

# Cues for Change

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January 2019

# Health

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## 90 people die each day waiting for social care

Data published for the first time by the Department of Health and Social Care shows that in the past year 32,115 adults died while waiting for care to be arranged for them at home, the equivalent of almost 90 people a day. Separate figures from NHS Digital show that the total number of people receiving local authority-funded social care has fallen by 104,000 since 2015.

**Sunday Express, The Sunday Times, Page: 8**

## Care England: UK is 'institutionally ageist'

Care England CEO Prof Martin Green has labelled the UK as “*completely and institutionally ageist*”, describing the problem as a “*national scandal*” that should be challenged in the courts. He added that the Equality and Human Rights Commission should “hang their heads in shame” over a failure to pursue as many ageism cases through the courts as other protected characteristics, such as racism or homophobia. His comments follow a Royal Society for Public Health report which identified ageist attitudes across generations, affecting health and wellbeing.

**The Guardian**

## Life expectancy growth is slowing

According to a Public Health England report, life expectancy improvement in the UK is now the second slowest out of 20 comparable countries, behind only the US. After decades of progress, attempts to keep people living longer are beginning to fail, with people now only living three months longer than they did in 2011. Obesity, winter deaths and dementia are named as the key contributors to rising death rates. People in England are now expected to live for an average of 81.4 years, with men still leading shorter lives (79.6 years) than women (83.2 years).

**Daily Mail, The Times**

## Sheffield to focus on public health in 2019

Following a report on the relationship between health, work and the economy in the city, Sheffield City Council is making tackling public health problems a priority for the coming year. The report found that an increasing number of people were living with long-term health conditions that restricted their ability to get, and keep, a job. Director of public health Greg Fell said: “*Work is a critical determinant of good health and wellbeing. This is not just about paid employment, but could also be described as any meaningful activity that provides us with a sense of purpose.*”

**Yorkshire Post**

## **Council seeks carers for support scheme**

Brighton and Hove City Council is running a recruitment drive for the Shared Lives scheme, which matches adults who can't live on their own with families who are able to look after them. The scheme supports 65 adults, many of whom have learning disabilities, with carers receiving a fee for the support they provide.

**BBC News**

## **Extra meals for elderly patients cuts death rate**

An NHS trial, at five trusts across England and one in Scotland, has indicated that providing elderly patients with an extra meal a day halves their chances of dying in hospital. Since the project began two years ago, death rates among those admitted with hip fractures have plummeted. The Royal College of Physicians is now considering recommending that the practice becomes official NHS policy.

**The Sunday Telegraph**

## **Two-thirds of youngsters not receiving necessary mental health care**

The Public Accounts Committee has published a report warning that only a third of children and young people with mental health conditions receive the treatment they need from the NHS. Many are turned away because they are not ill enough, others face long waits and it could be years before that changes, according to the MPs' findings.

**BBC News**

Demand for mental health services outstrips supply in almost every country across the world, but in developing countries — particularly those wracked by conflict — the service gap looks more like a chasm. But amid the most challenging of financial constraints, researchers and practitioners in the global south have developed community-based ways of providing therapeutic support that could overturn clinical orthodoxies in the global north.

**[https://apolitical.co/solution\\_article/how-ordinary-people-can-health-trauma-and-transform-mental-health-care](https://apolitical.co/solution_article/how-ordinary-people-can-health-trauma-and-transform-mental-health-care)**

# Technology

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## Police computer predicts crime

Police are using a computer system known as the National Analytics Solution which predicts who is likely to commit crimes and who may become victims. Its conclusions are based on information from force databases, social services, the NHS and schools.

**The Mail on Sunday**

## Tech could help Suffolk care budget overspend

Technology could help reduce a £500,000 overspend in adult social care in Suffolk, the county council claims. The authority said the true deficit is £3.7m, but one-off Government payments and savings have offset the total. But costs are due to rise in the next 20 years with the number of over-65s projected to increase by 54%. Solutions could include using technology installed in the home, rather than visits by carers, to check if a patient has taken medication.

**BBC News**

## Greater independence could threaten council finances

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has warned that councils will have to cut more services once new arrangements to make them more financially independent come into force, unless extra funding is allocated. Councils will keep 75% of business rates from 2020, but will lose revenue support and other central government grants, but Paul Johnson, director of the IFS, said: *“Plans for councils to rely much more on just council tax and business rates are not compatible with growing social care needs. Even with big increases in council tax revenues, [they] can’t keep up with spending needs. Councils will need other sources of funding.”*

**The Times**

## Leeds could be first city to fix potholes using drones

Researchers from the University of Leeds, supported by Leeds City Council, are working on a project that could see road damage spotted and fixed by drones by 2035. The team has worked with University College London to develop *“world-first”* 3D asphalt printing technology that can be flown by drone to potholes and used to fill them. Prof Bob Richardson said that currently, fixing big potholes involved closing roads and causing significant disruption, and that his team wants *“to change that and repair things before they become potholes.”*

**Yorkshire Post**

# Environment

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## Electric bike-sharing service launches in London

Dockless electric bike-sharing service Lime launches today in the London boroughs of Brent and Ealing. Cllr Julian Bell, chair of London Councils' transport and environment committee, said the e-bikes were *"a vital part of our strategy for reducing emissions, improving air quality and protecting the environment."*

**City AM**

## 'Reverse vending machine' trial a success

A trial of 'reverse vending machines' that issue vouchers for returned bottles and cans has been a success, according to Iceland. Machines were installed in May at stores in Fulham, Wolverhampton, Musselburgh and Mold, and by November, each was collecting an average of more than 500 bottles per day, issuing a 10p voucher for each. Richard Walker, Iceland's joint MD, said the supermarket would *"be sharing our findings with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and across the industry to ensure any nationwide schemes are comprehensive and effective in tackling single-use plastics."*

**The Times**

## Private firms profit from monthly bin collections

The Times reports on a surge in the use of private waste collection companies after Conwy County BC became the first council in England and Wales to cut household waste collections to once every four weeks. Yousef Ayub, managing director of Manchester-based firm Binzilla, said the firm was emptying 220 bins a day in the town in the week before Christmas, and attributed the need to the quantity of plastic packaging that cannot be recycled.

**The Times**



# Children's

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## Ofsted attacks 'scandal' of missing SEND support

Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is too *"disjointed and inconsistent"* and diagnoses are taking too long and are often *"inaccurate"*, Ofsted has warned. There are 2,060 children in 2018 who have education, health and care plans setting out their needs, but who receive no support at all, the watchdog's annual report has revealed. It also highlights concerns about the number of children with SEND being off-rolled; half of GCSE-aged pupils that dropped off school rolls between 2016 and 2017 did not reappear on another state-funded school roll, and around 30% of those have SEND, compared to 13% of all pupils. Meanwhile, research from charity Contact has found that a third of families with disabled children have taken out loans to buy food in the past year.

**The Independent, The Guardian**

## All schools to teach life-saving skills

Next year, all schools in England will be required to teach *"life-saving skills"* under the Government's proposals to make health education compulsory in every school from 2020. As part of a new health education curriculum, by the end of primary school, children should know how to make a *"clear and efficient"* phone call to the emergency services, and have a grasp of the concept of first aid, including dealing with head wounds. By the end of secondary school, students should be able to treat common injuries, and will be expected to know life-saving skills, such as administering CPR, and knowing when to use a defibrillator. Schools will have the flexibility to design and plan their specific age appropriate content on the subject.

**The Guardian, The Times**

## Air filters to be installed in London nurseries

Five state-run London nurseries are to be fitted with air filtration systems in the first wave of an audit to measure toddlers' exposure to particulate air pollution, following a 2018 report for mayor Sadiq Khan, which found that air pollution was worse inside school buildings than in the surrounding streets. Dr Simon Lenton from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, said that with children and infants spending "many hours in nursery or at school," it is *"imperative we know what air pollutants they are exposed to and then take action."*

**The Observer**

# Social

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## Taxis could have role in rural public transport

The Campaign for Better Transport has released a report proposing that subsidised, pooled taxi services could help replace lost bus routes in rural areas. The report calls for the *“simplification of the legislation and removal of the distinction between Hackney carriage and private hire vehicles”* in order to facilitate a greater role for taxis in providing public transport. Chief executive Darren Shirley said the answer to rural transport *“won’t always be subsidising a bus,”* and *“might be making sure a school bus turns into a public bus after 9am, and using online technology to help people find lift shares or taxi shares.”*

**The Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail**

## Housebuilding continues 50-year fall

Housebuilding levels by the end of the 2010s are set to be the lowest of any decade since the Second World War. Research by the Centre of Policy Studies found a 50-year pattern in which each decade has had fewer new homes than the last, and in the 2010s, the new-build construction rate plummeted to one for every 43 people. The think-tank estimates new-build housing completions in England between 2010 and 2019 are set to be approximately 130,000 per year – significantly lower than the 147,000 of the 2000s, and a setback to government plans for 400,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s. Writing in the Telegraph, CPS director Robert Colvile, said: *“The housing crisis is blighting a generation. But as this analysis shows, this is not just the consequence of the financial crisis - it is part of a pattern stretching back half a century. Ministers need to take bold action to ensure the 2020s are the decade in which we break this cycle.”*

**The Times, The Daily Telegraph**

## Army rations surplus to feed hungry

Defence minister Tobias Ellwood has announced that thousands of unused military ration packs are being donated to help combat food poverty. The packs will be given to FareShare, which redistributes food to nearly 10,000 charities. They include breakfast, lunch and a three-course dinner, plus drinks.

**Daily Mirror, The Sun**

## Third of public have not seen police on beat

A survey of more than 17,000 people shows that over a third (36%) have not seen a police officer or community support officer on foot in their area in the past year. The research by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services also found that two in five people believe that crime and antisocial behaviour are big problems in their district.

**The Times**

## Crystal Palace to shelter homeless in cold weather

Crystal Palace FC, with support from Croydon Council, has offered part of its stadium as an emergency shelter for rough sleepers. A lounge at the ground has been set up to provide sleeping facilities, hot meals, and washing facilities for up to 10 homeless people when temperatures drop below freezing, with eight people using the shelter on Thursday night. Cllr Alison Butler said Crystal Palace was *“setting a standard for other clubs to follow.”*

**BBC News**

## Four in 10 Brits volunteer

A YouGov survey of more than 10,000 people indicates that almost four in 10 Britons volunteer. Of the respondents 77% said volunteering had improved their mental health, with just over half (53%) saying it had improved their physical health.

**The Guardian**

# Economical

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## Minister wants North to set own tax rates

Northern Powerhouse minister Jake Berry has called for new powers allowing the North of England to levy its own taxes on 19m people, with a *“bespoke devolution deal”* available to all regions. It would see the creation of a new department which would oversee a transfer of power from Whitehall in a bid to drive forward transport, education and other agendas. He said: *“A big complaint is that money is being invested more in London and the South than in the North. Taxes raised in the North could be spent in the North. And we should not close our minds to varying income tax at a local level.”*

**The Sunday Times**

## Councils explore tourism tax

A number of councils across the UK are considering introducing tourism taxes to help boost their finances. Bath and North East Somerset Council has asked the Government for the power to *“introduce a levy on local tourism and short-term holiday lettings”*. Council leader Tim Warren said that while a levy wouldn't make a “big difference” to visitors' hotel bills, it would have an impact on the council's budget for services such as street improvements. Elsewhere, some Liverpool City councillors are pushing for a voluntary tourist tax, saying that while the industry is creating many jobs, they need to be sure everyone in the city can get the right training.

**BBC News**

## West Sussex fire brigade seeks sponsorship

West Sussex County Council is looking for corporate sponsors for the fire brigade, after the fire service budget was cut by £400,000. Cllr George Barton commented *"I've got this mental vision of our firefighters running around... with 'Eat at McDonald's' on their backs and a burnt hamburger..."*

**Daily Mirror**

## Homefirst scheme saves NHS millions

A Homefirst programme funded by Somerset County Council and the NHS across the two hospitals and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has helped make savings of £2m since it began in September 2017. The initiative has also helped patients avoid thousands of nights in hospital by offering those who are healthy enough the support they need to finish their treatment at home.

**The Independent**

## Charity aims to protect libraries

The charity Libraries Connected is heading a wide-ranging review designed to safeguard the future of public libraries by exploring a range of different options for how they could be funded and managed. The initial study is being backed by the Carnegie UK Trust and Cilip, the UK's library and information association. Libraries in England have had their funding slashed for a fifth year in a row, with the overall amount spent on buildings dropping by almost £300m since 2010 to £720m. The total remaining is now 3,745, down from 4,482 in 2010. Volunteers have also kept open over 550 others.

**Daily Express**

## Council tax precept proposed for Liverpool mayor

Liverpool City Region mayor Steve Rotheram has proposed a £16 council tax precept to pay for transport and housing projects, along with the running of the mayor's office. Mr Rotheram said funding cuts and a lack of support from central government had left him with *"no option"* but to consider the precept, which is expected to raise about £7.6m a year. Mr Rotheram said: *"In the face of continuing austerity we cannot expect our six local authorities to carry on funding the combined authority. The devolution deal is the only way we can secure the funds we need to transform our city region. We recognise this is an additional cost but it will pay dividends."*

**BBC News**

## Liverpool councillors back tourist tax

Liverpool City Council is backing a “*tourist tax*” on hotel rooms to help pay for future cultural events in the city. As imposing a tax would require new legislation, councillors also agreed to look into setting up a voluntary scheme, in addition to lobbying ministers. Cabinet member for culture, tourism and events, Cllr Wendy Simon, said a £1 levy on hotel rooms could raise up to £2m a year for the city, which has seen a huge increase in tourism since it won the title of European Capital of Culture in 2008. Bill Addy, CEO of the Liverpool Business Improvement District, said that while businesses would say they are already heavily taxed, the levy could help provide funding for events and training in the hospitality industry, as well as “*destination marketing – we have to keep telling people about how good Liverpool is.*”

**BBC News Independent**

## £400m cut for libraries, museums and galleries

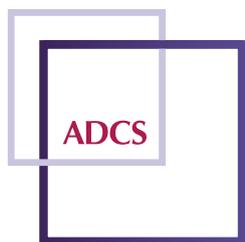
Analysis carried out by the County Council Network (CCN) shows that libraries, museums and art galleries across England have had their funding slashed by nearly £400m in the past eight years. County council leaders have warned that further cuts to cultural services will have to be made unless more funding is awarded to local authorities for care services in the spending review. Essex County Council is currently planning to close a third of its 74 libraries, while Birmingham City Council is looking to reduce its grants to arts and cultural organisations by nearly 50%. CCN vice-chair and leader of Staffordshire County Council Philip Atkins said: “*We have regrettably had to shift funding from other areas to fulfil our statutory duties and more importantly protect the elderly and vulnerable.*”

**The Independent**

## Barnsley’s battle with austerity

The Guardian has visited the Yorkshire town of Barnsley to see how locals are coping with austerity, after recent analysis showed the council’s spending has reduced by 40% over eight years - around four times the average reduction faced by cities in the South East. Council leader Sir Stephen Houghton scoffs at mention of Theresa May’s pledge last year to end austerity. He said: “*We’ve lost half our workforce. The council is basically run on the goodwill of the remaining staff. Volunteers help clean the streets. We are reaching the limit now.*”

**The Guardian**



# THE STAFF COLLEGE

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