

## Policies

### [Government response to the Joint Committee on the draft Mental Health Bill](#)

Response to the Joint Committee's recommendations for the draft Mental Health Bill to reform the Mental Health Act 1983 and deliver a modern mental health service.

## Guidance

### [Women's health hubs: information and guidance](#)

Information to support implementation and delivery of women's health hubs, including a core specification and a cost benefit analysis.

### [National flu immunisation programme plan 2024 to 2025](#)

The annual flu letter describes the national flu immunisation programme and outlines which groups are eligible for flu vaccination.

### [Access to diagnostics on virtual wards](#)

This guidance, for integrated care boards and virtual ward providers, identifies the main diagnostic requirements for the delivery of effective virtual wards; showcasing good and promising practice. It has been co-created with a range of virtual ward clinicians specialising in acute medicine, frailty, acute respiratory infection, heart failure and end of life, as well as specialists in imaging, pathology and physiological sciences.

### [All Our Health: about the programme](#)

Information on the background and development of the programme and how to put its resources into practice.

### [COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19 \[NG191\] - Updated March 2024](#)

This guideline covers managing COVID-19 in babies, children, young people and adults in community and hospital settings. It includes recommendations on communication, assessment, therapeutics for COVID-19, non-invasive respiratory support, preventing and managing acute complications, and identifying and managing co-infections.

## Papers

### [Obesity Alliance Cymru Prevention Paper](#)

This paper developed by Obesity Alliance Cymru considers the action required to tackle obesity in Wales.

## Briefings

### [Supporting people with frailty](#)

How community providers, alongside wider system partners, can support people living with frailty.

## Blogs

### [Mental Health Nursing Psychosocial Interventions: what are they, and why do we need them?](#)

In 2023, NHS England commissioned the RCN to revamp the highly acclaimed Psychosocial Interventions programme, which was last delivered in the early 2000s. The new programme, co-designed with patients and developed by nurses for nurses, has received enormous interest from mental health nurses and organisational leaders nationwide. I am deeply encouraged to hear a breadth of senior leaders say this is 'the programme mental health nursing has wanted for a very long time'.



### [Have we 'gone too far' on mental health? No. We're not even close.](#)

It's now more than a decade since the first sitting Members of Parliament talked openly in the House of Commons about their experiences of mental ill health. It was a moment that both reflected and sparked deep social change. It helped engender a culture of greater openness about mental health and mental illness in the UK.

### [Virtual wards: no place like home?](#)

Virtual wards, also known as Hospital at Home, treat patients in their own homes who would traditionally be cared for in hospital. Their rapid rollout by NHS England has led to lots of discussion – heralded as both a potential solution for the capacity pressures on the NHS and cautioned against due to a lack evidence about their effectiveness.

### [Always on your mind? Long-term money and mental health problems](#)

Over the last eight years our research has shone a light on the toxic cycle between mental health problems and financial difficulty. But we've often focused on the cycle at a particular point in time, like the cost of living crisis or pandemic – or on particular issues, like gambling or mortgages. The truth, however, is that for many people, money and mental health problems are an ongoing, interconnected and often life-long reality.

### [Working with your patients for a healthy Ramadan](#)

Ramadan, the month of fasting observed by the majority of Muslims across the world, begins this year in the evening of 10 March 2024. It is a highly social time which many communities look forward to. The month is marked by abstinence of food and drink, amongst other pleasures, during daylight hours. In the UK, this will range from 14 to 16 hours as the sunshine begins to fill our days in the spring.

### [Empowering health and wellbeing: celebrating Social Prescribing Day](#)

This year on 14 March, many people and organisations including the NHS, voluntary sector, local government and social prescribing link workers (SPLWs) come together to celebrate Social Prescribing Day. This day is a chance to promote the transformative power of social prescribing in enhancing individuals' health and wellbeing and fostering stronger communities.

## News

### [CQC warns that long waits, inappropriate accommodation, and lack of local support mean children and young people are being failed by mental health services](#)

Short staffing and underfunding mean children and young people with mental health needs face long waits for essential treatment while racial inequalities in care persist, a report by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) revealed today.

### [Mental health must not become a new front in the culture wars](#)

Dr Sarah Hughes, CEO of Mind, discusses stigmatising comments made by a senior government minister last week. She also explains where the UK government should focus its efforts if it wants to improve the nation's mental health and get people with mental health problems back into work.

### [Half of UK adults believe there is still a great deal of shame associated with mental health conditions](#)

New survey reveals that half (51%) the UK population believes that there is still a great deal/fair amount of shame associated with mental health conditions.

### [Mental health support in schools is well-received but challenges remain](#)

Researchers evaluated the roll out of the first wave of the mental health programme based in schools, the Children and Young People's Mental Health Implementation programme, and explored how it can be improved.



### [RCPsych responds to Secretary of State for Work and Pensions' comments on mental health](#)

In an article in the Telegraph this morning (21 March 2024) titled Mental health culture has gone too far the Rt Hon Mel Stride MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, suggested people were being signed off too easily for mental health conditions.

### [The true cost of delivering public services: A survey of UK charities](#)

The voluntary sector is an integral part of the public services system. Charities, voluntary organisations, and other purpose-driven organisations deliver services and support that communities need and deserve. Charities develop their services to meet the needs of the people they support. They fill gaps in existing services and build long-term relationships in communities. They can be very flexible in responding to changing needs.

### [Poverty taking a heavy toll on UK's health and NHS services](#)

People living in poverty find it harder to live a healthy life, live with greater illness, face barriers to accessing timely treatment, and die earlier than the rest of the population, says analysis from The King's Fund health and care think tank.

### [NHS urges young adults to catch up on missed MMR vaccine](#)

More than 900,000 adults aged 19 to 25 in England are being invited to book an appointment for their missed measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, as the NHS catch-up campaign continues.

### [New NHS gambling clinic opens amid growing demand](#)

The NHS has opened a new gambling clinic in Sheffield this week, meeting the ambitious NHS Long Term Plan target with 15 services now available across the country.

### [Smokefree generation one step closer as bill introduced](#)

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill will deliver on the Prime Minister's commitment to create a smokefree generation, saving thousands of lives and billions for the NHS.

### [Smoking and vaping: the need for action](#)

Current and former UK chief medical officers (CMOs) and current deputy CMOs write for The Times on the introduction of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

### [Community diagnostic centres deliver more than 7 million checks](#)

Patients benefit from tests and scans at 155 centres now open in England, with AI scanners on the way to further bolster diagnostic offer.

### [£20 million boost for adult social care and unpaid carers](#)

£20 million invested in innovative projects supporting people in adult social care and unpaid carers across the country.

### [Start for Life campaign: if they could tell you](#)

A new government campaign will be launched to support parents as research highlights some are unaware their baby's mental health impacts their early development.

### [Obesity Alliance Cymru: Myth Busting Prevention and Obesity Policies](#)

Document from Obesity Alliance Cymru on myth busting prevention and obesity policies.

### [More synthetic opioids banned to protect communities](#)

Fifteen additional synthetic opioids are now under the strictest controls to prevent drug related deaths and ensure anyone caught supplying them faces tough penalties.

