Community Bulletin

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Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

4 November 2026

Reports

State of Care

State of Care is our annual assessment of health care and social care in England. The report looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve.

Government urged to climate-proof mental health services ahead of future heatwaves

The Government must act to protect people with severe mental illness from future heatwaves, according to new report from Centre for Mental Health, Manchester Metropolitan University, and the University of York.

Policies

Government response to the HSCC's report on healthy ageing and physical activity

The government's response to the House of Commons' Health and Social Care Committee's (HSCC) 'Healthy Ageing: physical activity in an ageing society' report.

Guidance

New guidance launched on psychological therapy during the perinatal period

The aim of the guidance is to support decision-making about what psychological therapies to offer at which point and how to adapt therapies in a perinatal context.

Analysis

Generational differences in attitudes towards the NHS

There is growing interest in whether young people think differently about the NHS compared with older people.

Blogs

Making mental health care humane

I was recently invited to take part in a roundtable exploring some pretty fundamental questions about our mental health system. What makes care humane? What gets in the way of it? And what would need to change for people experiencing profound distress to receive care that is not only safe, but actually helpful?

Putting evidence at the heart of women's health

Evidence in one place: how NICE's women's health topic suite supports the government's women's health strategy.

Tired, irritable and craving carbs? Why darker days affect our bodies and brains

When the clocks go back in October, millions of Britons welcome an extra hour in bed. But by the evening, with darkness arriving before many people finish work, that small luxury may seem a distant memory.

News

Steps to Safety initiative introduced in 12 areas across England

Phase 1 of Steps to Safety will enable GP practices across 12 areas in England to connect people experiencing domestic abuse with specialist support.

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New mental health pilot for young people supported by social care
Young people supported by social care in Greater Manchester are set to benefit from a new mental health pilot.

SANE responds to Care Quality Commission report as services continue to struggle to meet demand
SANE has highlighted the need for more resources to meet the ever-increasing demand for mental health services following the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) latest State of Care report.

Vulnerable people, nursing staff and care services were let down during the pandemic, says the RCN
The RCN has described the COVID-19 Inquiry's Module 6 report as a "damning assessment" of the failures that left social care services, staff and those receiving care exposed during the pandemic.

Neighbourhood Health - what it means for our staff
Neighbourhood health organises health and care around local communities, building on what already works in each place. By bringing teams, services and organisations together, it aims to prevent ill health, provide support earlier, reduce duplication and make care easier to coordinate.

BPS increasingly concerned for those who use unregulated AI chatbots for mental health therapy, new data reveals
70% of respondents say they are somewhat or very concerned about clients using general purpose AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, CoPilot, Claude, Gemini) for mental health support.

Health organisations raise concerns over AI-generated health information
115 leading UK health charities and organisations have signed PIF's open letter sharing concerns over potential misinformation in AI-generated health information.

Government accepts advice on spring 2027 COVID-19 vaccinations
Government confirms eligibility for the spring 2027 COVID-19 vaccination programme in line with JCVI advice.

Social media campaign urges Brits to get vaccinated for winter
Government launches a social media campaign to promote a new NHS App feature which helps people check their eligibility and book their flu vaccination.

Mind responds to DWP news that people who have been convicted of serious offences and detained in hospital are set to lose benefits
The Department for Work and Pensions has announced that people who have been convicted of serious offences and subsequently detained in hospitals under court order would lose benefit payments under new plans.

Mental Health Foundation responds to Autumn 2026 Budget
The Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Healey, has delivered the 2026 Autumn Budget. Announcements relevant to the Mental Health Foundation's work included ring-fenced funding for prevention, an anti-misogyny fund, and changes to the National Living and Minimum Wages.

RCPsych responds to the Autumn Budget 2026
President Professor Subodh Dave comments on the link between mental health and homelessness in response to the Chancellor's Autumn Budget (PDF) 2026.

Under-18 sales ban on nicotine products and all vapes
Chief Medical Officer responds to restrictions on the sale and promotion of vapes and nicotine products.

Picker's response to government's decision not to abolish Healthwatch England
Government right to retain independent patient voice, says Picker.