

Press release: PM statement on contaminated blood inquiry: 11 July 2017

The contaminated blood scandal of the 1970s and 80s is an appalling tragedy which should simply never have happened.

Thousands of patients expected the world-class care our NHS is famous for, but they were failed.

At least 2,400 people died and thousands more were exposed to Hepatitis C and HIV, with life-changing consequences.

The victims and their families who have suffered so much pain and hardship deserve answers as to how this could possibly have happened.

While this government has invested record amounts to support the victims, they have been denied those answers for too long and I want to put that right.

As Prime Minister, I am determined to stand up for victims and confront injustice and unfairness in our society at every turn.

We will work with the victims and their families to decide what form this inquiry should take so their voices are heard and they finally get the answers and justice they have spent decades waiting for.

News story: Join PHE's live stream to launch our 'Health Profile for England'

On Thursday 13 July 2017, Public Health England will launch its first ever 'Health Profile for England'.

This landmark publication brings together our wealth of data – from life expectancy to health protection issues – for the first time, to paint the full picture of our population's health.

Join us at 9am on Thursday when Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of PHE will introduce the report. PHE's Director of Health Improvement, Professor John Newton will then present the main findings including:

- mortality
- morbidity
- risk factors
- social determinants of health
- trends in health outcomes

We will also discuss health inequalities and host questions and answers with our live audience.

Access the live stream of the event from 9am:

[live stream](#)

News story: Family Planning Summit 2017

On Tuesday 11 July 2017, the UK hosted a major international summit on family planning, in partnership with UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Summit brought together leaders from around the world to work together to remove barriers to family planning services so that voluntary, modern contraception can be offered to many more millions of women in the world's poorest countries across Africa and Asia.

International Development Secretary [Priti Patel gave a key note speech](#), alongside Natalia Kanem, acting head of UNFPA, and Melinda Gates.

Ms Patel set out that the UK Government would [boost and extend its annual support for family planning around the world until 2022](#).

In addition, the UK will be focusing its efforts on eliminating the stigma, cost and access issues associated with family planning, by supporting innovative technology, helping fix issues in supply chains so contraceptives make it onto the shelves and [reach more women in emergency settings](#).

The UK will support millions more women with family planning to overcome the following issues:

- There is no choice of contraceptives – the UK is supportive the roll out and scaling of the first new self-injectable contraceptive – Sayana Press – in a decade. This new self-injectable is already transforming the lives of women in four pilot countries – Uganda, Senegal, Burkino Faso and Niger. Now with the UK's support, Sayana Press will be available for more women in the world's countries.
- Women cannot afford the contraceptives they want – the UK, through the

World Bank, will encourage governments in developing countries to fund their own family planning systems which will, for example, allow women in Nigeria to access family planning free of charge for the first time.

- Women living in a emergency setting – the UK will be [demanding more from its humanitarian partners](#) and supporting them to improve access to family planning services for refugees.
- Contraceptives don't make it onto the shelves – the UK will support the new Visibility & Analytics Networks – a data monitoring system formed by a coalition of partners – to map what contraceptives are needed and where. This will bolster the efforts of the UNFPA to get contraceptives where they are needed, when they are needed.
- Social taboos – the UK will support the new 'SRHR Connect' programme which will address barriers facing women who want family planning, including addressing the stigma that stops women accessing family planning services.

The international development secretary called on governments, civil society and businesses to build on the progress from the summit, to do more to increase the availability and drive down prices of family planning services in developing countries.

Press release: UK announces £90 million funding for family planning in Ethiopia

The UK, through its Department for International Development today announced its new Family Planning by Choice programme, which will provide £90 million of support for voluntary family planning in Ethiopia over the next four years.

The programme will work with the Federal Ministry of Health to give millions of women access to modern, voluntary family planning services across the country.

The programme aims to:

- Provide 13 million women with direct access to family planning information;
- Support 6 million current family planning users and attract three million more voluntary users;

- Prevent 15 million unwanted pregnancies and 300,000 maternal child deaths.

The programme will:

- Enable over 3,000 health facilities, mostly rural health centres, to provide quality family planning services;
- Establish 100 Quality Assurance Hubs at referral and general hospitals; and,
- Establish 10 family planning Centres of Excellence at teaching hospitals.

By providing family planning choices for everyone who wants it, Ethiopia will be able to: increase women's voice, choice and control over their reproductive health; slow down population growth; and enhance economic growth.

This programme is part of the UK's global leadership on family planning, and was announced as part of a package of UK support around the world at the London Family Planning Summit on 11 July 2017.

The Summit, co-hosted by the UK Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel, Melinda Gates (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and Natalia Kanem (UN Population Fund – UNFPA), looked at practical measures to reduce costs and increase availability for the millions of women who want contraception, but can't afford it or get hold of it.

Speaking about the new UK support for family planning world-wide, the Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel said:

It's truly astonishing that in today's world there are still 214 million women around the world who do not want to get pregnant, but who are not currently using modern methods of family planning.

Britain is leading the world on sexual and reproductive health, helping millions more women in the world's poorest countries to access and use desperately-needed family planning services.

But this isn't a job for the UK alone and that's why at this global Summit governments from around the world have come together to make commitments on family planning to address the long term need and unsustainable population growth.

We are supporting the world's poorest women to take control of their lives, so they can finish their education, get better jobs and in turn provide for their smaller, planned families rather than

being trapped in a cycle of grinding poverty through unplanned pregnancies.

Notes to editors:

- Ethiopia has made significant progress in increasing modern family planning uptake, nearly one-in-three women in Ethiopia are now using modern family planning methods, compared to less than one-in-thirty 25 years ago.
- Despite this progress, Ethiopia's population has doubled in the last 25 years, from around 50 million in 1991 to 102 million in 2016. If the current fertility trend continues, the country's population is likely to double again in the next 35 years, which could undermine Ethiopia's ambition to reach middle income status by 2025.
- Three and half million (one-in-five) married women of reproductive age are currently not using contraception, but wish to postpone their next birth, or stop childbearing altogether. This programme will enable these women to use family planning.
- The public health service delivers four-fifths of family planning services.

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[Press release: Calstock flood defence improvements](#)

The existing Calstock flood embankment was improved in the 1980s following a significant flood in the village. It still plays an important role in reducing flood risk in Calstock, but requires periodic repairs.

In 2012/13 the Environment Agency carried out emergency work on just over 100

metres of the embankment. This work incorporated less than 10% of the total embankment length, but cost in excess of £300,000. Maintaining the current embankment in its existing location on a 'patch and repair basis' is not sustainable.

The Environment Agency is now looking at ways to continue to manage flood risk in the village. Likely options will include moving the existing embankment inland away from the river where it will be under less pressure from erosion.

Project manager Dan Boswell said:

It's our priority to do everything we can to protect people from flooding.

Unfortunately the current embankment is no longer viable so we have to look at other options to maintain the current level of flood protection for Calstock. One of the options involves moving the existing embankment inland.

In addition to flood risk management benefits, moving the embankment would enable the creation of reed-bed habitat attracting additional wildlife. It is important to note that we are looking at all options which may be available to us. We will be talking to the community about these before final decisions are made.

The Environment Agency is looking to work with local partners to ensure that people can still use this area recreationally. Currently the Environment Agency has granted a permissive footpath across the embankment and they are keen that the footpath should continue in some form, but this will require the collaboration of local partners.

Over the next few months the Environment Agency's consultants will be carrying out ground investigations and topographic surveys to help them develop suitable options. When they have developed these the Environment Agency will arrange a drop-in session in Calstock for the community to come along and view and comment on proposals. This is likely to take place in the autumn.

The Environment Agency is spending more than £2.5 billion to build flood schemes around the country, which will better protect 300,000 homes by 2021.