

Policy & Research Bulletin

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Issue Number 41

This bulletin presents a summary of the latest policy developments, at a national and regional level, of strategic relevance to Derbyshire. It incorporates Government announcements relevant to local government and highlights publications, guidance, live consultations and forthcoming events.

Where appropriate each article contains a hyperlink to either the original source or further information however, the views expressed in the original source may not reflect those of the Council. Any details specific to Derbyshire can be found highlighted in purple.

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Previous Bulletins can be viewed by visiting [dnet](#).

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Guidance & Publications

Queen's Speech 2016

The Cabinet Office has released a [transcript](#) of the Queen's Speech to both Houses of Parliament at the State Opening of Parliament 2016. Also published is a [summary](#) of the key points.

A separate Policy and Research briefing on the Queen's Speech is also available upon request.

Devolution deals – governance and engagement

The LGiU has published a [briefing](#) which looks at two reports on devolution deals. The report by NAVCA and Locality, Devolution for People and Communities, and the report by the Political Studies Association, Examining the role of 'informal governance' on devolution to England's cities.

City deals

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing](#) which provides an overview of City Deals, with details on the 30 that have been negotiated since July 2012.

Between July 2012 and August 2014, 26 City Deals were agreed. The first wave, completed in July 2012 covered the 8 largest English cities outside London; the second wave, completed in July 2014 covered the next 14 largest English cities and their wider areas, as well as the next 6 English cities and areas with the highest population growth between 2001 and 2010.

In a one-off deal in August 2014, Glasgow and the Clyde Valley became the first area outside England to agree a deal. In 2016, deals were agreed with Aberdeen, Cardiff and Inverness. In total, 30 deals have been granted, 26 in England, 3 in Scotland and 1 in Wales. The 2016 Budget included proposals to begin negotiations with Swansea and Edinburgh.

Directly elected mayors

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing](#) which explains the status of directly-elected mayors in English and Welsh local government, and the routes to establishing them, including the use of local referendums. It also includes an up-to-date list of elected mayors and statistics on previous referendums.

Poverty: how does ethnicity matter?

Understanding Society (UK Longitudinal Household Study) has released a [report](#) which considers that without understanding the role of ethnicity and gender it is difficult to address poverty effectively to raise living standards.

Findings include:

- Over 40% of Bangladeshi and Pakistani children are growing up in poverty, compared with 31% of Chinese, 22% of Black Caribbean and 15% of children in the white majority population.
- Over a third of Pakistani men and over half of Bangladeshi men are paid below the living wage.
- Nearly a quarter of all graduates are now over-qualified for their jobs, but for Black African graduates this figure rises to 40%.

See potential - case studies and guidance for employers

The Department for Work and Pensions has published See Potential [material](#) which is a campaign that changes lives through employment. It encourages employers to see past someone's past, and give people from disadvantaged groups the opportunity to work and turn their lives around.

These are people who may be:

- Long-term unemployed.
- Ex-offenders.
- Rehabilitating drug or alcohol addicts.
- Care leavers.
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016

The LGA has published a [report](#) which considers The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 which introduces a duty to report to Parliament on progress made towards achieving full employment and the three million apprenticeships target in England.

The Act also ensures [reports](#) on the effect of certain support for troubled families and provision for social mobility, the benefit cap, social security and tax credits, loans for mortgage interest, and social housing rents. The report identifies the key provisions and implications for local government.

A British Bill of Rights?

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing](#) which provides a brief introduction to the Human Rights Act 1998; the European Convention on Human Rights and the work of the European Court of Human Rights. The briefing considers the impact of both the 1998 Act and the Convention on the sovereignty of the UK Parliament; examining the question of prisoner voting; as well as wider moves to reform the Convention system during the 2010-15 Parliament.

Research & Statistics

Monthly unemployment statistics - April 2016

The Office for National Statistics has published the latest unemployment [statistics](#) for Derbyshire. During April 2016 headline figures for Derbyshire show that:

- 6,075 people aged 16 to 64 years claimed Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance in Derbyshire – 4,010 or 1.7% of men, 2,070 or 0.8% of women. This was 12% less than at the same time in the previous year (6,900).
- The claimant count unemployment rate has fallen over the last year from 1.4% to 1.3% (1.9% to 1.8% England).
- In 44 of Derbyshire's 177 wards the unemployment rate is above the national average.
- 27.4% of all Job Seekers Allowance claimants have been unemployed for over 1 year (data is currently taken from the Job Seekers Allowance unemployment data) (1,305 16-64 year olds).
- 1,495 (1.9%) young people aged 16-24 are unemployed in the county.

Persistent poverty in the UK and EU: 2014

The Office for National Statistics has released [data](#) which provides analysis of persistent poverty rates in the UK and the EU. Persistent poverty is defined as experiencing low income in the current year, as well as at least 2 out of the 3 preceding years.

The analysis shows that:

- In 2014, 6.5% of the UK population was in persistent poverty, equivalent to approximately 3.9 million people.

- Based on the latest data, the UK has the third-lowest persistent poverty rate in the EU, but the overall poverty rate for 2014, at 16.8%, was the 12th highest.
- The persistent poverty rate for women was 1.5 percentage points higher than for men in 2014 in the UK.
- Single-person households were more likely to experience persistent poverty than households with 2 adults.
- Between 2011 and 2014, almost a third (32.5%) of the UK population experienced poverty at least once.
- 43% of people who left education without any formal qualifications experienced poverty at least once between 2011 and 2014, twice the percentage of those with a degree or higher.

Council Services

Consultation

Strengthening local government transparency

The Department for Communities and Local Government has opened [consultation](#) seeking views on:

- Proposals to change the way that local authorities record details of their land and property assets, and publish information about their procurement, their contracts and the delivery of some of their services.
- Proposals regarding the new requirements about information on parking charges and enforcement and about the way transparency data is published and presented.
- Proposals on recommendations that local authorities publish information about their dealings with small and medium-sized enterprises.

Consultation closes 8 July 2016

Adult Social Care

Guidance & Publications

Commitment to carers – improving carer health and wellbeing

NHS England has published a [toolkit](#) which provides an integrated approach to identifying and assessing carer health and wellbeing.

The toolkit clarifies the new duties on NHS organisations under the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014, provides a template Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support joined up working locally and includes examples of positive practice.

Older pensioners more likely to be living in poverty

Independent Age has published a [report](#) examining the income disparities between different groups of pensioners. It found that one fifth of older people (aged 75 and over) are living below the poverty line and that older pensioners' incomes are on average £59 a week lower than younger pensioners and £112 a week lower than working age adults. It also found that nearly three quarters of a million over 75s have no source of income other than the State Pension and benefits, and that older pensioners are less likely to receive Pension Credit when they are eligible.

The charity is calling on the Government to increase take-up of Pension Credit among older pensioners through a targeted campaign. The charity is also calling for Pension Credit to be subject to its own 'triple lock', so poorer pensioners don't fall further behind.

Older carers

Age UK has released [figures](#) showing that the age of carers has increased over the past 7 years with the number of carers aged 80 and over rising from 301,000 to 417,000, an increase of nearly 39%. The data shows one in seven people aged 80 and over provide some form of care to family or friends. The figures also show that 144,000 carers in this age group are caring for someone in their home for more than 35 hours a week, while a further 156,000 are caring for more than 20 hours a week.

Children's Services

Guidance & Publications

Entitlement to free early education and childcare

The LGiU has published a [briefing](#) on the National Audit Office (NAO) report [Entitlement to free early education and childcare](#) which evaluates how well the Department for Education has implemented its early years policies, especially in the light of plans to extend the free childcare entitlement to 30 hours a week for working parents of three and four year olds.

Holidays during school term time

The House of Commons Library has released a short [briefing](#) which provides an overview of the position relating to parents taking their children on holiday during school term time in England, in light of the recent High Court ruling.

In response to the ruling, the Department for Education [stated](#) that it would look to change the legislation to enforce school attendance.

The troubled families programme

The House of Commons Library has released a [briefing](#) which looks at how the Troubled Families programme works with families with multiple problems, such as unemployment, anti-social behaviour, truancy and mental health problems. The briefing looks at similar, historic programmes of targeted family intervention, as well as the inclusion of the Troubled Families programme in local government devolution deals.

New deal for child refugees

Save the Children has published a [report](#) which highlights that refugee children are five times less likely to attend school than other children, with 50% of primary school-aged refugee children and 75% of secondary school-aged children completely left out of the education system, with none of the safeguards that school environments provide.

The report finds that key barriers to education include financial and language issues; the need for many children to work informally to help support their families; lengthy bureaucratic processes and lack of documentation; limited school places; and the fact that developing countries host 86% of the world's refugees and yet have the least capacity to cope with refugees and their complex short and long term needs.

Education in youth custody

The House of Commons Library has published a [report](#) in advance of the review of the youth justice system, at the literature on the provision and quality of education in youth custody in England and Wales. The report examines the challenges in providing education to a population with particular needs.

Analysis reveals:

- Around 1,000 children (10-17 years) are being held in youth custody at any one time.
- Provision of education varies across youth custody in terms of subjects and qualification levels offered and amount of time provided.
- There are mandated hours for education in youth custody, but not all children are receiving their hours. Reasons for this include children being in segregation, which prevents them from getting to classes.
- Children in custody are more likely than the general public to have needs that directly inhibit their ability to engage actively with education.
- Educational provision within young offender institutions and secure training centres is hampered by challenges that make it difficult for children to engage in education.

In care, out of trouble

The Prison Reform Trust has released a [report](#) which describes how looked-after children are often prosecuted for challenging behaviour that would normally be dealt with in the family home.

The report follows a review which was established to examine the reasons for, and how best to tackle, the over representation of children in care, or with experience of care, in the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

How do childhood circumstances affect your chances of poverty as an adult?

The Office for National Statistics has published a [report](#) which suggests that people in the UK who have a low personal education level are nearly five times more likely to be poor in adulthood than those with high personal education levels, once other factors are accounted for. Growing up in a workless household was also identified as an important factor in predicting future poverty.

Education, education, mental health: supporting secondary schools to play a central role in early intervention mental health services

The Institute for Public Policy and Research has published a [report](#) which highlights that there is a crisis affecting children and young people's mental health in England, with three children in every classroom experiencing a clinically diagnosable condition. Despite the growing number who require help, cuts to the funding of both NHS and local authority 'early intervention' services, which can prevent emerging mental health problems from escalating further, mean that increasing numbers of children are unable to access appropriate and timely support.

The report argues that early intervention mental health services for children and young people must be rejuvenated and that secondary schools should play a central role in this, complementing wider community and NHS provision. There is currently a great deal of variation in both the availability and quality of school-based early intervention provision. This is due to four major barriers:

- Schools' inability to access sufficient funding and resources.
- A lack of established mechanisms by which schools can influence commissioning decisions taken by clinical commissioning groups.
- The inconsistent quality of mental health support available to schools to buy in directly.
- A lack of external checks on the appropriateness and quality of the approaches taken by individual schools.

The report highlights the need for high-level national strategic leadership on the part of the government in leading the change on this.

Best start in life - promoting good emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people

The LGA has published a [briefing](#) regarding the challenges faced by some children and younger people struggling with problems such as anxiety, depression and self-harm which can have a profound effect on their emotional and mental wellbeing. As well as affecting their health, research shows that those who develop problems in the early years fall behind socially and academically. The report argues that councils and their partners can play a lead role in trying to ensure problems don't develop in the first place. The briefing provides examples of councils that are looking at innovative ways to provide support with a focus on children and families rather than static services, as well as more information about the scale of the problem and what steps can be taken.

Higher Education and Research Bill: summary factsheet

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has released a [factsheet](#) which outlines the measures in the Higher Education and Research Bill.

The Bill will deliver greater competition and choice that will promote social mobility, boost productivity in the economy and ensure students and taxpayers receive value for money. The Bill will also help ensure that everyone with the potential to benefit from higher study can access relevant information to help them make the right choices from a wide range of universities.

Research & Statistics

FE data library: local authority tables

The Skills Funding Agency has published updated [tables](#) for FE and schools learner participation breakdown by local authority (2012/13).

For Derbyshire the tables show:

Amber Valley – the total number of learners was 8,570 (4,930 female, 3,640 male), 56% of learners were aged over 25, 25% aged under 19 and 19% aged 19-24. 16% were identified as having a learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 2,390 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 710 as workplace learning learners and 1,500 as community learning learners.

Bolsover — the total number of learners was 6,630 (3,740 female, 2,890 male), 52% of learners were aged over 25, 30% aged under 19 and 19% aged 19-24. 16% were identified as having a learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 1,790 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 510 as workplace learning learners and 690 as community learning learners.

Chesterfield - the total number of learners was 8,960 (5,010 female, 3,960 male), 55% of learners were aged over 25, 26% aged under 19 and 20% aged 19-24. 17% were identified as having a learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 2,410 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 620 as workplace learning learners and 920 as community learning learners.

Derbyshire Dales - the total number of learners was 4,650 (2,800 female, 1,850 male), 62% of learners were aged over 25, 22% aged under 19 and 15% aged 19-24. 16% were identified as having a learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 960 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 290 as workplace learning learners and 1,450 as community learning learners.

Erewash - the total number of learners was 7,950 (4,280 female, 3,670 male), 50% of learners were aged over 25, 30% aged under 19 and 21% aged 19-24. 17% were identified as having a learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 2,290 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 650 as workplace learning learners and 850 as community learning learners.

High Peak - the total number of learners was 7,540 (4,220 female, 3,330 male), 56% of learners were aged over 25, 25% aged under 19 and 19% aged 19-24. 15% were identified as having a

learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 1,520 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 560 as workplace learning learners and 1,530 as community learning learners.

North East Derbyshire - the total number of learners was 7,240 (4,200 female, 3,040 male), 54% of learners were aged over 25, 27% aged under 19 and 19% aged 19-24. 16% were identified as having a learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 1,960 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 480 as workplace learning learners and 1,130 as community learning learners.

South Derbyshire - the total number of learners was 6,550 (3,720 female, 2,830 male), 52% of learners were aged over 25, 27% aged under 19 and 20% aged 19-24. 14% were identified as having a learning difficulty and/or a disability whilst 1,860 were identified as apprenticeship learners, 570 as workplace learning learners and 820 as community learning learners.

Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term 2015

The Department for Education has published indicative [figures](#) on overall, authorised, unauthorised and persistent absence by school type.

Key statistics show:

- The overall absence rate for state-funded primary and state-funded secondary schools has decreased from 4.4% in autumn 2014 to 4.1% in autumn 2015.
- Overall absence rates have followed a general downwards trend since autumn 2008, when the overall absence rate was 6.4%.
- Absence due to illness has decreased from 2.8% in autumn 2014 to 2.4% in autumn 2015. Illness remains the most common reason for absence, accounting for 58.8% of all sessions missed.

Health & Communities

Guidance & Publications

Fit for the future: public health people

Public Health England has published a [report](#) following a review of public health workforce future capabilities and skills. The review was completed between July 2015 and March 2016 and focuses on a medium term view (about five years), complementing a similar piece of work carried out by the Centre for Workforce Intelligence which took a longer term (20 year) view.

The review sets out to answer a number of key questions, through a literature review, key informant interviews and a series of workshops across England:

- What would good public health work look like in five years' time and beyond?
- What are the drivers that will influence the way the workforce will need to develop?
- What does this mean in terms of the future composition of the workforce, and the skills and capabilities needed?
- How should the public health system respond nationally and locally to prepare a workforce that is fit for the future?

Joint review of partnerships and investment in voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in the health and care sector

The Department of Health has published a joint [report](#) by the Department of Health, Public Health England, and NHS England which sets out recommendations for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in the health and care sector.

The aim of the review is to:

- Describe the role of the VCSE sector in improving health, wellbeing and care outcomes.

- Identify the challenges and opportunities in realising the sector’s potential.
- Address challenges and maximise opportunities.

The report emphasises putting wellbeing at the centre of health and care services and making VCSE organisations an integral part of a collaborative approach.

Place-based health: step forward local government?

The LGiU has published a [briefing](#) which identifies how the health sector is developing a focus on place-based health and care systems that are organised around localities and community involvement. The briefing looks at the need to participate in this unfolding agenda so that a place-based approach reinforces and helps to meet local priorities, rather than creating fresh divisions.

The future of GP collaborative working

The Royal College of General Practitioners has released a [report](#) which showcases how GPs are designing and leading innovative schemes to improve the integration of care in the best interests of patients. The report highlights seven case studies spanning a wide range of services across the UK, covering different specialties, different population groups and different ways of addressing complex issues. It includes a case study from Thornbrook Surgery in Chapel-en-le-Frith who has employed a psychotherapist to help patients with mental health issues. Analysis has found that more patients attend this services and that there is reduced stigma as patients can be seen closer to home.

Just what the doctor ordered - social prescribing – a guide for local authorities

The LGA has published a [guide](#) which looks at how connecting people with local community services and activities, through social prescribing, the health and wellbeing of large numbers of people can be improved.

The guide argues that councils have three important roles when it comes to social prescribing. Firstly, with their responsibility for public health, they may be running some of the non-clinical services that social prescribing schemes can refer to. Secondly, through health and wellbeing boards they have a strategic role in getting the NHS to sign up to social prescribing and, finally, there are some councils which have become the social prescribing provider or are funding them.

The report suggests councils should:

- Seek joint ownership / involvement from the NHS, council and voluntary sector.
- Ensure the voluntary sector is ready for the increase in referrals that is likely.
- Look to get other professionals such as pharmacists, nurses and social workers involved in referring to schemes, not just GPs.
- Make sure support is in place to accompany clients to activities to help them settle.
- Consider how programmes are going to be evaluated and monitored.

Public health in a changing climate

The Josph Rowntree Foundation has released a [report](#) which highlights that climate change poses direct and indirect threats to people’s health and wellbeing. Moreover, many measures that could be taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change have co-benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. Examples include energy-efficient, well-insulated and ventilated homes, reduced air pollution, opportunities for active travel (walking and cycling), accessible green spaces, and a sustainable food production system and diet.

The recent shift of public health from primary care trusts to local authorities in England provides scope for more joined-up action to mitigate and adapt to climate change locally. The shift presents an opportunity for different professions to come together to address climate change as both a determinant of ill health and a means to improve quality of life in local communities. In addition, each

unitary and upper-tier local authority now has a health and wellbeing board which provides a mechanism for setting priorities across the health and social care sector to tackle climate change collaboratively in the local area.

The report addresses the question of whether and how public health departments and their partners are driving and collaborating on action to mitigate and adapt to climate change in areas known to face 'climate disadvantage'. This term was developed to describe areas with high levels of exposure and high social vulnerability to climate hazards such as floods and high temperatures.

The study aimed to:

- Assess current strategies and actions to address climate change by public health departments and partners across the local authority and healthcare system.
- Explore barriers and opportunities to developing responses, and how these barriers can be overcome and opportunities maximised.
- Identify recommendations for policy and practice.

Health, work and health related worklessness

The LGA and Public Health England have published a joint [briefing](#) which provides an overview of the current debate on work, worklessness and health, with a particular emphasis on the evidence base and case studies to enable a better understanding of the subject matter. The focus is on employed individuals with health conditions falling out of work and onto out-of-work welfare, and those on welfare with health conditions who are not in employment.

Physical healthcare for people with mental health problems

The Department of Health, Public Health England and the NHS have released a [resource](#) for mental health nurses to provide tailored physical healthcare for people with mental health problems.

This document focuses on how to deal with some of the main risk factors for physical health problems, and helps to make sure that people living with mental health problems have the same access to health checks and healthcare as the rest of the population.

Mental health toolkit for employers

Public Health England has released a new mental health [toolkit](#) for employers which brings together a range of resources to support employers of all sizes to champion good mental health and support those who have mental health problems to remain in work.

Female genital mutilation (FGM): resource pack

The Home Office has published updated FGM [guidance](#), case studies and support materials for local authorities, professional services and specialist voluntary organisations.

This resource pack features:

- Information on legislation.
- Case studies where FGM has been experienced by girls and women in the UK.
- Information on what local authorities can do to raise awareness of FGM in their local area and safeguard children.
- Links to support organisations, clinics and helplines that can help people who think they might be at risk.

An E-learning tool has also been released which covers [recognising and preventing FGM training](#) which is available free for professionals with safeguarding responsibilities. The E-learning gives an introduction to FGM and the action you must take to protect females who may be at risk.

Sharp rise in UK teen poisonings

The University of Nottingham has released a [report](#) which reveals the number of teenage poisonings over the past 20 years in the UK has risen sharply, particularly among girls.

The study concludes that overall rates were strongly linked to socioeconomic deprivation, with those from the most deprived areas two to three times more likely to have a poisoning than those from the least deprived areas. The link with poverty and deprivation did not reduce over time, and may reflect a difference in levels of mental anguish, stress, and social and psychological support.

Illegal tobacco trade harming efforts to cut smoking

The LGA has released a [report](#) which highlights that efforts to reduce smoking are being undermined by millions of cheap, illegal cigarettes containing up to 500% higher levels of cancer-causing chemicals flooding the black market. Many fake cigarettes contain even higher levels of toxic ingredients such as tar, nicotine, carbon monoxide, lead, arsenic and cadmium than genuine brand-name cigarettes. They also pose a greater fire risk as they do not self-extinguish. Additionally, they cost the UK economy more than £2 billion a year in unpaid duty.

Huge quantities of illegal cigarettes are regularly seized by councils as they continue cracking down on the illegal trade. In 2015-16 Derbyshire County Council seized more than 1.85 million counterfeit cigarettes and 595kg of illegal tobacco, and successfully prosecuted seven individuals for the sale and supply of illegal cigarettes/tobacco. Since 2011-12 the Council's trading standards team has been involved in the seizure of 3.1 million sticks of cigarettes and 1.6 tonnes of hand rolling tobacco - equating to £1.2 million in lost revenue and tax if sold.

Packaging of tobacco products

The Department of Health has published [guidance](#) for retailers and distributors of tobacco products, enforcement agencies and the public on changes to tobacco packaging.

The rules include, for example, minimum sized health warnings on all tobacco packaging (and herbal products for smoking) for retail and require standardised packaging (or 'plain packaging') for individual cigarette sticks, cigarette packs and hand rolling tobacco packs for retail.

This guidance does not apply to the [new rules for electronic cigarettes](#) under the Tobacco Products Directive.

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

The LGA has published a [report](#) which provides an introduction to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. The report also identifies the key provisions and implications for local government of the Act which creates a blanket ban on the production, distribution, sale and supply of psychoactive substances in the United Kingdom.

Gardens and health

The King's Fund has published a [report](#) that was commissioned by the National Gardens Scheme in 2015. The report aims to contribute to the understanding, assessment and development of the links between gardens, gardening and health and sets out the evidence base on how gardens and gardening relate to health across the life-course.

The report also aims to place 'gardens and health' within the current strategic health policy context, proposing recommendations on how gardening, if brought into the mainstream, can be an important mechanism for reaching health policy goals, nationally and locally.

Active commuting: can it help tackle obesity?

Understanding Society (UK Longitudinal Household Study) has released a [case study](#) which looks at understanding the association between active commuting and body mass index.

Key findings include:

- A total of 76% of men and 72% of women commuted by private motorised transport.
- Men who commuted via public or active modes had BMI scores around 1 point lower than those who used private transport, equating to a difference in weight of 3kg (almost half a stone) for the average man.
- Women who commuted via public or active transport had BMI scores around 0.7 points lower than their private transport using counterparts, equating to a difference in weight of 2.5kg (5.5lb) for the average woman.

New strategy to tackle inactivity

Sport England has published a five year [strategy](#) pledging to spend £250 million over the next five years to help tackle inactivity. The strategy focuses on the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise per week. As well as continuing to support people who already play sport, there will be a much greater emphasis on groups who are typically much less active such as women, disabled people and those from lower-socio-economic backgrounds.

Research & Statistics

Report on abortion statistics in England and Wales for 2015

The Department for Health has published [statistics](#) which provide data on abortions carried out in England and Wales during 2015.

Key statistics show:

- The total number of abortions remains fairly constant at 185,824, 0.7% higher than in 2014 (184,571) and 0.3% less than in 2005 (186,416). **The lowest overall rates were Derbyshire, Bath and North East Somerset and Cambridgeshire, where the figure was 10 abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. There were 1,309 abortions carried out across Derbyshire in 2015.**
- The age-standardised abortion rate was 16.0 per 1,000 resident women aged 15-44. This is 0.6% higher than in 2014 (15.9) and 6.4% lower than in 2005 (17.1).
- The abortion rate was highest for women aged 21 (at 28.7 per 1,000). The highest rate in 2014 was for women aged 22 (at 28.5 per 1,000).
- The under-16 abortion rate was 2.0 per 1,000 women and the under-18 rate was 9.9 per 1,000 women. Both lower than in 2014 (2.5 and 11.1 per 1,000 women respectively) and in 10 ten years since 2005 (3.7 and 17.8 per 1,000 women respectively).
- 92% of abortions were carried out at under 13 weeks gestation, 80% were at under 10 weeks.
- 38% of abortions in 2015 were to women who had already had one or more abortions.

Social capital across the UK: 2011 to 2012

The Office for National Statistics has released a [report](#) on how people feel about their neighbourhood across the UK. The report highlights that personal characteristics such as age, ethnicity and socio-economic status all have a role in explaining some of the differences observed between regions, urban and rural areas.

Some of the main UK findings include:

- People living in rural areas were more likely to think that people in their neighbourhood can be trusted than people living in urban areas (78% compared with 61%). Around 73% of people in

Northern Ireland reported that most people in their neighbourhood can be trusted, compared with 56% of people in London.

- Trust in others in their neighbourhood was higher among White ethnic groups (66%) than those from Asian/Asian British ethnic groups (62%), Mixed ethnic groups (49%) and Black/Black British ethnic groups (42%).
- Trust in others in their neighbourhood was highest amongst the retired (79%) and the self-employed (70%) but lowest among the unemployed (43%), people with long-term sickness or disabilities (52%), full-time students (52%) and people on maternity leave or looking after family (56%).
- People in higher managerial occupations were more likely to trust people in their neighbourhood (73%) than people in routine occupations (54%).
- Around 3 out of 5 people (61%) reported feeling similar to others in their neighbourhood, amongst which three-quarters of them (76%) felt they could trust others in their neighbourhood. In comparison, around 14% of people did not feel similar to others in their neighbourhood, amongst which 38% felt they could trust others in their neighbourhood.

How is the NHS performing? May 2016

The King's Fund has published a [report](#) showing that nearly two-thirds of NHS trust finance directors and more than half of clinical commissioning group (CCG) finance leads say the quality of patient care in their area has got worse over the past year. The group says the findings are the most worrying since it began tracking standards in 2012. Only 2% of trust finance directors and 12% of CCG finance leads said that patient care had improved over the past 12 months.

The latest Quarterly Monitoring Report found that:

- 8% of patients spent longer than four hours in A&E across the year, the worst performance since 2003-4
- The number of patients waiting for hospital treatment has increased by 17% and is the biggest total since 2007
- More than 5,700 patients were delayed in hospitals, an increase of 15% over the year and the highest number since 2008.

The latest survey also confirms that 7 out of 10 NHS providers ended 2015-16 in deficit (including 9 out of 10 acute trusts).

Highways, Transport and Infrastructure

Guidance & Publications

Bus Services Bill: overview

The Department for Transport has published an [overview](#) of the Bus Services Bill. The document summarises the main measures in the Bill and explains how they will work in practice.

The main points of the Bus Services Bill are:

- Strengthening arrangements for partnership working in the sector, introducing 'enhanced partnerships'.
- Introduction of a new franchising powers with decisions at a local level.
- Providing for a step change in the information available to bus passengers.

Active travel: a briefing for local authorities

Public Health England has published a [briefing](#) for both transport planners and public health practitioners which sets out the benefits of active travel. The report looks at the impact of current transport systems and sets out the many benefits of increasing physical activity through active travel. It suggests that while motorised road transport has a role in supporting the economy, a rebalancing of the travel system is needed.

The guide suggests a range of practical action for local authorities, from overall policy to practical implementation and highlights the importance of community involvement.

The National Parks Partnership

The Campaign for National Parks has launched a new [initiative](#) that will enable businesses to engage with all 15 of the UK National Parks. The Partnership will enable the Parks to work together to seek funding from businesses that will enhance the quality and utility of the Parks.

Planning Reform Proposals

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing](#) which sets out the Government's key planning reform proposals and those changes in the process of being made.

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Neighbourhood planning: provisions to improve the process for reviewing and updating plans and providing a more transparent duty for the Government to support groups wanting to do neighbourhood planning.
- Planning conditions: provision to ensure that pre-commencement planning conditions are only imposed when they are absolutely necessary.
- Compulsory purchase: provisions designed to make the process clearer, fairer and faster, including a new statutory framework for agreeing compensation.
- National Infrastructure Commission: provision to establish the independent National Infrastructure Commission on a statutory basis.
- Land Registry: provision to enable privatisation of it.

Planning Obligations (Section 106 Agreements)

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing](#) which looks at recent changes to planning obligations, the appeals process surrounding them and how planning obligations interact with the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Derbyshire Observatory

You can find all the latest data and statistics for Derbyshire on the [Derbyshire Observatory](#) or by following the links below:

[Economy and Skills](#)
[Health and Wellbeing](#)
[People and Place](#)
[Derbyshire Communities](#)

[Derbyshire Profiles](#)
[Health Profiles](#)
[Census Profiles](#)

[Maps and Reports](#)
[Latest News](#)
[Infographics](#)

Recently Added

- [Community Engagement](#) provides headline results and an infographic from the February 2016 Citizens' Panel survey.
- [Monthly Unemployment Statistics - April 2016](#) provides monthly unemployment figures, interactive map and infographic for Derbyshire.

Consultation

Have Your Say

Visit [Have your say](#) where you can view details about Derbyshire County Council's current consultations, those carried out in the past and those planned for the future. Current consultations include:

Consultation	Started	Closes
Anti-stigma strategy consultation	25 April 2016	27 May 2016
Proposals to stop grant funding to voluntary and community sector providers	4 May 2016	24 July 2016