

HCVAction

Bringing you the latest hepatitis C news and events

March 2018

News & Reports

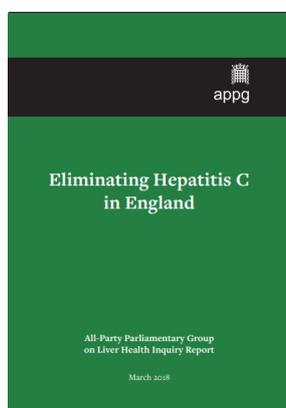
* Public Health England has published an updated report on [Hepatitis C in the North West](#) alongside its annual [Hepatitis C in England](#) report. The report shows an estimated 16,000 out of 40,000 (40%) of people infected with hepatitis C in the North West remain undiagnosed.

* Dr Steve Ryder, Chair of [HCV Action](#) and [The Hepatitis C Coalition](#) has authored an opinion piece in The Telegraph highlighting the importance of hepatitis C elimination and referencing the recently released inquiry report by the APPG on Liver Health. Read the article [here](#).

* A new blog for Huffington Post by [The Hepatitis C Trust's](#) Policy and Parliamentary Adviser, Urte Macikene, makes the case for co-ordinated, strategic national action to eliminate hepatitis C, and summarises the recommendations of the recently published APPG on Liver Health inquiry report on hepatitis C. Read the blog [here](#).

*The [World Health Organization](#) has published a progress report on access to hepatitis C treatment, with a particular focus on overcoming barriers in 23 low- and middle-income countries. According to the report, the overall number of people having received DAA treatment has reached 3 million. However, this progress also points to a long road ahead: it is estimated that 71 million people worldwide have hepatitis C

APPG on Liver Health launches 'Eliminating Hepatitis C in England' inquiry report



The [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Liver Health](#) has published its 'Eliminating Hepatitis C in England' report, following a launch event in Parliament with speakers including Norman Lamb MP, Sir David Amess MP, Virendra Sharma MP, Baroness Randerson, Baroness Masham and Lord Mancroft advocating for the report's recommendations.

The report outlines the findings of an inquiry conducted by the APPG in late 2017. Drawing on contributions from experts from across the hepatitis C care pathway, the report sets out action-based recommendations on awareness-raising, prevention, testing and treatment, including calls for:

- Introduction of opt-out testing for hepatitis C in substance misuse services, with commissioning contracts stipulating clear mechanisms to hold services to account for failures to meet testing targets.
- Treatment to be universally accessible and available in community settings like drug and alcohol services and sexual health services.
- An effective long-term funding deal between NHS England and industry supported by a national elimination plan.

Sir David Amess, co-chair of the APPG on Liver Health, said: "With the exceptional context of a deadly virus now being fully curable with easily deliverable, highly cost-effective medicines, finding those still undiagnosed and living with hepatitis C should be a national ambition. Eliminating a public health issue that disproportionately affects some of the poorest and most marginalised groups in our society is an extraordinary and eminently achievable opportunity which should be seized with both hands."

Read the full report [here](#) and a press release on its publication [here](#).

infection and are in need of treatment. Read the full report [here](#).

*The [World Hepatitis Alliance](#) will launch its World Hepatitis Day campaign this week, focused on finding the 'missing millions' living with hepatitis C but still undiagnosed.

*The [Hepatitis C Trust](#) is currently working to establish peer-to-peer programmes in four new ODNs. Peer support leads are being recruited in West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, North East and Merseyside & Cheshire ODNs. The peer programmes, funded by AbbVie, will contribute to increased case-finding and support patients through treatment.

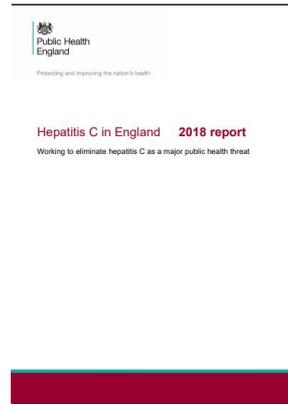
*The [Bristol Drugs Project](#) has opened a weekly hepatitis C [drop-in clinic](#), where attendees can speak to a hepatitis C nurse, get tested for hepatitis C and have a Fibroscan. The clinic runs Mondays 1:30 – 4:30pm.

*SNP MP Alison Thewliss introduced the Supervised Drug Consumption Facilities Bill to the House of Commons on 14th March. The proposal would pave the way for the UK's first supervised drug consumption facility, with the MP's home constituency of Glasgow identified as an appropriate location. A news story on the bill is available [here](#).

*Speaking in a Scottish Parliament [debate](#) on United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, SNP MSP Tom Arthur highlighted the importance of hepatitis C testing in the South Asian community. A Members' Business Debate on hepatitis C sponsored by Tom Arthur has been provisionally scheduled for late April.

*The next [HCV Action](#) hepatitis C good practice roadshow will take place in Oxford in June. Further details will be available in our next newsletter.

Public Health England publishes Hepatitis C in England 2018 report



[Public Health England](#) has published its latest Hepatitis C in England report, providing an update on prevention efforts, testing, diagnosis and treatment for hepatitis C patients in England.

The report paints a mixed picture of progress on hepatitis C testing and treatment in England. It finds that a fall in HCV-related mortality has been sustained for a second year in a row, meaning an overall 3% fall in deaths from HCV-related end stage liver disease (ESLD) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) between 2014 and 2016. Given these results, the World Health Organization's target for a reduction in HCV-related mortality of 10% by 2020 appears within reach. The report also indicates a rise in levels of testing among new receptions to English prisons, from 5.3% in 2010/11 to a provisional 10.5% in 2016/17, though this is still significantly sub-optimal.

However, data contained in the report suggest that the World Health Organization's 2030 targets of an 80% reduction in incidence and a 65% reduction in mortality still present a challenge. The proportion of PWID reporting adequate needle and syringe provision remains low, with just less than one half (45% in 2016) of those who had injected psychoactive drugs surveyed reporting adequate provision, and the level of incidence remains stable.

Read the report [here](#).

HCV Action and NHS England host educational event for Midlands and East ODNs



The [HCV Action](#) and [NHS England Midlands & East](#) Hepatitis C ODN Educational Event took place on 9th March, bringing together four ODNs for a range of talks on hepatitis C testing and treatment.

All four ODNs in the Midlands & East region gave progress updates on their treatment outcomes and shared details of innovative case-finding programmes in their areas.

Professor Graham Foster provided a national hepatitis C update in light of NHS England's recently-announced ambition to eliminate hepatitis C by 2025. Charles Gore shared the story of how the global commitment to hepatitis C elimination was achieved. Claire Foreman presented on the development of the aims and objectives of

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You can subscribe to The Hepatitis C Trust's monthly e-update at www.hepctrust.org.uk.

the hepatitis C CQUIN, and Dr Andy Ustianowski provided an overview of the Greater Manchester hepatitis C elimination plan which is currently in the final stages of development.

Other talks included summaries of innovative research and best practice in testing and treatment, with discussions of the HepCATT project, prison in-reach in Ipswich, the VirA+EmiC project assessing testing in A&E, and outreach work in Birmingham.

The full slide set for presentations delivered at the event can be found [here](#), and a detailed summary report of the event is available in the HCV Action resource library [here](#).



HCV Action is co-funded by AbbVie, Gilead, and MSD.

The Hepatitis C Trust provides secretariat support to HCV Action.

Please encourage colleagues to join HCV Action for free hepatitis C related updates and tools by emailing their full contact details to hcvaction@hepctrust.org.uk.
