

February 2015

Welcome to February'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.

During January we were pleased to see a number of reports published relating to looked after children, such as the Centre for Social Justice's report into the support offered by local authorities to care leavers, which found that not enough is being done to help care leavers access employment and training opportunities. The Independent Children's Homes Association also published an interesting report into the impact an 'adequate' Ofsted inspection can have on children's homes, arguing that more needs to be done to support under-performing homes to ensure that the sector is sustainable.

With regard to criminal justice, the publication by the Ministry of Justice of annual youth justice statistics provides a detailed view of the current state of the youth justice system. In addition, the MoJ has produced a report into the impact of short custodial sentences on reoffending, which showed that there is still an increase in reoffending associated with these types of sentences, but made a number of interesting observations regarding certain supervision requirements which may have a positive effect.

In the area of adult social care and health, the CQC has published an in-depth report into the use of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, which looks back over the five year period since the safeguards were first introduced and the progress that has been made, whilst suggesting areas in which more could be done. A range of tools and guidance relating to the Care Act 2014 have been produced, ranging from support materials for employers regarding the Care Certificate, to practical guidance and advice for the production of care and support programmes, and these should prove interesting reading for providers and commissioners alike.

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

Children and young people's services

Policy

Ofsted: Early years initial teacher training will be inspected for the first time

From April 2015, Ofsted will inspect early years initial teacher training providers which provide training for those working with children up to five years of age. This is part of a drive to help raise standards in nurseries and early years settings, and Ofsted's Initial Teacher Education inspection handbook will be updated accordingly prior to the first inspections taking place.

[To read the full press release, please click here](#)

Reports

The Centre for Social Justice: Finding their feet – Equipping care leavers to reach their potential

This report looks at the support offered by local authorities to looked-after children and care leavers. It finds that councils are failing to properly prepare looked-after children for independent living, and that not enough is being done by authorities to help support care leavers with issues surrounding sexual health and parenting, mental illness, and accessing employment and training opportunities.

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

Family Rights Group: What happens to siblings in the care system?

This report investigates the current experience of siblings in the care system, and examines what steps can be taken to increase the likelihood of siblings being raised together. Based on a Freedom of Information request made to all English councils, it finds that far more needs to be done to keep sibling groups taken into care together, with half being separated at present.

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

Independent Children's Homes Association: Rethinking the current impact of an Adequate Ofsted inspection on placement in children's homes

This report was published by the Independent Children's Homes Association following a Freedom of Information request which found that 60% of local authorities would not place



children in homes rated 'adequate' by Ofsted. Alongside a 31% increase in the number of homes that had dropped from 'good' or 'outstanding' to 'adequate' between 2013 and 2014, the report argues that more must be done to support these children's homes to ensure that they improve. In order to achieve this, a number of recommendations are made, ranging from collaborative working between Ofsted, local authorities and providers, to calling for the production of good practice materials by the Department of Education.

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

Education Endowment Foundation: EAL and educational achievement in England

This report, jointly commissioned by the Education Endowment Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy and The Bell Foundation, analyses the achievement of pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) in England. It finds that, whilst on average EAL pupils achieve similarly to those for whom English is their first language, there is a wide variation in levels of achievement between EAL pupils. It also presents a systematic review of international research into interventions designed to improve EAL children's language skills.

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

Department for Education: Carter review of initial teacher training (ITT)

This report from Sir Andrew Carter, chair of the independent review of the quality and effectiveness of initial teacher training (ITT) courses, sets out how the ITT system is performing, and highlights examples of good practice and areas for improvement. It draws together a series of 18 recommendations for both government and the teaching sector as to how monitoring and performance of the ITT system can be improved.

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

Department for Education: Government response to the Carter review of initial teacher training (ITT)

This government response to the Carter review into the currently state of the initial teacher training (ITT) system (see above) sets out how it plans to respond to the recommendations made by Sir Andrew Carter.

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

Department for Education: Training and developing staff in children's homes

This report presents the findings from case studies carried out in a sample of children's homes between December 2013 and April 2014. It highlights a number of key issues, such as the recruitment and retaining of staff, and poor levels of workforce development. In response to these findings, it makes a number of suggestions as to how the training and development of staff in children's homes can be improved and made more sustainable.

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



Family and Childcare Trust: Childcare Costs Survey 2015

This report presents the results of the Family and Childcare Trust's annual survey into the cost of childcare. The data is collected from local authority Family Information Services, and the report monitors changes in childcare costs and supply from year to year.

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

Statistics

Ofsted: Fostering in England 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

This statistical release details numbers and profiles of foster carers and children in both local authority and independent services. It is based on data submitted by 99% of all fostering services and provides a complete view of the state of this section of children's social care services, including data on the number of young people who went missing from foster care, and the prevalence of incidents linked to child sexual exploitation.

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

Department for Education: Secondary school performance tables in England – 2013 to 2014

This statistical release provides performance tables relating to the attainment results of pupils at key stage 4, providing comparisons between schools within local authority areas and across the country.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)

Department for Education: School and college performance tables in England – 2013 to 2014

This statistical release provides performance tables containing information on the attainment of students of sixth-form age (16 to 19) in secondary schools and further education sector colleges for the 2013/14 academic year.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)

Department for Education: Destinations of key stage 4 and key stage 5 pupils – 2012 to 2013

This statistical publication shows the percentage of young people progressing to specified educational or employment destinations in the academic year 2012 to 2013. This is broken down into those leaving at key stage 4 and key stage 5, and data is available at local authority, constituency, institution and national levels.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)



Department for Education: Children's homes workforce census

This statistical report presents the results of a census into the pay, qualifications and training of people working in children's homes in England in 2013.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)

Tools and guidance

Ofsted: Examples of good practice working with disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs

Ofsted have pooled together a collection of examples of good practice when working with disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs, comprising a range of research and analysis published between 2011 and 2014. This collection of documents includes reports on preparing pupils for employment, raising aspirations amongst disabled pupils, and giving pupils a voice in decision making.

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

The Children's Partnership: The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Social Investment Toolkit

This toolkit, produced by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations for the Children's Partnership, explains how social investment can help organisation to fund work, covering topics from loans and bonds to crowd-funding and 'quasi-equity' investments. It maps out how an organisation can ready itself for social investment, put into place a robust business place, and ensure social targets are met.

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

Education Endowment Foundation: Families of Schools database

The Families of Schools database is a tool to help understand the performance of schools in comparison with others with similar characteristics. It groups schools into 'families' of 50 based on a range of criteria, and is intended to allow for collaborative learning and identification of areas for improvement.

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

Local Government Association: Tackling child sexual exploitation – a resource pack for councils

This resource pack is aimed at council members at all levels, highlighting the issue of child sexual exploitation and how it can be raised in a way which leads to effective, long-term change whilst ensuring that appropriate measures are always in place to minimise the rates of this area of crime.

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



Department for Education: SEND code of practice – 0 to 25 years

This revised guidance from the Department for Education relates to the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, and the code of practice comes into effect on 1 April 2015.

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

Department for Education: Children's safeguarding performance information framework

This framework sets out the nationally and locally collected data relating to the performance of child protection and safeguarding services which local authorities and others can use to compare their performance against other areas. It forms a useful tool for both comparing performance, and identifying the services which are most in need of improvement.

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

Department of Health: Measuring child development at age 2 to 2.5 years

This guidance relates to the ASQ-3 tool which will be used to collect data for a public health outcome measure of child development at age 2. It provides information about what the tool is, how it will be used, why it was chosen and what training staff will need for using the tool.

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

Criminal justice

Reports

Durham and London Metropolitan Universities: Domestic Violence Perpetrators – Changing the Story

This report presents research which suggests that domestic violence perpetrator programmes (DVPPs) could play an important role in reducing levels of domestic violence. Its findings show that the vast majority of men who abuse their partners stop physical and sexual violence if they attend a DVPP. These programmes involve weekly group work sessions, and perpetrators are also taught techniques to control their use of violence and abuse. Women partners and ex-partners are offered ongoing support and are kept informed about their partner's attendance and engagement with the programme.



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

HM Inspectorate of Probation: The contribution of Youth Offending Teams to the work of the Troubled Families Programme in England

This report presents the findings of an inspection of the Troubled Families programme, which focuses on turning around the lives of 120,000 troubled families through integrated, keyworker led, whole family working. It finds that youth offending teams (YOTs) have been significant and effective contributors to the programme, and that the shared objectives of the two means that YOTs should continue to be fully involved with the Troubled Families programme's work.

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

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies: Empower, resist, transform

This collection of essays focuses on how women facing criminalisation and gender based violence are repeatedly failed by society. It describes how criminal justice approaches often replicate and reinforce inequalities rather than tackle the root causes of harm and violence. Offering a critical analysis of the challenges involved with addressing these issues, the essays suggest how the criminal justice system could be radically scaled back to tackle these complex problems in a sustainable, socially just manner.

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

Women for Refugee Women: I am human – refugee women's experiences of detention in the UK

This report is based on the experiences of 38 women who have been detained at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. It finds that detention for refugee women has a profoundly negative effect on their mental health, with high reported levels of racism, sexual abuse, and suicidal thoughts. It draws together a number of recommendations for the better treatment of refugee women in the UK, arguing that all asylum claims can be considered while the applicant lives in the community.

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

Ministry of Justice: The impact of short custodial sentences, Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders on reoffending

This report presents the findings of a study examining the impact on adult reoffending outcomes of short custodial sentences, Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders.

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

Statistics



Youth Justice Board for England and Wales: Youth justice annual statistics for 2013 to 2014

This official statistical release provides key statistics about children and young people in the youth justice system. The figures show a continuing downward trend in the population of young people in custody, rates of re-offending, and numbers of First Time Entrants. In addition, a range of demographic information relating to children and young people in custody is included in the release, including detailed data regarding ethnicities of young people within the youth justice system.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)

Ministry of Justice: Safety in custody statistics

This statistical release covers deaths, self-harm and assaults in prison custody in England and Wales for 2014. It reveals that numbers of self-inflicted deaths in prisons have risen dramatically over the past year, as well as offering other insights into the level of safety in custody.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)

Ministry of Justice: Proven reoffending statistics – April 2012 to March 2013

This statistical release covers rates of reoffending of offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction, or a caution, reprimand or warning.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)

Ministry of Justice: Youth justice annual statistics – 2013 to 2014

This statistical release concentrates on the flow of young people aged 10 to 17 through the Youth Justice System in England and Wales. It gives details on the number of young people arrested along with proven offences, criminal history, and demographic characteristics, amongst other information.

[To read this statistical release, please click here](#)

Tools and guidance

Ministry of Justice: Mental Health Treatment – Supporting Integrated Delivery guidance

This guidance reflects the changes to responsibility for probation services in England and Wales resulting from the government's Transforming Rehabilitation reforms and the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014.

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

Adult social care and health

Reports

Care Quality Commission: Monitoring the use of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2013/14

The CQC's fifth annual report into the use of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards looks back both at the 2013/14 year, and also over the entire five year period since the safeguards were first introduced. It finds that whilst increasing numbers of people are being positively protected by the safeguards, there is still a level of regional variation in their use and a number of recommendations are made in order to address this and further improve the efficacy of the safeguards.

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

Palliative and end of life care Priority Setting Partnership: Final Report

This final report presents the findings of the Palliative and end of life care Priority Setting Partnership (PeolcPSP), which was initiated by Marie Curie and involved around 30 other organisations and groups. It determines the most important unanswered questions and gaps in existing evidence that could improve overall care and experience, ranging from examining how care can best be provided outside of working hours, to what training and information family and carers should be provided with, and how best to ensure continuity of service for patients.

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

The College of Social Work: Excellent social work with older people

This white paper report argues that the specialism of older people's social work should be offered as an option on both undergraduate and postgraduate courses and as continuous professional development. It outlines five priorities for action, which range from communicating to older people the ways in which social work can support them, to embedding research evidence into ensuring the evolution and improvement of social work with older people.

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

The King's Fund: British Social Attitude 2014 – Public satisfaction with the NHS and health care

This report outlines the findings of the British Social Attitudes survey with regards to the public's levels of satisfaction with a variety of NHS health services. It finds that in general public satisfaction with NHS services is increasing, and concludes that its findings may reflect a strong desire among the public to show support for the health service.

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



The Nuffield Trust and The King's Fund: Risk or reward? The changing role of CCGs in general practice

This joint report from the Nuffield Trust and The King's Fund finds that clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) risk becoming unsustainable without changes to the way they attract leaders and adequate funding to help them expand their remit. Based on research into the development of six CCGs across England, the report outlines a number of key recommendations to CCG leaders and partners regarding how to make the transition to co-commissioning in a way which will ensure their sustainability.

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

Local Government Association: Tackling the causes and effects of obesity

This report calls upon government at all levels to help people to live healthier lives and tackle the harm caused by obesity through a number of measures. Arguing for increased taxation of sweets and sugary drinks, and for the promotion of a culture of balanced and health diets and appropriate physical activity, the report makes a series of recommendations for local, regional and national level change.

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

Local Government Association: Tackling the causes and effects of alcohol misuse

This report from the Local Government Association argues that the transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to local authorities and Public Health England presents a unique opportunity to set out a local approach to tackling alcohol misuse. It calls for a number of changes in alcohol misuse services, and makes a series of recommendations ranging from giving councils power to consider public health issues when making licensing decisions, to strengthening trading standards and reinvesting alcohol sales duty in preventative measures.

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

Department of Health: Regulation of health and social care professionals - response

This report sets out the government's approach to public protection with regard to health and social care professionals. It covers the structure of proposed reforms, the establishment of a regulatory body, and the role of the Professional Standards Authority.

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

Independent Information Governance Oversight Panel: Information – to share or not to share

This is the first annual report of the Independent Information Governance Oversight Panel, which was set up by the Secretary of State for Health in November 2013. It looks at whether health and social care organisations are sharing information wisely and preventing improper disclosure of personal data. The report identifies some examples of good



practice, but in general its findings show a need for improvement. It concludes by making a series of recommendations as to how this failings can be addressed.

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

Tools and guidance

Department of Health: Mental Health Act 1983 – Code of Practice

This latest revision of statutory guidance gives providers advice on how to make sure that the Mental Health Act 1983 is followed correctly and is used in the best interest of those who are detained under it. Revised to take into account stakeholder views following a period of consultation, it reflects learning from CQC inspections, and guides professionals as well as patients, their families and carers on their rights. The code of practice will come into force on 1 April 2015.

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

British Geriatrics Society: Fit for Frailty guidance (part two)

This best practice guidance recommends a move away from traditional ‘activity based’ contracts, to a model which would see providers paid for helping service users to achieve agreed goals. The guidance outlines how health and care pathways could be set up to prevent avoidable hospital admissions and delayed discharges, and makes several other recommendations regarding the provision of health services to frail older people.

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

Skills for Care: Care Certificate Materials

This suite of online materials has been launched to help health and social care employers to prepare for assessing their staff against the Care Certificate, which will be launched in March 2015. The certificate will ensure workers are assessed against a set of 15 standards to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills to provide high quality care.

[To access these materials, please click here](#)

Social Care Institute for Excellence: Prevention Library

This resource, commissioned by the Department of Health, focuses on prevention services in adult social care. Including examples of current services, access to related resources and emerging research in the provision of prevention services across England, it acts as a valuable tool for commissioners and providers for identifying best practice in this area.

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

NICE: Using quality standards to improve practice in care homes for older people



This resource looks at how the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)'s quality standards can be put into practical use by those working in care homes for older people. It outlines who quality standards fit with other improvement initiatives, and suggests ways in which they can be used to improve practice, making it a valuable tool for care home managers and staff.

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

Think Local Act Personal: Delivering Care and Support Planning

This guidance, commissioned by the Department of Health in partnership with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, forms part of a suite of resources intended to support local government in implementing the Care Act 2014. This guidance offers councils ideas, lessons and practical examples as well as template care and support plans to ensure that they are both Care Act compliant, and person-centred in their approach to the delivery of adult social care.

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

Local Government Association: Guide to the Care Act 2014 and the implications for providers

The Local Government Association has produced this guidance, which is intended to act as a guide to providers of care regarding their responsibilities under the Care Act 2014. Whilst in practice much will remain the same for providers, this guide provides an important overview of the overhauled legislative base upon which social care will develop, and of which providers should be aware to ensure they remain compliant.

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