Welcome to Minding the Gap News Brief – No. 57

19 November 2014

Welcome to the Fifty Seventh edition of the Minding the Gap News Brief, the Yorkshire and Humber Health Inequalities Programme.

The Link Between Pupil Health and Wellbeing and Attainment
Children’s wellbeing is influenced by a range of factors and includes their subjective feelings as well as social, physical and psychological aspects of their lives. Consequently schools are key places for shaping general wellbeing. The health and wellbeing of children and young people contributes to their ability to benefit from good quality teaching and to achieve their full academic potential.

This briefing underlines the value for schools of promoting health and wellbeing as an integral part of a school effectiveness strategy. Robust evidence shows that interventions taking a ‘whole school approach’ have a positive impact in relation to outcomes including: body mass index (BMI), physical activity, physical fitness, fruit and vegetable intake, tobacco use, and being bullied.

Making an Impact through Good Governance – A Practical Guide for Health and Wellbeing Boards
This guide is intended to be of practical use to members of health and wellbeing boards in all of the membership categories: councils, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), local Healthwatch and voluntary sector members, representatives of NHS England who sit on health and wellbeing boards, and additional non-statutory members.

The intention is not to tell boards what to do, but offers information from across the country which may assist in deciding options for effective governance. It is hoped that the wide range of approaches discussed within the guide emphasises the flexibility open to boards to respond to their local circumstances, and provides a variety of models for boards to draw on in becoming effective system leaders.

A Shared Agenda: Creating an Equal Partnership with CCGs in Health and Wellbeing Boards
Health and wellbeing boards have a significant role to play in the development of healthy populations, using local partnership working to facilitate a change in outcomes for local people. CCGs have an integral part to play in health and wellbeing boards – they are key to realising more person-centred care, bringing their frontline clinical expertise, their knowledge of local communities, the mandate they have been given from their member practices, and experience in local commissioning.

This briefing suggests that, to fulfil their potential, HWBs must become more evenly balanced partnerships between the NHS and local government. Exploring mechanisms for achieving this must become a priority. In their current form HWBs are not in a position to directly commission services at a local level. At the same time, it is important that HWBs retain local flexibility and the freedom to
decide what is best for their populations and how to attain it.

**Briefing**

**Start Well, Live Better: A Manifesto for the Public's Health**
The manifesto highlights 12 priorities that have been identified through a lengthy process of consultation with members of the Faculty of Public Health; the people working on the frontline of public health, who see the impact of ill health and inequalities on a daily basis.

The manifesto tries to strike a balance between being pragmatic and visionary; what can be done in the short to medium term that could make a more immediate, positive impact on people's health, as well as what to do about longer term challenges that need a more sustained approach.

**Manifesto**

**Healthy Eating: An NHS Priority**
Tackling the obesity epidemic and its associated adverse health consequences is one of today's important public health challenges. Obesity directly costs the National Health Service about £6 billion per year. Direct and indirect costs of diabetes are estimated to be £24 billion and are likely to double over the next 20 years. Our decisions about the food we buy and what we eat are often automatic and made without full conscious awareness. For example, despite wanting to lose weight, we're still tempted to buy the brightly packaged chocolate bar at the checkout till.

This paper suggests that, it is time to put the evidence base that dietary changes can rapidly and substantially improve health outcomes into the heart of the NHS. By offering NHS staff the opportunity to make their diets healthier would be a good start to improve the health of the NHS workforce and their patients. This model could then be adopted into other workplace environments.

**Paper**

**Steps to Solving Inactivity**
This report analyses the most recent government surveys, publishes new information obtained from Freedom of Information (FOI) responses and presents the findings of the largest national review of physical activity interventions of its kind.

This report reveals that local authorities across the country have responded by nearly doubling the amount of public health grant funding they have allocated to tackling the issue between 2013/14 and 2014/15. This represents a shift from 2 per cent to 4 per cent of top-tier public health grants.

**Report**

**Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health and CAMHS**
There are serious and deeply ingrained problems with the commissioning and provision of Children's and adolescents’ mental health services. These run through the whole system from prevention and early intervention through to inpatient services for the most vulnerable young people.

The report recommends the development, implementation and monitoring of national minimum service specifications, together with an audit of spending on CAMHS and that the Department of Health/NHS England taskforce look to remove the perverse incentives that act as a barrier to Tier 3.5 service development and ensure investment in early intervention services. There must be a clear national policy directive for CAMHS, underpinned by adequate funding.

**Report**

**Value for Money Assessment for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund**
This report summarises the findings and assessment of the Value for Money for the large projects, which concluded that the 12 large schemes funded under the Local Sustainable Transport Fund that received funding represent a combined return on investment
of at least 5:1. This conclusion demonstrates that investment in local sustainable transport projects represents very high value for money. The value for money assessment of the smaller bids suggested that, as a package, these also represented high value for money. On balance this would appear to be a conservative estimate and the benefits outweigh the pitfalls.

**Youth Transitions: Helping Every Young Person Reach their Full Potential**

This report highlights that employment and skills services have long failed too many young people. There has been some excellent practice, but decades of centralisation and fragmentation have left the system broken, expensive and disconnected from the lives of young people. Some young people are able to prosper during recession, some may struggle but are well placed to benefit from growth as it emerges, but some are squeezed out of opportunities and will struggle to ever fully recover.

The content of this report is most concerned about this last group and sets out the clear actions that must be taken to ensure all young people get the support they need to reach their full potential now, and in the future.

**Living Wage Research 2014**

The UK Living Wage is an hourly rate of pay set independently and updated annually. It is calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK. The Living Wage is a voluntary rate of pay which is based on the recognition that the national minimum wage (currently £6.50) does not pay enough for people to meet a basic quality of life. Over 480,000 people in Yorkshire and the Humber (25%) are earning below the Living Wage according to research by KPMG. New Living Wage rates have been announced - £7.85 (up from £8.80) nationally (up from £7.65) and £9.15 in London.

Whilst the research identifies statistics and trends, it also reports the concerns of people earning below the Living Wage who expect their finances to worsen during the next 12 months and shows that debt levels have continued to rise among this group.

**Due North: The Report of the Inquiry on Health Equity for the North**

We have lived with a North-South health divide in England for a long time, illustrated by the shocking statistic that a baby girl in Manchester can expect to live 15 fewer years in good health than a baby girl in Richmond. This gap is not static but has continued to widen over recent decades. This regional health divide masks inequalities in health between different socio-economic groups within every region in England which are just as marked: health declines with increasing disadvantage of socio-economic groups wherever they live in the country.

The aim of this report is to bring a Northern perspective to the debate on what should be done about a nationwide problem. We are optimistic that something can be done to make a difference and that this is the right time to try.

**Events**

**Conference - Moving towards integrated commissioning: How can we prepare for the future?**

**Venue:** The King's Fund, London W1G 0AN  
**Date:** 27 Jan 2015  
**Time:** 8.15am–5.00pm  
**Event type:** One-day conference

**About this event**

Aimed at those responsible for commissioning health and social care within CCGs, local authorities and health and wellbeing boards, this conference will examine how to move towards a position whereby the commissioning of health and social care is
integrated and budgets are treated as a whole across localities.

Why you should attend

Integrated care is essential to ensure that care is better co-ordinated around the needs of patients however it is not supported by the historic divide between the health and social care systems. As we approach the implementation of the Care Act 2015 in the context of a general election, how can we prepare to commission integrated care for local health and care services?

Two recent reports, the Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England, and Sir John Oldham’s report on Whole Person Care, both recommend a change to the way we commission health and care services to facilitate integrated care.

The Better Care Fund is an important step towards providing a solution, but future models of commissioning will need to treat budgets as a whole across localities, allowing commissioners and health and wellbeing boards to provide integrated support for people with health and care needs.

Voluntary Sector/SMEs/CICs £240.00 plus £48.00 VAT
Public Sector £315.00 plus £63.00 VAT
Commercial Sector £405.00 plus £81.00 VAT

Conference: Small Steps to Healthier Futures (unfortunately this conference is Full)

Venue: Leeds Hilton Hotel
Date: Friday, 5th December 2014
Time: 9:30am to 4:00pm

Minding the Gap is excited to present the first of a series of events to re-visit the six policy objectives highlighted in The Marmot Review – Fair Society, Healthy Lives. It should be no surprise that the first conference will be starting at the very beginning and will be addressing issues relating to ‘Giving every child the best start in life.’

The conference will review the work of the Institute of Health Equity, the impact that poverty, education and care have on the physical, intellectual and emotional development of children. The conference will also offer an opportunity to bring greater attention to the social determinants of health and current local, regional and national initiatives. The focus of this conference will provide an opportunity to explore - Where we are, What we can do and How we can do things better.

The conference has been in very high demand and I continue to collate a reserve list.

If you know of colleagues or other people that would be interested in being added to the distribution list for this News Brief, please feel free to forward a message containing their e-mail address.

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