



Mental Health of Children and Young People Debate on 16 May 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Baroness Royall to move that this House takes note of the mental health of children and young adults in the United Kingdom.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- NHS Digital, [Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2017: Summary of Key Findings](#), 22 November 2018, pp 4 and 6–30

Results of a survey described as “England’s best source of data on trends in child mental health”. Using statistics from 1999 to 2017, it concludes that there has been a slight increase in rates of mental disorder over time. It also suggests that one in eight 5- to 19-year olds had at least one mental disorder in 2017.

- NHS England, [The NHS Long Term Plan](#), 7 January 2019, pp 50–1

Excerpt from the NHS’s long-term plan outlining the Government’s commitment to expand mental health care services for children and young people.

- National Audit Office, [Improving Children and Young People’s Mental Health Services](#), 9 October 2018, HC 1618 of session 2017–19, pp 5–11; House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, [Mental Health Services for Children and Young People](#), 11 January 2019, HC 1593 of session 2017–19, p 3; and [Government Response](#), 3 April 2019, CP 79, pp 5–11

Summary and recommendations from a National Audit Office (NAO) report, together with a summary of a Public Accounts Committee report based on the NAO’s findings and the Government’s response to the committee. The committee outlined several areas in which the Government must “make urgent headway” to provide services and support for young people with mental health problems. The Government accepted all but one of the committee’s recommendations.

- House of Commons Education and Health and Social Care Committees, [The Government’s Green Paper on Mental Health: Failing a Generation](#), 9 May 2018, HC 642 of session 2017–19, pp 3–4; [Government Response](#), July 2018, Cm 9627, pp 5–6; and Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education, [Government Response to the Consultation on Transforming Children and Young People’s Mental Health Provision: A Green Paper and Next Steps](#), July 2018, Cm 9626, pp 5–9

Extracts from documents following up a government green paper of December 2017. The joint committee report welcomed the “direction of travel” but argued that the Government’s strategy “lacks ambition”. The Government’s response rejected this assertion and described its proposals as “genuinely transformational”. The Government’s response to the wider consultation described how the green paper’s three “core proposals” would be implemented.

- Department of Health and Social Care, [Modernising the Mental Health Act: Final Report of the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983](#), 6 December 2018, pp 173–83; and [‘Government Commits to Reform the Mental Health Act’](#), 6 December 2018

Excerpt from the report of an independent review of the Mental Health Act 1983. The excerpt focuses on children and young people and makes twelve recommendations. In response, the Government announced a new bill on mental health.

- Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care, [‘One of the Largest Mental Health Trials Launches in Schools’](#), 4 February 2019; [‘NHS and Schools in England Will Provide Expert Mental Health Support’](#), 20 December 2018; and Prime Minister’s Office et al, [‘PM Pledges Action on Suicide to Mark World Mental Health Day’](#), 9 October 2018

Announcements of several Government initiatives on children and young people’s mental health.

- Care Quality Commission, [Are We Listening? Review of Children and Young People’s Mental Health Services](#), March 2018, pp 4–5

Recommendations for action following a Care Quality Commission review of quality and access to mental health services for children and young people.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- [Debate on ‘Mental Health: Children and Young People’](#), HL Hansard, 30 January 2019, cols 1115–31
- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [246515](#) (29 April 2019); [245657](#) (26 April 2019); [211288](#) (30 January 2019); [208887](#) (21 January 2019); [HL12165](#) (20 December 2018); [183395](#) (29 October 2018); and [HL10470](#) (23 October 2018)

Press Articles and Comment

- Denis Campbell, [‘Child Mental Health: UK Provision “Worse than in Much of Eastern Europe”](#)’, *Guardian*, 29 April 2019
- Amelia Hill, [‘UK Children’s Health “Harmed by Gap With Adult Services”](#)’, *Guardian*, 28 April 2019
- Eleanor Busby, [‘Children as Young as Nine Talk About Suicide as Mental Health Problems Get Worse. Teachers Warn’](#), *Independent*, 17 April 2019
- Young Minds, [A New Era for Young People’s Mental Health](#), accessed 9 May 2019
- Stem4, [‘Stem4 GP Survey’](#), 31 December 2018
- Nuffield Trust, [‘Striking Increase in Mental Health Conditions in Children and Young People’](#), 11 September 2018

Further Information

- Jacqueline Pitchforth et al, '[Mental Health and Well-being Trends Among Children and Young People in the UK, 1995–2014: Analysis of Repeated Cross-sectional National Health Surveys](#)', *Psychological Medicine*, 11 September 2018, pp 1–11
- Centre for Mental Health, [Fact Sheet: Children and Young People's Mental Health](#), September 2018
- Mental Health Policy Commission, [Investing in a Resilient Generation](#), 2018
- United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers, [Commentary on 'Screen-based Activities and Children and Young People's Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing: A Systematic Map of Reviews'](#), 7 February 2019
- Whitney Crenna-Jennings and Jo Hutchinson, [Access to Children and Young People's Mental Health Services—2018](#), Education Policy Institute, 7 October 2018
- Public Health England, [The Mental Health of Children and Young People in England](#), December 2016, pp 1–23
- House of Commons Library, [Children and Young People's Mental Health—Policy, Services, Funding and Education](#), 8 January 2019
- NHS England, [The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health](#), February 2016
- Department of Health and Social Care, '[Government Makes Women's Mental Health a Top Priority](#)', 20 December 2018
- Department of Health and Social Care, '[NHSX: Digital Experts Will Be Part of Cancer and Mental Health Teams](#)', 4 April 2019

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