominantly affects babies and young children and is fatal in about 1 in 10 cases. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE announces world's first Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever vaccine

PHE has announced a key achievement in the development of the world's first vaccine for Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) and signed memorandums

of understanding with two Indian organisations to demonstrate clinical efficacy and cost effectiveness. It presented efficacy data on its CCHF vaccine, engineered by PHE scientists, at the World Vaccine Congress in Washington DC in the US this week. The vaccine was able to give 100% protection against CCHF in an experimental model in mice. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE launches toolkit to manage hospital infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria

Experts at PHE have launched a [toolkit](#) for hospitals to detect, manage and control antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections caused by carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE). Enterobacteriaceae are a group of bacteria carried in the gut of all humans and animals, which is perfectly normal. While they are usually harmless they may sometimes spread to other parts of the body such as the urinary tract or into the bloodstream where they can cause serious infections. For more information, see PHE's [press release](#).

New national planning policy and guidance aims to promote health and reduce inequalities

The Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) recently published [National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance](#) recognises the importance of local infrastructure planning in the development of healthy communities. The guidance sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied by local authorities. For the first time, it also includes a comprehensive [section](#) on health and wellbeing following PHE's work on this with DCLG and the Department of Health. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

Profiles of public health outcomes for 0-5 year-olds developed

PHE's Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network and NHS England have developed [Early Years Profiles](#) of public health outcomes for children aged 0-5 years. A [Guide to Early Years Profiles](#) supports interpretation of the data and development of evidenced-based actions to improve outcomes for children and their families.

Successful bids announced for £10 million capital funding to support drug and alcohol recovery

New government investment of £10 million has been awarded to services that are supporting drug and alcohol recovery across England. The capital funding is being

distributed by PHE, via local authorities, to service providers to support projects which contribute towards helping their clients to overcome dependency. Sixty-seven awards have been made, with the amounts ranging from £3,500 to £873,000. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Health advice for fans heading to Brazil for the World Cup

PHE and the National Travel Health Network and Centre have produced a [factsheet](#) for football fans going to Brazil for the FIFA Football World Cup from 12 June to 13 July 2014. It provides information on how to stay healthy and keep safe. A number of tropical diseases like malaria, dengue and yellow fever occur in parts of Brazil, and there are also a range of other potential health hazards. For more information, see PHE's [news story](#).

PHE launches “Smokefree and Smiling” guidance

PHE has published new [guidance for dental health professionals](#) on how to help their patients to quit tobacco and, in doing so, save lives. The “smokefree and smiling” guidance explains how dentists can offer very brief advice, using a 30 second approach, to tobacco users and signpost them to local stop smoking services. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Report on joined-up clinical pathways for obesity published

A joint [report](#) of a working group into joined-up clinical pathways for obesity has been published. It recommends greater clarity around how obesity care in England is commissioned in the future and aims to support more equitable access to obesity and weight management services across the country. The working group had a broad membership and was convened by PHE and NHS England.

Paper published on obesity and disability in children and young people

PHE has published a [paper](#) examining the evidence linking obesity and disability in children and young people. The paper looks at a range of impairments or health conditions associated with disability and explores the main obesity-related long-term health conditions that can develop during childhood and adolescence. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Summary of outcomes of national child measurement programme events

PHE has published a [summary](#) of six regional events held in winter 2013 that were focused on child obesity, the National Child Measurement Programme, healthy

weight and nutrition. The events were aimed at local authorities and provider organisations.

Winter health watch summary

The latest weekly winter health surveillance bulletin from PHE can be found [here](#). Published each week, it contains near real-time monitoring of influenza, norovirus, syndromic and mortality data.

PHE campaign news

Change4Life news

Change4Life is developing a summer campaign, to help drive physical activity among families with 5-11 year olds, during the six-week summer break. Summer holidays present a huge opportunity to encourage more active habits, and the campaign will include fun, aspirational content to motivate and inspire activity. More details will be available soon. For general information about Change4Life see [Change4Life pages](#).

News from other organisations

Deaths from liver disease have risen by 40%, says report

Deaths from liver disease rose by 40% between 2001 and 2012, says a report of an all-party parliamentary group published this week. “[Liver disease: today's complacency, tomorrow's catastrophe](#)”, the All-Party Parliamentary Hepatology Group inquiry into improving outcomes in liver disease, says that liver disease is the only one of the major five killers where deaths are rising and makes a number of recommendations. PHE’s submission to the inquiry said that the three main causes of liver disease – alcohol misuse, obesity and viral hepatitis – are all preventable.

EU-wide agreement on how to crackdown on TB in cities

The majority of TB in Western European countries is concentrated in big cities, according to a study published this month in the journal [Eurosurveillance](#). The research also found that while the number of TB cases continues to reduce in some countries in Europe, the rate of TB within some of Europe’s big cities continues to increase. For more information see PHE’s [press release](#).

WHO consultation on draft guidelines on reducing sugar intake

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a public [consultation](#), closing on 31 March 2014, on its [draft guideline](#) on reducing sugar intake to 10% of total daily calorie intake per day. This is in line with WHO's current recommendation from 2002. It further suggests that a reduction to below 5% of total energy intake per day would have additional benefits. The Independent Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, hosted by PHE, is currently reviewing the evidence on sugar and other carbohydrates for the UK and will be releasing its report for consultation this summer.

Mother-to-child HIV transmission at an all-time low

The proportion of HIV-positive diagnosed women transmitting their infection to their babies in the UK is now at its lowest ever level, having dropped four-fold in 10 years, according to a paper published in the journal [AIDS](#). By 2010-2011 the percentage of women diagnosed with HIV who transferred the disease to their child was down to 0.46%. For more information see the University College London [news story](#) and a PHE [blog](#) by Dr Anne Mackie, Director of Programmes for PHE's UK National Screening Committee.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society publishes professional standards for public health

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has published [Professional Standards for Public Health Practice for Pharmacy](#), which sets out a best practice framework for the delivery of public health services across all pharmacy settings. The standards are part of the work programme of the Pharmacy and Public Health Forum. For more details, see the RPS's [website](#).

Briefing notes on public health responsibilities and on health and wellbeing boards

Briefing notes on [local authorities' public health responsibilities \(England\)](#) and on [Health and Wellbeing Boards \(England\)](#) have been published by the House of Commons library. Both give an overview of the current structure, and include sections on directors of public health, public health allocations, sexual, prisoner and dental health, and the public health outcome framework.

Events news

PHE annual conference 2014

PHE's second annual conference will be held on 16-17 September 2014 at Warwick University. Booking details and the draft programme can be found on the [conference website](#). The deadline for submitting abstracts on new public health research and developments in practice is 8 May.

PHE Board's open meetings

The fifth open meeting of PHE's Board was held on 26 March 2014. Board papers for this and earlier meetings and information on future board meetings can be found [here](#).

Health economics for public health practice and research course

Bangor University is holding a two-day short course on 16-17 April 2014 for those wishing to gain an appreciation of public health economics. For further information, contact Mrs Ann Lawton at cheme@bangor.ac.uk, telephone 01248 382153.

Cancer Outcomes Conference 2014

The Cancer Outcomes Conference 2014 of PHE's National Cancer Intelligence Network and United Kingdom and Ireland Association of Cancer Registries will be held on 9-10 June in Birmingham. See [here](#) for details.