



News Headlines: 23 April 2015

March 2015 was the last Telecare LIN [newsletter](#) supported by Innovate UK, KTN Ltd and the Assisted Living Innovation Platform and we would like to thank them for their support in recent years.

Going forward we need your support. To maintain a comprehensive monthly news summary going out to over 48,000 people, we are looking to crowdsource funding to support the website, content and hundreds of links and [journal article references](#) each month. We are currently looking for a number of organisations to support continuing production (including [supplements](#), [Twitter stream](#), [archive](#)) at around the £5k level per year. The news service, currently in its tenth year is recognised as an authoritative source and valuable resource in the UK and in other parts of the world working on digital health, telehealth, mHealth, telemedicine and telecare.

Many people also value the extensive coverage of UK health and care policy as well as regular [site listings](#) and supplements (eg [telehealth](#), [dementia](#), [long term conditions](#)). This is, therefore, an opportunity not to be missed if your organisation would like to be associated with the sector-leading newsletter and our successful brand. You can email j.porteus@telecarelin.org.uk for details.

In the meantime, we will be providing a limited 'headline only' service for registered members of the website whilst we establish whether or not the crowdfunding approach is successful over the next three months. You can still follow Mike Clark on Twitter (@clarkmike - together with summaries on [Storify](#) and [Rebelmouse](#)) or Jeremy at @HousingLIN or on the Housing LIN [homepage](#).

News Headlines

General Election – health and care

Its purdah time, so there is very little news from Government Departments, NHS and local authorities until after the UK elections. The main parties have launched their manifestos and questions remain about whether health and care will need a further major injection of money in 2015/16 (see: [NHS finance problem being ignored, says former boss](#)). Here are the main manifesto links - [Conservative](#), [Green](#), [Labour/Labour Health](#), [Liberal Democrat](#), [UKIP SNP](#). You can find more information on health and care discussions at [The Kings Fund](#) [Nuffield Trust](#), [Health Foundation](#) as well as via the Guardian website eg:

- [Election 2015: five questions on NHS funding that the campaigns are avoiding – Chris Hopson](#)
- [Election 2015: what do party pledges mean for NHS staff?](#)

Are health and care apps any good?

Are health apps making a difference? Could they cause harm? – Some recent articles to explore:

- [They monitor hearts, count calories ... but are health apps any good for you?](#)
- [JAMA, BMJ each call for more health app evidence](#)
- [Can healthy people benefit from health apps?](#)
- [Is There an App to Solve App Overload?](#)

Interested in social care apps? – a UK [event](#) has been announced for Leeds in June 2015.

Dallas – early results from Scotland’s Living it Up Programme

BBC News Scotland has a [report](#) on the Dallas [Living it Up](#) programme. Indications are that the £10m online self-management hub has reached less than a third of the people it set out to. It was announced in 2013 with the aim of having 55,000 users across Scotland by May 2015. But it has attracted just 15,000, at a cost of £690 per patient. NHS 24 has said although the service had only 15,000 members, the website averaged 50,000 hits per month. You can also find out more from the Dallas projects at the June [Digital Health and Care Congress](#).

Apple Watch finally available

After much press coverage, the [Apple Watch](#) is finally here and commentators are suggesting that they could sell 19 million watches in its various formats. If you are not familiar with its features, then Stuff has a helpful [summary](#). This first version will not have some of the health/activity sensors that many people were speculating a few months ago and will, of course, need a recent iPhone in close proximity to provide updates. Apple had previously announced new platforms for the phone and watch that we will hear more about – [HomeKit](#), [HealthKit](#)/Apple Health and perhaps the most interesting, [ResearchKit](#). It will, however, be possible to add in metrics from other devices eg blood pressure as well as links to the step counter incorporated into the watch. A number of [apps](#) are also being designed/re-designed for the watch. Recent links include:

- [Dexcom CGM app will be ready when Apple Watch launches](#)
- [Diabetes tracking app in development for Apple Watch](#)
- [Report: Accuracy concerns led Apple to cut advanced health features from Apple Watch](#)
- [Report: At least 14 hospitals in talks to pilot Apple HealthKit](#)
- [Apple ResearchKit encourages iPhone users to contribute to medical research](#)
- [Apple Watch apps: the lowdown](#)
- [Apple announces medical app research platform, ResearchKit](#)
- [Apple Launches ResearchKit Platform With 5 mHealth Apps](#)
- [Apple ResearchKit aims to further medical studies](#)
- [Apple ResearchKit Turns iPhones Into Medical Diagnostic Devices](#)
- [Apple Watch is not an mHealth device -- and that's OK](#)
- [In-Depth: Apple ResearchKit concerns, potential, analysis](#)
- [The Apple Watch could have been a proper health-monitoring device. But the FDA won't allow it](#)
- [IBM and Apple want to share how you are with others](#)

Upcoming Telecare/Telehealth UK events for April 2015:

DHACA Day, 27 April Bradford - <http://dhaca.org.uk/events/dhaca-day-iv/>

Holyrood Telehealth and Telecare 2015 Glasgow, 28-29 April 2015
<http://telehealthcare.holyrood.com/>

Med-Tech Innovation Expo 29-30 April 2015, Coventry <http://www.mtiexpo-uk.com/>

Note: Telecare LIN is not responsible for the content and accuracy of external links