

# WIRRAL HEALTH & WELLBEING KNOWLEDGE HUB

## HOME OF THE JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### Wirral JSNA Bulletin - Supplementary Content

#### Contents

Adults, Children and Older People .....	1
Climate Crisis and Sustainability .....	2
Communities .....	3
Health .....	3
Health Behaviours .....	5
Housing .....	6
Inequalities .....	6
Mental Health .....	7
Pharmacy .....	7
Public Health .....	8
Social Care.....	8

**Please note content collated between June 2025 and August 2025**

#### Adults, Children and Older People

##### **Tackling child and family poverty through a place-based lens: insights from Cheshire and Merseyside**

Child and family poverty in the UK is at a critical level. Today, 4.5 million children live in relative poverty, with 3.1 million in deep poverty. With the UK Government's Child Poverty Task Force set to report its findings in autumn 2025, this policy briefing highlights the potential of systems-based, place-focused approaches to tackling poverty. [Read this report from Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place.](#)

##### **Hungry for Change: Tackling Obesity and Food Insecurity in the North of England**

A [new report by Health Equity North for the Child of the North All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\)](#) reveals worsening food insecurity and obesity among children in the North of England. Authored by researchers from leading universities and individuals with lived experience, the report links these issues to poverty, welfare cuts, and poor access to healthy food. It calls for urgent action, including universal free school meals and improved food environments to tackle the growing health divide between North and South

### **Fuel us don't fool us: school food: an investigation into Big Food in schools**

Bite Back is a UK-based youth-led activist movement focused on transforming the food system to prioritise child health and ensure access to nutritious food for all young people. In 2024, Bite Back launched an investigation into the actions of the food giants that shape our food system. [This Bite Back report](#) provides a snapshot of how food and drink companies sell and market to children and young people through schools and provides a foundation for further research.

### **Giving every child the best start in life**

This [Department of Education paper](#) outlines changes in how the government plans to drive up quality in early education, ensure that places are available in every community and restores family services for the next generation.

### **Silence, sexism and stigma: The state of working-age women's health in England**

Women spend more years of their life living in poor health than men, including through their working years. [This Nuffield Trust briefing](#) explores how the burden of disease affects working-age women and men differently. It considers the health conditions and societal issues behind some of these differences, before discussing policy implications for a government focused on tackling rising inactivity due to ill health.

### **Held back from the start: the impact of deprivation on early childhood**

This [UNICEF report](#) maps every local authority area in England against its level of deprivation and a range of early childhood health and educational outcomes. The analysis shows that young children living in areas with higher levels of deprivation and child poverty have poorer outcomes. They are more likely to experience obesity and severe dental decay and present in emergency health settings.

## **Climate Crisis and Sustainability**

### **A breath of fresh air: responding to the health challenges of modern air pollution**

This [Royal College of Physicians report](#) examines the effects of air pollution on health throughout the life course, calling on UK governments to treat air quality as a public health issue. It highlights new evidence gained over the past decade showing that there are now links between air pollution and almost every organ in the body and the diseases that affect them. According to the report, around 30,000 deaths per year in the UK are estimated to be attributed to air pollution, with an economic cost of £27 billion in the UK due to health care costs, productivity losses and reduced quality of life. When wider impacts such as dementia are accounted for, the economic cost may be as high as £50 billion.

## Communities

### Policy on working in partnership with people and communities

[This policy sets out how NHS England](#) meets its commitments to working in partnership with people and communities, including through roles such as patient and public voice partners. Everyone who gets involved in this work forms an integral part of the organisation and plays a vital and unique role by providing valuable insight from a lived experience perspective.

### Trusting place: improving the lives of local people through place-based approaches

With devolution and local reorganisation underway, and integrated settlements and place-based budgets playing a role in government plans, an opportunity is emerging to shift the relationship between central government and places across England. This [Re:State report](#) argues that the system must shift to think and act in a place-based, people-focused and collaborative way and that local leaders and public servants must be empowered to do what is right for their communities.

### Think Neighbourhoods

The Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods has published its interim report, [Think Neighbourhoods](#), highlighting the importance of local, community-focused approaches to addressing national challenges. The report identifies key areas across England where targeted support could have the greatest impact and outlines recommendations for more effective neighbourhood-level policy.

## Health

### NHS winter preparedness

Winter remains a critical stress point for the NHS in England, especially for accident and emergency and ambulance services. [This House of Commons Library briefing](#) looks at some of the reasons there are additional pressures on the NHS during the winter, and how the NHS in England seeks to address this, ensuring hospitals can cope through the colder months. It focusses on some of the pressures identified in winter 2024/25, and the plans for the NHS in England to prepare for winter 2025/26.

### Why is the planned care waiting list coming down and what does the data really tell us?

The waiting list for planned hospital care has plateaued and then come down over the past two years. [This Nuffield Trust analysis](#) looks at the factors affecting the size of the waiting list and explores why a decrease does not necessarily mean that more need is being met in the NHS.

## **The current state of dementia diagnosis and care in England**

Care England, in partnership with Dementia Forward and care providers, conducted a national survey to capture the experiences of people living with dementia, their families and care staff. [This report](#) highlight gaps and inequalities in the dementia care pathway and outlines a set of policy recommendations in response. The report includes case studies which highlight the current flaws of the current system, while offering a range of solutions to ensure all those on the dementia care pathway are supported through pre and post diagnosis, without waiting for crisis before action occurs.

## **Balancing acts: navigating health and work in real life**

Health and employment are deeply intertwined. For many individuals, especially people dealing with chronic health conditions or disabilities, managing health and work can feel like an uphill battle. As part of the Commission for Healthier Working Lives, the Health Foundation commissioned ClearView Research to explore and document the experiences of individuals living with health conditions and the impact on their ability to work. [The report from the Health Foundation](#) presents the results of this work.

## **How good are general practices in England at recording who is an unpaid carer?**

Unpaid carers provide vital support supporting vulnerable people, doing work worth tens of billions to the economy. Identifying carers in our national health records is essential for ensuring that people who provide care have access to the right support. This [Nuffield Trust long read](#) compares GP records with census data to reveal that nearly a million unpaid carers in England are not being picked up in GP records. Carers in more deprived areas and those from Black backgrounds are especially likely to be overlooked.

## **GP patient survey 2025**

This [NHS England survey](#) consisted of around 2.72 million surveys sent out to patients aged 16 or over registered with GP practices in England, from 30 December 2024 to 1 April 2025. It provides national, integrated care system, primary care network and GP practice-level data about patients' experiences of primary care services. 75.4% said their overall experience of their GP practice was good (up from 73.9% in 2024) and 92.5% said they had confidence and trust in the health care professional at their last appointment.

## **Vision profile updated on Fingertips**

[Vision profile updated on Fingertips](#) with 2023/24 data now available for vision outpatient attendances, intravitreal injection therapy procedures in people aged 60 years and over, admissions to hospital for cataract surgery in people aged 65 years and over, and admissions to hospital for rhegmatogenous retinal detachment surgery in people aged 18 years and over. [Wirral data also available](#) at Sub-ICB (Integrated Care Board) level (Wirral).

### **Dementia surveillance factsheets updated**

These [interactive factsheets](#) show the disparities that exist across England in relation to the diagnosis of people with dementia and the care they receive. They are available at national and ICB level. The latest refresh updates the factsheets with data for April and May 2025.

### **A breath of fresh air: responding to the health challenge of modern air pollution**

This [Royal College of Physicians report](#) examines the effects of air pollution on health throughout the life course, calling on UK governments to treat air quality as a public health issue. It highlights new evidence gained over the past decade showing that there are now links between air pollution and almost every organ in the body and the diseases that affect them. According to the report, around 30,000 deaths per year in the UK are estimated to be attributed to air pollution, with an economic cost of £27 billion in the UK due to health care costs, productivity losses and reduced quality of life. When wider impacts such as dementia are accounted for, the economic cost may be as high as £50 billion.

### **Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England**

The UK government's 10 Year Health Plan for England aims to transform the NHS through three key shifts: moving care from hospitals to communities, transitioning from analogue to digital systems, and focusing on prevention rather than sickness. The [Department of Health and Social Care plan](#) includes a new operating model, increased transparency, a reformed workforce, and a reshaped innovation strategy. Developed with public and stakeholder input, it seeks to create a future-ready health service.

### **Never again. Again: a review of health recommendations following a domestic abuse related death**

This [report from Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse](#) examines the consistent failings of the health service to respond to domestic abuse, as identified across a review of domestic homicide reviews published in 2024. The report sets out the potential of the NHS to transform the response to domestic abuse and save lives.

## **Health Behaviours**

### **The UK wellbeing report 2025**

The World Wellbeing Movement defines the happiness poverty line as those who rate their satisfaction with life at five or below on a zero to ten scale. Using the latest annual life satisfaction data made available by the Office for National Statistics, [this report estimates that an additional 650,000 adults in the UK have fallen below the happiness poverty line compared to the previous 12 months.](#)

## Housing

### The UK wellbeing report 2025

This [Housing LIN report](#) draws on research into 54 communal housing models to argue that loneliness should be treated as a serious health crisis, one that demands a preventative, community-focused response. It introduces the concept of 'neighbourisms': the informal, everyday acts of mutual support within intentional, intergenerational living environments. These social interactions, from shared meals to casual check-ins, can help to mitigate the health risks linked to chronic loneliness, including malnutrition, heart disease and cognitive decline.

## Inequalities

### Opportunity Index Map from Sutton Trust

The Sutton Trust has produced an [Opportunity Index Interactive Map](#). The interactive map allows you to explore access to opportunity for disadvantaged young people in different constituencies across England. It is based on The Sutton Trust Opportunity Index, which ranks constituencies according to a range of measures, including school attainment, access to higher education, employment status and earnings of young people eligible for free school meals at secondary school.

### Food, health & nutrition in the North of England: inequalities and opportunities

This [Northern Health Science Alliance report](#) examines the state of nutrition in the North of England and calls for urgent support and investment to address this reversible trend. It explores a range of factors associated with diet and nutrition, including dietary habits, health outcomes, food security and the regional food environment. The analysis shows that people in the North generally have a lower intake of nutrients such as calcium, fibre, vegetables and healthy fatty acids than the national average and spend less on household food per week than the rest of England. Northern regions also have higher levels of adult obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and greater mortality rates from preventable cancer and preventable cardiovascular and liver diseases.

### Public health: inequalities and prevention

This [document from Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology](#) provides an overview of current public health challenges in the UK and asks how can we mitigate health inequalities and ensure fair and timely access to health care for everyone.

### Geographical differences in healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy varies widely across England. It is linked to the conditions in which people are born, live and work. How can prevention and policy interventions reduce inequalities? [Read this Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology report.](#)

## **Geographic inequalities in premature mortality: exploring the role of socioeconomic factors and ethnicity**

[The Health Foundation analysis](#) finds that there are significant differences in how likely people are to die early (before the age of 75) between different parts of England and Wales. After accounting for age and sex, people are almost twice as likely to die early in the 10% of local authority areas with the highest rates of premature mortality as those in the 10% of local authority areas with the lowest rates. It explores why premature mortality is more common in some areas than others. It looks at the role of socioeconomic factors as well as ethnicity and being born outside the UK and at how much inequality

## **Mental Health**

### **Crisis and acute mental health**

This [briefing from Centre for Mental Health](#) examines research from the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Mental Health about the most effective ways of supporting people in a mental health crisis. It sets out the evidence about community-based alternatives to hospital care (such as crisis houses, day units, home treatment teams and crisis cafes), which enable people to get support closer to home. However, it finds that the provision of alternatives to hospital care is inconsistent and what is commissioned does not correspond with the available evidence of what is effective.

### **Understanding drivers of recent trends in young people's mental health**

This [Youth Futures Foundation paper](#) provides an overview of research commissioned by Youth Futures Foundation and carried out by a team from the University of Manchester and UCL examining the drivers of the decrease in mental health among young people. It evaluates multiple potential drivers of worsening youth mental health through data analysis and a literature review. Ten factors were identified and grouped into three categories: increasing risk, declining resilience, and changing reporting.

## **Pharmacy**

### **Inquiry into medicines shortages in England**

This [report by All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pharmacy](#) into medicines shortages in England reveals the scale and severity of the issues facing patients, pharmacists and the wider NHS. It finds that medicines shortages have shifted from isolated incidents to a chronic, structural challenge. It finds that 96% of pharmacists spending increased time managing shortages and 92% report decreased patient satisfaction. Nearly two-thirds of pharmacists are contacting prescribers multiple times a day to resolve supply issues, while 40% spend between 1–2 hours daily managing shortages.



## **Pharmacy pressures survey 2025: the ongoing impact of medicines supply issues on pharmacies and patients in England**

This [Community Pharmacy England report](#) demonstrates the impact of medicines shortages on patients and community pharmacies across England. It is based on views shared by the owners of over 4,300 pharmacy premises in England and 1,600 pharmacy team members. The results indicate medicines shortages and supply disruptions remain widespread, with mounting pressure on pharmacies as more time needs to be spent on managing medicines supply.

## **One year on: how is Pharmacy First working for patients?**

A year after the launch of Pharmacy First, the NHS scheme designed to speed up treatment for common conditions, this [Healthwatch England report](#) sets out the results of a new poll of over 7,000 adults' experience of using pharmacies. It shows the scheme is working well for many but to reach its full potential, key barriers must be addressed.

## **Public Health**

### **Rebuilding public health: restoring the foundations of prevention**

This [British Medical Association report](#) states that public health in the UK must be revitalised if the government hopes to cut waiting lists and tackle health inequality. Diminished public health services alongside a decade of austerity and the Covid-19 pandemic, have resulted in greater levels of ill-health across society. The report puts forward a strategy for addressing the crisis in public health totalling 14 recommendations relating to funding and workforce.

## **Social Care**

### **The size and structure of the adult social care sector and workforce in England: workforce supply and demands trends 2024/25**

This [report from Skills for Care](#) provides information about the size and composition of the adult social care workforce, including information relating to workforce supply and demand such as recruitment and retention statistics, international recruitment and statistics on the wider economy.

### **Poverty, pay and the case for change in social care**

1.6 million people work in social care in England, providing vital care and support to older people and disabled people. However, there are persistently high levels of poverty and deprivation among the residential care workforce. [The Health Foundation report](#) uses national survey data to look at poverty and deprivation among residential care workers in the UK and estimates the impact of increasing social care pay on household incomes.



### Long term care system profile: England

The Global Observatory of Long-Term Care (GOLTC) aims to identify shared challenges in social care and showcase how different countries and localities are addressing them, sharing research evidence and supporting collaborations. [Written by Simon Bottery of The King's Fund and Natasha Curry from the Nuffield Trust, this briefing](#) describes how the social care system in England restricts access to publicly funded support to people with the highest needs and lowest assets and/or income.

### Commissioning self-advocacy as a basis for effective co-production

Effective co-production in adult social care starts with strong foundations. [This Local Government Association \(LGA\) publication](#) explores how commissioning self-advocacy can play a vital role in enabling people who draw on care and support to participate meaningfully in shaping the services they use. Co-produced with people with lived experience, this guide offers practical advice, examples of council-led approaches and tools.

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Thanks, John