

## Community Nursing Healthcare Policy Update

Week ending 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017

### NHS England

#### Hospital deficit almost £3 billion more than official accounts report

The Nuffield Trust published a [briefing](#) on the underlying state of the NHS' finances and found that 2016/17 saw trusts overspend by just under £3 billion more than official accounts reported.

2016/17's official deficit was reported as £791 million, which included temporary additional funding, accountancy changes and billions of pounds' in short-term savings. Removing these sees the deficit increase to £3.7 billion.

The underlying deficit NHS providers have is predicated to remain at a significantly high level until 2020/21, at least.

The Nuffield Trust [commented](#): *"The official figures on NHS deficits don't reflect how severe things are for hospitals in England, as the deficits reported included one-off funding boosts or savings that cannot be repeated the following year. Only by looking at the deficit after these have been stripped out can we see the scale of financial challenge facing the NHS – and it is eye watering".*

### Mental Health

#### Action plan

Health Education England (HEE) [published](#) a mental health action plan. This advises how courses in preventing and promoting mental health problems can be made more accessible to public health staff by 2020/21. The plan makes the following recommendations:

- Ensure courses currently running coordinate with the plan
- Commission, accredit and evaluate mental health courses
- Develop the public health programme currently operating
- Generate engagement and enrolment with public mental health courses.

#### Identifying preventative cost-effective initiatives

Mental health problems are reported to cost the UK economy £105 billion each year, and account for the largest single cause of disability. Public Health England published a number of evidence-based resources and [launched](#) the 'return on investment' tool; to help public health teams identify cost-effective initiatives which prevent mental ill-

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health. Mental health problems are reported to cost the UK economy £105 billion each year, and account for the largest single cause of disability.

Initiatives identified under the tool include:

- Anti-bullying programmes in schools. For every £1 invested, savings to society are approximately £1.48
- Social and emotional learning for children. For every £1 invested, savings to society are approximately £5.08
- Stress prevention in the workplace. For every £1 invested, savings to society are approximately £2
- Voluntary work and social activities which address loneliness amongst the older population. For every £1 invested, savings to society are approximately £1.26
- Welfare and debt services. For every £1 invested, savings to society are approximately £2.60
- Suicide prevention. For every £1 invested, savings to society are approximately £2.93.

## **Publications**

### Primary Care Home (PCH) model

The Nuffield Trust [published](#) an evaluation of the Primary Care Home programme, devised by The National Association of Primary Care (NAPC). The PCH model aims to encourage and support the integration of general practice with the wider health and social care workforce, alongside transforming services to enable improved response to the populations needs.

Based on the evaluation of 13 rapid test sites, the following was identified:

- The PCH model had enhanced working relationships across the health and care workforce and generated new ways of working and providing services, which placed the patient at the core
- Developing relationships takes time and changes to services require support from all levels across organisations and beyond the boundaries in which these operate. Funding is also imperative, with a balance between investment in multi-disciplinary work and general practice
- The context in which PCH's are developed, particularly the effect of STPs, can either limit or accelerate in the establishment of the model. This is important given the position of local commissioners
- Evaluations, based on high quality information and data are important. Rapid test sites had not yet developed a way of assessing progress against costs/metrics. The problems related to unified data between social care and the NHS could present challenges.

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