

May 2014

Welcome to May'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.

April saw the impact of the Children and Families Act 2014 in the form of a number of changes to statutory guidance for children and young people's services, whilst family justice reforms have led to changes in the court system for dealing with divorce and custody arrangements. Strategy and reporting in adult social care and health has focussed on a number of areas, including learning disabilities and autism, primary care for vulnerable populations and the regulation of health and social care professionals.

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 or 020 7330 9170.



Children and young people's services

Policy

Department for Education: Statutory guidance: Keeping children safe in education

This statutory guidance sets out the measures schools and colleges must take to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under 18, including advice on recruitment. It relates to maintained schools and colleges, independent schools, academies schools, free schools, alternative provision academies and free schools, pupil referral units, further education colleges and sixth form colleges.

[Click here to access the guidance.](#)

Department for Education: Statutory guidance: Children Act 1989

Following the Children and Families Act 2014, a number of pieces of statutory guidance for local authority support to children and families have been updated.

[Click here to access the updated care planning, placement and case review guidance.](#)

[Click here to access the updated court orders and pre-proceedings guidance.](#)

Department for Education and Department of Health: Guidance: Implementing the 0-25 special needs system

This guidance provides advice to local authorities and health partners on implementing the 0-25 special needs system from September 2014. It covers the changes being made to the special educational needs system and what organisations need to do to implement the system. It includes example education, health and care plans for guidance. There is also related guidance for all post-16 colleges and academies.

[Click here to access the general guidance.](#)

[Click here to access the guidance for post-16 colleges and academies.](#)

Reports

NSPCC: How safe are our children? 2014

This report by the NSPCC compiles child protection data from all four nations of the UK. It uses 20 different indicators to explore the safety of children in the UK. It aims to both understand current levels of abuse and neglect and to measure progress in addressing abuse and neglect. In addition, it summarises risk factors for a child to experience abuse or neglect.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

Department for Education: National statistics – outcomes for children looked after by local authorities

This statistical release provides data at a national and local authority level on outcomes for children looked after by local authorities continuously for at least 12 months. It reports on outcomes like



educational attainment, special educational needs, exclusions from school, health (including emotional and behavioural health), offending and substance misuse. It indicates that, although looked after children experience poorer outcomes than their non-looked after peers, these outcomes are improving over time and the educational attainment gaps are decreasing. However, it also shows that looked after children still experience significant problems relating to health, behaviour and offending.

[Click here to access the statistical release.](#)

Department for Education: Clinical judgement and decision-making in children's social work

This report examines the behavioural factors that affect social workers' decisions at the entry point for children coming in to contact with the Child Protection System. It looks at how this entry process can be improved and how to support social workers to make better decisions. The report finds that key factors affecting social workers' decision-making include: time and workload pressures, receiving low quality information on which to base decisions, having to make numerous important decisions throughout the day, and a number of behavioural biases.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

Ofsted: The children's views digest

This report aims to draw together the work of the Children's Rights Director over the past ten years by summarising children's opinions and experiences as provided in consultations. It outlines the views heard on a range of welfare, rights and safeguarding subjects.

[Click here to access the digest.](#)

Ofsted: From a distance: looked after children living away from their home area

This report is based on inspections of local authorities to investigate how effectively they support looked after children who live away from their home communities. Although it highlights some positive practice, it also presents a number of recommendations for how to improve support for this group.

[Click here to access the report.](#)



Criminal Justice

Policy

Family justice reforms implemented in England and Wales

A series of family justice reforms were implemented this month. These include: the establishment of a new Family Court system, which attempts to simplify processes and make them more efficient; the introduction of a 26 week time limit for care proceedings in order to deliver quicker outcomes for children; and compulsory family mediation meetings for couples wishing to use the courts to settle childcare and financial arrangements when separating.

[Click here to access the government press release.](#)

Reports

Youth Justice Board: Deaths of Children in Custody: Action Taken, Lessons Learnt

This report outlines how the Youth Justice Board has responded to recommendations resulting from inquests, Prisons and Probation Ombudsman reports, Serious Case Reviews and government-commissioned inquiries relating to deaths of children in custody. It outlines actions taken in the areas of: placements, assessments and terminology; restraint; national standards; and recommendations in relation to specific cases.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

Cardiff University: Violence in England and Wales in 2013: An Accident and Emergency Perspective

This report presents an analysis of violence-related injury rates and violence trends in England and Wales, based on injury records from Accident and Emergency departments in 2013. The analysis indicates that treatment following violence in 2013 decreased in comparison to 2012 and that treatment following serious violence also decreased, which has been a year-on-year trend since 2008. It highlights that men and those aged 18-30 were at highest risk of attending Accident and Emergency departments following a violence-related injury, and that attendance was higher at the weekend.

[Click here to access the report.](#)



Adult social care and health

Policy

Department of Health: NHS Choice Framework

This policy paper by the Department of Health is aimed at the general public. It outlines when patients have choices about their healthcare, where they can access information about choices, and how to complain if they are not offered choices. It covers GPs, outpatient physical and mental health services, hospitals, maternity services, community-based services, personal health budgets, participating in research and accessing treatment in another European Economic Area country.

[Click here to access the Framework.](#)

HM Government: “Think Autism”: an update to the government adult autism strategy

The government has published an update to the *Think Autism*, the adult autism strategy. This set out the planned action by a range of government departments in order to improve the lives of people with autism. There is a strong focus in the updated strategy on innovation, local implementation work, increasing communities’ awareness of autism, and making these communities more accessible to people with autism.

The strategy also provides details of the Autism Innovation Fund, which includes £4.5 million available in 2014-15 to fund creative solutions and identify innovative models of good practice that could be replicated elsewhere.

[Click here to access the updated strategy.](#)

Department of Health and NHS England: Transforming Primary Care: Safe, proactive, personalised care for those who need it most

This joint plan by the Department of Health and NHS England outlines how they envisage delivering Primary Care that is more proactive, personalised and joined up. In particular, it includes plans to provide 800,000 patients with complex health and care needs with a personal care and support plan, a named accountable GP, a professional to coordinate their care and same-day telephone consultations.

[Click here to access the joint plan.](#)

Reports

Department of Health: Strengthening the commitment: 1 year on: progress report on the UK Modernising Learning Disabilities Nursing Review

This report outlines progress made in England over the past year against the 17 recommendations of *Strengthening the Commitment: The report of the UK Modernising Learning Disability Nursing Review (2012)*, which related to capacity, capability, quality and the nursing profession. It describes the extent to which the recommendations have been translated into practice.

[Click here to access the report.](#)



Law Commission, Scottish Law Commission, Northern Ireland Law Commission: Regulation of Health and Social Care Professionals

This report reviews UK law in relation to the regulation of healthcare professionals and also the regulation of social workers in England. It highlights the fragmented and inconsistent nature of current regulatory frameworks and suggests that these are expensive and difficult to navigate. Finally, it makes a series of recommendations for reform, which detail a recommended regulatory structure and remit.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

National Inclusion Board: A Review of the Literature on sex workers and social exclusion

This report considers the risk factors for entering into sex work and how these relate to vulnerability and social exclusion. It also explores the impact of social exclusion on the lives of sex workers and how the level of social exclusion varies across different groups of sex workers. It then looks at barriers to social inclusion and stability faced by sex workers.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: The impact of welfare reform on social landlords and tenants

This research explores how cuts to welfare spending are affecting social housing tenants, landlords and the relationships between them. It focuses on a range of changes, including those to the Housing Benefit size criteria, Council Tax Benefit, disability benefits and Universal Credit.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Learning for care homes from alternative residential care home settings

This report considers what providers of residential care for older people can learn from other sectors. Whilst it acknowledges that the evidence base for effectiveness is limited, the report summarises potential learning from residential services for children and young people, residential services and supported housing for people with learning disabilities and hospices.

[Click here to access the report.](#)

Welsh Government: The Duty to Review Interim Report: Post-Legislative Assessment of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010

This interim report reviews the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010, legislation designed to improve mental health services in Wales. The report finds that there has been broad support and positive reception for the Measure, and that it has provided an impetus for improving services and formalising good practice. However, it also finds that the pace of change has presented some challenges to services, requiring strong leadership and communication between all relevant agencies.

[Click here to access the report.](#)



Inclusion Health: Reports on improving access to primary care and reducing avoidable hospital admission for vulnerable populations

Two reports investigate how to improve access to primary care and prevent avoidable hospital admission among vulnerable groups. The reports focus on vulnerable migrants, Gypsies and Travellers, homeless people and sex workers.

The first report presents a review of the literature and evidence on improving access to primary care and preventing avoidable hospital admission for vulnerable groups.

[Click here to access this report.](#)

The second report briefly summarises elements of good practice identified in supporting vulnerable populations. It then focuses on five case studies of local initiatives that are presented as good practice in improving access to primary care for vulnerable groups.

[Click here to access this report.](#)

Tools

Public Health England: End of Life Care profiles

Public Health England has published end of life care profiles for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in England. These use more than 170 indicators to give an overview of differences in cause and place of death, by age and sex, for each CCG. They contribute to the picture for commissioners and providers on the end of life care needs of local populations.

[Click here to access the profiles.](#)

Public Health England: Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles

Public Health England has developed a tool to enable users to monitor the sexual and reproductive health of populations in different geographic areas, and to consider the contribution of local public health related systems.

The profiles include interactive maps, charts and tables and cover topics like abortions, contraception, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, sexual offences and teenage pregnancy. Other contextual information, such as education and deprivation levels and alcohol use, are also included.

[Click here to access the profiles.](#)