



CordisPulse

April 2022

Welcome to April'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.

This month we were really pleased to see the publication of the [Home Office's Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#) which aims to drive down the prevalence of domestic abuse and domestic homicide and provide victims and survivors with the support they need. We continue to be involved in a range of research, evaluation and advisory around whole system approaches and programmes and services that aim to support improve outcomes for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. For more information about this work and to access a range of resources and publications please click [here](#).

In addition, we were also commissioned along with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner as part of the Home Office Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Research Fund 2020/2021 to conduct research into Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes. We plan to publish outputs from this research on the Cordis Bright website in May.

As part of this research, we have collaboratively developed with experts in the sector a toolkit to support local needs assessments around the commissioning of perpetrator programmes and projects. We were pleased to see this mentioned in the Home Office's Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan and to see the commitment from the Home Office to support a wider rollout of the toolkit so all local areas can benefit.

If you would like to discuss this research, the toolkit or any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse, please do contact us on 020 7330 9170 or email stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk.

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.

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Cordis Bright News

Opportunities for Researchers

We are looking to appoint Researchers to join our growing team. For more information please visit our website here: <https://www.cordisbright.co.uk/join-us>

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

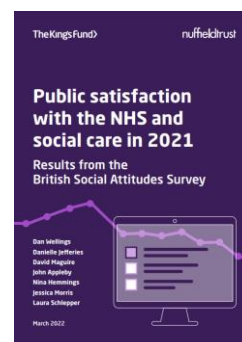
Department of Health and Social Care. Integrated care partnerships: engagement findings.

This engagement document is focused on the role of integrated care partnerships (ICPs) within statutory arrangements for integrated care systems (ICSs). It sets out the key findings of the engagement exercise undertaken by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England (NHSE) and the Local Government Association (LGA) following the publication of the ICP engagement document: integrated care system (ICS) implementation in September 2021.

Key findings were based on five expectations of integrated care partnerships: (1) ICPs will drive the direction and policies of the integrated care system (ICS), (2) ICPs will be rooted in the needs of people, communities, and places, (3) ICPs create a space to develop and oversee population health strategies to improve health outcomes and experiences, (4) ICPs will support integrated approaches and subsidiarity and (5) ICPs should take an open and inclusive approach to strategy development and leadership, involving communities and partners, and utilise local data and insights.

The King's Fund. Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2021: Results from the British Social Attitudes survey.

NatCen Social Research (NatCen) carried out the most recent British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey between 16 September and 31 October 2021. NatCen asked a nationally representative sample (across England, Scotland and Wales) of 3,112 people about their satisfaction with the NHS overall, and 1,039 people about their satisfaction with specific NHS and social care services, as well as their views on NHS funding.



Key findings include:

- Overall satisfaction with the NHS fell to 36 per cent – a 17 percentage point decrease on 2020. This is the lowest level of satisfaction recorded since 1997, when satisfaction fell to 34 per cent. More people (41 per cent) were dissatisfied with the NHS than satisfied.
- The main reason people gave for being dissatisfied with the NHS overall was waiting times for GP and hospital appointments (65 per cent) followed by staff shortages (46 per cent) and a view that the government does not spend enough money on the NHS (40 per cent). In 2021, 80 per cent of respondents believed that the NHS faced a 'major' or 'severe' funding problem.
- Of those who were satisfied with the NHS overall, the top reason was because the NHS is free at the point of use (78 per cent), followed by the quality of NHS care (65 per cent) and that it has a good range of services (58 per cent).
- Asked what they thought the most important priorities for the NHS should be, the top three cited by survey respondents were: making it easier to get a GP appointment (48 per cent),

improving waiting times for planned operations (47 per cent) and increasing the number of staff in the NHS (47 per cent).

- 15 per cent of respondents said they were satisfied with social care services in 2021, while 50 per cent said they were dissatisfied.
- The main reasons people gave for being dissatisfied with social care were that the pay, working conditions and training for social care staff are bad (59 per cent), that people don't get all the social care they need (59 per cent), and that social care is not affordable to those who need it (44 per cent).

The King's Fund. Integrating additional roles into primary care networks.

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) was introduced in England in 2019 as a key part of the government's manifesto commitment to improve access to general practice. The aim of the scheme is to support the recruitment of 26,000 additional staff into general practice.

This report focused on four roles — social prescribing link workers; first contact physiotherapists; paramedics and pharmacists — to examine the issues related to the implementation of these roles, looking at the experiences of working in these roles and of the people managing them.

The report found a lack of shared understanding about the purpose or potential contribution of the roles, combined with an overall ambiguity about what multidisciplinary working would mean for GPs. It also found that successful implementation of the scheme requires extensive cultural, organisational and leadership development skills that are not easily accessible to PCNs.



Welsh Government. Evaluation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: Expectations and Experiences

This document is a summary of a full report on service user and carer perspectives on the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, conducted as part of the IMPACT study, the independent national evaluation of the Act.

Key findings include:

- Many of the services assessed were being delivered and experienced in line with the aspirations laid out by the legislation. However, the study found evidence that the experience of service users and carers was sub-optimal. The report argued that there are a number of significant structural factors that help to explain this, not least of which are the global pandemic, budgetary pressures and growing demand, challenges over workforce sustainability, and the relative 'newness' of the Act.
- An absence of effective multi-agency working in the provision of care and support was the rule rather than the exception for service users and carers who participated in the study. They reported variations in the way in which agencies work together, and in their view,

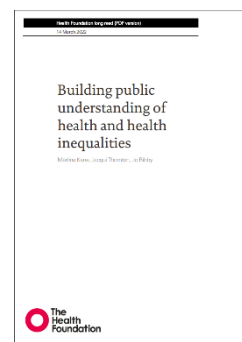


this often meant that some people did not have access to services and support that others were receiving.

- Typically, service users and carers identified challenges when it came to realising the prospects offered by the principle of choice and control and being involved in decisions about their care and support.
- Participants identified relatively few positive wellbeing impacts linked to their experiences with social services. As with elsewhere, where these positive impacts occurred, they were often down to good relation centred care and support, practised by excellent social workers and social care workers.

The Health Foundation. Building public understanding of health and health inequalities.

This long read explores reasons behind current public attitudes towards health and inequalities in health outcomes, drawing on polling and public attitudes research by the Health Foundation and others. It considers the role of communication approaches in bringing closer alignment between public understanding of what influences health and the evidence.



Among the key findings of the report are:

- People tend to filter nuanced messages about health through either an individualistic or ecological (structural) lens. It argues that understanding how these different mindsets can promote – or obscure – people’s awareness of the significance of social determinants is an important first step in developing effective ways of framing the evidence.
- The report argues that we should be aiming to shift more people towards the ecological mindset, while also being wary of a possible sense of inevitability or disempowerment at the scale of complex systemic challenges.
- Anyone delivering public health messages must take time to understand how their messages land with the public.

Briefings

The King’s Fund. Social care 360.

The King’s Fund Social care 360 is an annual review that draws on comprehensive data that is publicly available and published at least annually from a reliable source. This year’s Social care 360 includes data from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, encompassing both the first and second waves of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The review found that several of the trends show marked changes from previous years. One of these is clearly related to the pandemic: public expenditure on social care increased sharply, as the government channelled money into the sector to help fund the additional costs of Covid-19.

In others, Covid-19 is likely to have been involved but other factors might also have played a role.



- New requests for support from older people to local authorities went down, most likely as people avoided contact with formal care services, but requests for support from working-age adults increased.
- Overall, the number receiving formal long-term care services in fact went up.

Tools and Guidance

Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Vulnerabilities: applying All Our Health.

This resource provides evidence and guidance to enable healthcare professionals to support vulnerable individuals accessing services. It is aimed at helping frontline health professionals, team leaders or managers, and senior or strategic leaders to prevent ill health and promote wellbeing as part of their everyday practice. It recommends important actions that managers and staff holding strategic roles can take.

Department of Health and Social Care. Hospital discharge and community support guidance.

This guidance sets out how NHS bodies (including commissioning bodies, NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts) and local authorities can plan and deliver hospital discharge and recovery services from acute and community hospital settings that are affordable within existing budgets available to NHS commissioners and local authorities. It should be used to inform local service planning and delivery.

Children and Young People's Services

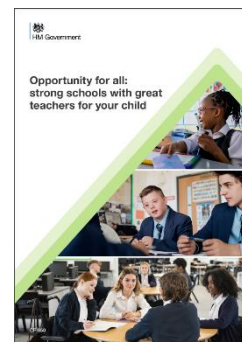
Reports

Department for Education. **Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child.**

This white paper demonstrates how our education system can deliver on the government's priority to level up across the country. The economic benefits of meeting the white paper's ambitions, and the case for a fully trust led system, are also set out.

The Schools White Paper sets out a series of new measures to support the delivery of these ambitions, including:

- Schools will offer a minimum school week of 32.5 hours by September 2023
- Ofsted will inspect every school by 2025, including the backlog of 'outstanding' schools that haven't been inspected for many years
- By 2030 all children will benefit from being taught in a school in, or in the process of joining, a strong multi-academy trust, which will help transform underperforming schools and deliver the best possible outcomes for children
- At least £100m to put the Education Endowment Foundation on a long-term footing so they can continue to evaluate and spread best practice in education across the country

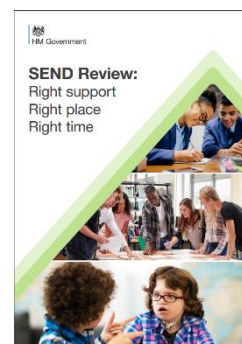


Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care. **SEND review: right support, right place, right time.**

The Government's SEND and alternative provision green paper sets out its vision for a single, national SEND and alternative provision (AP) system that will introduce new standards in the quality of support given to children across education, health and care.

Detailed proposals in the SEND and alternative provision green paper include:

- Setting new national standards across education, health and care to build on the foundations created through the Children and Families Act 2014, for a higher performing SEND system;
- A simplified Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) through digitising plans to make them more flexible, reducing bureaucracy and supporting parents to make informed choices via a list of appropriate placements tailored to their child's needs, meaning less time spent researching the right school;
- A new legal requirement for councils to introduce 'local inclusion plans' that bring together early years, schools and post-16 education with health and care services, giving system partners more certainty on who is responsible and when;



- Improving oversight and transparency through the publication of new 'local inclusion dashboards' to make roles and responsibilities of all partners within the system clearer for parents and young people, helping to drive better outcomes;
- A new national framework for councils for banding and tariffs of High Needs, to match the national standards and offer clarity on the level of support expected, and put the system on a financially sustainable footing in the future;
- Changing the culture and practice in mainstream education to be more inclusive and better at identifying and supporting needs, including through earlier intervention and improved targeted support;
- Improving workforce training through the introduction of a new SENCo NPQ for school SENCos and increasing the number of staff with an accredited level 3 qualification in early years settings; and
- A reformed and integrated role for alternative provision (AP), with a new delivery model in every local area focused on early intervention. AP will form an integral part of local SEND systems with improvements to settings and more funding stability.

The Competition & Markets Authority (CMA). Children's social care market study final report.

This report sets out the findings of CMA's market study into children's social care in England, Scotland and Wales. It also provides recommendations to the UK Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

Overall, CMA found significant problems in how the placements market is functioning, particularly in England and Wales. The report found that:



- A lack of placements of the right kind, in the right places, means that children are not consistently getting access to care and accommodation that meets their needs.
- The largest private providers of placements are making materially higher profits, and charging materially higher prices, than expected if this market were functioning effectively.
- Some of the largest private providers are carrying very high levels of debt, creating a risk that disorderly failure of highly leveraged firms could disrupt the placements of children in care.

Recommendations fall into three categories:

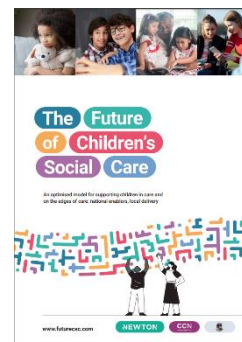
- Recommendations to improve commissioning, by having some functions performed via collaborative bodies, providing additional national support and supporting local authority initiatives to provide more in-house foster care.
- Recommendations to reduce barriers to providers creating and maintaining provision, by reviewing regulatory and planning requirements, and supporting the recruitment and retention of care staff and foster carers.

- Recommendations to reduce the risk of children experiencing negative effects from children's home providers exiting the market in a disorderly way, by creating an effective regime of market oversight and contingency planning.

The County Councils Network and Newton. The Future of Children's Social Care.

CCN, ACCE and Newton have collaborated on a programme of work to develop an evidence-based view of the future of children's social care and what actions could be taken to optimise its delivery. The report sets out their vision for the future and what one 'optimised local delivery model' for achieving it would look like.

This report sets out the national and local changes needed to deliver this new model. It argues this new way of working could make services more sustainable and improve the lives of thousands of young people.



Home Office. Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA): sexual abuse and exploitation of children in residential schools.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) published a report on sexual abuse and exploitation of children in residential specialist music schools, residential special schools and other types of schools in which staff had been convicted of the sexual abuse of pupils, or in which serious safeguarding concerns had arisen. The investigation explores how residential schools and other institutions responded to allegations of sexual abuse by school staff and addresses broader questions of school culture, governance, leadership, training and recruitment.



The report identifies many shortcomings and failings in current systems of protection, regulation and oversight which need to be addressed. These included but were not limited to:

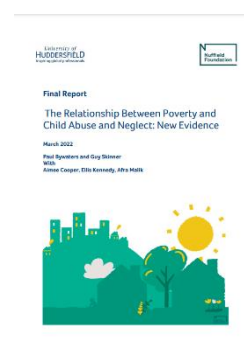
- The guidance concerning how to keep children safe in education is not always fully understood or adhered to, in part because it is not sufficiently precise and clear.
- There were shortcomings in relation to the reporting of concerns.
- In many of the schools examined, governance or leadership in respect of safeguarding was poor.
- There were failings in relation to checking the suitability of those in schools to work with children, including Disclose and Barring Service (DBS) checks not being carried out.
- Weaknesses in the system for teacher regulation.
- Weaknesses in systems of enforcement in respect of schools which fail to meet requisite standards, including safeguarding.

The report makes seven recommendations to the Department for Education and the Welsh Government in relation to:

- Residential schools
- Responding to allegation and concerns
- Governance
- Training and awareness-raising
- Inspection and monitoring
- Vetting, barring and teacher misconduct
- Wales

The Nuffield Foundation. The Relationship Between Poverty and Child Abuse and Neglect: New Evidence.

This evidence review provides a review of 90 new studies published between 2016 and 2021 about the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect. It complements the work of the Child Welfare Inequalities Project and a previous review published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2016.



Key findings of the report included:

- The studies confirmed that poverty and inequality are key drivers of harm to children. The evidence base for this is much stronger than in 2016.
- However, child protection services are too rarely engaging effectively with the impact of income, employment and housing conditions on families and children. This lack of recognition of parents' difficulties in meeting children's basic needs compounds parents' feelings of shame and stigma. In turn, this disrupts the chances of child protection services establishing effective relationships with families under pressure.
- The focus of child protection systems and practice on the behaviour and circumstances of individuals and families deflects attention from social harms: the responsibility of the state for - and its potential for preventing - child abuse and neglect.

Proposals for action include redistributive macro-economic policies, poverty-proofing child protection practice and an extensive research agenda.

Children & Young People Now. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children in Child Welfare Services in England.

This report is based on data obtained from the Department for Education (DfE), using a Freedom of Information request, to establish whether Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children are over-represented in children's social services in England compared to the general population. Data included the number of referrals to children's social services, the number of initial child protection conferences held, the number of child protection plans implemented, and the number of children living in care for the years 2011/12 to 2017/18.

Key findings of the report based on the DfE data included:

- Gypsy/Roma children were one and a half times more likely to be referred to children's services than children from all other ethnic groups, while Travellers of Irish heritage were 2.74 times more likely to be referred.
- The proportion of children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller of Irish heritage backgrounds who progressed to an initial child protection conference from an initial referral was the same as that of the general population, at 12.3 per cent. However, as children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller of Irish heritage backgrounds were more likely to be referred in the first place, this group continued to be over-represented in the system, particularly towards the end of the study period. In 2017/18, any Gypsy/Roma child was twice as likely to be the subject of an initial child protection conference than a child from other ethnic groups while Travellers of Irish heritage were 3.11 times more likely to be the subject of an initial child protection conference.
- In 2017/18, Gypsy/Roma children were twice as likely to be made subject to a child protection plan than children from other ethnic groups and Travellers of Irish heritage were three times more likely to have a plan.
- At the beginning of the study period, they found no difference between the likelihood of children from a Gypsy/Roma background being taken into care and that for all other ethnic groups. But by 2017/18, Gypsy/Roma children were 2.11 times more likely to live in care than children from other ethnic groups. In the same year, Traveller of Irish heritage children were 2.55 times more likely to live in care than children from all other ethnic groups.

Children's Commissioner for England. Ambition for all – our vision for a school system that works for all children.

This paper sets out the Children's Commissioner's vision for the school system in England and outlines the reforms needed to realise that vision. It outlines proposals in relation to the following two core-aims and nine sub-aims:



- Making sure every child is attending an excellent school.
 1. Every child to attend a school that provides them with the best possible education.
 2. All children to be able to read and write when they leave primary school, and to obtain a Level-2 qualification by the end of secondary school.
 3. For every child to attend and be engaged in school every day.
 4. The schools' system should be easily understandable for children and their families, with clear roles and responsibilities.
 5. Strong, system-wide accountability with a focus on outcomes.
- Expanding the capacity of schools to provide an offer to children which extends from an enriching curriculum to additional support.
 1. A curriculum which is engaging and rewarding for all children.
 2. A wider careers offer which recognises multiple pathways to a good career.
 3. Where additional support is needed, it is provided easily, quickly, to every child, every time.

4. Schools to be embedded in local partnerships delivering for children.

Welsh Government. Children and Young People's Plan.

This plan outlines what the Welsh Government plan to do to support children and young people who are growing up, living and working in Wales.

The plan outlines what the Welsh Government believe, their priorities for children and young people in Wales, their work for children and young people, how they will behave, how the Welsh public know they are making progress, and how they will involve the Welsh public.

The outlined priorities for the next four years are:

- All children should have the best start in life, including good early years services and support for parents or carers. They should be supported at home, in childcare and in schools, and when they move between these places.
- All children and young people should be treated fairly in education. They should be supported to overcome barriers and fulfil their potential.
- All young people should be supported in their journey through education, training and (self-) employment, and when they move between these places.
- All children and young people should be supported to help them feel mentally and emotionally strong.
- All children and young people should be supported to have a fair chance in life.
- All children and young people should have a good and secure home to live in.
- All children and young people should receive the support they need to stay together or come back together with their family, if possible.

Tools and Guidance

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. Youth Justice plans: guidance for youth justice services.

Whilst statutory requirements under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 state the minimum information required within youth justice plans, this guidance sets out further considerations for youth justice services (YJSs) and their management boards on both the content and structure of a youth justice plan. It also asks for reflection on how the service takes a strength-based approach towards delivering a Child First justice system. It also includes a template which should be used when creating these plans as well as information on how to submit a plan.



POLICY AND STRATEGY
Children and young people's plan
What we will do to support children and young people who are growing up, living and working in Wales.

First published: 1 March 2017
Last updated: 13 March 2020

This document was downloaded from TDANNU.WLS and may not be the latest version.
Go to the <https://www.gov.wales/government-organisations/welsh-government/publications-and-research/children-and-young-peoples-plan> for the latest version.

Department for Education. Children's social care: improving case management systems.

This guidance is for local authorities to help improve the digital case management systems they use for children's social care services.

The guidance helps local authorities consider how systems:

- support the recording, tracking and analysis of children's and families' records
- are procured, set up and managed
- interact with other systems to share information and link services together
- can be monitored and measured to identify opportunities for improvement of the system, practice or service

Welsh Government. All Wales Protocol: reducing the criminalisation of care experienced children and young adults.

This protocol outlines best practice across agencies for reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of care experienced children (up to the age of 18) and young adults (up to the age of 25).

The Welsh Government states that the protocol should assist those who come into contact with care experienced children and young adults while carrying out their work, in sharing a common framework of principles and expectations informed by an approach that actively promotes children's rights and human rights.

The protocol promotes:

- Practice that is ACE aware and trauma informed and is underpinned by an understanding of impact of childhood experiences on neuro-development and presenting behaviour.
- Child-centred practice with a focus on what matters to the child; listening to children's views and taking their opinions into account in developing policy and in the way we practice.
- Practice that recognises in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and All Wales Practice Guides that Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is a safeguarding issue. Children who are abused through CCE should be considered as children first and their care and support needs should be considered in the same way as for any child. Child Criminal Exploitation including County Lines can and does cause significant harm to children.
- Practice that is underpinned by an understanding of the interrelated nature of safeguarding issues such as going missing, Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Harmful Sexual Behaviour and trafficking. While at the same time understands the need for a consistent child-centred response based on individual needs in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and All Wales Practice Guides and





multi-agency statutory guidance. All of which take a children first approach to prevent the criminalisation of children whenever possible.

- Practice that recognises that foster carers and residential placement carers are a key part of the team in understanding the individual needs of children, the approach that a child or young person is most likely to be responsive to and in working with agencies to plan for the care and support of children and young people.
- Early intervention, diversionary practice and a restorative approach to create environments founded on relationships, respect, inclusivity, fairness and tolerance.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Home Office. Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan.

Using responses to the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Call for Evidence, relevant data, and a comprehensive literature review, the plan outlines the government's approach to tackling domestic abuse.



The report outlines the following key objectives:

- **Prioritising Prevention.** The objective is to 'reduce the amount of domestic abuse, domestic homicide, and suicides linked to domestic abuse, by stopping people from becoming perpetrators and victims to begin with.'
- **Supporting Victims.** The objective is to 'help all victims and survivors who have escaped from domestic abuse feel that they can get back to life as normal, with support for their health, emotional, economic, and social needs.'
- **Pursuing Perpetrators.** The objective is to 'reduce the amount of people who are repeat offenders and make sure that those who commit this crime feel the full force of the law.'
- **A Stronger System.** The objective is to 'improve the systems and processes that underpin the response to domestic abuse across society.'

Home Office. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy: Progress Update.

This paper provides an update on the government's progress in implementing the tackling violence against girls strategy. The update outlines the actions of the government since the publication of the strategy in July 2021 to: take action to prevent these crimes, increase support for victims, strengthen the approach to perpetrators and put in place measures to make sure all organisations and professionals are working to tackle these crimes.

The update also sets out what the government will do in the coming months to tackle violence against women and girls.

Home Office. Violence Reduction Unit year ending March 2021 Evaluation Report.

This report presents the findings of an evaluation of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in their second year of Home Office funding. VRUs have been funded in 18 Police Force Areas (PFAs) since the year 2019 to 2020, primarily to provide leadership and strategic coordination of all relevant agencies to support a 'whole system' approach to tackling serious violence and its root causes.

Key findings include:

- **There are early indications of VRUs impacting on violence reduction.** While there was no (statistically significant) impact detected on the most serious SV outcomes



(hospital admissions and homicides), there were impacts on police recorded violence. Between April 2019 (when SV funding was deployed) and September 2020, it is estimated that 41,377 violence without injury offences had been prevented in funded areas, relative to non-funded areas.

- **In terms of different elements of the whole-system approach, VRUs have continued to make progress since year 1.** This was particularly evident for multi-agency working and data sharing, where previous work provided a strong foundation to build on. While some progress was evident for engaging young people and communities, and commissioning/delivering interventions, these were generally more susceptible to challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The short-term nature of funding was also recognised as a limiting factor to embed a longer-term whole-system approach.

The report gave the following recommendations:

- The Home Office should support VRUs to improve the quality of intervention monitoring data which informs, and underpins, evidence-based commissioning.
- The Home Office should urge other central government departments, including Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Department of Education (DfE), to improve data access at VRU level and ensure partners take responsibility for their role and involvement in the VRU.
- VRUs should ensure clear, evidence-based rationale for commissioned interventions, supported by the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) toolkit.
- VRUs should increase focus on effective engagement of voluntary and community sector at a strategic level.
- VRUs should consider the potential role of external experts to navigate common data-sharing challenges and increase data analysis and insight capacity.
- VRUs should share any good practice toolkits or resources on implementing whole-system approach with all VRUs through learning networks.

Home Office. Key findings from analysis of domestic homicide reviews.

This report summarises information from 124 domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) for the 12 months from October 2019. It aims to inform policy development and provide learning in preventing domestic homicide. DHRs are multi-agency reviews, commissioned by community safety partnerships, into the deaths of adults which may have resulted from violence, abuse, or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they had an intimate relationship, or were a member of the same household.

The report provides an overview of evidence on victims and perpetrators. Additionally, the review found that areas identified for improvement across a sample of 50 of the DHRs are:

- **Contact:** the need for greater contact with victims and recognition that the perpetrator can control the victim's contacts with agencies.
- **Assessment:** the need to improve risk assessments, carer's assessments, or mental health assessments.

- Records: information can be missing and not shared between agencies.
- Support: for staff whose work involved cases of domestic abuse and cases where support for victim was not identified or, where the need for support was identified, but there was no plan to provide it.
- Information: the need to improve information sharing between agencies, to hold accurate information and then use it effectively to manage risk.
- Risk: the right risk level needs to be identified, with information held by other agencies included.
- Referrals: are not always made when needed.
- Training: the need to update training and make it accessible.
- Policy: occasions when action taken was not in line with policy and there were agencies without a domestic abuse policy.

The report also summarises recommendations identified by DHRs:

- From the recommendations in the DHRs, 25 per cent were for partnerships (typically community safety partnerships), 24 per cent for health organisations (including clinical commissioning groups, GPs, hospitals, and mental health trusts) and 13 per cent for the police.
- 28 per cent of the recommendations were to review existing practice.
- 26 per cent of the recommendations were to raise awareness, of which 72 per cent were recommending raising awareness about domestic abuse to staff.
- 16 per cent of the recommendations concerned information: including the quality of information and sharing information between agencies.

Home Office. Supporting male victims of crimes considered violence against women and girls.

This document updates and replaces the first Male Victims Position Statement, published in 2019, and reiterates the government's commitment to ensuring that male victims of crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls are supported.

It draws on responses to the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Call for Evidence, relevant data, and a comprehensive literature review. It complements the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, which apply to all victims of these crimes.

This document can be used by statutory bodies, charity sector practitioners, victims/survivors, and the public alongside the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, and the Domestic Abuse Plan as: (1) an informational resource on the male victims' landscape, including the specific challenges male victims face; (2) an outline to the support services outlook; and (3) a guide to develop best practice.



The Bell Foundation. Language Barriers in the Criminal Justice System.

This report details findings of exploratory research that investigated how speaking English as a second or additional language (ESL) affects experiences and outcomes for adults who are in contact with the criminal justice system (CJS) as victims, witnesses, suspects, defendants and people with convictions – both in prison and under probation supervision.



The report identified five key areas in which reforms are needed to address language barriers and enhance support for those in the CJS who speak ESL:

- Collecting data to build understanding and raise awareness of language barriers in the CJS.
- Rights and entitlements.
- Improving services and widening access.
- Empowering practitioners to support service users.
- Deploying innovative solutions.

Briefings

Office for National Statistics. Victimisation and its relationship to drug misuse, common mental disorder and well-being in England and Wales: year ending March 2021.

This publication reports on the prevalence of drug misuse, symptoms of depression and anxiety, and personal well-being in victims of crime and non-victims across England and Wales for the year ending March 2021. Data from the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales showed that:

- Approximately 1 in 15 (6.5%) adults aged 18 to 59 years and 1 in 7 (15.0%) adults aged 18 to 24 years had taken a drug in the previous year.
- Cannabis was the most commonly taken drug in the last year (reported by 1 in 17 or 5.8% of adults aged 18 to 59 years) followed by cocaine (reported by 1 in 48 or 2.1% of adults aged 18 to 59 years).
- Symptoms of depression in the two weeks prior to being interviewed were reported by 1 in 8 respondents (13.3%) while 1 in 5 (18.9%) reported symptoms of anxiety.

Analysis of the relationships between victimisation, common mental disorder and personal well-being indicated:

- Being a victim of any crime (excluding fraud and computer misuse) was associated with an increased risk of reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression.



- Being a victim of fraud and computer misuse was also associated with an increased risk of reporting symptoms of anxiety.
- Being a victim of crime was associated with lower levels of personal well-being; life satisfaction, feeling that the things you do are worthwhile, and happiness.

Tools and Guidance

Office for National Statistics. The impact of crime on victims and society: March 2022.

This article summarises the crime harm framework that has been used to categorise existing related data in the new crime harm interactive database. It also includes information on how to use the recently updated Crime Severity Score (CSS) data tool, which is designed to provide single value crime severity scores based on police recorded crime and sentencing data for various geographical areas and a measure of changes over time.

The article also includes details of their new crime harm interactive database, which collates a wider range of published statistics relating to the impact of crime on individuals and society produced by public bodies in England and Wales. Individual level crime harms are organised into four categories: physical harms, emotional or psychological harms, financial or economic harms and privacy. Wider impacts of crime are organised into three categories: community level, institutional level and society level.

The article states that, collectively, the Crime Severity Score (CSS) data tool and the crime harm interactive database aim to improve understanding of the severity of different crimes and how they impact on individuals and society. It also outlines areas for future development and research.

Home Office. Commissioning services to tackle violence against women and girls.

The national statement of expectations (NSE) sets out how local areas can commission effective services to ensure their response to crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls is as collaborative, robust and effective as it can be so that all victims and survivors can get the help they need.

The commissioning toolkit provides practical guidance for commissioners on how to effectively commission services to support anyone affected by violence against women and girls.