

July 2016

Welcome to July's edition of the CordisPulse - a monthly digest of key research and policy developments across the sectors in which Cordis Bright provides research and consultancy services, i.e., children and young people's services, criminal justice, and adult social care and health.

Some highlights over the previous month include: Ofsted published its third annual social care report and, in response to the referendum result, the King's Fund reported on the five big issues for health and social care following Brexit. We had hoped that the final report of the Charlie Taylor review on the future of youth justice was also going to be published but reports suggest that, in light of the new government and a change in Minister, this will be deferred. This means that it isn't too late to participate in our survey on the future of youth offending. This is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/futureofyots>.

What works: effectively addressing domestic abuse in children's services practice

We are pleased to invite you to attend our workshop '**What works: effectively addressing domestic abuse in children's services practice**' on Thursday 13th October 2016.

This workshop will be jointly delivered by Cordis Bright and a current and former Director of Children's Services. It is specifically designed for managers and directors of children and young people services and those involved in commissioning targeted domestic abuse and related services for children and young people.

The seminar will bring together experienced practitioners and experts to explore the complex and often high risk nature and impact of domestic abuse on children and young people, parenting and family dynamics.

The **agenda** will include the following discussion groups and panels:

- Key issues and gaps in addressing domestic abuse in children's social care practice. This session will include a presentation of case file auditing research from children's social care files in four different local authorities
- What the national Violence Against Women and Girls strategy (May, 2016) and National Statement of Expectations means for providing and commissioning services for children and young people
- Sharing learning: 'top tips' for children's social services to effectively address domestic abuse
- What works in designing a strategic approach to addressing domestic abuse in children's social care practice

The workshop will take place on the morning of **Thursday 13th October in London**. Further venue details to follow.

If you'd like to receive information about our workshop on domestic abuse and children's social care practice, please contact Yvette King or Sarah Barker on 020 7330 9170 / 07795427979 or by email on: yvetteking@cordisbright.co.uk or sarahbarker@cordisbright.co.uk

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

Children and young people's services

Reports

NSPCC - How safe are our children? 2016: overview of child protection in the UK

This report compiles and analyses the most robust and up-to-date child protection data that exists across the 4 nations in the UK for 2016.

The report sets out 20 different indicators. Each indicator looks at the question of 'how safe are our children?' from a different perspective. They also include historic data, to help track progress over time.

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

Social Mobility Commission - The childhood origins of social mobility

This report sets out the effect of parenting and socio-economic background on children's social mobility.

It discusses issues including:

- families eating together
- truancy
- parents' evening attendance
- the time parents spend reading to, and playing with, their children

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

Ofsted - Social care annual report 2016

Ofsted's third Social Care Annual Report presents a mixed picture. The report notes that while performance is inadequate in too many local authorities, several demonstrate that improvement is possible – often from a low base – and are now leading the way in providing good and outstanding services for children.

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

Barnardo's - The case for early support

Ahead of the 2015 general election, Barnardo's linked with four other children's charities to lead the "A Stitch in Time Campaign," highlighting the importance of prevention and early intervention in public services.

This report contains an essay outlining some of the learning taken from the experience in how greater investment in early support might be achieved.

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

|

The Children's Society - The cost of being care free: The impact of poor financial education and removal of support on care leavers

Last year 10,830 young people (aged 16 or over) left the care of their local authority and began the difficult transition out of care and into adulthood. While they will have received some level of support from their personal advisor, the Children's Society research found that the support they did receive was not always enough to help them confidently manage their finances.

This report explores the financial support and advice that care leavers receive prior to leaving care and the outcomes they face if they haven't had sufficient support.

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

Tools and guidance

Ofsted - Residential holiday schemes for disabled children

This document outlines the framework for the inspection of residential holiday schemes for disabled children and sets out the criteria and judgements that Ofsted inspectors will use from 13 June 2016.

It sets out how Ofsted will apply the principles and processes of all inspections of residential holiday schemes for disabled children, the statutory basis for inspection, how they will make judgements and report on inspection findings. It is used to inspect residential holiday schemes registered by Ofsted under the Care Standards Act 2000 (the Act) and the Residential Holiday Schemes for Disabled Children (England) Regulations 2013.

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

Statistics

Department for Education - Children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March 2016: England and Wales

This statistical first release provides data on secure children's homes (SCHs) in England and Wales. It includes the number of places approved and number of children accommodated as well as characteristics of those children accommodated: gender, age, length of stay and type of placement. This publication gives an annual snapshot of the status of SCHs in England and Wales at 31 March.

[To view these statistics, please click here](#)

The British Journal of Social Work - Exploring Demand and Provision in English Child Protection Services

This paper presents the results of an exploratory study linking the national data-sets for all children in need and child protection services in England. The study was informed by emerging literature on systems thinking in public services, and aimed to examine variations and patterns of response in local authorities to demand for child welfare services in their area. 152 local authority census returns and other statistical indicators covering up to a 13-year period were combined into a single data-set. Statistical analysis was undertaken to explore the characteristics of demand, workload and workforce, trends over time and variations between local authorities.

[To view these statistics, please click here](#)

Criminal Justice

Briefings

Prison Reform Trust - Proposals for Holloway women's centre

The Prison Reform Trust has published a proposal for the establishment of a women's centre on the site of the existing visitors centre at HMP Holloway, which is due to close later this month.

[To view this briefing, please click here](#)

Reports

The Howard League for Penal Reform - The Carlile Inquiry 10 years on

In 2006 the Howard League published the findings of an independent inquiry, chaired by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, into the use of restraint, solitary confinement and strip-searching in penal institutions for children.

This report, The Carlile Inquiry 10 years on, looks at what progress has been made since the Howard League published the findings of the inquiry.

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

The British Journal of Social Work - Moving Away from Social Work and Half Way Back Again: New Research on Skills in Probation

The study presented here, based on analysis of videotaped interviews between probation staff and the people they are supervising, shows what skills are used and the effects of skilled supervision. People supervised by more skilled staff were significantly less likely to be reconvicted over a two-year follow-up, and the most effective supervisors combined good relationship skills with a range of 'structuring' or change-promoting skills. In effect, this can be regarded as a test of the impact of social work skills used by probation staff and suggests that a closer relationship between mainstream social work research and probation research could be productive for both.

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

The Scottish Government - Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - Drug use report, 2014-15

This report examines the findings from the self-completion questionnaire on illicit drug use in Scotland. The report explores the prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland, and trends in self-reported drug use and the experiences of those who reported drug use in Scotland. The report will examine self-reported illicit drug use by adults aged over 16 using three time periods: in the last month, in the last year and ever.

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

Tools and guidance

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales - Young person exit form: guidance

The YJB designed the custody exit form following feedback from practitioners and young people. It helps collect the views of young people on their experiences of custody at the point of release.

The Exit form aims to highlight, support and/or enhance:

- young people's experiences of their sentence and resettlement
- young people's needs during their stay in custody, and as part of their resettlement
- young person safety and well being
- the accountability of all stakeholders in ensuring the Complaints and Incidents process is fair, open and transparent for those involved
- future planning and review of secure services.

This document contains guidance, which you should read in conjunction with section 7 of the Case Management Guidance and the national standards for youth justice services.

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

Adult Social Care and Health

Briefings

St Mungo's - The case for changing homelessness legislation in England

St Mungo's, along with other homelessness charities, is calling on the government to strengthen legislation in order to more effectively prevent rough sleeping and homelessness. This briefing makes the case for improving the current homelessness legislation and explains the key legislative changes that they are calling for.

[To view this briefing, please click here](#)

The British Journal of Social Science - An Evidence-Based, Pre-Birth Assessment Pathway for Vulnerable Pregnant Women

This briefing paper describes a new care pathway established within a UK-based social care team, which aims to provide early identification, intensive support, timely assessment and decision making for a group of highly vulnerable, pregnant women, their partners and their infants. The pathway of care is described and a case study is presented to illustrate this care pathway. A mother is referred at eighteen weeks of pregnancy and supported post birth for six months. The combination of supporting structured professional judgement by the inclusion of standardised tools and training in a programme specifically developed for high-risk families suggests that this pre-birth risk-assessment process warrants further evaluation.

[To view this briefing, please click here](#)

Reports

The King's Fund - Five big issues for health and social care after the Brexit vote

While the impact on health and social care services of leaving the EU is impossible to forecast, it is clear that a number of important issues will need to be resolved, five of which are set out in this paper.

Health is not an area of significant EU competence; its role is by and large limited to supporting member states in their health endeavours. Nevertheless, the impact of the UK's vote to leave the EU could have major implications for health and social care, not least because it has ushered in a period of significant economic and political uncertainty at a time when the health and care system is facing huge operational and financial pressures.

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

The Bevan Foundation - Making welfare work for Wales: Should benefits for people of working age be devolved?

This paper explores the potential for devolving working age benefits in Wales. It specifically looks at unemployment benefits and services, disability and sickness benefits, and Housing Benefit. It considers how well they are working for claimants in Wales now, and how social security interacts with devolved policy areas.

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

King's Fund – Supporting integration through new roles and working across boundaries

This report looks at the evidence on new roles and ways of spanning organisational workforce boundaries to deliver integrated health and social care.

Commissioned by NHS Employers and the Local Government Association, it finds increasing focus on roles which facilitate co-ordination and management of care, development of existing roles to increase the skill-mix and enable the provision of more holistic care, and a limited number of truly innovative roles, the most notable being care navigators and community facilitators, enablers or link workers. Given that many of the skills required for integrated care already exist within the workforce, it suggests the central question is how to use those skills more effectively to support boundary-spanning activities.

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

Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission and Social Mobility Commission – The social mobility index

The social mobility index sets out the differences between where children grow up and the chances they have of doing well in adult life.

The report compares the chances for children from poorer backgrounds doing well at school, finding a good job, and having a decent standard of living. The methodology report explains which data was used, defines social mobility and disadvantage and explains how to understand and use the data spreadsheet. The data spreadsheet shows the social mobility index by local authority.

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

Tools and guidance

NICE – Home care for older people

NICE quality standards describe high-priority areas for quality improvement in a defined care or service area. Each standard consists of a prioritised set of specific, concise and measurable statements. They draw on existing guidance, which provides an underpinning, comprehensive set of recommendations, and are designed to support the measurement of improvement.

This quality standard covers home care given to older people in their own homes to meet their assessed social care needs. An age threshold is not specified for older people. Although almost 80% of people using home care services are over 65, the quality standard may also be relevant to some people under 65 with complex needs. The quality standard does not cover intermediate care, short-term reablement, home care for younger adults or children using home care services.

[To view this guidance please click here](#)

Statistics

Department for Communities and Local Government – Statutory homelessness January to March 2016 and homelessness prevention and relief 2015 to 2016: England

This release provides information on the decisions taken by local authorities on homelessness applications and households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty by local authorities.

It also contains information on homelessness prevention and relief in England that took place outside the homelessness statutory framework.

[To view these statistics, please click here](#)

Health and Social Care Information Centre – Learning Disability Statistics - Annual Overview, England 2015-2016

This release presents experimental statistics from the Assuring Transformation collection and considers data from the Learning Disability Census; Hospital Episodes Statistics; Quality Outcomes Framework; Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Data Set and Mental Health Services Data Set all published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC).

The publication comprises:

- This report which presents key measures at England level
- Excel reference data tables showing all annual analysis at England, CCG and provider level
- CSV file showing all annual analyses at England, CCG and provider level
- A metadata file to accompany the CSV file, which provides contextual information for each measure
- Derivations and constructions file detailing how measures were calculated

The majority of this publication considers data from the Assuring Transformation collection, analysing data from a different perspective to the regular monthly and quarterly releases. Data covers the year ending 29 February 2016. For analysis, a snapshot of the data was taken as at 31 March 2016.

[To view these statistics, please click here](#)