



---

## News from the Department of Health & Social Care



### **Government announces Health and Wellbeing Fund to give babies from deprived areas or BAME backgrounds the best start in life**

Applications for the 2020 Health and Wellbeing Fund are now open. The theme of this year's fund is 'starting well' and the programme aims to improve outcomes for mothers and babies in deprived areas or from BAME backgrounds from preconception to up to 2-and-a-half years of age. VCSE organisations are encouraged to apply to the fund to support community projects in England aimed at tackling obesity, reducing smoking and improving learning among mothers and young babies. You can find out more about the fund here:

[Read more here >>](#)

---



## **New obesity strategy and package of measures announced to help people lose weight.**

The Government has announced a raft of measures as part of their new obesity strategy to get the nation fit and healthy, protect themselves against COVID-19 and protect the NHS. Rather than focusing primarily on childhood obesity, the strategy represents a new focus on empowering adults to lose weight as well. The measures include: banning unhealthy food adverts, ending 'buy one, get one free' promotions, calorie labelling, expanding NHS weight management services and front-of-pack nutritional labelling. The measures will run alongside a new 'Better Health' campaign, led by Public Health England, which will call on people to embrace a healthier lifestyle and to lose weight if they need to, supported by a range of evidence-based tools and apps providing advice on how to reduce the waistline.

[Click here for more >>](#)

---

**NHS England and NHS Improvement**



**News from NHS England & NHS Improvement**



### **Implementing phase 3 of the NHS response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The NHS has published their plan for the implementation of the next stage of their response to COVID-19, which includes: 8 urgent actions to address health inequalities in NHS provision and outcomes, mental health planning, the restoration of adult and older people's community health services, and practical information about implementing patient initiated follow-up processes in secondary care.

[You can read the full guidance here>>](#)



### **The Big Thank You to NHS Volunteers**

When it comes to volunteers in the NHS saying "Thank you" is an important way to celebrate their work. The Helpforce Big Thank You to Volunteers, is an opportunity to celebrate and share the invaluable contributions made by volunteers across the UK. If you know a volunteer or team who deserve a big thank you, you can nominate them for an award in one of the following

categories: outstanding innovation and responding to COVID-19, going the extra mile, teamwork and bringing people together and encouraging inclusion and diversity. The deadline for submissions is 15 September 2020.

[You can find out more and make a nomination here>>](#)



Public Health  
England

## News From Public Health England



### **Government creates new National Institute for Health Protection**

The Government has announced the creation of a new organisation to focus on rigorous science-led approach to public health protection. The National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP) will start work immediately, with a single command structure to advance the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will bring together the health protection functions of Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace, as well as the analytical capability of the Joint Biosecurity Centre under a single leadership team. In order to minimise disruption to the vital work dealing with the pandemic, the organisation will be formalised and operating from spring 2021. The new organisation will support local directors of public health and local authorities on the frontline of the COVID-19 response.

PHE's work will continue as the NIHP is formed, and while consultation and engagement take place to inform where PHE's health improvement functions are best placed to support the public health system. Preventing ill-health and reducing health inequalities remains a priority for the Government and changes are not expected to where those responsibilities will sit until spring 2021. The Department of Health and Social Care will be publishing a policy paper in September which will set out the next steps on PHE's non-health protection functions in more detail.

[Read more here >>](#)



## Public Health England launches 'Better Health' campaign

Public Health England has launched a major new adult health campaign as part of the Government's obesity strategy. Nearly two thirds of adults in the UK are overweight or living with obesity. Gaining weight is often a gradual process that takes place over a number of years and modern life doesn't always make it easy. But this extra weight causes pressure to build up around vital organs, making it harder for the body to fight against diseases like cancer, heart disease and now COVID-19.

To support people to live healthier lives, the Better Health campaign provides a variety of tools and apps to help people make healthier food choices, become more active and prevent future weight gain. Support will also be made available to help people quit smoking, cut down their drinking and look after their mental health.

[Access the Better Health campaign and resources here>>](#)



## News from the Health and Wellbeing Alliance

The Health and Wellbeing Alliance brings together voluntary and community sector organisations to help connect communities and health policy makers funded by DHSC, PHE and NHSE/I. VCSE organisations were chosen to be Alliance members through an open process, demonstrating that they represented communities who share protected characteristics or experience the most significant health inequalities. The Alliance supports more integrated working between the statutory and voluntary sectors.



### Applications open to join the Health and Wellbeing Alliance

The Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement, and Public Health England are inviting applications from VCSE organisations to join the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance. The alliance ensures the voice of lived experience is incorporated early in policy development, and that important health and public health announcements and messages are shared through reaching communities who may be directly impacted via direct consultation. Refreshing the membership now will ensure the alliance has the greatest

possible representation and that their voices are heard by government. Membership to the alliance is awarded through a competitive tendering process and members receive grant funding on an annual basis of up to £80,000 for their core work. Applications close at midday on 6 November and a 'Meet the Funder' webinar series for interested parties to hear more about the series and ask questions will run from 1 to 3 September.

[Find out more here>>](#)



### **Health and justice: during and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic**

A new blog by Health and Wellbeing Alliance partner, Clinks, looks at the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on voluntary organisations working in health and justice, what they have been doing to support them, and future work on health and justice in 'the new normal.'

[Find out more here>>](#)



**Young People's  
Health Partnership**

**Health Check: Health & Wellbeing work in focus – ten tips for youth social prescribing**

Health and Wellbeing Alliance partner, the Young People's Health Partnership have shared ten tips developed to support commissioners and practitioners to develop and embed effective social prescribing for children, young people and families. As we move into recovery post COVID-19, Primary Care Networks and Social Prescribing will be vital sources of support for children, young people and families affected by the pandemic and lockdown.

[Read more here>>](#)



**WHATEVER YOUR WORLD, YOU'RE WELCOME IN OURS**

### **Health Check: Health & Wellbeing work in focus: Health and Wellbeing Alliance Sub Groups**

This month's case study looks at the work of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance Sub Groups. The Sub Groups are made up of partners from across the alliance that focus on specific areas and work collaboratively on particular themes.

Sub Group themes include: Inclusion Health, Children and Young People, Mental Health, Primary Care Networks, and Social Care. By coming together within the groups to share knowledge and best practice the sub groups have produced a VCSE Inclusion Health Audit Tool, plain English resources for the VCSE sector on Primary Care Networks, recommendations of policy system improvements on social care and support, and a summary of key issues affecting particular groups of children, young people and families in the COVID-19 pandemic to support policy planning.

[Read more here>>](#)

[Access the VCSE Inclusion Health Audit Tool here>>](#)

---



## What do you think of DHSC Monthly?

We love to hear from you about what you would like to see included.

Tell us what you think of this issue and we'll try to keep improving at  
[HWAlliance@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:HWAlliance@dhsc.gov.uk).

If you were forwarded this newsletter, or if you have a colleague who would be interested in receiving this, sign up below.

Sign Up Here

### Contact Us

[Complete our web form](#) or write to us at:  
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries  
Department of Health and Social Care,  
39 Victoria Street,  
London  
SW1H 0EU

### Follow Us

