WHAT’S NEW IN PUBLIC HEALTH
29th November 2013

A weekly round-up of news, reports, and articles about commissioning, brought to you by Croydon Public Health Intelligence Team (C-PHIT)

C-PHIT also publishes weekly reviews on Commissioning, Primary Care and Health and Social Care Policy: let us know if you want to be added to the mailing list.

Email: ph.library@croydon.gov.uk

CONTENTS

NEWS
1. Extra £150m to ease winter pressures
2. Secretary of state’s message to NHS staff
3. COPD pathway
4. Smartphone apps to treat obesity and alcohol abuse
5. Health and wellbeing boards start to tackle loneliness

REPORTS
7. Commissioning regional and local sexual health services
8. Adult vaccination: a key component of healthy ageing. The benefits of life-course immunisation in Europe
9. Payment by Results Data Assurance Framework: Key findings from the 2012/13 programme
10. Dementia: A state of the nation report on dementia care and support in England
11. NHS procurement: Policy and guidance to help the NHS achieve excellence, value for money, and improvement in procurement.
12. Mid Staffordshire NHS FT public inquiry: government response

RESEARCH
13. Report highlights mental health flaws
14. Howe’s Choices deadline is breached
15. Hospital to Home scheme to aid discharged homeless people
17. Budget change poses health equality threat
18. Prevention - Making it a Reality
19. The English National Chlamydia Screening Programme where next?
20. Level of physical activity among children and adolescents in Europe: a review of physical activity assessed objectively by accelerometry
21. Role of physical activity in the relationship between urban green space and health
22. Use of neighbourhood parks: does socioeconomic status matter? A four-city study
23. Density of tobacco retailers and its association with sociodemographic characteristics of communities across New York
24. Resource-poor urban areas: are public health practitioners well equipped?
26. Potential gains in life expectancy from reducing heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, kidney disease or HIV/AIDS as major causes of death in the USA.
27. Delivering men’s health interventions in English Premier League football clubs: key design characteristics.
28. Arts on Prescription: a qualitative outcomes study
29. Viewing and engaging in an art therapy exhibit by people living with mental illness: implications for empathy and social change
30. Educational inequalities in the co-occurrence of mental health and substance abuse problems, and its adult socio-economic consequences: a longitudinal study of young adults in a community sample
31. Assessing mobile food vendors (a.k.a. street food vendors) – methods, challenges, and lessons learned for future food-environment research
32. Comparison of global estimates of prevalence and risk factors for peripheral artery disease in 2000 and 2010: a systematic review and analysis.
33. The Global Drug Facility and its role in the market for tuberculosis drugs.

NEWS

Extra £150m to ease winter pressures

A further £150 million will be distributed around England to help hospitals maintain their A&E services over winter.

This is in addition to the £250m targeted to the most at-risk areas in September. The money will be paid as an additional allocation to 157 CCGs. http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/150mill-ease-wntr-pres.pdf

Secretary of state’s message to NHS staff
Message from Jeremy Hunt to all NHS staff.

Jeremy Hunt has issued a personal message to NHS staff following the government’s final response to the Francis report.

COPD pathway

COPD patient pathway published by the British Lung Foundation.

This patient pathway aims to help people living with COPD, their carers and healthcare professionals identify the type of care COPD patients should be receiving, from diagnosis onwards. It also includes NICE quality standards and real-life best practice case studies from around the UK.

Smartphone apps to treat obesity and alcohol abuse

Small businesses have worked with government to develop innovative fat busting and alcohol tracking smartphone apps.

The apps, which are designed to help people beat obesity and alcohol abuse, are being developed by small businesses who won a share of a £2m innovation fund to come up with creative ideas on how to help people stay healthy.

Health and wellbeing boards start to tackle loneliness

The Campaign to End Loneliness has updated research published earlier this year on the role of health and wellbeing boards in tackling loneliness and isolation.

The review finds that more than half of boards have included some reference to loneliness or isolation in their strategies.
REPORTS

The state of health care and adult social care in England 2012/2013

Author: CARE QUALITY COMMISSION
Date: 21 November 2013

Abstract: This year’s State of Care report looks at the pressures on accident and emergency (A&E) services due to an increase of admissions for ‘avoidable’ conditions. The report also brings together the findings from inspections to inform of the quality of health and social care services in 2012/13.

The report has two main sections dealing with a study on person-centred coordinated care: older people increasingly arriving in A&E with avoidable conditions and Sector by sector: The provision and quality of care services

CQC carried out more than 35,000 inspections in 2012/13 across the care sectors that they regulate. In around 90% of cases, people were treated with dignity and respect and were receiving care, treatment and support that met their needs and were safe. But, despite improvements in each type of care setting, they were disappointed that in around 10% of cases people received poor quality care.

The document reports on the noticeable gap between those providers who have taken positive action to improve the care they give to people, and those who for a variety of reasons are unable to bring about the changes they need to make.

Websites CQC

Commissioning regional and local sexual health services

Author: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND
Date: 22 November 2013

Abstract: Sexual health is not just about disease or infection but also means promoting good sexual health in a wider context, including relationships, sexuality and sexual rights.

Sexual health services are commissioned at a local level to meet the needs of the local population. Local sexual health services provide information, advice and support on a range of sexual health issues, such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), contraception, relationships, and unplanned pregnancy.

Some specialised sexual health services are directly commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and at a national level by NHS England

This document provides guidance for commissioners of HIV, sexual and reproductive health services: includes prevention, treatment, information, advice and support.

Websites Public Health England
Adult vaccination: a key component of healthy ageing. The benefits of life-course immunisation in Europe

Author: SAATI
Date: November 2013

Abstract: Current societal and financial challenges are demanding a revision of how health budgets are spent with a view to increasing both savings and sustainability.

In light of these challenges, the SAATI Partnership has launched their report on “Adult vaccination: a key component of healthy ageing - Benefits of lifecourse immunisation in Europe” to raise awareness of the health and socio-economic benefits of a life-course approach to immunisation.

This SAATI commissioned research, that received financial support from Pfizer, provides an overview of the state of adult immunisation in the EU27 and the value of implementing better immunisation policies for the European adult population from a public health and macro-economic perspective.

The report consolidates existing research on the incidence of the main vaccine-preventable diseases in Europe. It sheds light on the gaps existing in adult immunisation policies in EU Member States and identifies the key determinants for the successful implementation of adult vaccination policies across Europe. It also provides practical recommendations to improve vaccination rates in adults. Finally, it includes a snapshot of the adult immunisation policy landscape in each EU Member State, with the aim of helping to facilitate national decision-making.

Websites SAATI

Return to table of contents
Payment by Results Data Assurance Framework: Key findings from the 2012/13 programme

Author: CAPITA
Date: 21 November 2013

Abstract: For the past six years the Payment by Results data assurance framework (PbR DAF) has provided assurance over the quality of the data that underpin payments as part of PbR, promoting improvement in data quality and supporting the accuracy of payment within the NHS. In 2012/13 the work focused on providing both local and national assurance through:

a. a flexible audit resource to commissioners to deliver locally focused reviews driven by local issues and areas identified from previous reviews under the framework; and

b. supporting tariff development and implementation by undertaking national data quality reviews of PbR in mental health and best practice tariffs.

This report summarises the main findings from local audits of acute NHS foundation trusts and NHS trusts in 2012 to 2013, carried out on behalf of the Audit Commission. The audits provide assurance over the quality of data that supports payments to NHS providers for certain treatments and services.

Websites DoH

Dementia: A state of the nation report on dementia care and support in England

Author: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Date: November 2013

Abstract: This report sets out what is known about dementia care, support and research. It highlights where improvements are being made and where progress can be seen – it also shows where improvements are needed, including where better data is necessary.

It assesses the scale of the challenge of dementia and also looks at:

- prevention
- diagnosis
- living with dementia
- dementia education and training
- dementia friendly communities
- research

The report supports an interactive map where people can see data about dementia care in their area and across the country.

Websites DoH

Return to table of contents
NHS procurement: Policy and guidance to help the NHS achieve excellence, value for money, and improvement in procurement.

Author: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Date: 28 November 2013

Abstract: The Department of Health have put together a collection of documents which give policy details and guidance to help the NHS achieve excellence, value for money, and improvement in procurement. These publications and resources support the ‘Better Procurement, Better Value, Better Care Procurement Development Programme for the NHS’ and general NHS procurement. The programme aims to help the NHS save £1.5 billion by 2015 to 2016.

The documents are as follows:-

- NHS procurement: improving transparency and understanding performance
- NHS terms and conditions for supply of goods and provision of services
- Improving procurement in the NHS
- NHS procurement standards
- Master Indemnity Agreement (MIA)

Websites [DoH](http://www.gov.uk)

Mid Staffordshire NHS FT public inquiry: government response

Author: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Date: 19 November 2013

Abstract: These documents build on the government’s initial response: Patients First and Foremost, which was published in March 2013.

They explain the changes that have been put in place since the initial response was published, and set out how the whole health and care system will prioritise and build on this. Volume 2 outlines the responses to each of the 290 recommendations made by the public inquiry.

The documents are as follows:-

1. Hard Truths: the journey to putting patients first
2. Hard Truths: the journey to putting patients first Volume 2
3. Hard Truths: the journey to putting patients first equality analysis

Websites [DoH](http://www.gov.uk)

[Return to table of contents](#)
RESEARCH

We have selected relevant and interesting articles from a wide range of (mostly) peer-reviewed journals. There are three ways that you can get a copy of the full article:

1. If the weblink is to Athens, you can follow the link to the MyJournals Search page, login in using your Athens account*, select the journal by title, then select the issue number and article – you can read online, save or print.
2. If the weblink is to ScienceDirect, Sage, Oxford Journals, Wiley or TandF, the link will usually take you to an abstract; occasionally you may find a full text article. You can ask us at C-PHIT to obtain the full article for you (ph.library@croydon.gov.uk).
3. If we haven’t included a weblink, then we have the journal in the Library and can photocopy or scan a copy of the article for you (ph.library@croydon.gov.uk).

* You can register for an Athens account at https://register.athensams.net/nhs/nhseng/ (if you are in or with the health services) or http://www.scie.org.uk/myscie/signup.aspx (if you are in the Local Authority).

* If you do not work within the health services or Local Authority or do not wish to have an Athens account, you can request any item from What’s New by emailing the relevant reference details to us at ph.library@croydon.gov.uk (NHS copyright restrictions apply - only two articles per journal can be copied, unless it is a themed issue).

Report highlights mental health flaws

Author: PUFFETT, N
Journal: Children & Young People Now 12th November 2013: Pages:

Abstract: This article looks at the on-going concerns about mental health services for younger people which have taken on fresh impetus following calls by the UK’s chief medical officer for improvements to be made in the area. Among recommendations for children and young peoples’ health in her annual report, Dame Sally Davies calls for more "investment and focus" on children and young people’s mental health. The report states that action is needed to build resilience at a young age, as well as intervening effectively when problems develop. In terms of intervention she is keen that the government puts strategies in place to enable young people to develop resilience so they can successfully respond to life’s challenges.

Return to table of contents
Howe's Choices deadline is breached

Author: ILLMAN, J
Journal: Health Service Journal 1st November 2013: Pages: 6

Abstract: This article gives an update of the outsourcing of the NHS Choices website. Despite the fact that NHS England said that the launch was 'on track' and Lord Howe has given a personal assurance to private providers that the procurement process would begin later this calendar year, board papers said that the exercise was expected to begin in April 2014.

Hospital to Home scheme to aid discharged homeless people

Author: West, D
Journal: Health Service Journal 1st November 2013: Pages: 15

Abstract: This article describes the Hospital to Home (H2H) scheme. The scheme will run across two London boroughs to support homeless people as they are discharged from hospital. H2H aims to coordinate the response of hospital discharge teams with homelessness service providers, and reduce follow-up problems and further hospital attendances.

A new hope for frail patients.

Author: MCLELLAN, A
Journal: Health Service Journal 1st November 2013: Pages: 16-7

Abstract: HSJ is launching a commission to report on the hospital care of frail older people. The commissions deliberations will be reported in HSJ, with a scoping report due in early 2014. The main report is expected later in 2014 and an updated version in Mar 2015. HSJ's commission in association with Serco, will assess the care of frail older people in NHS hospitals from autumn 2013 to spring 2015.

This article lists the purpose of the commission, and explains how it will work. It also states how evidence may be submitted.

Return to table of contents
Budget change poses health equality threat

Author: West, D
Journal: Local Government Chronicle 17th October 2013: Pages: 8-9

Abstract: This article reports on a study by PH academics and HSJ where CCGs in areas with a poorer quality of life would lose funds (under the revised allocation formula being considered by NHS England).

The study also revealed that they were the same areas where the local authorities had a greater budget reduction in recent years. The first data on the quality of life of people with long-term conditions was published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre in Sep. It is one of five headline measures in the NHS Outcomes Framework. The analysis also compared the effect of the allocation formula with another NHS Outcomes Framework measure, the rate of life years lost due to long term conditions. The findings were similar.

Prevention - Making it a Reality

Author: KELLY, M
Journal: Local Government Chronicle 17th October 2013: Pages: 19

Abstract: Councils can use their new responsibilities for health and wellbeing to breathe new life into that well-worn phrase 'prevention is better than cure' to reduce premature deaths from public health issues like smoking, drinking and obesity. The cost to society of premature death are enormous: alcohol, £20bn a year; smoking £13.7bn; obesity £16bn. The national picture is bleak and while these figures might present a strong case for doing something, the reality is that councils can find it hard to visualise the benefits of investing locally in public health. This can lead to strategies that focus on the consequences of poor health but fail to address the causes, at great cost to the wider system. This article looks at the new arrangements for health and wellbeing and available access to information including NICE.

The English National Chlamydia Screening Programme where next?

Author: MACINTOSH, M; et al.

Abstract: This article assesses the English programme. It includes the history of the programme and discusses the future in the light of a fragmented responsibility.

Although Public Health England will be responsible for surveillance, most sexual health services have been transferred to local authorities.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Return to table of contents
Level of physical activity among children and adolescents in Europe: a review of physical activity assessed objectively by accelerometry

Author: GUINHOUYA, B.C; et al.

Abstract: This systematic review was conducted using Pubmed. The search was conducted for studies up to Mar 2012. It explored the proportion of youth who were sufficiently active according to physical activity (PA) recommendations.

The article includes a diagram of the two level search strategy, and a table of the results, listed by country.

The limitations of the review are discussed. Apart from a robust validation study and/or a consensus conference based on evidence regarding the most appropriate cut-off point to define the lower limit of moderate intensity PA, no clear estimates for sufficiently active children can be provided. Standardisation of accelerometry data regarding cut-off point selection is required to provide better data for decisions about PA promotion.

Websites Science Direct
Library Notes Selected articles only

Role of physical activity in the relationship between urban green space and health

Author: RICHARDSON, E , A; et al.

Abstract: This article reports on a study to investigate whether urban green space was related to health outcomes, and whether levels of physical activity were the likely mediating factor.

Neighbourhood-level green space availability in New Zealand (NZ) was linked to respondents to the NZ Health Survey 2006/7 on the basis of their residence. Four health outcomes plausibly related to green space via physical activity were considered. (cardiovascular disease, overweight, poor general health, poor mental health)

Neighbourhood green space was found to be related to better cardiovascular and mental health. Although physical activity was higher in greener neighbourhoods, it did not fully explain the green space-health relationship.

Websites Science Direct
Library Notes Selected articles only

Return to table of contents
Use of neighbourhood parks: does socioeconomic status matter? A four-city study

Author: COHEN, D; et al.

Abstract: This study aimed to determine if neighbourhood socio-economic status (SES) was associated with park use and park-based physical activity.

12 parks were in high poverty neighbourhoods and 12 were in low poverty neighbourhoods in the USA. Park administrators were interviewed, and observations were made in spring, summer and autumn.

The primary finding was that the strongest factor associated with the number of total metabolic equivalents (METs) expended in a park per day was the number of areas observed having organised and supervised activities. There are opportunities for facilitating physical activity among groups in all neighbourhoods.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Density of tobacco retailers and its association with sociodemographic characteristics of communities across New York

Author: LOOMIS, B.R; et al.

Abstract: This article reports on an American study that examined the association of community median income, race/ethnicity and age with the availability of tobacco products.

The association between tobacco retailer density and four demographic correlates at the census tract level in New York in 2009.

The density of tobacco retailers in New York was higher in census tracts with a higher proportion of African Americans than Hispanics, and lower in census tracts with a higher median income. While the association was significant for New York as a whole, the significance of the association varied across subareas.

As tobacco availability may encourage use, and the density of tobacco retailers is higher in areas where people of ethnic minority and lower income groups live, policies that reduce outlets have the potential to reduce tobacco use by these groups.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Return to table of contents
Resource-poor urban areas: are public health practitioners well equipped?

Author: BELONJE, A.M.S; et al.

Abstract: This article reports on a needs assessment of public health (PH) practitioners responsible for resource-poor urban areas in low and middle-income countries.

Qualitative data was obtained with interviews about work experience, responsibilities, challenges and competencies. Additional interviews of expert researchers of urban health in developing countries were also undertaken. Their opinion on challenges and competencies of PH practitioners responsible for resource-poor urban areas was recorded. They also explained how the profile of these practitioners differed from those working in other areas.

More emphasis on three competencies were necessary for PH practitioners responsible for resource-poor communities: Knowledge of policy processes, leadership skills, and knowledge of the health needs for that specific urban environment.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Development of a Standard Evaluation Framework for Weight Management Interventions

Author: ELLS, L.J.; et al.

Abstract: This paper describes the development of the Standard Evaluation Framework (SEF) by The National Obesity Observatory (NOO), and gives an outline of its use. The aim of the SEF was to support high quality, consistent evaluation of weight management interventions and increase the evidence base by: increasing the interventions that are evaluated; improving the quality of the evaluations; providing evaluation support; and contributing to the development of the core dataset for consistency and comparability.

The SEF includes the core criteria to be collected as part of the evaluation. It can be downloaded from http://www.noo.org.uk/core/frameworks/SEF. It is intended to support people running, commissioning or evaluating weight management services.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Return to table of contents
Potential gains in life expectancy from reducing heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, kidney disease or HIV/AIDS as major causes of death in the USA.

Author: WANG,G.D.; et al.

Abstract: Potential gains in life expectancy (PGLE) that considers competing risks are an indicator for the measurement of the impact of multiple causes of death. This study aimed to assess PGLE by hypothetically reducing the major causes of death in the USA from 2001-8 and outlined how each disease category affects life expectancy by age, race or sex. The findings may assist in evaluating current public health improvements, and provide information for future research and disease control programmes.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Delivering men's health interventions in English Premier League football clubs: key design characteristics.

Author: PRINGLE, A; et al.

Abstract: This article looks at the key design characteristics of Premier League Health (PLH), a national programme of men's health improvement delivered in 16 English Premier League (EPL) football clubs.

The health trainers hired by the clubs were the focus of the study. Interviews by researchers were used to identify the design characteristics of male-specific promotion interventions. A copy of the interview schedule is included in the appendix.

Although they were able to recruit even hard-to-engage men, attention to delivery refinement of health improvement programmes is needed to support participants to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Return to table of contents
Arts on Prescription: a qualitative outcomes study

Author: STICKLEY, T; et al.

Abstract: In the UK Arts on Prescription services are now recognised as a method of mental health promotion. This follow-up study reports on the findings from qualitative participant interviews after two years on the programme. The results are included in a table.

Follow-up progress varied. Hard outcomes were identified for individuals. The unifying factors were found in the realms of soft outcomes of improved self-esteem and confidence which facilitated the hard outcomes such as educational achievement and voluntary work.

Websites Science Direct
Library Notes Selected articles only

Viewing and engaging in an art therapy exhibit by people living with mental illness: implications for empathy and social change

Author: POTASH, J.S.; et al.

Abstract: This Hong Kong study looked at the responses of healthcare professionals, family members and the wider community to an art exhibit created by people with mental illness. The purpose of the exhibition was to raise empathy and awareness as education against stigmatisation and marginalisation.

The qualitative study used surveys, response art, reflective writing and discussion groups and categorised responses. Included in the article is a figure of the spectrum of responses with the themes arranged in a circle to remove the hierarchical nature of a linear model.

This study demonstrated how both viewing and creating art can be used for communication and reflection, and to confront bias and stigma towards people with mental illness.

Websites Science Direct
Library Notes Selected articles only

Return to table of contents
Educational inequalities in the co-occurrence of mental health and substance abuse problems, and its adult socio-economic consequences: a longitudinal study of young adults in a community sample

Author: LEE, J.; et al.

Abstract: This USA study examined the relationship between the co-occurrence of mental health and substance use and socio-economic status (SES).

Earning a high school diploma lessened the risk of co-occurring mental health and substance use problems which contribute to economic instability in young adulthood. The findings confirm the importance of public health programmes to reduce mental health and substance use problems and prevent future costs to the individual and to society.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Assessing mobile food vendors (a.k.a. street food vendors) – methods, challenges, and lessons learned for future food-environment research

Author: LUCAN, S.C; et al.

Abstract: The goal of this Bronx, USA study was to develop, pilot and refine a method to assess mobile food vendors.

The experience of piloting a mobile food vendor assessment suggests that it is possible to conduct this type of study in an urban setting. In order to engage with vendors, investigators should empathise with their concerns and have a flexible approach. Researchers should avoid official paperwork and formal procedures. Despite logistical difficulties to obtain information from mobile vendors (compared with fixed address traders) it is a necessary component of the food environment and cannot be overlooked.

The method presented may serve to encourage the inclusion of mobile food trading more routinely in food environment research.

Websites Science Direct

Library Notes Selected articles only

Return to table of contents
Comparison of global estimates of prevalence and risk factors for peripheral artery disease in 2000 and 2010: a systematic review and analysis.

Author: FOWKES, F; et al.

Abstract: Lower extremity peripheral artery disease is the third leading cause of atherosclerotic cardiovascular morbidity, following coronary artery disease and stroke. This study provides the first comparison of the prevalence of peripheral artery disease between high-income countries (HIC) and low income or middle-income countries (LMIC), establishes the primary risk factors for peripheral artery disease in these settings and estimates the number of people living with peripheral artery disease regionally and globally.

Websites Athens

The Global Drug Facility and its role in the market for tuberculosis drugs.

Author: Arinaminpathy,N; ET AL

Abstract: Tuberculosis is a global public health priority. The disease is closely linked to poverty, with 22 low-income and lower-middle income countries accounting for more than 80% of all new tuberculosis cases worldwide every year. Although in most cases tuberculosis can be cured with cost-effective chemotherapy, not all patients have access to high-quality treatment. This situation is especially pressing in resource-poor settings with weak tuberculosis management capacity. These factors not only reduce the changes of treatment success, but also increase the risk of drug resistance. The article goes on to look at the progress made with the Global Plan to Stop TB in this area.

Websites Athens

Return to table of contents