
November 2014

Welcome to November'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 October a number of important reports were published. We were pleased to see that the Government has committed £5.5m to a Better Care Fund. This is seeking to bring together GPs, community nurses, and care workers so they can provide better care closer to home. Last month also witnessed the introduction of NHS waiting time standards for patients with mental health conditions. This is part of a wider effort to ensure that mental and physical health services are given equal priority by 2020.

With regard to Children's Services, the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission's State of the Nation Report provides an important overview of the progress made to address child poverty and social mobility. This report calls for radical new approaches to be adopted if poverty is to be beaten, and presents a number of recommendations. Similarly, the Sutton Trust specifically calls for improvements in the quality of career's advice, arguing that such measures can help to improve social mobility.

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: Innovation Programme Expansion

Children's Minister Edward Timpson has announced that funding for the children's services innovation programme will be increased to £100m over its lifetime. So far funding has been used to help local authorities redesign how they deliver children's social care and to expand successful social care programmes.

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

Reports

Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission: State of the Nation 2014

This is the last report of its kind prior to the 2015 UK General Election. It presents a verdict on the progress being made to address child poverty and social mobility and recommendations for future policies. The central conclusion is that the next government needs to adopt radical new approaches if poverty is to be beaten, mobility improved and if Britain is to avoid becoming a permanently divided society.

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

Sutton Trust: Advancing ambitions

The report argues that a reduction in good career guidance is hindering social mobility. Where schools and colleges provide high quality advice and guidance benefits including improved attendance, better GCSE results and wise university choices are observed. The report argues that the 2011 decision to replace the Connexions service with the requirement that schools provide career guidance has resulted in a 'postcode lottery' developing in relation to the quality of guidance. Sutton Trust provide a template of the requirements for good career guidance and proposals for improving the quality of career advice.

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

Statistics

Department for Education: Pupil absence in schools in England

This collection of data reports on absence in state-funded primary and secondary schools during the autumn term 2013 and spring term 2014. The overall absence rate across state-funded primary and secondary schools fell from 5.3 per cent in autumn 2012 and spring 2013, to 4.4 per cent in autumn 2013 and spring 2014. The decrease in overall absence rates is due to a fall in authorised absence. This is largely due to a decrease in illness and agreed family holidays. Unauthorised absence has remained relatively unchanged at 0.9 per cent.

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



Department for Education: Early years foundation stage profile results

This statistical first release contains national and local authority level results for Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assessments in England for 2013 to 2014. An EYFSP is a teacher assessment of child development at the end of the academic year in which the child turns five. This information is designed to help Year 1 teachers plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that meets the needs of all children.

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

Tools and guidance

Department for Education: Local authority interactive tool (LAIT)

The LAIT provides a way of comparing data about children and young people across all local authorities in England, enabling users to compare a local authority's rank and position within the national context. The tool includes data on: looked-after children, child protection, special educational needs (SEN), pupil attainment. The information will be updated regularly.

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

Department for Education: Care leaver strategy update

The care leaver strategy sets out the actions that government departments would take in order to improve the support care leavers receive during their transition to adulthood and independence. This one-year-on document reports on progress made and sets out how the government intends to further improve support for care leavers.

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



Criminal Justice

Reports

Minister of Justice: Drugs - International Comparators

Provoking considerable media attention, this report outlines the findings of the Government's international comparators study of approaches to drugs misuse and drug addiction. While the fact finding activities observed a wide range of responses to drug use, most countries adopt a three-stranded approach focused on: reducing the demand for drugs, restricting supply, and supporting drug users towards recovery. Differences predominately lay in emphasis.

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

Independent Restraint Advisory Panel - Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR)

A new system of restraint, minimising and managing physical restraint is being rolled out in secure training centres and under-18s young offenders institutions. Members of the Panel undertook visits to Youth Offenders Institutes and Secure Training Centres to observe and take part in events as part of the roll-out prior to the implementation of the MMPR. The report details a number of recommendations on how best to introduce the MMPR system and the challenges anticipated.

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

Statistics

Ministry of Justice: Prison population figures: 2014

This data set provides a breakdown of the latest prison population figures. This source of information is updated weekly.

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

Ministry of Justice: Proven reoffending statistics

This report provides key statistics on proven reoffending in England and Wales. The report finds while adult reoffending rates have fallen in the ten years between 2002 and 2012 (from 27.6% to 24.9%), the reoffending rate for juveniles increased during the same period (from 33.4% to 35.7%). Across the prison system as a whole re-offending rates have fallen slightly.

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



Tools and Guidance

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales: Support parents of young offenders

Designed for youth offending teams (YOT) and managers, this guidance explains the role that YOTs play in providing support for parents of young offenders. The report sets out the purpose of parenting interventions and the types of interventions that can be used.

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

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales: Assess young offenders

Designed for youth offending teams (YOT) and managers, this guidance describes how YOTs should assess the risks and needs of young offenders. The document outlines how to use the AssetPlus assessment and planning framework which is used to assess for Intensive Supervision and Surveillance as well as the risks and needs of young offenders.

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



Adult social care and health

Policy

Department of Health and Department for Communities and Local Government: Better care plans to help elderly and reduce hospital visits

The Government's £5.5m Better Care Fund will be used to bring together GPs, community nurses, and care workers so that they can provide better care closer to home. NHS England estimates that the Fund will support at least 18,000 individuals in roles providing care out in the community. Services will be provided by social workers, occupational therapists, care navigators, doctors and nurses, deployed based on local needs and delivering care outside of hospital. These plans reflect the Government's effort to join up the health and care system.

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

Department of Health: NHS waiting time standards for mental health announced

The Government has announced new waiting time standards, bringing treatment for mental health problems in line with physical health. 75% of people referred to the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme will receive treatment within 6 weeks, while 95% of people will be being treated within 18 weeks. This plan is designed to ensure that mental and physical health services are given equal priority by 2020.

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

Reports

Care Quality Commission: "Cracks in the Pathway: People's experiences of dementia care as they move between care homes and hospitals"

This report is based upon a review into the care of people living with dementia as they move between care homes and acute hospitals. The findings reflect the inspection of 129 care homes and 20 acute hospitals. The CQC concludes that care for people living with dementia varies greatly and it is still likely that someone living with dementia will experience poor care at some point while living in a care home or being treated in hospital. The report finds that the needs of people with dementia are not always adequately assessed and arrangements to share information between care homes and hospitals are not good enough.

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

Department of Health: Carers strategy

This action plan builds on the Government's national Carers Strategy of 2010. It provides a brief overview of the evidence gathered and the main achievements in recognising and supporting carers during the last few years. The report outlines a number of actions that need to be taken in order to get nearer to a situation which enables carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life of their own alongside caring.

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



Care Quality Commission: A safer place to be

Under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 a person can be detained by the police if they are thought to be in crisis, and there is an immediate risk that they might harm themselves or another person. While in all but exceptional circumstances a person's needs are assessed in a healthcare setting, it was found that police stations were regularly used as a primary or secondary place of safety. This was often because places were already full or faced staffing problems. The report found that a quarter of providers did not believe that there was enough local provision. The CQC provide a number of recommendations to improve future service delivery.

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

Joseph Rowntree Trust – Care Home Inquiry

This report draws upon 12 months of research which sought to explore where relationships and risks have been well managed and discover what needs to change to make services for care home residents better. Alongside traditional research methods, the report cites findings provided by examining social media sources. These help to broaden the range of views offered. Recommendations are presented for government, care homes, and the broader system – understood to mean regulators, local authorities and the NHS.

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

Tools and guidance

Think Local, Act Personal: Support to councils for meeting Care Act requirements on Information & Advice provision

A new guide has been released designed to help Council's improve the information about support services available in their local communities, as required under the new Care Act. Consisting of three parts, the guide has been developed with six local authorities to highlight the common challenges each has faced, what they have done in practice to overcome them and the early benefits people in their areas are seeing.

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

Care Quality Commission: Making the 'Mum Test' real

The CQC has issued several 'handbooks' to help care providers understand how they will be assessed and rated from now on. Handbooks have been produced concerning the regulation of residential adult social care (care homes, with and without nursing) and regulation of community adult social care (including services that care for people in their own homes).

[To access, please click here](#)