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Here are today's top health stories...

View in Bro



RCPCH in Parliament...

Dr Max Davie, Officer for Health Promotion, gave oral evidence to the Science and Technology Committee in the House of Commons yesterday. Giving evidence to the Committee's inquiry on social media, screen-time and impacts on mental and physical health, Dr Davie spoke to MPs about implications for children and young people on sleep, sedentary lifestyles, and the complex relationship between screen time and obesity. He also identified the limited evidence base for the effects of social media and screen time, and urged the Committee to call for further research is undertaken. You can watch Max giving evidence here.

RCPCH in the news...

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has been referenced across the papers this morning, as an invited review of the Countess of Chester Hospital's neonatal unit, which raised a string of concerns about issues of staffing, led to a police investigation. A neonatal nurse was arrested yesterday on suspicion of murdering eight babies and on suspicion of the attempted murder of six more Detectives are investigating as many as 17 deaths and 15 life-threatening incidents involving babies at the unit. The Times, the Daily Mail, the Guardian, the Daily Telegraph, the Scotsman, the Western Mail the Irish Examiner, BBC News and the regional press are among those who reported on this story. The story was also picked up by broadcast sources including Sky News, ITV, BBC Radio 4 and Talk Radio.

Professor Mary Fewtrell has been quoted in the <u>Daily Mail</u> today in an article about breastmilk and its nutritional values. She said: "It's such a complicated product with so much in it – including vitamins, minerals, amino acids, enzymes, white cells and living stem cells (that act as a repair system for the body) which can get into the baby's organs and engraft there – and we don't fully understand the purpose of all its components. Breast milk is such a variable fluid that it's essentially impossible to reproduce, though formula manufacturers keep trying."

The **Obesity Health Alliance**, of which the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is a steering group member, has been referenced in a number of articles relating to the ban on adverts targeting online. This comes as a Cadbury advert has been banned in the first crackdown of its kind to combat obesity. The OHA were referenced by sources including by <u>BBC News</u>, the <u>Daily Mail</u> and a number of regional papers. Caroline Cerny was quoted to say: "Whilst today's rulings should be celebrated, the complaints demonstrate the blatant ways in which the food and drink industry attempts to exploit loopholes in the rules."

Dr David Tuthill, Officer for Wales at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, has been referenced in two articles in the Western Mail today. Dr Tuthill talks about the greatest threats to child health, and the challenges arising from children's lifestyles, including a more sedentary lifestyle, fragmented family lives, and the pressures of digital media. Please contact the Media and External Affairs team if you would like to know more about these stories.