

FUTURE FOCUS

JULY 2019....

An overview of the policy announcements, events & consultations expected in the coming months, of relevance to the NHS & local government.

Problem gambling

The UK's first [gambling addiction clinic](#) for children and young people, funded by NHS England, will open in **September 2019** as part of a new network of services. The Gambling Commission estimates that 55,000 children aged 11-16 are problem gamblers, with online sites and social media fuelling the epidemic. Meanwhile, the House of Lords will lead a [parliamentary enquiry](#) into the economic cost and social consequences of problem gambling, following a report by the Institute of Public Policy Research, which found the cost of problem gambling to the Government could be as much as £1.2 billion a year. The Lords Select Committee has published its [call for evidence](#) and submissions must be made by **6th September**.

Policy/Strategy Announcements

Department for Transport

Following guidance from the Department for Transport, people with 'invisible' disabilities, such as dementia, autism or anxiety disorders could be eligible for [Blue Badge permits](#). Changes to the scheme will come into force on **30th August**, although eligibility will be decided by local councils. Meanwhile, the Department is also considering [increasing its on-the-spot fines](#) for leaving engines running while parked. A public consultation on the change will begin **over the summer** as part of reforms designed to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

HPV Immunisation Programme

Public Health England has announced the expansion of the [HPV immunisation programme](#) to include boys from **1st September 2019**. The vaccine will be offered to boys, in addition to girls, as part of the routine school-aged schedule. Communications materials for health professionals, parents and young people, will be available on the [HPV Vaccination Programme](#) webpage.

Assisted Dying

The Royal College of General Practitioners is to consult its members on whether there should be [changes to the law on assisted dying](#). Further details on the consultation will be announced in **due course**.

NICE guidelines

[End of life care – service delivery](#)
Expected publication date: **16th October 2019**.

[Cannabis-based products for medicinal use](#).
Expected publication date: **21st October 2019**.

Mental Health

New support has been announced for schools, social workers, local authorities and healthcare services on [mental health, particularly around prevention](#). A mental health literacy campaign, *Every Mind Matters*, will be launched in **October** and a White Paper is due to be published **later this year** to tackle, amongst other things, unequal treatment faced by ethnic minority groups.

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Health Campaigns

- ◆ 10th Sept-11th Nov: [Drink Free Days](#)
- ◆ 10th-16th September: [Know your numbers! Week](#) (Blood pressure testing)
- ◆ 13th September: [World Sepsis Day](#)
- ◆ 1st-28th October: [Stoptober](#)
- ◆ 1st-31st October: [National Cholesterol Month](#)
- ◆ 7th-11th October: [National Work Life Week](#)
- ◆ 10th October: [World Mental Health Day](#)

National and Local Consultations

- ◆ [Children's cancer services](#) and [Teenager and young adults' cancer services](#): Seeks views on proposed changes to the service specifications, which have the aim of improving the outcomes and experience of children, teenagers and young adults with cancer. Closes on **4th August 2019**.
- ◆ [Digital-first primary care](#): Seeks views on NHS England and NHS Improvement's proposals to reform patient registration, funding and contracting rules to ensure patients have both choice as well as access to integrated care, and on harnessing the potential of digital providers to help with workforce shortages. Closes on **23rd August 2019**.
- ◆ [Adding folic acid to flour](#): Seeks views on a proposal to make it mandatory for flour millers to add folic acid to flour in order to help reduce the number of babies born with neural tube defects. Closes on **9th September 2019**.

National and Local Events

- ◆ **24th July**: Next meeting of [Nottingham Health and Wellbeing Board](#).
- ◆ **10th-11th September**: [Public Health England Annual Conference 2019](#). Booking [now open](#).
- ◆ **18th September**: [The Big Population Health Conversation](#). King's Fund, free-to-attend virtual conference. Through a series of 3 hour-long online events, participants will hear how local areas are improving social determinants of health and wellbeing by joining up health and social care. Participants can register to watch live or catch up later on demand.
- ◆ **18th September**: [East Midlands Heart Failure Steering Group](#). Aimed at CCG Clinical and Commissioning Manager Leads for cardiovascular disease and long-term conditions, medical directors, GPs, practice nurses and anyone with an interest in heart failure.

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Please note, this is *not* a comprehensive list of all forthcoming policy/events.