

## July 2013

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 have been a number of developments in the field of children's services. For example, we were interested to see the establishment of an independent serious case review panel; consultations on tougher child protection inspections and arrangements for children's homes, children who go missing, and the safeguarding of looked after children; as well as the evaluation of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) pathfinder programme and research into the step up to social work programme.

In adult social care and health, we were particularly interested in the spending review announcements and implications for further integrating health and social care, and are looking forward to seeing the outcomes of the King's Fund commission to rethink health and social care.

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

#### **DCLG: Troubled Families programme receives extra £200 million boost**

It was announced in June that the government's Troubled Families programme will receive a cash boost of £200m. This additional funding is intended to extend intensive help to 400,000 high risk families to enable them to deal with problems before they spiral out of control. Central government will cover 40% of the cost of working with each family. This funding will come from across Whitehall, with full payment only being made when results are achieved. The other 60% will be covered by local authorities and other local partners who all benefit from the savings that result. A one-off average investment of £4,500 to work with each family is expected to reduce the annual £15,000 cost of dealing with their problems, by supporting families to access work, reducing anti-social behaviour, poor school attendance and criminality.

[To read more about this announcement please click here](#)

#### **DfE: Serious case review panel established**

In June the Education Secretary Michael Gove established a new independent panel to help ensure that lessons are learned when a child dies or is seriously harmed and there are signs of abuse or neglect.

The independent panel members will include Peter Wanless, Nicholas Dann, Elizabeth Clarke and Jenni Russell who will advise and challenge local safeguarding children boards to initiate and publish high-quality serious case reviews in order that lessons can be learned at a national level to drive up the quality of child protection services and avoid mistakes being repeated.

[This announcement can be read here](#)

#### **DfE: Consultations on children's home regulations, guidance for children who go missing from care, and improving safeguarding for looked after children launched**

Three consultations have been launched by the DfE which require consultation by the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013. These focus on: A) Changes to the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended) and the Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010; B) Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care; and C) Improving safeguarding for looked-after children: changes to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.

The consultation on children's homes seeks views on proposals to amend the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 (as amended) ('the Children's Homes Regulations'), with a related amendment to the Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010 ('the Registration Regulations'), and a minor amendment to the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 (covered at paragraph 12) ('the Fostering Services Regulations').

The amendments are deemed necessary by the Government in order to improve collaboration and partnership between children's homes and services in their local communities so that there are effective safeguards in place for the vulnerable group of children relying on residential care.

[The consultation documents can be accessed here](#)



The consultation on statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care is an update to July 2009 guidance, which the government view as needing updating in order to reflect: widespread concerns about children in care being sexually exploited; changes in policy, such as the requirement of national indicator 71 which no longer applies; and recent changes in statutory guidance (Care planning and Working Together). The guidance will also include flow charts to make clearer the actions required of local agencies and carers when a child goes missing from home or care.

[The consultation documents can be accessed here](#)

The consultation on improving safeguarding for looked-after children seeks views on proposals to amend the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. The Government are proposing these amendments to ensure that where looked-after children are placed out of authority in distant placements, they are effectively safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. These proposals take forward the recommendations in the report of the Expert Group on Children's Homes Quality, which included conclusions from the Out of Area Placements Task and Finish Group, published in April.

[The consultation documents can be accessed here](#)

#### **Ofsted: Consultation on child protection inspections unveils tougher inspections**

Changes whereby child protection and looked-after children's services will be deemed 'inadequate' even if just part of their work is failing, were revealed in a consultation document for joint child protection and looked-after children's services inspections which closed on July 12<sup>th</sup> 2013. Ofsted will give its most damning judgement for overall effectiveness of 'inadequate' if councils are found to be 'inadequate' in any one of three areas assessed. These are: the experiences and progress of children in need of protection; the experiences of looked-after children including adoption and support for care leaver services; and the leadership, management and governance of the service.

[The consultation documents can be found here](#)

#### **DfE: Findings from the review of 2013 to 2014 school funding reform announced and arrangements and changes for 2014 to 2015 outlined**

In 2012 the government started a process to reform the school funding system that was aimed to make it fairer, more consistent and transparent, and so that funding intended for education reaches the schools and pupils that need it most.

Last year the DfE set out how the system would start to change ahead of introducing a national funding formula in the next spending review period and now schools are funded using a number of clearly defined factors. This document published by the DfE sets out the findings from a review into the changes needed to be made in order to move closer to a national school funding formula.

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

## **Research**

#### **DfE: Statistics for provision for children under 5 in England published**

The DfE have released a publication that includes data on the provision of education for children under 5 years of age, including funded places and overall numbers of children benefiting from early years education. The latest statistics are for January 2013 and update those released last year. The information included in this publication is sourced from the early years census and school census.



Key points from the latest release are:

A) In January 2013, the number of 3- and 4-year-olds benefiting from some funded early education was 1,283,500 or 96% of the 3- and 4-year-old old population (1,264,420 or 95% in 2012) - an increase of 19,080 children.

B) In January 2013, the part-time equivalent number of funded early education places taken up by 3- and 4-year-olds was 1,253,000 or 94% of 3- and 4-year-old children (1,229,500 or 93% in 2012).

[The statistics can be accessed here](#)

### **Ofsted: Report finds that too many bright children are being let down in the state system**

A report by Ofsted published in June, 'The most able students: are they doing as well as they should in our non-selective secondary schools?', found that too few maintained schools and academies set high enough expectations of what their brightest students can achieve.

The conclusions are based on a review of evidence from a variety of sources, including reports from over 2,000 lessons observed by inspectors, and visits to 41 non-selective secondary schools across the country.

[Further information about the research can be found here](#)

### **DfE: Evaluation of the SEND pathfinder programme process and implementation published**

In June the DfE published a report which is the first of 2 volumes containing the evaluation findings from the first 18 months of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) pathfinder programme. Twenty pathfinder sites, comprising 31 local authority areas, were tasked to develop and trial: an integrated assessment process; a single, joined up 'education, health and care plan'; personal budgets for children and young people from birth to 25 years across education, social care and health and adult services.

This report covers the process and implementation evaluation, which describes and analyses the new approaches created over the course of the programme. It contains data gathered through self-reporting of progress by pathfinders against the common delivery framework and in-depth case study work in 10 selected areas.

[The evaluation report can be accessed here](#)

### **DfE: Report published presenting learning from trials of 10 local authorities offering early learning to 2-year-olds**

During 2012 to 2013 the DfE funded 10 local authorities to offer early learning to those 2-year-olds, within specific localities, meeting the eligibility criteria due to be introduced nationally in September 2013. The local authorities took practical steps to overcome a range of challenges around supply, quality and parental demand. The overall aim of the trials was to enable local authorities to test how best to deliver early learning to all eligible children in a particular geographic area or areas, and a report published in June sets out some of the work the trial authorities undertook against the main objectives. Further information from the ten trial local authorities will be available on the 'Achieving Two Year Olds' Knowledge Hub.

[The report can be accessed here](#)



### **Ofsted: Report finds independent reviewing officers are not making enough positive change to quality of care for looked after children**

A report by Ofsted was published in June that found that independent reviewing officers (IROs) are not making enough positive impact on the quality of care planning and outcomes for looked after children. According to the report IROs have been too slow in taking on their enhanced responsibilities.

The purpose of an IRO is to ensure that the care plan for a looked after child clearly sets out the help, care and support that they need and takes full account of their wishes and feelings. Since April 2011, changes to care planning regulations have strengthened the IRO role so that they are not only responsible for chairing statutory reviews but also for monitoring children's care plans on an ongoing basis. In addition they should monitor the local authority's overall performance as a 'corporate parent' for looked after children.

The report by Ofsted 'Independent reviewing officers: taking up the challenge?' draws on evidence from 111 cases across 10 local authorities. Inspectors found that IROs did not always sufficiently challenge drift and delay in plans for individual children. Children's views were not always taken into full account. The IRO role in assessing the effectiveness of local authority support and plans for looked after children was underdeveloped.

[The report can be accessed here](#)

### **Cafcass: Family courts calling fewer expert witnesses**

Research by Cafcass published in June found that fewer experts are being used in family courts. Experts were instructed in 70% of the cases in Cafcass study sample, in contrast to a previous study of care applications, concluded in 2009, which found that experts were instructed in 92% of cases. However, it reports that confidence in the system is high with 88% of guardians saying experts add value.

[Information on the research can be found here](#)

### **DfE: Research published on the recruitment, selection and delivery of the Step Up to Social Work programme, and the experiences of the first set of trainees who undertook it**

The Step up to Social Work programme is a fast-track master's level qualifying programme for social work, targeted at high-calibre recruits to the profession, which began in England in 2010. The programme was government funded and was designed to be employer-led, coordinated and provided at regional partnership level with higher education institutions (HEIs).

An evaluation published in June presents research designed to capture the experiences of the first cohort of trainees, and includes a limited amount of feedback from cohort two. The report looks at issues surrounding recruitment, trainees' satisfaction with support from their local authority and from universities, and their views on preparation for practice.

[The report can be read here](#)

### **Welsh Government: Report published on Literacy and Numeracy in Wales**

A research paper has been published by the National Assembly for Wales Research Service which sets out the context of the Welsh Government's policy interventions in respect of literacy and numeracy and seeks to explain the importance with which these are being undertaken. The paper gives details of the new Literacy and Numeracy Framework, which becomes a statutory requirement from September 2013, and the introduction of national tests in reading and numeracy on an annual basis from May 2013. It also discusses some of the responses within the teaching sector to these



policies and draws on other evidence to explore issues relating to children's literacy and numeracy in Wales.

[The report can be read here](#)

### **DfE: Research on children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales published**

A statistical release gives statistics on children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March 2013 and includes data from England and Wales. It includes information on places approved, and children accommodated by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement. The latest statistics update those previously released on 24 July 2012.

Key findings are that:

A) At 31 March 2013, there were 291 approved places in England and Wales, a decrease of 3% from the previous year. This represents a fall of 14% from 31 March 2009.

B) 71% of approved places in England and Wales were occupied, a decrease of 9 percentage points from 2012. There was a large decrease in the occupancy rate in 2011, then a large increase in 2012. The decrease in 2013 has brought the figure back to the level in 2011.

C) 65% of the children within secure children's homes were male.

[The report can be read here](#)

### **Commons Home Affairs Select Committee: Report finds sexually exploited children are still being failed**

In June the Home Affairs Committee published a report called 'Child sexual exploitation and the response to localised grooming'. According to the inquiry into child sexual exploitation by the committee, recent criminal cases which revealed the devastating impact of sexual exploitation on children have laid bare a "woeful lack of professional curiosity" from statutory agencies in different areas of the country.

[The report can be found here](#)

## **News**

### **Young carers to receive new rights after the government acknowledged calls for an amendment to the Children and Families Bill**

An amendment to ensure that young people in England can stay with their foster carers after their 18th birthday was introduced at the report stage of the Children and Families Bill. The change will give young carers a legal entitlement to assessment and support so that they have the same right to help from local authorities as adult carers. It is estimated that the change will benefit 70,000 young carers who look after their parents or siblings.

While the amendment was not taken to a vote in the Commons, Children's Minister Edward Timpson acknowledged the strength of the campaign and stated that he could look again at legislation in the future.

[Coverage of the issue in Children and Young People Now can be read here](#)



### **Ofsted: Norfolk and the Isle of Wight to be first local authorities for new inspection of school improvement**

In June Ofsted inspectors began inspecting local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement in two parts of the country – Norfolk and the Isle of Wight – to find out why these authorities have such a disproportionate number of under-performing schools.

The HM Chief Inspector said that Ofsted was determined to find out what lies behind this under-performance and to challenge and work with local authorities to raise standards and close the gap between the worst and best performing authorities in England. The five-day inspections are taking place under the new framework which came into force last month.

[Details about these inspections can be found here](#)



## Criminal Justice

### Research

#### **EHRC: Reports published showing that EHRC enabled police to be fairer and more efficient in their use of stop and search**

Following intervention from the EHRC, police forces have reduced their unfair use of stop and search powers, while continuing to see a reduction in crime rates, according to a report published by the EHRC. The report 'Stop and Think Again' also reveals that the five forces concerned have seen reductions of up to 50 % in overall usage and a fall for some in the disproportionate use against ethnic minorities. Forces are being fairer and more efficient in their use of stop and search as a result. This followed the Commission's intervention which focused on an intelligence-based use of stop and search powers rather than one based on racial stereotypes.

[More details on this research can be found here](#)

#### **MoJ: Interim re-conviction figures for the Peterborough and Doncaster Payment by Results pilots published**

Interim re-conviction figures for the Peterborough and Doncaster Payment by Results reducing reoffending pilots were published in June. These show mixed results, but should be treated with utmost caution since the trials have not been running for a long enough period to establish clear effects.

[The data can be found here](#)

### Tools

#### **Home Office: More detailed crime information is available on police.uk**

New crime data categories including 'bicycle theft' and 'theft from the person' have been introduced to ensure the public and any other interested parties are able to see the types of crimes which affect them on [www.police.co.uk](http://www.police.co.uk). By providing this information the government aims to empower the public to raise issues at local beat meetings, or challenge their elected police and crime commissioner in order to help them to take an active role in preventing crime and antisocial behaviour in their community.

[Details on these improvements to the online tool can be found here](#)

#### **MOJ: Innovation and Evaluation in Youth Justice resources published**

A new 'Innovation and Evaluation in Youth Justice: Advice and Resources' toolkit was published by the MOJ. This was in response to the effective practice priority of 'Evaluating programmes and using evidence-based methodology', identified by the youth justice sector as a top priority in the 2011/12 effective practice prioritisation exercise.

[The advice and resources can be found here](#)



## Adult Social Care and Health

### Policy

#### **HM Treasury: Spending review and announcement of £3.8bn fund for health and social care integration**

The 2013 Spending Round was outlined in June, and with total savings to be made of over £11.5 billion, most government departments will need to continue to make significant cuts to their budgets.

Key announcements in the review include: a freeze on council tax for 2 years; introduction of an annual welfare cap from 2015; £3 billion investment for social housing; capital spending on health to rise by £4.7 billion; 10% cuts for Department for Communities and Local Government, the Treasury and the Department for the Environment; £3.8 billion fund for health and social care integration

The fund for health and social care integration will be spent on services to be “commissioned jointly and seamlessly by the local NHS and councils working together”. A transfer of funds from the NHS to councils’ social care budgets has taken place on an annual basis since 2011, and the value of the transfer has risen gradually every year, reaching £1bn in 2014-15.

The £3.8bn integration transformation fund will be a pooled fund, held by local authorities and funded from: the £0.9bn of funding NHS England planned to transfer to fund social care in 2014-15; an additional £0.2bn of investment in 2014-15 (to be agreed as part of mandate discussions for 2014-15 with DH); DH and other Government department transfers of £0.4bn (capital grants); reablement funding of £0.3bn; carers’ break funding of £0.1bn; core CCG funding of £1.9bn.

[The Health Service Journal coverage of the Spending Review can be found here](#)

[The published Spending Review reports can be read here](#)

#### **CQC: Changes to rating of hospitals and monitoring of nursing home death rates announced**

The Care Quality Commission introduced new ratings in June which will tell hospitals to make urgent improvements if any department is providing poor care. The “tough and rigorous” ratings are similar to those used by the education monitor Ofsted, but will go further than Ofsted’s single overall ranking for schools in England by giving an official assessment, from “inadequate to “outstanding”, based on inspections of every department of every hospital. The CQC hopes the ratings will drive up standards and give patients and families a better insight into the quality of treatment they can expect from particular hospital services.

In addition CQC will monitor death rates in nursing homes in an attempt to assess whether elderly people are being failed by the social care system, and announced that they will consider how to assess whether a high number of deaths at a care home would spark an investigation. This issue was topical following a BBC Panorama investigation that found that some homes had not notified the authorities.

[Detail on these changes to rating can be found here](#)

#### **DfE and PHE: National Health Visitor Plan published**

The ‘National Health Visitor Plan: Progress to date and implementation 2013 onwards’ is a joint Department of Health, NHS England, Public Health England and Health Education England document, and was published in June. It sets out how these partner organisations will work with the health profession, families and communities to achieve the government’s health visiting commitment to increase the workforce by 4,200, transform the service by April 2015 and support its sustainability



beyond 2015. The department and partner organisations are now at the half-way point of a 4 year programme of recruitment and retention, professional development and improved commissioning linked to public health improvement.

[The plan can be read here](#)

### **DCLG: Local authorities encouraged to provide stable homes for families and tackle use of bed and breakfast accommodation**

In June the housing Minister Mark Prisk called on councils to reduce the number of families residing in bed and breakfast accommodation. This came as data was published that showed that of the 760 families placed in bed and breakfast accommodation for longer than 6 weeks, nearly 80% came from 15 councils. It also came alongside research by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and published in the Observer which found that in wealthy areas the government's clampdown on benefits was forcing up the cost of housing low-income families as people are shifted into hotels and bed and breakfasts.

The minister said that while most local authorities ensured families at risk of homelessness were not placed in this unsuitable accommodation for longer than 6 weeks, a minority still needed to make changes and use the support available from government to meet their legal duty. To tackle the issue it was announced that the Government will offer councils £2 million to adopt a "Gold Standard" approach to homelessness by testing new solutions and learning from neighbouring areas who have managed to turn the situation around.

[Details of the announcement can be read here](#)

### **Public Health England: Death rate league table launched to challenge councils**

A national league table showing rates of premature death was unveiled by Public Health England (PHE) as part of a strategy to help the public "challenge those in positions of responsibility". PHE has launched its Longer Lives website in order to enable councils target action and learn best practice. Longer Lives shows rates of premature deaths – those before the age of 75 – for cancer, heart and stroke, lung and liver diseases. These four conditions account for 75 per cent of the 153,000 annual premature deaths. The league tables have met with mixed response, and the Local Government Association reportedly view the tables as potentially misleading.

[News coverage on this launch can be read here](#)

[The Longer Lives website can be viewed here](#)

## **Research**

### **Laing and Buisson: Research shows councils ease pressure on care homes with near-inflationary fee rise**

Laing and Buisson research published in June showed that councils have relieved the pressure on care home providers with a near-inflationary rise in fees this year. Fees for older people's care homes across the UK have risen by 1.8% for 2013-14, just below the 2% Laing & Buisson estimate is necessary to keep up with care home cost inflation.

The bridging of this gap is in part put down in part because providers have maintained tight discipline on pay rates, helped by price inflation generally subsidising for non-staff items. This year's baseline fee results are relatively positive for the care home sector, but there will be no collective sigh of relief from care home providers, since none of the ground lost in the previous three years has yet been regained



and there remains no sign of any inflation busting increases in the years to come, with councils' budgets expected to remain under severe pressure.

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

#### **ONS: Research presenting ONS data on wellbeing and health published**

Research was published by the ONS showing data on those reported to suffer from some mental health conditions. There was evidence of anxiety or depression in 19% of people aged 16 or over, with 21% of women reporting the symptoms and 16% of men. People who were divorced or separated were more likely to have symptoms of mild to moderate mental ill health, with 27% showing signs of the conditions compared with 20% of those who were single, cohabiting or widowed and 16% of those who were married or in a civil partnership. Higher levels were also recorded by those who were not in paid work – 23% reported they were experiencing mental health issues, compared with 15% of those in paid work.

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

#### **Auditor General for Wales: Report on Implementation of the National Framework for Continuing NHS Healthcare published**

A report published by the Auditor General for Wales found that implementation of the Framework for Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC) had delivered some improvements, but that more needs to be done to ensure consistency and fairness across Wales, and the limited progress in dealing with a backlog of challenges over eligibility for CHC continues to be a cause for concern.

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

#### **King's Fund: Quarterly monitoring report on health system performance published**

The King's Fund have published their quarterly performance report, which aimed to take stock of what has happened over the past year and assess the state of the health and care system halfway through the £20 billion Nicholson Challenge.

The report finds that for the final quarter of 2012/13, nearly 6% of patients waited four hours or longer in A&E, the highest level since 2004. The growing pressure on hospitals was also reflected in a survey of NHS finance directors carried out for the report. This suggests that, although the NHS will end 2012/13 in a healthy financial position, the outlook for the next two years is bleak, with the majority expecting the NHS to fail to meet its target to deliver £20 billion in productivity improvements by 2015. Despite the pressures in emergency care, the report shows that other NHS performance measures are continuing to hold up well. Waiting times for referral to treatment in hospital, the number of health care-acquired infections and delays in transferring patients out of hospital all remain stable.

[The report can be read here](#)

#### **Older People's Commissioner for Wales: Report on older people's participation published**

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, launched her first Impact and Reach Report 'Standing Up, Speaking Out', which highlights the action she has taken during her first 9 months as Commissioner to drive forward the change that older people have told her they want and need to see.

[The report can be viewed here](#)



## News

### **King's Fund: King's Fund commission established to rethink health and social care**

In June the King's Fund launched a commission to consider the future of health and social care. Chaired by economist Kate Barker, a former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, it will consider whether the 1948 welfare state settlement, which established different systems for health and social care, remains fit for purpose. The King's Fund said this set it apart from other reviews that have been conducted.

The commission will answer three broad questions: whether the boundaries between health and social care need to be withdrawn; whether the entitlements and criteria used to decide who can access care should be aligned; and whether health and social care funding should be brought together and, if so, at what level.

[Details on the commission can be found here](#)

### **HSJ: Quarter of CCGs facing financial 'difficulty'**

The Health Services Journal reported in June that the NHS England finance director has said that about a quarter of clinical commissioning groups are facing "real difficulty" in "making ends meet" this financial year. This is in the light of NHS England's requirement for all CCGs to make a surplus of at least 1 per cent, spend at least 2 per cent of their budget non-recurrently, and hold a contingency reserve of at least 0.5 per cent.

[This news coverage can be read here](#)