



CordisPulse

December 2022

Welcome to December'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. adult social care and health, children and young people's services, and criminal justice.

Cordis Bright's final evaluation report on the Living Well UK programme was published this month. Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and led by the Innovation Unit, the programme has supported mental health service transformation in four sites across the UK, whilst generating evidence and learning to influence transformation across the NHS in the UK. Over the course of the evaluation we produced detailed interim and final reports for each of the sites. This report is a summary of the evaluation findings across the programme. More detail can be found [here](#).

We have also had an active UK Disability History Month. This year's theme is "disability, health and wellbeing", and we've been using the month as an opportunity to reflect on how we meaningfully involve people with a disability in the research we conduct, and how we support people with a disability to be an equal and supported part of our team. We've taken part in a number of events and held conversations within the team about how disability is measured and considered in social research, and how we can make adjustments in our own workplace to ensure everyone can bring their authentic self to work.

We wish all our readers a happy and peaceful festive period.



If you would like to discuss 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

Living Well summary report

Cordis Bright's final evaluation report on the Living Well UK programme was published this month. Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and led by the Innovation Unit, the programme has supported mental health service transformation in four sites across the UK, whilst generating evidence and learning to influence transformation across the NHS in the UK. Over the course of the evaluation we produced detailed interim and final reports for each of the sites. This report is a summary of the evaluation findings across the programme.



The evaluation found that Living Well has filled a gap in support for people who fall between primary care and secondary mental health services, breaking the cycle of people 'bouncing' around the system, presenting at multiple different services but not getting help until their mental health needs have escalated. There is good evidence that the recovery-focused Living Well approach supports people to make progress towards improved mental health and quality of life. People have also been supported to achieve wider life goals.

Key features of the Living Well approach which have enabled the service to achieve good outcomes for people are: working with people who may not fit traditional criteria for accessing services; an 'easy in easy out' approach, with the ability to self-refer and to return to the service if necessary; flexible, individually tailored support from a core multi-disciplinary team; a wider network of services and groups offering practical and emotional support; a strengths-based, recovery focused approach to supporting people; support for people to achieve their own goals, and onward referral to appropriate support.

For more information contact [Jane Harris](#).

UK Disability History Month

As mentioned in the introduction we have had an active UK Disability History Month. For more details on this a special edition of the pulse dedicated to UK Disability History Month can be found [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Care Quality Commission. Experiences of being in hospital for people with a learning disability and autistic people

This report looks at what people with a learning disability and autistic people experience when they need physical health care and treatment in hospital. This report is part of the Commission's programme of work to improve services for people with a learning disability and autistic people. The key messages the Commission put forward from the report were that:

- People found it difficult to access care because reasonable adjustments weren't always made.
- There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution for communication. Staff need the tools and skills to enable them to communicate effectively to meet people's individual needs.
- People are not being fully involved in their care and treatment. In many cases, this is because there is not enough listening, communication and involvement.
- Equality characteristics, such as age, race and sexual orientation, risked being overshadowed by a person's learning disability or autism because staff lacked knowledge and understanding about inequalities.
- Specialist practitioners and teams cannot hold sole responsibility for improving people's experiences of care. All staff need up-to-date training and the right skills to care for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Anxiety nation? Economic Insecurity and mental distress in 2020s Britain

This report interrogates the potential connection between what it calls 'the shaky foundations of material life for many of Britain's citizens and burgeoning signs that a growing anxiety problem is gripping the country'. It suggests that there is a vicious cycle in which mental distress impedes confidence, leading to problems at work, which can in turn lead to issues with debt, housing and even relationships, thereby leading to still more worry. The report then considers how this hypothesis holds up against evidence.



It was found that on 12 different markers of mental health problems – from sleep loss to impeded social life – renters raised the flag for distress much more often than homeowners, and on 10 of the 12, more than twice as often. Further, those with minimal savings reliably reported far more distress than substantial savers, with twice

as many admitting to taking less care at work, and three times as many reporting feeling worthless.

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council. COVID-19 and Occupational Impacts

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) have continued to consider the emerging data of the occupational impacts of COVID-19 following the publication of its Position paper 48: 'COVID-19 and occupation' published in March 2022.

The most convincing and consistent evidence is that there has been a persistent impairment and loss of function in some health and social care workers in certain occupational settings. These workers have presented with five serious pathological complications following COVID-19. These are:

1. Persisting pneumonitis or lung fibrosis following acute COVID-19 pneumonitis.
2. Persisting pulmonary hypertension caused by a pulmonary embolism developing between 3 days before and 90 days after a diagnosis of COVID-19.
3. Ischaemic stroke developing within 28 days of a COVID-19 diagnosis.
4. Myocardial infarction developing within 28 days of a COVID-19 diagnosis.
5. Symptoms of Post Intensive Care Syndrome following ventilatory support treatment for COVID-19.

It has not been possible for IIAC to recommend prescription for post-COVID Syndrome or long COVID at this time. Acknowledging the pandemic is ongoing, it can be expected there will be further evidence on the long-term adverse health consequences of COVID-19. IIAC will therefore continue to monitor the evidence in respect of other occupations and long COVID. However, the Council recommended the five serious pathological complications identified should be added to the list of prescribed diseases for which benefit is payable.

Briefings

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Digital learning in social care workforce development in Wales

SCIE have set out the findings of research to understand the impacts, benefits, and challenges of digital learning for the social care workforce in Wales. In addition to an evidence review, the Institute gathered the views and experiences of local authority workforce managers, training providers, social care provider managers, and frontline social care staff over the past two years. During the COVID pandemic there was an

increase in the use of digital learning, to enable frontline social care staff to access training and development. Key findings include:

- Local authorities (LAs), training and social care providers played an essential role in the rapid development of digital infrastructure, the provision of equipment to local organisations, and the improvement of digital resources. Initiatives to develop digital literacy and skills are key in supporting staff, helping to raise confidence, and improve access to digital learning.
- There are clear benefits from digital learning – it can offer learners flexibility, the ability to pace their learning, and opportunities for independent learning. For providers, reduced staff travel and the wider reach of digital learning can make it more cost-effective when provided at scale.
- Efforts at digital learning can be hampered by connectivity issues, limited access to equipment, the quality of some digital resources, as well as limited digital literacy and skills in the workforce are barriers to accessing digital learning. In relation to the delivery of digital learning, people reported it needed to be more interactive as well as support the wellbeing of learners. Relationships and group dynamics can be limited, reducing opportunities for peer learning. When developed locally or at a small scale, there is a high cost for digital learning.
- Participants contributed many useful suggestions for future approaches – people wanted to see a balance between digital and face-to-face sessions, training that is practical and interactive, high-quality resources, and support for independent learning. Suggestions for improving the digital literacy of frontline staff included creating a digital champions programme and drop-in centres. People suggested the creation of an all-Wales learning platform that can host and manage learning with a focus on user experience.

The House of Lords Adult Social Care Committee. Autumn Statement lacks strategy and vision for adult social care committee tells Chancellor

In a letter sent to Jeremy Hunt MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the House of Lords Adult Social Care Committee says that the Autumn Statement leaves many questions unanswered, both in terms of the breakdown of the funding that has been made available, and the Government's strategy and vision for adult social care.

The letter also expresses disappointment that the Autumn Statement made no reference to unpaid carers and asks what targeted support has been made available for those who provide 'the backbone of our health and social care systems.'

Tools and Guidance

NHS England. Delivering a quality public health function in integrated care boards

The NHS National Public Health Team have created a detailed checklist to support Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) provide a quality public health function across the Integrated Care System (ICS). The link provided goes into detail on each point, however the 'headline' top tips to take away are:

1. Know the local population.
2. Adopt an 'all hazards' approach to resilience and ensure the ICB plays its role in protecting the population.
3. Take account of relevant public health laws, regulations and governance structures.
4. Understand the role of partners across the ICS in supporting effective and efficient health systems, multi-sectoral planning and financing of population health.
5. Advance public health research.
6. Promote the prevention and detection of non-communicable and communicable diseases.
7. Consider the NHS's contribution to the wider determinants of health.
8. Support community engagement and social mobilisation for health and wellbeing.
9. Support and integrate the public health workforce.
10. Ensure equitable access to high quality health care.

NHS England. Coding Unpaid Carers

NHS England note that there is a need to improve the identification, recognition and support of unpaid carers as part of proactive prevention approaches being pursued at a population health level. The NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) makes a clear commitment to identify and support unpaid carers. The guidance provided here provides a framework for how carer registers should be coded and linked to patient records as they note when this has occurred, it has not been done consistently.

This guidance sets out a recommended cluster of SNOMED CT codes for unpaid carers, of all ages, to enable and demonstrate the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan and People at the Heart of Care. SNOMED CT codes represent a standardised collection of codes, terms and definitions to aid in the exchange and comparisons of health information across different providers. NHS England state that consistency when coding unpaid carers will help to ensure that carers are better identified and supported across and within systems.

Social Care Institute for Excellence. If we focus on a positive future for social care, change can happen

SCIE have put together a blog, detailing insights gained from organisations sharing an 'Innovation Stand' at the NCASC conference, November 2022. The blog outlines the key actions to take to improve the social care experience

These key actions include:

- Ensure residents in local areas who draw on social care support aid in the development, delivering and evaluation of social care support. Local authorities are encouraged to adopt and be guided by Making it Real, a framework which guides personalised support, and which was co-produced with people who draw on support, and which underpins the CQC Assessment Framework.
- Connect up and invest in community assets, local community led organisations, voluntary organisations and work with innovative support organisations to ensure that asset-based approaches are implemented in ways that reflect local conditions and have a lasting impact.
- Share power, resources and risks fairly and openly, learning from when things are done wrong. Mayday Trust has developed a person-led and strengths-based form of coaching, as an alternative to traditional needs-based support models which enables people to have choice and control over their lives and to begin to reshape local services and communities.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Department for Education. Oversight of Out-Of-School-Settings (OOSS) Lessons learnt from the DfE funded pilot



Oversight of Out-Of-School-Settings (OOSS)
Lessons learnt from the DfE funded pilot

ASK Research
November 2022



In 2018 the DfE provided £3 million of funding to pilot an approach to demonstrate the benefits of multi-agency working between local authorities (LAs) and relevant agencies to help LAs enhance their identification and engagement with out-of-school-settings (OOSS), and intervention in those of safeguarding concern.

This pilot was undertaken in 16 local authorities (LAs) over an 18-month period. The report notes that many families send their children to OOSS, and it is assumed that most are run correctly, safely and with children's best interests at heart. However, it is stated that this currently remains unchecked. Key findings include:

- The OOSS sector is vast and complex, which made LAs' efforts to undertake safeguarding activity in this sector challenging.
- There is significant potential for safeguarding harm in OOSS.
- Existing legal powers are piecemeal, and application of how they can be used to intervene in OOSS of concern are not widely understood - making any intervention by LAs challenging.
- Settings' take up of offers for free voluntary support from the LA were low.
- There is limited awareness or understanding by parents of the unregulated nature of this provision.

Ofsted. How local authorities plan for sufficiency of accommodation that meets the needs of children in care and care leavers

This report summaries Ofsted's findings on local authorities' planning for sufficiency of accommodation that meets the needs of children in care and care leavers. It also considers what could be done differently, through Ofsted's inspections of local authority children's services (ILACS) and other activities, to help improve planning and outcomes for children. Key findings include:

- A lack of sufficient provision means that many local authorities often do not follow their own strategy when making decisions.
- The complex and unpredictable nature of children's needs means the demand for places for children with some kinds of needs is difficult to forecast.

- Some local authorities report having an ageing population of foster carers, which is leading to a lack of stability for some children.
- To find placements, local authorities rely on informal relationships between their own staff and those individuals' contacts in agencies or providers.
- By working with each other, local authorities were able to share data and insights about local needs and local providers.
- Providers now have more power in the market and are able to choose which children they take.
- Many local authorities do not evaluate their sufficiency strategies effectively.
- Social workers said that they were able to advocate for children's best interests, even when that went against the local authority's overall strategic approach.
- Unregistered provision is used too often because of a lack of suitable regulated alternatives.

Action for Children. Let's talk about it: Insights from Action for Children's Parent Talk Service

Parent Talk is an early warning system for the challenges children and families face. Parent Talk conversation data provides insights into parents' challenges, and the barriers they face accessing other services. This paper is focussed on three of the most common issues Action for Children helped parents with last year.

The paper notes that from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 there has been a 140% increase in parents seeking support for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Further, child mental health was the top issue that parents sought advice with via Parent Talk's 1-to-1 coaching service with the issue being raised in over 50% of conversations on the platform. The study also found that after a spike in December 2020, there has been a steady increase in parents seeking help for a child who feels too anxious to attend school. Help dealing with school refusal was the second most accessed advice article on the website, used nearly 30,000 times last year.

Children's Commissioner. Beyond the labels: A SEND system which works for every child, every time

The Children's Commissioner is committed to ensuring that children's voices are at the heart of the Department for Education's (DfE) SEND Green Paper consultation. To inform this, the Children's Commissioner's Office (CCo) spoke with 55 children and young people with additional needs across a range of education settings and

analysed the consistency and accessibility of 650 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). A large proportion of the children in contact with the Children's Commissioner's advice and representation service for children in care or in contact with social services, Help at Hand, have SEND, and their experiences have heavily informed this work.

Four key messages emerged from the office's work:

1. Children are ambitious, but do not always have excellent support.
2. Children with special educational needs or disabilities is an extremely broad and diverse group. Every child has needs and objectives which need to be addressed, and some young people have special needs which require additional support. Some needs are relatively minor or exist for only short periods whilst others are lifelong. Regardless of a child's characteristics, where they live in the country, or their level of need, the SEND system needs to be able to provide them with the right support at the right time.
3. Children want services to work together to provide seamless support.
4. Children don't always feel understood.

Children's Commissioner. Help at Hand Annual Report and Review

This month the Children's Commissioner also released their Help at Hand Annual Report and Review. Help at Hand is a team of child rights advisers providing support to children within the Children's Commissioner's remit, who can make contact via phone, email, or the Children's Commissioner's Office website.



The six key themes to emerge from Help at Hand's work this year were:

1. Disabled children not receiving the right support within their families.
2. Looked after children with special needs not being in education or receiving education provision.
3. Children caught in the gap between health and social care.
4. A lack of suitable residential care provision for children with complex needs.
5. Instability and frequent moves for looked after children.
6. Care leavers missing out on support.

NHS Digital. Mental Health of Children and Young People in England 2022-wave 3 follow up to the 2017 survey

This report presents findings from the third (wave 3) in a series of follow up reports to the 2017 Mental Health of Children and Young People (MHCYP) survey, conducted in 2022. The sample includes 2,866 of the children and young people who took part in the MHCYP 2017 survey.

The mental health of children and young people aged 7 to 24 years living in England in 2022 is examined, as well as their household circumstances, and their experiences of education, employment and services and of life in their families and communities. Comparisons are made with 2017, 2020 (wave 1) and 2021 (wave 2), where possible, to monitor changes over time. Key findings include:

- In 2022, 18.0% of children aged 7 to 16 years and 22.0% of young people aged 17 to 24 years had a probable mental disorder.
- 11 to 16 year olds with a probable mental disorder were less likely to feel safe at school (61.2%) than those unlikely to have a mental disorder (89.2%). They were also less likely to report enjoyment of learning or having a friend they could turn to for support.
- 1 in 5 (19.9%) 7 to 16 year olds lived in households that experienced a reduction in household income in the past year. This was more than 1 in 4 (28.6%) among children with a probable mental disorder.
- Among 17 to 22 year olds with a probable mental disorder, 14.8% reported living in a household that had experienced not being able to buy enough food or using a food bank in the past year, compared with 2.1% of young people unlikely to have a mental disorder.

Briefings

Early Intervention Foundation. Using the Reducing Parental Conflict Planning Tool: Key findings from local areas

This briefing summarises the key findings from the analysis of self-assessment data from 130 local areas which used the Reducing Parental Conflict Planning Tool to develop their local plans to reduce the impact of parental conflict on children.

It found that all local areas have shown progress, especially in planning and delivering some local RPC activities. However, despite overall progress, the majority of local areas are still at first steps and early progress levels. Some areas found it difficult to clearly define outcomes measures and data collection processes. Introducing evaluation of RPC activities has also been challenging, given the need to

make progress in other areas first, delayed training or lack of consistency across the partnership.

Local areas identified several factors which contributed to the challenges to progress:

- contextual challenges, like the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- structural challenges, such as staff turnover and lack of capacity.
- staff development needs, for example statistical skills.

Cosmo. Briefing No.4- Mental Health and Wellbeing

This briefing, analysing data from the first wave of the COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities (COSMO) Study, considers the mental health and wellbeing of young people in year 11, mainly focusing on the symptoms of psychological distress as measured by the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12). It follows on from previous Cosmo briefings mentioned in November's Cordis Pulse.

The briefing also looks at bullying and self-harm, as well as how psychological distress during the pandemic has affected motivations and plans for the future. These issues are also explored by a variety of background characteristics, including gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic background and school type. In this particular COSMO research briefing, they also highlight the experiences of young people who report a gender identity other than male or female ('non-binary+' – just over 2% of participants), given previous evidence of increased psychological distress for this group. Key findings include:

- Over 2 in 5 (44%) 16-17 year olds in England report elevated psychological distress, 9% higher than the 35% reporting distress at age 17-18 in the Our Future cohort study (2017) and 21% higher than the 23% at age 16-17 in the Next Steps cohort study (2007).
- Those who experienced major life events during the pandemic, such as being seriously ill and suffering from food affordability issues, were also more likely to report elevated psychological distress.
- Those who identify as female report elevated psychological distress (54%), self-harm (23%) and suicide attempts (11%), compared to those who identify as male (33% report distress, 11% report self-harm and 5% report attempting suicide).
- Those who identify as 'non-binary+' report high psychological distress (69%) and they are considerably more likely to have self harmed (61%) or to have attempted suicide (35%) than their peers who identify as male or female.

- Over 2 in 5 (44%) young people with a parent who has high psychological distress also report high distress, compared to 30% of those with a parent who do not report high distress.

Ofsted. Local authorities having to find homes for children at the ‘last minute’

Local authorities are struggling with a last minute dash to find homes for children coming into care due to the rising demand for places and a lack of suitable accommodation, according to Ofsted.

Ofsted found that the lack of enough suitable accommodation, and the need to find placements quickly, mean local authorities often struggle to plan for and meet their legal duty to offer sufficient accommodation for children in need of care. Difficulty forecasting demand and the need for urgent placements leaves local authorities with little option but to respond to individual cases as and when they arise. Some local authorities told Ofsted that a lack of time and resources for forward planning results in a last-minute response when a child comes into care. Even when local authorities can plan, there is often a lack of available accommodation and care for children with more complex needs.

Local authorities also noted tension in their relationships with some private providers and their ‘power’ over the children’s social care market. Some suggested that providers can cherry-pick certain children, making it difficult for them to follow their plan and fulfil their sufficiency duty. Conversely, other local authorities highlighted how positive relationships with providers mean they are better able to find homes for children with more complex needs and negotiate the cost of placements.

Office for National Statistics. Who are the children entering care in England?

This article analyses the characteristics of children who went into care after Census 2011 using the Growing up in England dataset (2011 to 2015). Children in care are compared to those not in care across a wide range of areas including health, education, housing and family circumstances.

Children entering care in England were more likely to live in deprivation, have a lone parent, or have experienced abuse or neglect. Why they enter care and where they are placed can vary widely by sex and ethnicity.

Tools and Guidance

Ofsted. Guide for parents: how early years settings are inspected

These guides are for parents or carers of children who attend childminders, nurseries and other types of daycare or out of school settings. They include information on why



Ofsted inspects each setting, what happens on an inspection and the judgements Ofsted make following an inspection.

Department for Education. Children in need census: guide to submitting data

The Department for Education have updated their guide for how local authorities should collect data from social care services to complete the annual children in need census.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Department for Education. Applications to mother and baby units in prison: how decisions are made and the role of social work

In 2019, Lord Farmer carried out a review looking at the importance of strengthening female offenders' family relationships. This recommended that the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families (England) carried out a case review of "children removed from primary carers when they entered prison". This report looks at the findings from this case review. As there is currently no requirement for people who are in prison to declare if they have children when they are placed in custody, there are challenges to reviewing cases where children are in the community. For this reason, the DfE focused on the social work input and wider decision making process that determines whether to offer a prison Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) placement to women who apply.

Of the 39 reviewed applications that had been rejected by the MBU Boards, the social worker panel agreed that both the decision and the decision making process by the Board was reasonable in 25 cases. A number of these cases showed examples of good practice and engagement by social workers and the Board members. These included high quality evidence provided by social workers which demonstrated a clear understanding of the functions of an MBU and full and cohesive multidisciplinary approaches.

However, the panel raised concerns about 14 of the 39 rejected applications. Issues raised were:

- The MBU Board's decision to reject the application was not deemed to be reasonable in 3 of the 39 cases.
- There was a lack of social worker involvement in 10 of the 39 rejected applications, with social workers either not attending the MBU Board hearing, not writing a report for the MBU Board hearing, or both.
- Where there was social worker engagement, this was deemed below-standard in 3 of the 39 rejected applications.

A lack of support for women through the MBU application process and a lack of scrutiny of the MBU Boards' decisions was also found.

NHS England. Health and justice framework for integration 2022-2025: Improving lives- reducing inequality

In 2016, NHS England published its first ever strategy for health and justice, providing a framework for NHS commissioners, providers, those with lived experience and criminal justice and cross-departmental partners to work

collaboratively to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for those in secure and detained settings.

This document paved the way for working in partnership to support greater inclusion of patient groups and facilitate opportunities to improve the health of and reduce health inequalities for adults and children in the criminal justice system. These opportunities included a radical upgrade to early intervention, a shift towards person centred care, strengthening the voice and involvement of those with lived experience, supporting rehabilitation and ensuring continuity of care by bridging the divide between healthcare services in justice, detained and community settings.

Six years on, the 'Health and justice framework for integration: improving lives and reducing inequalities', looks to cement this partnership, ensuring NHS England's work in this area is at the very core of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). This is described by NHS England as fundamental in effectively tackling, at a local level, the health inequalities this vulnerable patient group face, along with improving their life chances as individuals move through the criminal justice system.

This framework sets out the direction of travel and national priorities which will inform the development of integrated health and justice services across England (excluding sexual assault and abuse services, which will have a separate framework for integration). It has been informed by the views and experiences of people with lived experience, partner organisations, providers and NHS England's own team. It also forms a companion document to existing strategies and programmes of work identified as beneficial to service improvement.

Twelve commitments are outlined to provide a framework for discussions and offer flexibility for implementation reflective of system maturity. These commitments include putting the patient voice at the centre of everything NHS England do, working in partnership to commission high quality care and providing evidence-based treatment as alternatives to custodial sentences.

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. The Usual suspects second edition

'The Usual Suspects' uses national data to assess the use of joint enterprise laws in prosecutions for serious violence in England and Wales over the last fifteen years. The report follows on from Dangerous Associations, the 2016 study which demonstrated how associations, gang and joint enterprise were being used to prosecute young people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Among the report's findings:

- Over a thousand secondary suspects were convicted of murder or manslaughter in the ten year period to 2020.



- Those from minority ethnicity communities, particularly the Black community, are consistently over-represented in multi-defendant prosecutions and convictions for homicide.
- The Supreme Court ruling had no discernible impact on the numbers or demographics of people prosecuted or convicted of murder and manslaughter in multi-defendant cases.

The report calls for the House of Commons Justice Committee to review the application of joint enterprise rules. It also calls on the Crown Prosecution Service to commit to proper data collection, and to undertake a retrospective review of joint enterprise prosecutions.

Briefings

Home Office. £15 million funding boost for women who are victims of violence

Millions of pounds are being allocated to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG), the Home Secretary has announced on the 25th November.

Measures announced include:

- £8.4 million to support victims of violence against women and girls.
- targeted funding for the most vulnerable communities.
- up to £7.5 million for domestic abuse interventions in healthcare settings.
- funding for rapid spiking tests to build police intelligence.

Ministry of Justice. Entrepreneur prisoners bid to turn back on crime

On the 17th November prisoners pitched their business ideas to a 'Dragons' Den' panel as part of a new scheme to steer them away from crime.

The prisoners compete for funding from business leaders in 'Dragons' Den'-style event with the new scheme aiming to give prisoners skills to start their own businesses on release to cut crime. Figures show offenders who get a job after prison are significantly less likely to reoffend.

Ministry of Justice. Reading app to help prison leavers turn new page

A new app to boost prison leavers' literacy is the latest part of a £20 million government plan to reduce reoffending through innovation. The app looks to boost

prison leavers' literacy and employability as part of a £20 million drive to cut reoffending through innovation.

It will be trialled with 300 offenders in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, starting this month, encouraging them to improve their reading skills and turn their backs on crime. Prisoners who engage in education behind bars are 9 percentage points less likely to reoffend, but with more than half of them having the reading ability of a primary school child they can continue to struggle after release.

Ministry of Justice. New sports fund to tackle youth crime

A new £5 million fund has been announced for what are described as 'crime-cutting sports schemes'. Charities across England and Wales will be able to bid for new money to run programmes designed to steer young people away from law-breaking and into positive activities aimed at teaching teamwork, resilience and discipline.