COVID-19 recovery

May 29th 2020

**Reports**

**Title:** Social Connection in the COVID-19 Crisis

Source: British Future (All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration) | 15th May 2020

This report presents the findings of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration inquiry into social connection during the Covid-19 crisis. It finds that the lockdown has reinforced the importance of digital inclusion in this era, and has also demonstrated the importance of the ‘old-fashioned’ ways of communicating – through letters, the telephone and knocking on the door to ensure that no one is excluded.

Full report: [Social Connection in the COVID-19 Crisis](http://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Social-Connection-in-the-COVID-19-Crisis.pdf)

**Title:** COVID-19: good council practice

Source: Local Government Association

Councils are doing remarkable work to address the challenges brought by COVID-19. We have seen the local government sector pool its resources, respond to new problems and innovate solutions.

The LGA are building a diverse, current and informative range of case studies that will be of help to local authorities as they navigate this changed environment, while showcasing some of the important work being carried out by the sector.

Full detail at [Local Government Association](https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/coronavirus-information-councils/covid-19-good-council-practice)

**Title:** Tough challenges but new possibilities: shaping the post Covid-19 world with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector

Source: The Kings Fund | 15th May 2020

Opportunities are emerging for sector leaders to help shape the recovery landscape, to start different conversations and to build new and stronger cross-sector relationships.

Full detail at [The Kings Fund](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2020/05/covid-19-voluntary-community-social-enterprise-sector-vcse)

**TITLE:**  THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, FINANCIAL INEQUALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Source: Mental Health Foundation

We all can experience mental health problems, whatever our background or walk of life. But the risk of experiencing mental ill-health is not equally distributed across our society. Those who face the greatest disadvantages in life also face the greatest risk to their mental health.

The distribution of infections and deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdown and associated measures, and the longer-term socioeconomic impact are likely to reproduce and intensify the financial inequalities that contribute towards the increased prevalence and unequal distribution of mental ill-health.

This briefing discusses the mental health effects of these financial inequalities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It draws evidence from the “*Coronavirus: Mental Health in the Pandemic*” research – a UK-wide, long-term study of how the pandemic is affecting people’s mental health.

Full document: [The COVID-19 pandemic, financial inequality and mental health](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/MHF-covid-19-inequality-mental-health-briefing.pdf)

See also: [Coronavirus: Mental Health in the Pandemic](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/research/coronavirus-mental-health-pandemic) | Mental Health Foundation

**Title:** Preventing and managing the COVID-19 pandemic across long-term care services in the WHO European Region

Source: World Health Organisation | 21st May 2020

In countries with community transmission of COVID-19, over 40% of total confirmed COVID-19 deaths occur in long-term care facilities, and in some cases, this is closer to 60%. This affects not only those in need of long-term care, many of whom are older people, but also their families who are put at risk of infection. To mitigate the mortality impact of COVID-19, it is important to reduce its spread in long-term care systems.

WHO/Europe has released new technical guidance on how to prevent and manage COVID-19 infections in long-term care services. The guidance identifies ten policy objectives, together with proposed actions and examples from across the Region, to inspire decision-makers, policy-makers and national or regional health authorities as they seek ways to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic in long-term care services.

Full document: [Preventing and managing the COVID-19 pandemic across long-term care services in the WHO European Region](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/443605/Tech-guidance-6-COVID19-eng.pdf)

**Title**: Loneliness, social isolation and COVID-19: practical advice

Source: Local Government Agency | published 21st May

The LGA and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) have jointly produced this practical advice for Directors of Public Health and others leading the response to the loneliness and social isolation issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Intervening early to tackle loneliness and social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond will help to prevent more costly health and care needs from developing, as well as aiding community resilience and recovery. This can only be done at the local level through partnerships between the council, voluntary and community sector, councillors, primary care networks and relevant others. Councils have a key role to play in this, because they own most of the assets where community action could or should take place, such as parks, libraries and schools, with councillors creating the localised neighbourhood partnerships to deal with a range of mental and physical health issues. There is also an opportunity to harness and develop the positive changes that we are seeing, such as greater awareness about the impact of personal behaviours on mental wellbeing.

Full document: [Loneliness, social isolation and COVID-19: practical advice](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Loneliness%20social%20isolation%20and%20COVID-19%20WEB.pdf)

See also: [Public mental health and wellbeing and covid-19](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Public%20mental%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20and%20COVID-19-1.pdf)

The LGA and the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) have jointly produced this briefing for Directors of Public Health about the public mental health and wellbeing issues arising from the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Title**: WILL COVID-19 BE A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR HEALTH INEQUALITIES?

Source: The Health Foundation | 7th May 2020

Key points

* The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and the wider governmental and societal response, have brought health inequalities into sharp focus.
* People facing the greatest deprivation are experiencing a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 and existing poor health puts them at risk of more severe outcomes if they contract the virus. This is exposing the structural disadvantage and discrimination faced by parts of the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.
* The government and wider societal measures to control the spread of the virus and save lives now (including the lockdown, social distancing and cancellations to routine care) are exacting a heavier social and economic price on those already experiencing inequality.
* The consequences of this action, and the economic recession that is likely to follow, risk exacerbating health inequalities now and in years to come.
* As we move from crisis management to recovery, government, businesses and wider society all have a role to play in giving everyone the opportunity to live a healthy life.
* Restoring the nation to good health will require a new social compact, backed by a national cross-departmental health inequalities strategy. Action needed will include protecting incomes, improving the quality of jobs and homes, and supporting critical voluntary and community services.

Full article: [Will COVID-19 be a watershed moment for health inequalities?](https://www.health.org.uk/publications/long-reads/will-covid-19-be-a-watershed-moment-for-health-inequalities)

**Title**: Covid-19 and alcohol—a dangerous cocktail

Source: BMJ 2020; 369:m1987 | published 20th May 2020 | (editorial)

Tackling alcohol harms must be an integral part of the nation’s recovery

As the UK and most other countries went into lockdown, the need to save lives from covid-19 rightly took priority over longer term health concerns. Many people reacted to the closure of pubs and restaurants by stocking up to drink at home in isolation, and alcohol, along with household items and storecupboard food, disappeared from supermarket shelves. In the week to 21 March, alcohol sales were up 67%. In comparison, overall supermarket sales increased by only 43%.Now, as signs emerge of some control over new cases of covid-19, it is increasingly clear that if we don’t prepare for emerging from the pandemic, we will see the toll of increased alcohol harm for a generation.

Full editorial: [Covid-19 and alcohol—a dangerous cocktail](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/369/bmj.m1987.full.pdf)

**Title**: The UK’s public health response to covid-19

BMJ 2020; 369:m1932 | published 15th May 2020

The UK government and its advisers were confident that they were “well prepared” when covid-19 swept East Asia. The four-pronged plan of 3 March to contain, delay, research, and mitigate was supported by all UK countries and backed, they claimed, by science.With over 30 000 hospital and community deaths by 12 May, where did the plan go wrong? What was the role of public health in the biggest public health crisis since the Spanish flu of 1918? And what now needs to be done?

Full article: [The UK’s public health response to covid-19](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/369/bmj.m1932.full.pdf)

**Title**: Public health policies can reduce inequalities as we come out of lockdown

BMJ 2020; 369:m1977 | published 18th May 2020

Population level public health policies have an important part in supporting the transition out of lockdown

As the UK moves beyond the first wave peak, the national conversation surrounding covid-19 has shifted to how to lift the lockdown safely—when restrictions should be relaxed, who can go back to school or work first, which limits should stay in place, and how this can be done in a way that’s safe, transparent, data led, and adaptable as new evidence emerges.

Straightforward population level public health policies have an important part in supporting this transition, reducing the impact of covid-19 on inequalities and ensuring that the health and care system can provide for people when they need it.

Full paper: [Public health policies can reduce inequalities as we come out of lockdown](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/369/bmj.m1977.full.pdf)

**Title**: Covid-19: Public health must be “at the core” of global recovery plans, say doctors

BMJ 2020; 369:m2077 | published 22nd May 2020

Global health leaders have urged governments to put public health “at the core” of economic recovery from covid-19.

In a joint letter to all G20 heads of state, organisations representing over 40 million doctors, nurses, and other health professionals say national economic stimulus packages should be designed and approved by medical and scientific leaders, to ensure that “short and long term public health repercussions” are prioritised in policy making.

The letter argues for a science based approach to recovery which must include decisions to reduce both air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Full article: [Covid-19: Public health must be “at the core” of global recovery plans, say doctors](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/369/bmj.m2077.full.pdf)

**Title**: £5 million funding given to mental health community projects

Department of Health & Social Care | published 29th May 2020

Community projects supporting people with their mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will benefit from their share of £5 million of additional funding | Department of Health and Social Care.

* Community projects nationwide set to receive share of £5 million government investment to expand mental health support
* Cash boost will help existing services respond to global pandemic and protect nation’s wellbeing
* Funding to be delivered by mental health charity Mind

Community projects supporting people with their mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic are set to benefit from their share of £5 million of additional funding, Mental Health Minister Nadine Dorries has announced.

Voluntary organisations from across the country – such as local Mind organisations, Ambitious about Autism, Support After Rape and Sexual Violence, LGBT Foundation and Campaign Against Living Miserably – will receive a financial boost to expand their existing support services.

This fund is administered by Mind as part of the Mental Health Consortia, made up of Mind, the Association of Mental Health Providers, Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, the National Survivor User Network and Rethink Mental Illness.

Full detail at [Department of Health & Social Care](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-funding-given-to-mental-health-community-projects?utm_source=7c55f848-5914-41b2-b438-8594478bfc26&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

**Title**: Digital Mental Health

NHSX

[In his recent blog](https://nhsxbulletins.cmail20.com/t/d-l-mdttktk-jryupiio-h/), Iain O'Neil, leader of the NHSX Vulnerable, Isolated and Social Care (VISC) Cell, explains that keeping people mentally healthy is a key focus of the cell. Alongside his personal view of why this is so important, Iain described how a team of staff from across NHSX, NHS Digital and NHS England and NHS Improvement are exploring the role of digital technology in supporting the mental health needs of vulnerable groups of citizens over the coming months.

See also: [How the NHS is using digital technology to support people’s mental health](https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/blogs/how-the-nhs-is-using-digital-technology-to-support-peoples-mental-health/)

**Title:** How might the NHS protect the mental health of health-care workers after the COVID-19 crisis?

Source: The Lancet Psychiatry | published 28th May 2020

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, many health-care workers have worked long hours in high-pressured novel circumstances characterised by trauma and moral dilemmas.

Health-care workers have contended with the risk of infection, and by extension infecting their families, with outcomes seemingly worse for some, including black, Asian, and minority ethnic staff. Additionally, remote working is likely to have had its own challenges. Some staff will undoubtedly thrive in such circumstances, but we should now plan how to identify and support those who do not.

Full comment[: How might the NHS protect the mental health of health-care workers after the COVID-19 crisis?](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2215-0366%2820%2930224-8)

**Title**: Surviving the Pandemic: New challenges for Adult Social Care and the Social Care Market

Institute of Public Care | May 2020

For the past decade there has been a constant cry from the adult social care sector that it is underfunded and that it is on the brink of collapse. This discussion paper looks at how councils have avoided the predicted collapse over the period of austerity and explores new problems that have emerged during the Covid 19 pandemic. How can the care provider sector survive after the pandemic?

Full paper: [Surviving the Pandemic: New challenges for Adult Social Care and the Social Care Market](https://ipc.brookes.ac.uk/publications/ASC%20Surviving%20the%20Pandemic.pdf)

**Title**: Covid-19 and Smoking: Act Now to Prevent a Health Calamity from Happening

Royal Society for Public Health

In this RSPH blog, Dr Pooja Patwardhan provides practical tools for all health care professionals and public health bodies, to empower and support smokers to quit smoking, and prevent ex-smokers from relapsing back to smoking, during and after the Covid-19 outbreak.

Full detail at [Royal Society for Public Health](https://www.rsph.org.uk/about-us/news/covid-19-and-smoking-act-now-to-prevent-a-health-calamity-from-happening.html)

See also: [COVID-19 related stress and social isolation: Risk of millions relapsing back to smoking worldwide](https://www.rsph.org.uk/about-us/news/covid-19-related-stress-and-social-isolation-risk-of-millions-relapsing-back-to-smoking-worldwide.html) | RSPH

**Title**: The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19: International lessons for local and national government recovery and renewal

Alliance MBS | Week beginning 25th May 2020

The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19 is aimed at those who plan and implement recovery from COVID-19, including government emergency planners and resilience officers. This week’s briefing includes a section on - Starting recovery and renewal, which outlines the issues that should be considered by all partners in the initial stages of planning recovery and renewal from COVID-19.

Full document: [The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19](https://www.communigator.co.uk/login/Instances/uomhumscommslz/Documents/themanchesterbriefingoncovid-19b8-wb25thmay2020final.pdf?gator_td=p%2fXqOnht0yrXU8vwY4%2f8reDpRMFXoxYR6AxxA%2b960IoU7ltic0H9saZbFrTKPWLv5GuXzWZ4fz9WQAX6iblchL1qA2uIgg6lviAkXQLoqqGMvx847%2bnTmc9MP972hUV4Sibn5as%2belzdC1ourso6Ig%3d%3d)

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[TRFT Library & Knowledge Service](https://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/) aim to bring together the latest guidelines, research and news on Covid-19 through our [Covid-19 portal](https://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/coronavirus.html). For daily updates on Covid-19 visit our '[Latest Health](https://trfthealthweeklydigest.wordpress.com/)' newsfeed, or use the hashtag [#covid19rftlks](https://twitter.com/hashtag/covid19rftlks?src=hashtag_click) to see our latest tweets on Covid-19 research, guidelines and news.

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