



Carer's Network Bulletin

June - July 2023

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice.

Age UK

[The State of Health and Care of Older People in England 2023](#)

A major new report documents how our health and care system is struggling, and too often failing, to meet the needs of our growing older population.

Carers UK

[Valuing Carers research report](#)

This new research shows that: the economic value of contributions made by carers in England and Wales was £164bn a year, 29% more in real terms than in 2011; the economic value of the contributions made by unpaid carers in England and Wales is roughly equivalent to the budget for NHS health service spending; and the rise in the number of hours of care provided by unpaid carers has led to an increase in the economic cost of care.

Disability Unit

[Open consultation: Disability Action Plan 2023-2024](#)

This consultation is aimed at anyone with an interest in the action the government will take during 2023 and 2024 to improve the lives of disabled people. Disabled people and disabled people's organisations may be particularly interested but anyone, including any organisations or individuals, may respond. The consultation closes on 6 October 2023.

Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership

[The inbetweeners: a review of the barriers and facilitators in the process of the transition of children and young people with complex chronic health conditions into adult health services](#)

This report finds that the process of transition and subsequent transfer is often fragmented, both within and across specialties, and that adult services often sit only with primary care.

Healthtalk

[Long Covid In Adults](#)

Learn about experiences of Long Covid that Healthtalk's 63 participants told us about, including people affected early in the pandemic when Long Covid was not yet recognised and people living with Long Covid in 2021 and 2022.



Joseph Rowntree Foundation

[The caring penalty](#)

Unpaid carers provide a service to society, but they shoulder a financial penalty in doing so. The report looks at the magnitude, causes and distribution of this pay penalty and how policies can help mitigate it.

[Unpaid care and poverty: unpaid carers' priorities for change through participatory co-design](#)

The Carers Co-design Project is a joint piece of work between JRF and London Unemployed Strategies (LUS) to co-design policy recommendations that address poverty and/or its related issues facing unpaid carers. These recommendations are evidence based, credible and underpinned by the voices of people with lived experience.

The King's Fund

[Caring in a complex world: perspectives from unpaid carers and the organisations that support them](#)

Read the full report to find out more about the barriers carers face when seeking different types of support, how commissioners and services can better understand the carers in their local area and provide the support they need.

[Love, care and hard work: life as an unpaid carer](#)

[Podcast] Jo Vigor speaks to Karen and Yvette, a couple who generously demonstrate the varied and essential role that unpaid care work plays in many relationships.

[Struggling to be heard: understanding the experiences of disabled people in England](#)

[Blog] More than ever disabled people are facing barriers to living well, so it is concerning that the census might not be capturing the true picture of disability in England, and that disabled people struggle to be heard.

[Tackling ableism in health care: the role of primary care](#)

[Blog] How can GPs improve access to primary care for disabled people? Deborah Fenney shares insights from the East of England Trailblazer Deprivation Fellowship Scheme, and highlights the need for wider system support.

[Towards a new partnership between disabled people and health and care services: getting our voices heard](#)

Disabled people's voices need to be valued and prioritised in the planning and delivery of health and care services. This long read sets out the findings of research carried out by The King's Fund and Disability Rights UK into how disabled people are currently involved in health and care system design, and what good might look like.



National Audit Office

[Transforming health assessments for disability benefits](#)

This report gives an early assessment of the progress that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is making with plans to transform the application and assessment process for disability benefits. The report covers: the baseline performance of functional health assessments; DWP's approach to transforming functional health assessments; and challenges implementing the Health Transformation Programme.

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

[How do elderly people see themselves?](#)

[Blog] Helen Anderson has studied professional identity in health care professionals, and identity issues in people aged 95 years and older. In this blog, Helen reflects on her recent research, which explored identity construction in the very old, and gave voice to a group that is not often heard.

[Partnership: Patient's Experience's Quarterly Magazine](#)

The idea of patients as "partners in care" has been gaining ground for a while. With a growth in long term conditions, and with more and more people "self-managing" their health and wellbeing, it makes sense for clinicians and patients to work closely together. So when it comes to patient experience work, should we think of patients and service users as "partners in learning"?

National Voices

[Accessible and inclusive communication within primary care: What matters to people with diverse communication needs](#)

This report sets out the key issues faced by people with specific communication needs within primary care and what they feel would make the biggest difference. It also outlines some key actions primary care leaders and teams can take to support inclusive communication.

[A shift to multidisciplinary teams in general practice: what this means for people experiencing health inequalities and frequent users of primary care services](#)

This report makes recommendations on how to improve experiences of multidisciplinary teams within general practice among populations who experience health inequalities and frequent users of primary care services. In particular, it highlights how primary care teams can build trust and assure people that general practice has oversight of their care.

NHS Confederation

[Reducing the elective care backlog for people with a learning disability: Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Data and data-driven practice is vital in tackling health inequalities. Collaborative working across the organisation with data sharing is vital to enabling the work to be completed. Lived experience is vital in tackling system issues, ensuring people with learning disabilities are heard and included is important.



NHS Race and Health Observatory

[We deserve better: Ethnic minorities with a learning disability and access to healthcare](#)

People with a learning disability from BAME backgrounds face shorter life expectancy triggered by poorer healthcare access, experience and outcomes.

- The average age of death for people with a learning disability who are from an ethnic minority is 34 years, just over half the life expectancy of white counterparts, at 62 years of age.
- Of those with a learning disability who die in hospital, 51% from ethnic minority groups have a DNACPR recommendation, compared to 73% for those who are white.

The Progressive Policy Think Tank

[Disruption to NHS healthcare costing Brits their 'lives and livelihoods', report finds](#)

New research shows that a third of British adults (34 per cent) have found it difficult to get the healthcare services they need through the NHS, since the pandemic began. This rises to 51 per cent of people with a life-limiting health condition.

Recently published research

Invisible no more: unpaid care giving in the shadow of covid-19.

BMJ, 2023

Families were shut out from hospitals and care facilities during the covid-19 pandemic, creating negative consequences for both patients and staff. As families resume their caring roles, we have the opportunity to recognise them as partners in care and support them with practical measures across all care settings.

Click here for full access: [BMJ](#)