

## POLICY BRIEF

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

27 January 2021



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators since the last HASC Scrutiny committee on 02 December 2020.

### HEADLINES

- The Prime Minister has [announced](#) a further national lockdown - [National lockdown: Stay at Home](#) (04 January 2021)
- [UK COVID-19 alert level moves from level 4 to level 5](#) (04 January 2021)
- [£4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs](#) (05 January 2021)
- [Chancellor extends furlough and loan schemes](#) (17 December 2020)
- [Government pledges further £310 million to tackle homelessness](#) (21 December 2020) and [Extra covid protections for rough sleepers and renters](#) (08 January 2021)

### GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

**Department of Health and Social Care (11/01/2021)** [Government publishes plan for the largest vaccination programme in British history.](#) The [UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan](#) sets out how the government will work with the NHS, devolved administrations, local councils and the armed forces to deliver the largest vaccination programme in British history. There will be capacity to deliver at least 2 million vaccinations in England per week by the end of January and all residents and staff in over 10,000 care homes across the country will be offered a vaccine by the end of the month. The expansion of the programme will also mean all adults will be offered a vaccine by the autumn.

The [number of people](#) who received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine between 8 December and Sunday 10 January is 2,286,572. The NHS will be offering a vaccination to everyone in the top four priority groups as set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation by 15 February. This includes:

- all residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- all those 75 years of age and over
- all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals

**Department of Health and Social Care (10/01/2021)** [Asymptomatic testing to be rolled out across the country starting this week.](#) Rapid, regular testing for people without symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) will be made available across the country from this week, with the eligibility of the community testing programme expanded to cover all 317 local authorities. Local authorities will be encouraged to target testing at people who are unable to work from home during the national lockdown. More information on community testing can be found [here](#).

**Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (08/01/2021)** [Moderna vaccine becomes third COVID-19 vaccine approved by UK regulator.](#) The COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna has today been given regulatory approval for supply by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This is the third COVID-19 vaccine to be approved for use by the MHRA.

**Department of Health and Social Care (07/01/2021)** [COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#). Shielding has resumed in England. Guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 has been updated to reflect the new national lockdown restrictions.

**Department of Health and Social Care (30/12/2020)** [Priority groups for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination: advice from the JCVI, 30 December 2020](#). Advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the groups that should be prioritised for vaccination.

**Department of Health and Social Care (28/12/2020)** [Promotions of unhealthy foods restricted from April 2022](#). Promotions on food and drinks high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) in retailers will be restricted from April 2022, the government has confirmed today.

**Department of Health and Social Care (23/12/2020)** [£149 million to support increased care home testing](#). Care homes across the country will benefit from additional rapid testing, to test staff twice a week to help protect residents and workers from the virus. The new grant will help care homes meet additional costs associated with visits, supporting residents to see friends and family.

**Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (23/12/2020)** [Government announces £7.5 million funding to tackle loneliness during winter](#). The Government has announced a £7.5 million funding package to help tackle loneliness over the winter period. The funding will be targeted at sectors that are well-known for having the power to bring people and communities together and builds upon the [£4 million Local Connections Fund](#) announced earlier in December.

**Department of Health and Social Care (18/12/2020)** [Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2020: health trends and variation in England](#). Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty's first annual report presents an overview of the health of England's population.

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (10/12/2020)** [Launch of £46 million 'Changing Futures' scheme to support vulnerable people](#). A £46 million scheme to provide more effective and coordinated support for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities has been launched by Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Kelly Tolhurst. The government is inviting local organisations to form partnerships and bid for a share of the funding to better support those who experience multiple disadvantages including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, and contact with the criminal justice system.

**Department of Health and Social Care (10/12/2020)** [New NHS Test and Trace plan to support return to more normal way of life](#). As part of the government's COVID-19 Winter Plan, NHS Test and Trace has set out a new [business plan for the next phase of the service](#). The plan sets out the approach to disrupt and prevent COVID-19 transmission, protect people's health and enable people to return towards a more normal way of life.

**Department of Health and Social Care (10/12/2020)** [Build back better: £600 million to upgrade and refurbish NHS hospitals](#). 178 NHS trusts are to receive a share of £600 million to help eradicate the maintenance backlog in NHS hospitals. This is part of the £1.5 billion capital funding announced by the Prime Minister in the summer to help the NHS build back better. The projects are now underway, and will be completed by March 2021. University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust has been allocated £3.9m.

**RECENT CONSULTATIONS**

Date of publication	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
31 October	<b>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:</b> <a href="#">Toilet provision for men and women: call for evidence</a>	Closes 29 Jan
28 December	<b>Department of Health and Social Care:</b> <a href="#">Restricting promotions of products high in fat, sugar and salt: enforcement</a>	Closes 22 Feb