

## April 2013

Welcome to April's edition of the CordisPulse - a monthly digest of key research and policy developments across the sectors in which Cordis Bright provides research and consultancy services, i.e., children and young people's services, criminal justice, and adult social care and health.

There have been a number of interesting developments during March including, for example: (a) the establishment of the What Works network, (b) a new Children Centre inspection framework published by Ofsted, (c) the YJB's new procedures for community safeguarding and public protection incidents, and (d) the Department of Health's statutory guidance on JSNAs and Joint Health and Wellbeing strategies. These and other developments where we have experience of supporting clients are covered in this month's edition of the CordisPulse.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse please do contact us on 020 7330 9170.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford  
Head of Research

If you would prefer not to receive future editions of the CordisPulse, please click 'unsubscribe' at the very end of this email. If you would like to discuss anything that arises from the Pulse (or if there are others who you think would like to receive copies) then please contact Dr Stephen Boxford on [stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk](mailto:stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk) or 020 7330 9170.



## Children and young people's services

### Policy and news

#### **DCLG and DWP: 150 specialist Jobcentre Plus advisers to work with troubled families**

The government have announced that the 94 local authorities in England with the most troubled families will be offered up to 6 fully-funded Troubled Families Employment Advisors, seconded from their local Jobcentre Plus, according to the number of troubled families they have in their area. The remaining 58 local authorities with fewer troubled families will be offered a single point of contact within Jobcentre Plus and given practical support to promote the employment agenda in their area.

[Further information about the announcement can be read here](#)

#### **DfE: Legal duty to ensure SEN young people gain right health support**

Under a new legal duty, clinical commissioning groups will by law have to secure services in education, health and care plans for children and young adults with disabilities. Whilst at present councils have a legal requirement to make sure these young people receive the support to develop and live independently, some parents have complained that health service support is not given enough attention. The new duty aims to ensure that health services work better with education and care services and that all areas of need are considered.

[Details about the duty and the announcement can be read here](#)

#### **Ofsted: New children's centre inspection framework published**

In March Ofsted revealed the new framework for children's centre inspections, which came into force this month. The new framework focuses on three key judgements about: access to services; quality and impact of practice and services; and effectiveness of leadership, governance and management. Inspection will now be either of a single centre or of a group of children's centres with integrated services and management. Amongst other changes, a new rating of 'requires improvement' will be introduced to describe centres that are not yet 'good' but are not judged 'inadequate'.

[To view the new framework, please click here](#)

#### **DfE: Final version of 'Working Together To Safeguard Children' published**

The Department for Education has published the final slim-lined version of 'Working Together To Safeguard Children', which condenses around 700 pages of guidance to 95 pages and aims to honour the Munro report's call to cut social work bureaucracy. Sample changes include removing the requirement to have a separate initial and core assessment of children in need. The 10-day target to complete initial assessments is also removed; however the 45 working days target for an assessment to conclude has been retained. The government has said this target will be monitored and could be removed at a later date. The new document came into effect on 15th April. Whilst Eileen Munro calls the document 'a very good compromise' other commentators raise concerns about some of the changes.

[To access the statutory guidance, please click here](#)

[To access commentary on the guidance in Community Care, please click here](#)



### **DfE: Government to review child protection thresholds as part of response to Carlile review of Edlington case**

In a response to Lord Carlile's review of the Edlington case, the Department for Education stated that they will review whether there should be nationally set 'triggers' for taking children into care. Lord Carlile's report recommended that in cases where there had been three police reports of criminal behaviour (or a comparable trigger) parents should prove why the child should not be taken into care. In addition to remarking on thresholds, the government's response also commented on a number of other recommendations made by Carlile, and amongst other things made a commitment to undertake a review of the relationship between schools and local mental health services.

[The government's response to Lord Carlile's report can be accessed here](#)

[Lord Carlile's report can be found here](#)

### **DCLG: The impact of councils' troubled families programmes will be independently assessed**

The government have announced that the impact of councils' troubled families programmes will be independently assessed. The newly commissioned research will investigate the families who receive interventions and what changes they have made; how local authorities are choosing to work with troubled families and which ways are most successful; and cost savings that have been made for the taxpayer from turning their lives around. This announcement preceded a statement made by Michael Gove in response to Lord Carlile's call for the troubled families programmes to be inspected and annually scored and rated, in which Gove stated the government would be investigating if further action is needed to monitor LA's compliance with the programme.

[To access further details about the research, please click here](#)

[Michael Gove's response to Lord Carlile's call for inspection of the programme is reported here](#)

### **Cabinet Office: New 'What Works Centre for Early Intervention' to further evidenced based policy making**

The government have launched four new What Works centres to form a six centre What Works Network. These centres will gather, assess and share the most robust evidence on policy and service delivery in tackling crime, promoting active and independent ageing, effective early intervention, and fostering local economic growth.

The new 'What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth', 'What Works Centre for Ageing Better', 'What Works Centre for Crime Reduction', and the 'What Works Centre for Early Intervention' will join the existing research centres at NICE and the Sutton Trust/Education Endowment Foundation to form the What Works Network.

[Further details about the new network can be found here](#)



## Reports and statistics

### **DCLG and DWP: Early progress results from Troubled Families Programme released**

Results showing the progress in the first 9 months for the 152 upper tier English Local Authorities involved with the Troubled Families Programme were released in March. These statistics show the number of families identified for inclusion in the programme, the number of families being worked with, and the number of families that had been 'turned round' at January 2013.

[These statistics can be accessed here](#)

### **DfE: Report on progress of reforms for SEND young people published**

In March the Department for Education and Department of Health published a report on the progress of the SEND Pathfinder programme, which has been rolled out in 20 areas, covering 31 local authorities (LAs) and their PCT and emerging clinical commissioning group partners. The report also provides results from a headline survey of 65 families with completed education, health and care plans (EHCPs).

[Further information and links to the report can be accessed here](#)

### **House of Lords Adoption Legislation Select Committee: Post-adoption support should be a legal right**

In a report published in March the House of Lords Adoption Legislation Select Committee argued that local authorities and other service providers should have a legal obligation to provide adoptive parents with post-adoption support to enable them to support the vulnerable children whom they care for. In the report the Committee also raised concerns that there is a significant lack of information about rates of adoption breakdown.

Furthermore the Committee warned that the government's focus on driving up the number of adoptions should not be delivered at the expense of other routes to permanence, such as special guardianship or kinship care, for children for whom adoption may not be suitable. It also argues that efforts to address the problems of birth parents in order to enable families to stay together should not be undermined by the desire to increase the number of adoptions. The report makes a number of other recommendations about how the care system can be improved, including by encouraging joint adoption services between LAs, and employing IROs externally.

[To access this report and the related press release, please click here](#)

### **Daycare Trust: Annual Childcare Costs survey shows cost of childcare rising at twice the rate of inflation**

The results of the annual Daycare Trust and Family and Parenting Institute's childcare costs survey were released in March. The results shows that nursery, child-minder and before/after-school club costs are all rising at more than 6%, more than double the rate of inflation. The survey spotlights the particular problem parents face in finding and paying for childcare for before and after the school day.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

### **DfE: Future projected trends in pupil numbers published**

DfE published data showing national level pupil projections. It also published local authority pupil projections. The data show that by 2016, the number of state-funded secondary pupils aged up to and including 15 is projected to be 3 per cent lower than in 2012 and that by 2016 all regions in England



are projected to have an increase in their primary aged population (aged 5 to 10) compared with 2011. This ranges from around 9 per cent in the North West and West Midlands to 13 per cent in the East of England.

[Information on both these pieces of data can be accessed here](#)

**Ofsted: Report published highlighting need for greater integrated support for children of parents with mental ill health and/or drug and alcohol problems**

A thematic inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission explored how well adult mental health services and drug and alcohol services considered the impact on children when their parents or carers had mental ill health and/or drug and alcohol problems; and how effectively adult and children's services worked together to ensure that children affected by their parents' or carers' difficulties were supported and safe.

The report based on this inspection, 'What About Children?', draws on evidence from cases in nine local authorities and partner agencies and from the views of parents, carers, children, practitioners and managers. Amongst other things, the report found that support for children and joint working was generally better between children's services and drug and alcohol services than between children's services and adult mental health services. The report called on the government to make it a mandatory requirement for mental health services to collect data on children whose parents or carers have mental health difficulties and report on such data nationally.

[To access the report and further guidance on these issues, please click here](#)

**NCB: Report shows that NHS 'excludes' children from decision making**

A report by the National Children's Bureau for the Children's Commissioner was published in March which found that only 28% of local health plans referenced children and young people's participation, and that when consulted children were often just asked to give their views on decisions that had already been made. The report recommended that materials are developed to enable local NHS services to embed children's participation and that local health and wellbeing boards should have children's participation champions.

[The report can be accessed here](#)



## Criminal Justice

### Policy and news

#### **MOJ: Strategic objectives outline targeted support for women offenders**

As part of their wider emphasis on rehabilitation, in March the Ministry of Justice outlined a strategy of support for women offenders. Key priorities outlined in the strategy include ensuring that there are robust and credible sentencing options that enable women offenders to be punished and rehabilitated in the community; ensuring that there are services in the community that recognise the specific needs of women offenders; making sure that women's custodial estate regimes meet gender specific standards and locate women as near to their families as possible; and that their better life management for female offenders is supported through rehabilitation programmes in order to reduce re-offending.

[The strategy can be accessed here](#)

#### **Cabinet Office: New 'What Works Centre for Crime Reduction' to further evidenced based policy making**

The government have launched four new What Works centres to form a six centre What Works Network. These centres will gather, assess and share the most robust evidence on policy and service delivery in tackling crime, promoting active and independent ageing, effective early intervention, and fostering local economic growth.

The new 'What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth', 'What Works Centre for Ageing Better', 'What Works Centre for Crime Reduction', and the 'What Works Centre for Early Intervention' will join the existing research centres at NICE and the Sutton Trust/Education Endowment Foundation to form the What Works Network.

[Further details about the new network can be accessed here](#)

#### **YJB: New procedures for Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents (CSPPI) launched**

New procedures for Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents (CSPPI) were launched in March. The YJB report that all YOT teams have been sent the CSPPI operating procedures along with advice on using the Youth Justice Management System CSPPI sub-system, and that all YOT staff must be fully briefed on this.

[The new procedures and further information can be found here](#)

### Reports and statistics

#### **Public Accounts Committee: Report published warning on impact of prison overcrowding on reoffending and challenges facing restructuring of offender management**

The cross-party House of Commons Public Accounts Committee published a report on the restructuring of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). It praised NOMS' success at achieving its savings targets in 2011-12, but warned that meeting those for the period until 2015 will be challenging. In particular it warned that current plans to achieve savings assume overcrowding will stay at current levels but that this is variable, that up-front funding for voluntary redundancies has not been secured, and that unless overcrowding is reduced there are risks that due to staff cuts it is likely



that rehabilitation work needed to reduce reoffending will not be provided as staff will be moved from offender management programmes to covering prison wings.

[To access this report, please click here](#)



## Adult Social Care and Health

### Policy and news

#### **DoH: Government responds to the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry**

In 'Patients First and Foremost' the government have made an initial response to the Francis Report into the failings at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. As part of the response, the government sets out a five point plan to revolutionise the care people receive from the NHS and to put an end to failure. Plans centre on: preventing problems; detecting problems quickly; taking action promptly; ensuring robust accountability; and ensuring staff are trained and motivated. Amongst many other specific plans, assessments of hospitals will involve ratings on the quality of care patients receive, to be informed by the views of patients and their friends and family.

[The government's response can be found here](#)

[A useful summary of the government's key plans can be found here](#)

[A report of Lord Francis' response to the government's plans can be found here](#)

#### **DoH: Consultation on direct payments for healthcare opened**

On the 1st March the government opened their consultation on direct payments for healthcare. Direct payments for healthcare are currently only lawful in 60 Department of Health pilot sites. The government's intention is to roll out personal health budgets more widely, including extending the use of direct payments, by updating the regulations so that they can be offered across the country. The consultation proposes changes to the regulations based on learning from the recent pilot programme and discussions with personal health budget holders, healthcare professionals and other organisations. The consultation closes on the 26th April.

[To access the consultation documents, please click here](#)

#### **DoH: New nursing vision and strategy for dementia care launched**

A new nursing vision and strategy for dementia care, 'Making a Difference in Dementia', was launched by the Department of Health. The strategy builds on 'Compassion in Practice', the national vision for nurses, midwives and care staff, and demonstrates the 6Cs for dementia care by including nursing values and behaviours. The aim of the strategy is to raise the profile of the wider nursing contribution to dementia care, and to describe what is expected of nurses so as to meet the quality and level of care expected in all care settings.

[To access the vision and strategy document, please click here](#)

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[Further details about the new network can be found here](#)

### **DoH: Statutory guidance on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies published**

To support health and wellbeing boards, the Department of Health has worked with stakeholders on producing statutory guidance which explains the duties and powers of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWSs).

The purpose of JSNAs and JHWSs is to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the local community and reduce inequalities for all ages. This guidance is especially important as under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, JSNAs and JHWSs will form the basis of CCG, the NHS Commissioning Board and local authority commissioning plans, across all local health, social care, public health and children's services.

[To access the guidance, please click here](#)

### **DCLG: Allocation of Disabled Facilities Capital Grant programme announced**

In March the Housing Minister confirmed £180 million to help councils fund the adaptations disabled people need to live independently in their own home. This grant is designed to give financial support to the installation of housing adaptations or modifications such as wider doorways, stair lifts and level access showers. Details of the allocation of this Disabled Facilities Grant to local authorities have been published by the government.

[Further information on the allocation can be read here](#)

### **DoH: Response to future of NICE**

In March the Department of Health responded to the Health Select Committee's recommendations on the future of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). It was announced that from April 2013 NICE was to be re-established in primary legislation, becoming a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) to be placed on solid statutory footing as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. It was announced that NICE was to be renamed the 'National Institute for Health and Care Excellence', and in their response the government welcomed NICE's increased responsibility for producing clinical guidance and quality standards in relation to social care. The government response also confirmed that NICE would play an important part in future value-based pricing of branded medicines and have a bigger role in evaluating drugs, through assessing a medicine's benefits and costs.

[To access the response, please click here](#)

### **Sitra: Summary of Budget 2013 key points relevant to housing, care and support sector**

In March the chancellor set out the budget. Sitra have produced a useful table outlining the key aspects of the budget that are relevant to the housing, care and support sector.

[To view the summary table, please click here](#)



## Reports and statistics

### **RCP: Report highlights 'unmanageable' workload of hospital registrar doctors**

Bringing together findings from the Medical registrar report and 2011 Census, the Royal College of Physicians' report, 'Hospital workforce: fit for the future?' looks at the key challenges that are facing the medical workforce.

It finds that: there is significant geographical variation in the number of consultants per head of the population across the country; there are also variations among specialties; there are not enough doctors with the skills to care for frail older patients; the workload of the medical registrar is increasingly unmanageable; and the report concludes that there needs to be a rethink of the skills in which doctors are trained, in order to better meet patients' needs and that the role of the medical registrar and the esteem in which it is held must be reassessed and better valued.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

### **CQC: New report shows care homes and hospitals are struggling to care for people with dementia**

In its review of the performance of care services in England in the nine month period up until 31 December 2012 CQC highlight the way in which the health and social care system is struggling to adequately care for people with dementia. The review finds that in more than half of PCT areas in the country, people with dementia living in a care home are more likely to go into hospital with avoidable conditions (such as urinary infections, dehydration and pressure sores) than similar people without dementia. Once in hospital, people with dementia are also more likely to stay there longer, to be readmitted, and to die there.

CQC see these findings as highlighting a system-wide challenge of integrating care across hospitals and care homes, and raising questions about whether the right services for people with dementia are being commissioned and whether NHS services can cope.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

### **Bevan Foundation: Research published on smoking and socio-economic status in Wales**

A report by the Bevan Foundation summarises research undertaken in 2012, interviewing more than 300 smokers in Wales about their attitudes to quitting. It finds that people from low income groups tend to use the least effective methods to help their quit attempt, but are often reluctant to participate in the NHS's preferred method of Stop Smoking groups.

The report concludes that a radical change of approach is needed and that smokers need to be offered a choice of treatment which is easily accessed, meets smokers' needs and is immediately available. It argues that all NHS staff – from GPs to pharmacists – need to be involved in actively helping smokers to quit.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

### **Mencap: Report shows over 1,200 people with a learning disability die needlessly every year in NHS care**

Research commissioned by Mencap and published in March found that 1,238 children and adults die across England every year because they are not getting the right health care. The research is a national estimate based on the findings of the Confidential Inquiry into premature deaths of people with a learning disability. The Inquiry's research team found that 37% of the deaths of people with a



learning disability were considered avoidable. And compared with the general population, men with a learning disability died on average 13 years earlier, while women with a learning disability died 20 years earlier.

[Further details about the research can be read here](#)