



December 2009

1. Stop Press

1.1 Retiring CMO: a real champion of the public health

Sir Liam Donaldson, who has save thousands of lives through advocating the smokefree legislation in England, will be retiring next May. Sir Liam has also been an advocate of the public health observatories since their inception. See the announcement at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8414791.stm>

1.2 LHO web user survey

We are evaluating our website and would like your views. Please help us by filling in the short survey

at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KW9RLDH>

1.3 London progress towards the PSA targets for reducing health inequalities

The Department of Health has published data for 2006-2008 on progress towards the PSA targets among the Spearhead areas. Of the 11 Spearhead areas in London, 10 are currently on track to reduce the life expectancy gap by 10% for males or females or both. The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has closed the gap completely with life expectancy for both males and females now higher than England as a whole.

View a summary of progress by the LHO at: <http://www.lho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=15464>

Mortality target monitoring is at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_109469

1.4 PCT spend and outcome

Yorkshire and Humber PHO, working with the PHO network, has published a spend and outcome tool, "SPOT," on behalf of APHO. The tool enables PCTs to look at expenditure in relation to outcomes achieved. It uses programme budgeting data and indicators of health outcome across the 23 programme areas to provide an analysis for each PCT. The analysis can either be downloaded as a PCT factsheet or explored via a tool.

Both can be downloaded from: <http://www.yhpho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=49488>

2. New from the LHO

2.1 Local Basket of health inequalities indicators

Around thirty indicators in the Local Basket of Indicators tool have been updated. A new indicator on child road traffic casualties has also been added to the tool. The Local Basket of Indicators tool is available at: http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/Analytic_Tools/

For a list of the recently updated indicators, see the section on 'New additions' available at:

http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/National_Lead_Areas/Basket_Of_Indicators/

2.2 World class commissioning indicator

The LHO and East Midlands PHO have published further guidance to help PCTs with setting trajectories for the slope index of inequalities in life expectancy.

What's new at the LHO

[Lewisham child and adolescent mental health services: summary of need](#)

[Updated Local Basket of Indicators](#)

Top three downloads for November

[Health Inequalities Intervention Tool](#)

[Local Basket of Indicators Webtool](#)

[Practice Profiles Tool](#)

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Full details at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=75050>

2.3 Making the most of online tools

A summary of four key online tools from APHO was published in the HSJ supplement on health inequalities. The article reviews the health inequalities intervention tool, the local basket of inequalities indicators, the health poverty index and the disease prevalence modelling tool.

Making the most of online tools. *HSJ* 2009; 19 November. Health inequalities supplement, p14

2.4 London's suicide rates

The relationship between recession and poor mental health is examined in *Mental Health Today*. The article is based on the briefing on suicide in London 2005-2007, published by the LHO in May 2009 and looks at lessons from other countries as well as the effect on London.

Riding out the recession. *Mental Health Today* 2009; November, p32

Suicide in London 2005-2007: an update is at: <http://www.lho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=14779>

2.5 Public health analyst meeting 19 January 2010

Have you booked your place yet? Please complete the booking form at <http://www.lho.org.uk/download.aspx?urlid=15379> and return to Kristi.dalgleish@csl.nhs.uk by 31 December. Please note that due to space constraints, it may be necessary to limit bookings to one person per PCT. We will let you know whether your request has been successful by 4 January 2010. The agenda for this meeting will be finalised and posted on the website shortly.

3. London news & events

3.1 TB in London

The annual report on tuberculosis in the UK found that London continues to report the highest proportion of cases at 39% for 2008. Newham and Brent PCT reported the highest rates in England of 110 and 101 respectively per 100 000 population.

Further details at:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1259152018585

3.2 Ending rough sleeping in London

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has announced that the London Delivery Board has helped two thirds of London's 205 most entrenched rough sleepers to move off the streets into some form of accommodation. The Board plans to help the remaining long-term rough sleepers into accommodation by Spring 2010.

Further details at: http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=24319

3.3 Employment and progression in London

A report commissioned by the London Development Agency looks at employment barriers in the capital. Among the key findings are that two out of five Londoners of working age are either in low paid work or are unemployed. Those most likely to experience disproportionately high levels of unemployment include Bangladeshi/Pakistani ethnic minorities (47%), young people (46%), disabled people (45%) and lone parents (43%).

Staying in, moving up is at: <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.3479>

3.4 Sustainable cities 2009

According to the annual sustainable cities index, London has moved up four places and now ranks fifth for sustainability out of Britain's twenty largest cities. The index uses 13 indicators to provide a snapshot of environmental impact, quality of life and future-proofing. London is second to Brighton for its economy and to Bristol for its quality of life ranking. Newcastle also moved up four places and now heads the overall table.

Full details at: <http://www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/projects/sustainable-cities09>

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4. National and international news

4.1 National child measurement programme (NCMP)

Latest data from the NCMP shows no significant changes from 2007/08 for underweight, overweight or obese children in both age groups. Obesity prevalence is higher in London, North East and West Midlands for both age groups. The National Obesity Observatory has updated its atlas so that it now contains three years of prevalence data at PCT / LA level.

The NCMP report 2008/09 is at: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health>

The National Obesity Observatory updated atlas is at: <http://www.noo.org.uk/maps/eatlas>

4.2 Queen's speech

The Queen's speech to open Parliament on 18 November included key measures to address health inequalities through a child poverty bill and an equality bill.

A transcript of the speech is at: <http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21361>

A breakdown by topic is at: <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/content-by-topic/queens-speech09>

4.3 NHS health and wellbeing review

The final report to the Department of Health on the health and wellbeing review by Steve Boorman recommends action in the three key areas of improving organisational behaviours and performance, achieving an exemplar health and wellbeing service and embedding staff health and wellbeing in the NHS infrastructure.

NHS health and wellbeing review final report is at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/>

4.4 Young people's sexual health

A report from the National Audit Office on the national chlamydia screening programme found that all PCTs were commissioning chlamydia testing, with an average testing level during 2008/09 of 15.9%, against only 4.9% the previous year. However, costs were found to be much higher than the estimated £33 per test and 72% of the programme areas did not meet the standards for treating partners. The NAO suggests that the programme is not delivering value for money and makes a number of recommendations to improve cost-effectiveness.

The full report is at: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/young_peoples

4.5 Sustainable diets

A study from the Sustainable Development Commission examines how UK food consumption patterns could have positive impacts on sustainability, including improved nutrition, reduced climate change and improved social and economic benefits. Among the recommendations are reducing consumption of meat and dairy food, increasing fruit and vegetable consumption and drinking tap water in place of bottled water.

Setting the table is at: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/presslist.php/106/>

4.6 International health profiles

A European project to create a profile for each region of the European Union has launched its website at <http://www.i2sare.eu/>. By the end of the project the Health Inequalities Indicators in the Regions of Europe hope to have around 260 profiles for 28 countries. The profiles will include 36 indicators covering demography and socio economics, mortality, morbidity, risk factors, health professionals and health care services.

5. New from APHO and the PHO network

5.1 Older people profiles

Eastern Region PHO has published an online tool to generate local profiles for the over 65s within its region. The indicators included cover demographics, disease, lifestyle, hospital use and social care. View the profiles at: <http://www.erpho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=20264>

5.2 Derbyshire food and health needs assessment

The East Midlands PHO has produced a case study on the practicalities of undertaking a local food and health needs assessment at: <http://www.empho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=11645>

5.3 Health improvement dashboard

The North East PHO has published a health improvement dashboard for the region covering indicators on alcohol, early life, later life, tobacco and prevention among others. View the tool on the new website from NEPHO at: <http://www.nepho.org.uk/dashboard/index.php>

5.4 Tackling health related worklessness

The scale of health problems preventing people from working in the north west is the focus of this report from the North West PHO. A second report that looks at health and wellbeing of the working population is due in Spring 2010. View the first report at: <http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/Publications/Forms/DispForm.aspx?ID=206>.

5.5 Life expectancy at birth

Yorkshire and Humber PHO have published spearhead profiles for the region looking at life expectancy at birth. View the profiles at: http://www.yhpho.org.uk/resource/new_additions.aspx.

5.6 Disease management toolkit

The Child and Maternal Health Observatory (ChiMat) has re-launched the first module in this toolkit. The paediatric asthma module enables the comparison of emergency admissions, bed days and length of stay at: <http://www.chimat.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=CHMTDMIT>.

5.7 Obesity and overweight surveillance

The National Obesity Observatory has published a review of the sources of national level surveillance data on obesity both in adults and children. The paper highlights gaps and makes recommendations for future data collection at: http://www.noo.org.uk/uploads/doc/vid_4483_Obesity_surveillance.

6. New from the Information Centre

6.1 Drug misuse

Figures released by the Information Centre show that in 2008/09 London and East of England were the strategic health authorities with the joint lowest number of hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of drug poisoning at 13 per 100 000 population. London ranks second behind the North west with the highest number of people in treatment for substance misuse.

Full details at: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/>

6.2 General pharmaceutical services

An analysis of community pharmacy services showed that there were 20 pharmacies per 100 000 population in England in 2008/09 with Westminster PCT having the most at 39 per 100 000 population. For the third year running, London's community pharmacies dispensed by far the lowest mean number of items per pharmacy at 4510 items compared with 7650 items per pharmacy in the North East SHA.

Full details at: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/pharmserv9909>

7. New from the Office for National Statistics

7.1 Wealth divide

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show the South East of England to be the wealthiest in Great Britain with a mean wealth of £494 300. London's mean household wealth in 2006/08 was £371 000. Yorkshire and Humber had the lowest mean wealth.

Wealth in Great Britain is at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/

7.2 Excess winter mortality

Estimated excess winter deaths rose by 49% for 2008/09 to the highest level since 1999/2000. In London, estimates rose from 3440 in 2004/05 to 3800 in 2008/09.

Full details at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/ewm1109.pdf>

7.3 Social inequalities in female mortality

An analysis of mortality in females aged 25-59 from 2001-2003 found a strong socioeconomic effect across all regions in England. There were also marked differences in cause of death with mortality rates for lung cancer and cardiovascular disease in women in the least advantaged class being three times higher than rates in the most advantaged class and six times higher for respiratory diseases.

Read the article in *Health Statistics Quarterly* at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ44.pdf

7.4 Infant mortality in England & Wales 2008

According to the latest figures, nearly half of all infant deaths occurred in very low birthweight babies. Mortality rates were 50% higher in mothers born in the New Commonwealth compared with mothers born in England and Wales. The mortality rate for babies with fathers in the routine and manual class was twice that for babies with fathers in the higher managerial class.

Further details at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/ipm1109.pdf>

8. New from other organisations

8.1 Salt intake, stroke and cardiovascular disease

Results from a meta-analysis demonstrate the relationship between higher salt intake and a greater incidence of stroke and cardiovascular events. The researchers conclude that a 5g reduction in daily salt intake could prevent around three million deaths worldwide from cardiovascular diseases and a further one and a quarter million deaths from stroke.

The full article is at: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/339/nov24_1/b4567

8.2 International comparison of primary care

Compared with eleven countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the US, the UK comes out top in a range of primary care services. These include the quality of clinical care, the management of chronic diseases, low waiting times for specialist care and the use of data on patient experience.

Further details at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/In-the-Literature/>

8.3 Promoting mental wellbeing

The latest public health guidance from NICE provides recommendations for supporting mental health in the workplace. The guidance looks at the need for flexible working, the role of line managers and the need for a strategic, coordinated approach to promoting employees' mental wellbeing.

Public health guidance 22 is at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/PH22Guidance.pdf>

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Comments

This newsletter is compiled and edited by the London Health Observatory, now part of Commissioning Support for London. If you wish to receive this update regularly in future and wish to be added to our distribution list, or would like to provide feedback about this newsletter, please email heather.lodge@csl.nhs.uk.