

Unit 1 - Structure and Overview of the Health and Social Care Sector (K/618/4167)

Table of Contents

Presentation notes on health and social care UK	2
Outlines the points at which health and social care provision in the UK	4
Describes the health and social care services required and provided at each point of life in the UK	5
Explains how services are accessed at each point of provision mainly primary care in the UK	6
Explains the arrangements for long-term care provision.....	7
Analyse the different specialist areas within health and social care	8
Assess equality of access to health and social care within the UK	9
Causes of inequalities in access to health and social care in the UK.....	10
What is being done to address inequalities in access to health and social care in the UK	11
Explain current public health issues within the UK Current public health issues	11
Describe current issues in the provision of health and social care within the UK	12
References.....	14

Presentation notes on health and social care UK

Slide 1: Introduction

Slide 2: Health and Social care system in the UK

The health and social care sector in the UK seem to be quite complex system (Tiainen et al, 2020). For example, in England at the top is the parliament followed by Secretary State and Department of Health (DoH). DoH has Health Watch England, NHS England and Public Health England. Secretary of state has NHS England. Care Quality Commission, NHS Improvement and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Below them are Local authorities, Health and Well Being Boards, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Social Care Services, Community Health services etc.

Slide 3: Main Aims of Health and Social Care Provision

To improve the overall health and well-being of the population by providing access to necessary care and treatment for individuals; to support those in need of social care services, including the elderly, disabled and those with long-term health conditions. To reduce health inequalities and ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to access high-quality care, regardless of their background or circumstances. To provide affordable and cost-effective care, through the use of evidence-based practices and the most efficient and appropriate technologies and treatments; to support the delivery of safe, high-quality care through the use of national guidelines, standards and regulations; to ensure the continuity of care, by providing a range of services that work together to meet the needs of patients and support them throughout their journey.

Slide 4: Organisation of Health and Social Care Provision

The organization of health and social care provision in the UK is a complex system that includes various organizations and services at different levels.

Primary care is the first point of contact for individuals seeking health and social care services. It includes services such as GP practices, dentists, pharmacies, and community health centres. These services are provided by the National Health Service (NHS) and are often delivered in partnership with local authorities and other organizations.

Secondary care is provided by hospitals and community health services, such as district nursing and physiotherapy. These services are also provided by the NHS and are generally accessed through referral from a primary care provider.

Specialist care includes services such as mental health care, specialist hospitals, and other services that are provided by the NHS and are accessed through referral from a primary or secondary care provider.

Slide 5: Provisions

Health and social care services are organized by the National Health Service (NHS) at the national level and by local authorities at the local level. The NHS is responsible for the provision of healthcare services, including primary, secondary, and specialist care. Local authorities are responsible for the provision of social care services, such as support for the elderly and disabled.

The sector is mixed between state-funded and private, voluntary sector. The majority of services are provided by the NHS, which is funded by the government through general taxation. However, there is also a significant private sector which provides both health and social care services, primarily funded through private health insurance or out of pocket payments by the individual. Additionally, there are also voluntary organizations that provide health and social care services, which are funded through donations and fundraising.

Slide 6: Size of the Health and Social Care Sector

The health and social care sector is a significant part of the UK economy (11.9% of GDP), accounting for a large proportion of total spend and, employment. The total spends on health and social care in the UK is around £277 billion per year, this includes both state-funded and private spending (ONS, 2021). The sector employs around 1.6 million people, which is around 5% of the total UK workforce. This

includes health care providers, administrative staff, and support staff. The UK population was around 66 million in 2021, and the NHS serves everyone who is a legal resident in the UK, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Slide 7: Funding of Health and Social Care

Year-on-year expenditure has grown in health and social care sector.

Slide 8: Funding sources and share

The majority of funding for health and social care in the UK comes from the state through general taxation, which is collected by the government and distributed to the National Health Service (NHS) and local authorities for health and social care services (ONS, 2022). The NHS is the main provider of health care services in the UK, and it is funded by the government through general taxation. Some individuals and companies also have private health insurance to supplement their care. These policies generally provide additional coverage for treatments and services that are not available on the NHS, such as private hospital rooms or faster access to certain treatments. The private health insurance market in the UK is relatively small, and it represents a small percentage of the overall spending on health care. Charitable organizations also contribute to the funding of health and social care in the UK, through donations and fundraising. These organizations often provide services and support that are not available through the NHS, such as hospices or support groups for specific conditions.

Slide 9: References

Outlines the points at which health and social care provision in the UK

Birth to 5 years: Children have access to healthcare services through the National Health Service (NHS), including well-child visits, vaccinations, and access to a GP or paediatrician if needed. Health Visitors and School Nurses are also available to provide support for families with young children.

5 to 18 years: Children continue to have access to healthcare services through the NHS, including well-child visits and access to a GP or paediatrician if needed. They may also have access to school nurses and counsellors, as well as mental health services.

18 to 65 years: Adults have access to healthcare services through the NHS, including GP services, as well as specialized care for specific health conditions. They may also have access to mental health services and social care services, depending on their needs.

65 years and older: older adults have access to healthcare services through the NHS, including GP services, as well as specialized care for specific health conditions. They may also have access to social care services, including home care and residential care, depending on their needs (The Charity Workers' Charity, 2019).

Describes the health and social care services required and provided at each point of life in the UK

Paediatrics: Services for children under the age of 18 include well-child visits, vaccinations, and access to a GP or paediatrician. They also have access to health visitors and school nurses, who can provide support for families with young children.

Maternity: Services for pregnant women include prenatal care, childbirth services, and postnatal care. Women can access these services through their GP, midwife, or obstetrician.

Mental health: Services for mental health include access to a GP, who can refer patients to a mental health specialist if needed. Additionally, patients can access counselling, therapy, and other mental health services.

General health: Adults have access to healthcare services through the NHS, including GP services, as well as specialized care for specific health conditions. They may also have access to mental health services and social care services, depending on their needs.

Old age: older adults have access to healthcare services through the NHS, including GP services, as well as specialized care for specific health conditions. They may also have access to social care services, including home care, residential care, and nursing homes, depending on their needs (Grosis. Et al. 2010)..

Explains how services are accessed at each point of provision mainly primary care in the UK

In the UK, healthcare services are primarily accessed through the National Health Service (NHS), which is publicly funded and provides a range of services at different points in a person's life. The main professions involved in healthcare provision and how services are accessed at each point in life may be as follows (Roland and Colin, 2012).

GPs: General Practitioners (GPs) are the main primary care providers in the UK. They provide general healthcare services to patients of all ages, including well-child visits, vaccinations, and care for minor illnesses and injuries. Patients can access GP services through their local GP surgery, usually by making an appointment.

Midwives: Midwives provide care to pregnant women, including prenatal care, childbirth services, and postnatal care. They can be accessed through GP referral or self-referral for pregnant women.

Obstetricians: Obstetricians are specialists in maternal-foetal medicine and provide care to pregnant women with high-risk pregnancies. They are accessed through GP referral or self-referral.

Paediatricians: Paediatricians are specialists in child health and provide care to children under the age of 18. They are accessed through GP referral.

Mental health professionals: Mental health professionals such as counsellors, therapists, and psychiatrists provide care for mental health conditions. They are accessed through GP referral or self-referral.

Nurses: Nurses provide care in various settings, including hospitals, GP surgeries, care homes, and in the community. They are accessed through GP referral or self-referral.

Social workers: Social workers provide support for individuals and families with social care needs, including support for older adults, children, and people with disabilities. They are accessed through local councils or through self-referral.

Explains the arrangements for long-term care provision

In the UK, long-term care provision is provided by a range of services, including the National Health Service (NHS) and local councils, to support individuals at different stages of life with ongoing health and social care needs (Roland and Colin, 2012).

For older adults, long-term care provision is typically divided into two main categories: health and social care. Health care services are provided by the NHS and include support for medical conditions, such as chronic diseases. Social care services are provided by local councils and include support for activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, and eating.

The specific services provided and how they are accessed may vary depending on the location and local policies within the UK. However, there are some general arrangements for long-term care provision in the UK at different stages of life:

Home care: This type of care is provided in the individual's home by trained carers and can include help with personal care, housekeeping, and companionship. Home care services are typically provided by local councils, but some private providers also offer home care services.

Residential care: This type of care is provided in a residential setting, such as a care home, and can include 24-hour care, medical support, and access to recreational activities. Residential care services are typically provided by private providers, but some local council also have their own residential care homes.

Nursing homes: This type of care is provided in a residential setting and can include 24-hour care, medical support, and access to recreational activities, as well as nursing care by trained nurses.

Intermediate care: This type of care is provided to support older adults with short-term health and social care needs, such as after a hospital stay. It is usually provided in a community setting, such as a care home or in the individual's home.

It is important to note that the individual's eligibility for long-term care provision is assessed by the local council, and the level of care received will depend on the individual's needs and the availability of services. Additionally, some people may choose to pay for their own care or to pay for additional services not covered by the NHS.

Analyse the different specialist areas within health and social care

Introduction: The National Health Service (NHS) in the UK offers a wide range of specialism within the health and social care sector, providing opportunities for career development and advancement. This handout will provide an overview of the different specialist areas within health and social care, and the roles and responsibilities associated with each area.

Paediatrics: Paediatrics is the branch of medicine that deals with the medical care of infants, children, and adolescents. Paediatricians are responsible for diagnosing and treating a wide range of medical conditions in children, including illnesses, injuries, and developmental disorders. They may also provide advice and support to parents and caregivers.

Maternity: Maternity care is the branch of medicine that deals with the care of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Obstetricians and midwives provide care to pregnant women, including prenatal care, childbirth services, and postnatal care. They also provide advice and support to new mothers and their families.

Mental health: Mental health care is the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental health conditions. Mental health

professionals, such as counsellors, therapists, and psychiatrists, provide care for patients with mental health conditions, including anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia. They may also provide advice and support to patients and their families.

General health: General health care is the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of a wide range of medical conditions. General practitioners (GPs) are the main primary care providers in the UK. They provide general healthcare services to patients of all ages, including well-child visits, vaccinations, and care for minor illnesses and injuries.

Old age: Geriatrics is the branch of medicine that deals with the medical care of older adults (Roland and Colin, 2012). Geriatricians are specialist doctors who provide care for older adults, including diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions, as well as care for patients with chronic conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's. Geriatricians may also provide advice and support to older adults and their families.

Social Care: Social care is the branch of healthcare that helps people with everyday tasks to support them in their day-to-day lives, this includes support with personal care, mobility, and other daily activities, such as bathing, dressing, and eating. Social care workers can be found in a variety of settings, including care homes, hospitals, and community centres. They may also provide advice and support to patients and their families.

Assess equality of access to health and social care within the UK

Equality of access to health and social care within the UK is an important issue that has been the subject of much debate and discussion. On the final day of the induction programme, it is important to assess both the positive and negative aspects of equality of access to health and social care in the UK.

Positive aspects of equality of access to health and social care in the UK.

- The National Health Service (NHS) is publicly funded and provides healthcare services to all UK citizens, regardless of their ability to pay.

- The NHS operates on the principle of universal access, meaning that all individuals have equal access to healthcare services.
- The NHS provides a wide range of services, including primary care, hospital care, and specialist care, to meet the diverse needs of the population.

Negative aspects of equality of access to health and social care in the UK.

- Despite the principle of universal access, there are still disparities in access to healthcare services in the UK.
- Socioeconomic factors, such as income and education level, can play a significant role in determining an individual's access to healthcare services.
- People living in deprived areas, ethnic minorities, and vulnerable groups such as homeless individuals and refugees may face barriers to accessing healthcare services.
- The care provided to people with mental health conditions is often not as comprehensive as the care provided to people with physical health conditions.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the inequalities in access to health care and social care with the most vulnerable communities being disproportionately affected.

Causes of inequalities in access to health and social care in the UK

Socioeconomic factors, such as income and education level, can play a significant role in determining an individual's access to healthcare services.

People living in deprived areas may face barriers to accessing healthcare services, such as lack of transportation and difficulty in finding childcare.

Ethnic minorities may face cultural and linguistic barriers in accessing healthcare services.

People with mental health conditions may face stigma and discrimination, which can make it difficult for them to access healthcare services.

What is being done to address inequalities in access to health and social care in the UK

The NHS has implemented several initiatives to address inequalities in access to healthcare services, such as the "NHS Health Check" program, which aims to prevent and manage chronic diseases in deprived areas.

The NHS has also implemented the "NHS Equality and Diversity Council" to promote equality and diversity within the NHS and to ensure that all patients receive equal access to healthcare services.

The UK government has announced plans to reform the health and social care system to provide more integrated and personalized care for people at different stages in their lives.

The government has also announced plans to increase the funding for public health services, to address the inequalities in access to health care.

It is important to note that while there have been efforts to address inequalities in access to health and social care in the UK, more work is needed to ensure that all individuals have equal access to healthcare services.

Explain current public health issues within the UK Current public health issues

Public health issues refer to health concerns that affect large populations within a community or society. The UK currently faces several public health issues, including:

Vaccination: Vaccination is a crucial tool in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and protecting public health. However, there has been some resistance to vaccination in the UK, particularly with regards to the COVID-19 vaccine. This has led to concerns about vaccine hesitancy and the potential for outbreaks of preventable diseases.

Contraception: Access to contraception is essential for family planning and reducing unwanted pregnancies. However, there are concerns that access to contraception, particularly for vulnerable populations, is not always easy or affordable.

Healthy Eating: Unhealthy diets are a major contributor to obesity, which is linked to a variety of health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. There is a public health concern for the low intake of fruits and vegetables, high intake of processed foods and sugar, and the availability of unhealthy options in some areas of the UK.

Air pollution: Air pollution is a public health concern in the UK, with high levels of fine particulate matter and nitrogen oxides affecting the health of individuals particularly in urban areas. Long-term exposure to air pollution can lead to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and other health problems.

Mental health: Mental health problems such as depression and anxiety are becoming an increasingly significant public health concern in the UK. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of mental health and the need for mental health support services.

Substance misuse: Substance misuse, including the misuse of alcohol and drugs, is a public health concern in the UK. Substance misuse can lead to a variety of health problems, including addiction, liver disease, and overdose.

It's important to note that these public health issues are complex and multifaceted and require a comprehensive approach to address them. The UK government, the National Health Service (NHS) and other organizations are implementing policies and programs to address these public health issues, but more efforts are needed to improve the health of the population.

Describe current issues in the provision of health and social care within the UK

There are several current issues in the provision of health and social care within the UK.

Increasing demand for services: The UK's population is growing and aging, which is putting pressure on health and social care services. An increasing number of older adults are living with chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, which require ongoing care and support (The Health Foundation, 2019). This is leading to increased demand for services and putting pressure on the NHS and social care systems.

Staffing shortages: There is a shortage of healthcare staff in the UK, particularly in areas such as nursing and general practice. This is partly due to an aging workforce and difficulty in attracting and retaining staff (The Health Foundation, 2019). Staffing shortages can lead to longer wait times for appointments and services and can also affect the quality of care that patients receive.

Funding: The NHS and social care systems are facing financial challenges due to increasing demand for services and rising costs. Funding for health and social care services has not kept pace with demand, which is leading to stretched resources and difficulties in providing high-quality care.

Lifestyle-related health issues: The UK is facing a growing number of lifestyle-related health issues, such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. These health issues are largely preventable, but they place a significant burden on the health and social care systems.

Mental health: Mental health issues have become a major public health concern in the UK. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of mental health and the need for mental health support services. Despite the increased awareness and efforts to improve mental health care, there is still an unmet need for mental health services in the UK.

Social Care: The UK's social care system has been facing significant challenges for years, with a lack of funding, staff shortages, and an aging population putting pressure on the system. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the need for reform and increased funding for the social care sector.

These current issues in the provision of health and social care within the UK are complex and multifaceted and require a comprehensive approach to address them. The UK government, the National Health Service (NHS) and other organizations are

implementing policies and programs to address these issues, but more efforts are needed to improve the health of the population and ensure that everyone has access to quality health and social care services.

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