WIRRAL HEALTH & WELLBEING KNOWLEDGE HUB
HOME OF THE JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Wirral JSNA Bulletin - Supplementary Content – January – March 2026

Produced by Wirral Public Health Intelligence Team

Contents

Please note content collated between January – March 2026

Adults, Children and Older People
Unpaid care: the realities of caring in the UK
This Health Foundation briefing analyses national survey data from 2018 to 2025 on caring in the UK. It finds that one in six of all UK adults – equivalent to 8.9 million people – provided unpaid care in the period 2023–25. However, it acknowledges that the true extent of unpaid care may be higher, since not all unpaid carers will identify as such. It finds that caring responsibilities did not fall equally: older people were more likely to be unpaid carers and women were 29% more likely than men to be unpaid carers. It also finds that almost two-thirds (61%) of carers provided less than 20 hours of unpaid care a week. More than one in five (22%) unpaid carers provided more than 35 hours a week in 2023–25. These carers were more likely to provide care in the home.
Maternity services in England
This House of Commons Library briefing gives an overview of women's experiences of maternity services in England, including disparities in the care received by women from minority ethnic groups. It provides details of investigations into maternity units at individual NHS trusts, the government-commissioned national maternity and neonatal investigation, and policies to improve care. This briefing supplements the library paper Quality and safety of maternity care (England) which contains information on key policy documents and developments.

Communities & Neighbourhoods

Delivery that matters: the state of the state 2026

This report from Re:State, explores the key issues and opportunities facing public services. It is based on an Ipsos public poll, and over 100 interviews with public sector leaders. The report highlights an increasingly pessimistic public mood. Satisfaction with public services has fallen, concern about the cost of living and the NHS remains high, and trust in the Government is negative across most measures. There has also been a notable shift in the public's attitudes to tax and spend, and caution about the use of AI in public services.

From rhetoric to reality: what is the neighbourhood health service?

This long read from Macmillan Cancer Support, explores what a neighbourhood health service really means, why it matters, and what it will take to make the ambition real for people living with cancer. It draws on Macmillan's approach, which has for many years been focused on supporting service provision focused on person-centred care. In that time, Macmillan has listened, tested and innovated to develop models of care and system improvements to create better experiences and outcomes.

How to include the VCFSE sector in neighbourhood health delivery

This Voluntary Sector North West (VSNW) briefing sets out why the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector should be treated as a core partner in neighbourhood health and offers practical guidance for those designing or delivering local models. It highlights how strong place-level governance and local infrastructure support consistent, scalable neighbourhood delivery and meaningful community engagement. Drawing on regional learning, including examples from Sefton and St Helens, it outlines actions to strengthen co-production, embed VCFSE organisations in neighbourhood teams and better use local insight and data.

Accelerating estate solutions for neighbourhood health centre delivery

The government's 10 Year Health Plan reaffirms its commitment to delivering care closer to communities through neighbourhood health centres — modern, multipurpose facilities designed to integrate health and social care services. These centres aim to improve access, reduce health inequalities, and support productivity across the NHS. However, achieving this vision requires overcoming significant challenges that have persisted for over a decade. This NHS Confederation report draws on insights from a national roundtable, engagement across NHS Confederation members, and case studies showcasing successful approaches to estate optimisation, collaborative commissioning and cultural integration. It highlights the need for strategic alignment between service redesign and estate planning, supported by flexible funding models and strong local partnerships.

Crime and Safety

Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2025

[Detailed information](#) about each homicide recorded by police in England and Wales.

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW): year ending September 2025

The [latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)](#) estimated 9.3 million incidents of headline crime (which includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury) in the survey year ending (YE) September 2025. There was no statistically significant change compared with last year's survey. Police figures for homicide, knife-enabled crime, offences involving firearms and robbery all decreased compared with last year.

Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2025

[Figures on domestic abuse from the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#), police recorded crime and other organisations.

Health

Fixing the front doors: public perceptions of the NHS and general practice

The [latest polling from the Health Foundation and Ipsos](#), conducted in December 2025, found that nearly half of the public (48%) delayed or avoided contacting their GP practice about a health concern in the previous 12 months. The findings also reveal that improving access to general practice remains top of the public's list of priorities for the NHS, this time tied with improving access to A&E.

Eating disorders

This [House of Commons Library briefing](#) outlines the different types of eating disorders and current government policy to tackle eating disorders.

Commissioning: lessons from the last 30 years and implications for the new role of ICBs

Since its introduction in 1990, the commissioning layer of the NHS has been the most reorganised part of the health service, and it is changing once again. This [Nuffield Trust long read](#) reviews the lessons to learn from the past and describes what needs to happen for ICB-led strategic commissioning to succeed where previous models have fallen short.

Drug misuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2025

[An overview](#) of the extent and trends of illicit drug use. Data are from the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

National Cancer Plan for England

Details the government's [plan to transform cancer care and outcomes](#) in England by 2035.

Health Behaviours

Eating disorders

This House of Commons Library briefing outlines the different types of eating disorders and current government policy to tackle eating disorders.

Smoke-free, heated tobacco-free and vape-free places in England

Parliament is currently considering the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. The bill will give the government new powers to make regulations on tobacco and vapes. This Department of Health and Social Care consultation seeks views on proposals to extend smoke-free laws to certain outdoor public places and introduce heated tobacco-free and vape-free restrictions. These proposals aim to protect children and medically vulnerable people from second-hand smoke, heated tobacco emissions and vape vapours. The consultation closes on 8 May 2026.

Improving the nation's diet: the impact of ultra-processed food

The impact of poor diet on poor health due to rising levels of obesity and diet related illnesses is a concern to doctors. Ultra-processed foods have gained public and political interest due to their associations with poor health outcomes and the high consumption rates within the UK, particularly by children and young people. This British Medical Association report makes many recommendations including a call for effective regulation and policies, an increase in industry accountability and a reduction in industry influence as well as improved access and affordability of healthy food.

Mental Health

Why babies' first relationships matter: the value of parent-infant relationships in the UK

Secure parent-infant relationships underpin a baby's emotional regulation, resilience, and healthy development, bringing lifelong benefits. This Centre for Mental Health report explores how specialised, early support from parent-infant teams reduces demand for statutory services, improves child and parent wellbeing, and delivers strong social and economic returns.

Community mental health services

This report from House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee finds that too many people with severe and enduring mental illness are continuing to fall through the gaps of community mental health services. Many experience unacceptably long waits to access care, are discharged without ongoing support while they are still in recovery and are denied care because they do not meet arbitrary thresholds. Too often, support is only available when people reach crisis point. Amongst the report's main recommendations are to extend the pilot of 24/7 Neighbourhood Services; ringfence funding for progress; longer-term funding cycles for certainty; and to improve the treatment of ethnic minorities

Poverty
Our children, our future: tackling child poverty
This [Cabinet Office strategy outlines](#) how government, working with others, will go about tackling the root causes and alleviate the symptoms of child poverty in this parliament and beyond. It sets out the scale of the challenge and ways of increasing family income as well as reducing the cost of essentials. It also looks at improving local support for families.
Unsung Britain: a portrait of the country's poorer half
This [Resolution Foundation book](#) examines the evolving characteristics of the 13 million working-age families across the poorer half of the country – how they earn, save, spend and how they've responded to cost of living challenges. It covers the rent and bills they pay, the excess inflation they have faced as well as the strains on their health, both mental and physical. Chapter nine looks at health and chapter ten, carers.

Social Care
Adult social care insights: workforce stability, digital impact and financial confidence
This [Care England report](#), launched in partnership with Sona, examines the current reality of adult social care in England. Drawing on a national survey of professionals and in-depth interviews with senior leaders, the research reveals that high-quality care is increasingly being sustained by the goodwill, professionalism and resilience of the workforce, rather than by systems designed to meet today's pressures. It finds that short staffing, rising complexity of need and financial strain are now the baseline operating context for many providers. It also finds that continuity of care is often maintained through overtime, agency use, task redistribution and managers stepping in to cover shifts. Please note that free registration is required to access this publication.
Towards a National Care Service: raising national standards of care'
Social Care Institute for Excellence have launched their new report, ['Towards a National Care Service: raising national standards of care'](#), based on a series of roundtables they hosted with senior social care stakeholders.
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If you have any local information, research or reports you think useful to share then get in touch phintelligence@wirral.gov.uk or if the bulletin has been passed onto you and you would like to subscribe please [complete this form](#). Thanks, John

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