

July 2015

Welcome to July'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 June, there were a range of interesting reports relating to children and young people's services, including reports by the National Audit Office and The Sutton Trust on the Pupil Premium, and guidance from Ofsted on changes to education inspection coming into force in September 2015.

With regards to criminal justice, the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies' fourth annual UK Justice Policy Review combines analysis of the main policy developments of the past year with data on issues such as spending, staffing and the numbers going through the criminal justice system to provide an overview of the current state-of-play of the UK's criminal justice system. In addition, detailed statutory guidance has been published by the Home Office on how police and local authorities should use gang injunctions.

Concerning adult social care and health, the Care Quality Commission published a review of mental health crisis care, and The King's Fund has produced a detailed study of potential options for implementing integrated commissioning for health and social care, amongst other reports. NICE has also release guidance on improving the health and wellbeing of the health and social care workforce, which gives particular emphasis to the role of policy and management practices in improving and sustaining high levels of health and wellbeing.

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

Reports

Centre for Social Justice: Reforming the Child Poverty Act

This short report argues that the current government measures of poverty embedded in the Child Poverty Act 2010 are inadequate, and suggests the likely consequences of the government failing to meet its child poverty targets for 2020. It sets out a series of recommendations for how the new government can reform the Act in order to create a legislative framework which tackles the root causes of poverty.

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

Demos: Learning by doing

This report argues that there is strong evidence to suggest that character attributes have significant positive influences on both academic learning, and various later life outcomes, and that participation in non-formal learning activities, such as sport, drama and debating, play a vital role in developing these attributes. However, the report also presents findings which show that large numbers of young people in the UK, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, do not have enough opportunities to take part in these non-formal learning activities, potentially harming their chances of developing key skills.

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

Department for Education: Organisation, services and reach of children's centres

This report, carried out by a University of Oxford research team on behalf of the Department for Education, finds that almost half of children's centre staff questioned are dealing with families with complex needs who are already involved with social services. It warns that there is a risk of children's centres losing their open-access services as a consequence of increased targeting of services towards the most vulnerable.

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

Department for Education: Phonics Screening Check evaluation – Final report

This report, produced by the National Foundation for Educational Research for the Department for Education, is the final report of an evaluation which has run since 2012 of the Phonics Screening Check. The evaluation does not find any evidence of improvements in pupils' literacy performance as a result of the scheme.

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

Economic & Social Research Council: Child protection and assessment evidence briefing

This evidence briefing presents statistics which show that, despite a more than three-fold increase in referrals and assessments by children's social care since the introduction of the Children Act 1989, there has been no increase in the detection of child abuse. The report further finds that professionals often lack the realisation of the potential negative impact of a referral, and calls for early intervention strategies to be made more widely available.

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

Education Endowment Foundation: Improving Numeracy and Literacy – Evaluation report



This report, produced by the National Foundation for Educational Research for the Education Endowment Foundation, is an evaluation of the Improving Numeracy and Literacy programme, which aimed to improve the numeracy and literacy abilities of pupils in Year 2 through two separate programmes of teacher training. It finds that whilst there is evidence that the mathematics programme had a positive impact on pupils' numeracy ability, there was no evidence to suggest that the literacy programme had an impact on pupils' literacy ability overall.

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

Family and Childcare Trust: Access denied – A report on childcare sufficiency and market management in England and Wales

This report finds that around a quarter of all councils have not carried out and published assessments of local childcare, despite being required by law to do so. It expresses concern that areas that are not actively monitoring childcare places may experience a lack of supply, and acute shortages of places for under-fives, after-school and holiday childcare.

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

Local Government Association: A review of current arrangements for the operation of Local Safeguarding Children Boards

This study surveyed 89 chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in England, finding that widespread uncertainty around resources was seen to be having a negative impact on effectiveness. The report also found that serious case reviews can be too bureaucratic and expensive, while the resources required to complete them are disproportionate to their efficacy in improving practice.

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

London Assembly: London's children – Missing from care

This report, compiled by London Assembly member Caroline Pidgeon, is based on figures provided through a Freedom of Information Act request to all 32 London boroughs. It finds that from 2013 to 2014, the number of children who went missing from care for more than 24 hours more than doubled. The report expresses concern that those who go missing may fall prey to child sexual exploitation gangs, and suggests that councils are still failing to accurately collect information on young people in care.

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

National Audit Office: Funding for disadvantaged pupils

This report finds that introducing the Pupil Premium has increased school leaders' focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged children, with 94% of school leaders surveyed saying that they targeted support at disadvantaged pupils, compared with 57% before the creation of the Pupil Premium.

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

National Children's Bureau: Staying Put – Stakeholder consultation examining implementation and early impact of Staying Put

This report examines the implementation and early impact of the Staying Put initiative, which was made law through the Children and Families Act 2014 and put a duty on councils to support looked after children who want to remain with their foster carer until they are 21. The report finds that in



practice, the scheme is being hindered by a lack of funding from central government to enable councils to cover the additional cost.

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

NSCPP: How safe are our children? 2015

This annual report compiles and analyses the most up-to-date child protection data that exists across the four nations in the UK for 2015. It shows that the rate of recorded offences of cruelty to children in England is the highest since 2002/03, and that the number of contacts made by adults to the NSPCC's helpline regarding the neglect of a child has risen to a level 228% higher than five years ago.

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

Pearson: What doesn't work in education – The politics of distraction

This report seeks to examine why so many popular solutions to improve pupil achievement often have little to no evidence of impact on student learning. It outlines a series of distractions, which the report argues take attention away from other, potentially better, solutions, before suggesting solutions to these distractions.

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

Substance: Changing sport, changing communities and changing lives – StreetGames national evaluation

This report presents the evaluation of an initiative launched in 2013 by national sports charity StreetGames, which delivers sport to disadvantaged communities in new formats with the minimum amount of specialist equipment or facilities. It finds that based on likely reductions in substance misuse and antisocial behaviour, alongside improvements in education performance, school attendance, and health and wellbeing, the Doorstep Sports Club programme makes societal savings of around £69 million a year.

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

Sutton Trust: Missing talent

This study finds that across all children, 15% of pupils who scored in the top 10% nationally at age 11 in their Sats tests, failed to get into the top 25% at GCSE level. Furthermore, male pupils who had been eligible for free school meals at some point in their school lives were most likely to fall into this group, with more than one in three of this group underachieving at age 16. The report calls on the government to create a national programme with ring-fenced funding for highly able state school pupils.

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

Sutton Trust: Teaching by degrees – The university backgrounds of state and independent school teachers

This report uses data from the National Foundation for Educational Research's Teacher Voice Omnibus survey, and the Independent Schools Council's Teacher Survey, and finds that, while inequality remains between the qualifications of state and independent teachers, the gap has been narrowed over the past decade. It makes a series of recommendations to help continue this trend, calling for further incentives to be given to graduates from the UK's most prestigious universities to teach in state schools, and further efforts to be made to ensure that state school teachers have qualifications in the subjects that they are teaching.



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

Sutton Trust: The Pupil Premium – Next steps

This report by the Sutton Trust and the Education Endowment Foundation assesses the Pupil Premium and the use of evidence to improve results for disadvantaged pupils, and looks forward towards the next steps for the scheme. It makes a series of recommendations, beginning with the need for continued support for the Pupil Premium to further improve attainment for disadvantaged pupils, and calls on the government to reward schools who consistently improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils with their Pupil Premium.

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

Youth Access: Health inequality and access to justice – Young people, mental health and legal issues

This report analyses data from the 2010 and 2012 English and Welsh Civil and Social Justice Panel Survey to look for links between mental health issues, NEET status and social isolation. It finds that 35% of NEET young people suffered from mental health problems, compared with 14% of non-NEET young people, while 33% were classed as socially isolated compared with 16% of non-NEET young people.

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

Statistics

Adoption Leadership Board: Quarterly data reports

This statistical release shows that 740 adoption placement orders were granted between October and December 2014, compared with 780 in the previous three months, and have more than halved since the three months between July and September 2013.

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

Tools and guidance

NICE: Children's attachment

These draft guidelines, currently up for consultation, argue that health and social care providers should train all key workers in assessing attachment difficulties and parenting quality for children in, or on the edge of, care. In addition, the guidelines recommend intensive training for foster carers and adoptive parents of primary school-age children, and suggests that interventions for young people should be modified to allow for physical and sexual development, transition to adolescence, and emotions about their birth parents or original family.

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

Ofsted: Changes to education inspection from September 2015

This guidance details changes to how Ofsted will inspect early years provision, schools and further education and skills from September 2015. It provides access to the new common inspection framework and supporting handbooks, and also gives additional information outlining the key changes, including materials from Ofsted's national launch conferences.



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

Welsh Government: FaCE the challenge together – Family and community engagement toolkit for schools in Wales

This guidance and toolkit of resources has been designed as a practical aid for schools in Wales to help them to ensure that family and community engagement is at the heart of their wider approach. It addresses issues surrounding leadership for engagement schemes, embedding schemes across an entire school, developing community partnerships and multi-agency working, and helping families to actively support their child's learning.

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

Criminal Justice

Reports

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies: UK Justice Policy Review – Volume 4

The fourth in an annual series by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, supported by The Hadley Trust. This report tracks year-on-year developments in criminal justice and social welfare across the UK. It combines analysis of the main policy developments with data on issues such as spending, staffing and the numbers going through the criminal justice system.

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

HM Inspectorate of Probation: An inspection to assess the effectiveness of the reporting, monitoring and learning from the Youth Justice Board's community safeguarding and public protection incident procedures

This report by HM Inspectorate of Probation finds that youth offending teams (YOTs) are repeatedly failing to take into account a child's history when carrying out probes into serious incidents. As a result, YOTs are having difficulties in explaining why serious incidents are taking place, and in taking steps to prevent them in the future.

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

National Audit Office: Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales

This report finds that the funding to police and crime commissioners decreased by £2.3 billion (25%) in real-terms between 2010-11 and 2015-16, while individual forces have seen funding reductions of between 12% and 23%. The report argues that forces will need to transform the service they deliver if they are to meet the financial challenge of these reductions, and to address the changing nature of crime.

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

Tools and guidance

Home Office: Injunctions to prevent gang-related violence – Statutory guidance

This guidance published by the Home Office on how police and local authorities should use gang injunctions states that they can be used on young women and girls, but stresses that individual



circumstance must be considered. The revised guidance reflects legislative changes made in the Serious Crime Act 2015 and the Crime and Courts Act 2013. A practitioners' guide is also provided.

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

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Care Quality Commission: Right here, right now – Mental health crisis care review

This report reviews the help given to people in mental health crisis, which include people who are suicidal, having serious panic attacks or psychotic episodes. It finds that the current system is struggling to cope with demand, and also highlights what it describes as a lack of compassion from A&E staff.

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

The College of Social Work: The impact on Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) practice and service delivery by the Supreme Court judgement on Deprivation of Liberty

This report, published by The College of Social Work's AMHP network, reveals that the March 2014 Supreme Court ruling, known as the 'Cheshire West' ruling, has triggered a surge in requests for Mental Health Act assessments at some local authorities. It also finds that the ruling has provoked anxieties among some practitioners over the interface between the Mental Capacity Act, and the Mental Health Act, and when each framework should be applied for deprivation of liberty cases on psychiatric wards. Whilst seeking to clarify the judgment, the report makes a series of recommendations for how AMHPs can better address the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

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

Ernst and Young: Creating a better care system

This report, commissioned by the Local Government Association, intends to support the development of a description of better care and support for the future. It presents the consolidation of the findings and conclusions of engagement with the Local Government Association, local leads, and partner organisations, and proposes the establishment of a £1.3 billion a year transformation fund until 2019/20 to develop a new health and social care system. Supported by a pooled health and social care budget, devolved powers for health, and reformed incentives, the report argues that this fund should focus on keeping people independent and preventing complex and long-term conditions, to result in cost effective improvements to the population's health and wellbeing.

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

Family Mosaic: How to take control – A how-to guide for housing research into health

This report, produced in collaboration with the London School of Economics and the Chartered Institute of Housing, is based on Family Mosaic's experience of running a randomised control trial into a new service model to improve the health and wellbeing of older residents. It argues that for housing providers to be taken seriously as partners for the health sector, there needs to be a clear and realistic understanding of the outcomes which can be achieved, and that this must be backed up by a strong, credible evidence base, built using high quality methodologies.

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



Joseph Rowntree Foundation: How can and should UK society adjust to dementia?

This report explores the application of the social model of disability to dementia. In particular, the paper addresses social attitudes and understanding of dementia, the empowerment and involvement of people living with dementia, and the nature and development of services which go beyond the usual areas of health and social care.

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

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Does poor health affect employment transitions?

This reports examines the transitions people with poor health make between different employment states over time. It argues that government policies designed to move people with poor health from unemployment into work are likely to be ineffective, and follows the same group of people over time in order to build a three-dimensional picture of the link between health and the movement in and out of work over time. It finds that whilst qualifications can mitigate the impact of poor health, they cannot overcome them altogether.

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

The King's Fund: Options for integrated commissioning

This report explores the options for implementing a recommendation by the independent Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England, for a single ring-fenced budget and a single local commissioner. It assesses evidence of past joint commissioning attempts, studies current policy frameworks, and examines local innovations in integrated budgets and commissioning.

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

Local Government Association: Beyond fighting fires – The role of the fire and rescue service in improving the public's health

This report contains a series of case studies which explore the activities of the fire and rescue service, and suggests that the service has a unique ability to provide critical interventions, promote health messages and refer to appropriate services, due to the public trust and comprehensive access they hold. It therefore argues that fire and rescue authorities have a key role to play in ensuring that their communities are safe through responding to emergencies and also through their extensive preventative work.

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

Local Government Association: Making it better together – A call to action on the future of health and wellbeing boards

This joint report by the Local Government Association and NHS Clinical Commissioners outlines a set of proposals to local system leaders and the government to strengthen the impact and leadership of health and wellbeing boards across the country. It also outlines a shared commitment to support boards to reach their full potential as system leaders, driving forward changes that will improve the health of their communities.

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

Statistics

NHS England: Bed availability and occupancy



This statistical release is a quarterly collection from all NHS organisations which operate beds, open overnight or day only. Of particular note are statistics showing that mental health bed occupancy is at its highest level for at least five years, with an average occupancy of 89.5%.

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

Tools and guidance

NHS England: Five Year Forward View – Time to deliver

This tool is aimed at managers and looks at the progress made to date towards delivering the Five Year Forward View, which was published in October 2014 and set out a vision for the future of the NHS. The tool outlines the next steps needed to achieve the shared ambitions of the plan, and aims to assist managers in engaging with patients and other partners on how the NHS can respond to long-term challenges, and close the health and wellbeing gap, the care and quality gap, and the funding and efficiency gap.

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

NICE: Workplace policy and management practices to improve the health and wellbeing of employees

These guidelines make recommendations on improving the health and wellbeing of employees, and also evaluates the cost-effectiveness of various strategies for doing so. It recommends that senior managers should consider the health and wellbeing of employees as a core priority, and as such should produce a solid business case for ensuring that it remains so.

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