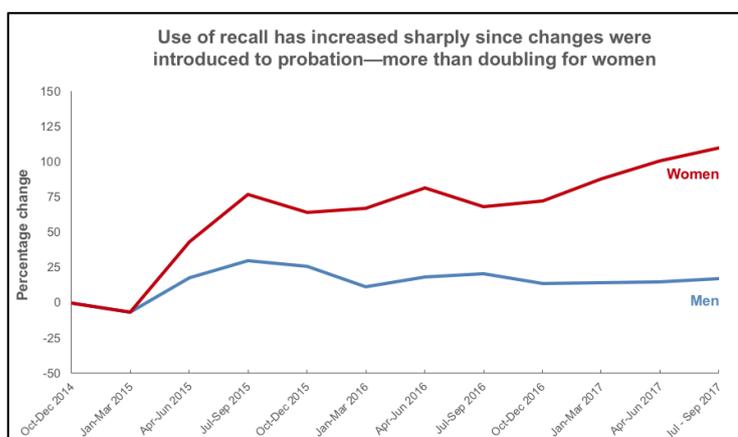


March 2018

Welcome to March'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.

In this issue, we review reports from The Prison Reform Trust and HM Inspectorate of Probation, both of which consider the landscape of offender recall in light of recent criminal justice reforms. Nearly four years on from *Transforming Rehabilitation's* overhaul of probation which saw the service split into the National Probation Service, supervising offenders deemed to be high-risk, and private Community Rehabilitation Companies, responsible for the management of offenders deemed to be low to medium risk, the dust is yet to settle on the impact of these changes on the criminal justice system.

A new briefing by The Prison Reform Trust finds that since the reforms to the probation service in 2014, recalls to prison have increased by 17% for men, and have more than doubled for women. The briefing attributes the rise in recalls to the general expansion of post-release supervision under *The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014*, which extends mandatory supervision to prisoners serving 12 months or less, with women being more likely than men to serve this length of sentence. In addition, the briefing argues that CRCs appear to have become more risk averse in their use of recall.





Source: [Prison Reform Trust](#)

This follows a thematic report by HM Inspectorate of Probation focusing on enforcement and recall, which raises issues around the lack of meaningful engagement between CRCs and clients, which has contributed to poor decision-making in managing breaches of community-based orders.

In February, Clinks, in partnership with NCVO and Birmingham University launched the third survey on the impact of *Transforming Rehabilitation*, and it's clear that close monitoring of the impact of these reforms is necessary to ensure the best possible outcomes for those affected by the changes.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse please do contact us on 020 7330 9170.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford

Head of Research

If you would prefer not to receive future editions of the CordisPulse, please click 'unsubscribe' at the very end of this email. If you would like to discuss anything that arises from the Pulse (or if there are others who you think would like to receive copies) then please contact Dr Stephen Boxford on stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk or 020 7330 9170.

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Cordis Bright News

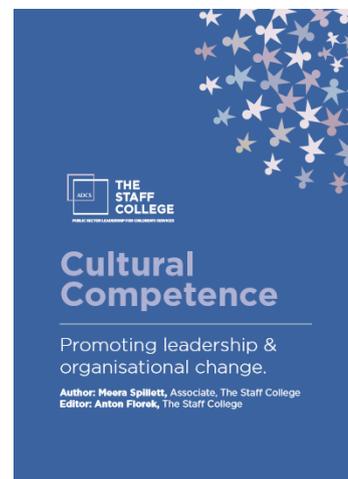
[Cultural Competence: Promoting leadership & organisational change](#)

This month, Cordis Bright's Senior Associate Meera Spillett wrote an article for Staff College focusing on exploring cultural competence as a model to facilitate the meaningful delivery of services to diverse communities, and to support organisational development.

This paper suggests that there exists a unifying concept, that when effectively applied, can become a powerful tool for whole organisational and individual change, potentially creating the context for increased equity in the workplace and ultimately leading to improved service provision for diverse communities.

Underpinned by the concept of Cultural Competence, organisations can create the conditions to receive and support more Black leaders, helping Black staff and leaders to survive and thrive within their roles and address the barriers that sadly still exist for Black staff in achieving primary leadership roles. In addition, using this approach can make their commissioning and service delivery more suitable for all those diverse groups within local communities, endowing practitioners with the skills to more appropriately meet the needs of all.

Read more by clicking the link in the title above.



Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

[The Health Foundation. Approaches to social care funding: social care funding options](#)

This report from The Health Foundation considers a range of approaches to funding social care for older people in England, including: improving the current system; the Conservative Party's proposals at the time of the 2017 general election - a revised means test and a cap on care costs; a single budget for health and social care; free personal care; and a hypothecated tax for social care. While remaining conscious of the difficulties of reforming the current system the report offers a critique of each option. Of particular interest is the Health Foundation's assessment of a joint health and social care budget. The report finds that while a joint budget could support progress towards more integrated care, it will not in itself address the differences in eligibility between the two systems or generate additional revenue for health or care.

[NHS Digital: Psychological Therapies: Annual report on the use of IAPT services England, further analyses on 2016-17.](#)

This report from NHS Digital examines activity, waiting times and outcomes for the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme. IAPT services provide treatment such as counseling, CBT, and peer support for depression and a range of anxiety disorders. Most interestingly, NHS Digital's report finds that recovery rates for those accessing IAPT and completing treatment have increased gradually year-on-year since 2012-13, reaching 49.3 per cent in 2016-17. However, there were differences in the recovery rates for different ethnic groups, with recovery rates for non-white patients between 5-8% lower than for white patients.

[CQC. Monitoring the Mental Health Act report 2016/17.](#)

The CQC's annual report on the use of the Mental Health Act (MHA) considers how providers are caring for patients, and whether patient's rights are being protected. The report finds limited or no improvement in the key concerns raised by the CQC in previous years. The report finds that 32% of care plans reviewed showed no evidence of patient involvement (compared to 29% in 2015/16); 17% of care plans showed no evidence of consideration of patient's particular needs (compared to 10% in 2015/16); 31% of care plans showed no evidence of the patient views (compared to 26% in 2015/16); 17% of care plans showed no evidence of consideration of the least restrictive option for care (compared to 10% in 2015/16); and 24% of care plans showed no evidence of discharge planning (compared to 32% in 2015/16). The report also notes that the number of people detained in hospital under the MHA has increased in recent years.



[Local Government Association. A matter of justice: Local government's role in tackling health inequalities](#)

Local government can play a significant role in tackling the health inequalities that lead to deprived communities experiencing poorer mental health, higher rates of smoking, greater levels of obesity, shorter lives, and more years of ill health than the 'more affluent'. This



report provides an overview of the different health inequalities experienced by different groups, for example, focusing on inequalities between ethnic groups, inequalities and LGBT people, and inequalities and the criminal justice system. The report then goes on to discuss high-level strategic policy commitments that can help councils embed a council-wide approach to reducing health inequalities. In addition, the report considers some of local authorities' core functions, how they impact on health and provide suggestions for basic actions councils can take in using local government's functions to reduce health inequalities.

Department for Education. *Blended and face-to-face adult learning: research report*

This report describes a randomised control trial (RCT) into the relative effectiveness of face-to-face compared to blended learning for adult English and Maths learning. The results of the trial were inconclusive, due to the small number of learners assessed both at the start and the end of their course. However, important lessons were learned around ensuring that RCTs are not overly resource intensive for participants and fit alongside the practicalities of the day-to-day activities of research participants.

King's College London. *The UTOPIA project: using telecare for older people in adult social care*

This report presents the findings of an evaluation of telecare in use in UK social care. The report surveyed local authority telecare managers to find out how telecare is being used by local authority adult social care departments in England to support older people. The report emphasises that the most frequently used forms of telecare are usually basic, with the top three most frequently used being pendant alarms, fall detectors, and bed or chair occupancy sensors. Furthermore, relatives are most likely to be the individuals responding to information from telecare. The report highlights several barriers to more extensive use of telecare including skill deficits among professionals and installers, and contract inflexibility with suppliers.

Briefings

Public Health England. *Evidence review: Homeless adults with complex needs: evidence review*

Given the ongoing rise in homelessness in the UK, this report from Public Health England seeks to provide an overview of the national picture in relation to homelessness and provides insights into the current evidence base to support action in preventing and reducing homelessness, particularly rough sleeping. The report explores the complex mix of risk factors for rough sleeping, in addition to the evidence for interventions that may support efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness, including: 'No Second Night Out', 'Housing First', 'Psychologically Informed Environments', 'Personalised Services', and 'MEAM'. The report concludes that a system wide, integrated approach is needed to ensure that there are a range of linked services available to meet the needs of those with highly complex needs. The review highlights several gaps in the literature around homeless adults with complex needs, including lack of return on investment tools to facilitate an assessment of the savings created by interventions working with adults in this group.

Children and young people's services

Reports

NSPCC. *Ten years since the Byron Review: Are children safer in the digital world?*

This report revisits the 38 recommendations made in the 2008 Byron Review “Safer Children in a Digital World” on how best to ensure child safety online. The report finds that, of the 38 recommendations, 16 have been implemented, 11 have not been implemented, 7 have been partially implemented, and for 4 of the recommendations the landscape has changed too much to accurately judge.

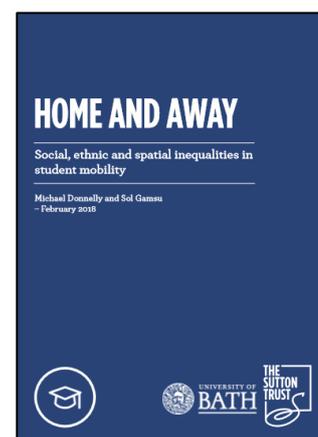
With regards to the recommendations that remain unaddressed, The NSPCC is focusing on advancing three key measures: 1) More communication providers, in particular social networks, demonstrate best practice in relation to child safety online. 2) More children know how to keep themselves safe online. 3) More adults know how to keep children safe online.

Accordingly, the NSPCC is calling for the following: The establishment of a set of minimum standards and a statutory code of practice for online providers, centred around the safety of children and young people, moving away from voluntary regulation; greater transparency on data and information-sharing amongst industry, allowing for accountability and providing insight into their processes to keep children safe online; and finally, clear and transparent management processes relating to reporting, moderation, notice and takedown procedures, effective age verification processes and the offer of support for users when needed.

The Sutton Trust. *Home and Away: Social, ethnic and spatial inequalities in student mobility*

Exploring access to higher education, this report finds that staying at home and studying locally is strongly differentiated by ethnicity and social background. Social class is a key factor which drives the mobility choices of young people, with disadvantaged students less likely to leave home and travel further. Over three times more students in the lowest social class group commute from home than do so from the highest group (44.9% compared with 13.1%).

In contrast, the report finds that leaving home and attending a distant university is too often the preserve of white, middle class, privately educated young people. Controlling for other factors including class, location and attainment, state school students are 2.6 times more likely to stay at home and study locally than their privately educated counterparts. British Pakistani and British Bangladeshi students are over six times more likely than White students to stay living at home and study locally – with the chances increasing substantially since the increase in fees to £9,000.



The Children's Society. *Safety Net: Cyberbullying's impact on young people's mental health: Inquiry report.*

The Children's Society's report presents evidence of the impact of cyberbullying's impact on young people's mental health, based on a combination of survey views of children and young

people; oral evidence from children, young people, and professional stakeholders; and a review of relevant academic literature. The report identifies a connection between intensive social media use and mental ill health, particularly for girls, and argues that the steps being taken by social media companies in response to cyberbullying are inconsistent and inadequate. The report identifies a number of issues to ensure that social media companies, governments, schools, families, and industry play their part in creating a digital environment that limits the prevalence of cyberbullying. These recommendations include: improving accountability by requiring social media companies to publish data about their response to reports of online bullying; social media platforms should enable children and young people to understand their rights and responsibilities, including their behaviour towards others; and finally, that social media companies should provide timely, effective and consistent responses to online bullying.

Department for Education. *Characteristics of young people who are long-term NEET*

This report includes analysis of the characteristics of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) for a year, 3 years after completing key stage 4 in the 2010 to 2011 academic year. The report finds that the following groups: looked after children, children in the Children in Need census, and those who have attended alternative provision or a pupil referral unit had the highest percentage of those classed as NEET.

Department for Education. *Education in inpatient mental health units*

This paper reports the findings of a survey to explore education in inpatient mental health units in England. Overall, the survey found that the majority of pupils in inpatient mental health units received over 16 hours of education per week in a registered school. The survey found that there are a variety of models for delivering education, but a majority of units deliver education through regular timetabled activity totalling over 16 hours per week. Units had mixed experiences with obtaining sufficient information on baseline levels and progress from pupil's home schools however, in most units discussions with home schools were reported to take place at all points during a pupil's time in the unit.

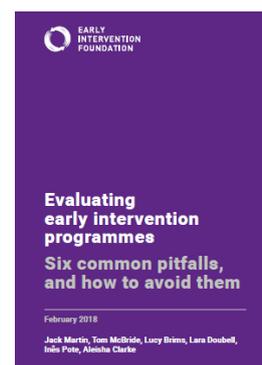
Tools and Guidance

The Early Intervention Foundation. *Evaluating early intervention programmes: Six common pitfalls, and how to avoid them.*

The EIF has produced guidance on addressing six of the most common issues they encounter in their assessments of programme evaluations, and how these can be avoided or rectified. The six most common pitfalls identified in the report are: 1) Lack of a robust comparison group 2) High drop-out rate 3) Excluding participants from the analysis 4) Using inappropriate measures 5) Small sample size 6) Lack of long term follow-up. The report emphasises that high-quality evidence on 'what works' plays an essential part in improving the design and delivery of public services, and ultimately outcomes for the people who use those services. Accordingly, avoiding these pitfalls in evaluation can help to produce the best possible results for children and young people at risk of developing long-term problems.

The Early Intervention Foundation. *Building trusted relationships for vulnerable children and young people with public services*

Reviews of the child protection system have suggested that children who experience abuse lack a designated adult outside of the family





system who is able to provide consistent support – or a ‘trusted relationship’. This report provides a rapid overview of the evidence regarding the features of trusted relationships that are critical to improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

The report finds that there is a strong logic for thinking that trusted relationships between a practitioner and a child can protect vulnerable young people from CSE or CSA, but as yet no evidence to support this. In addition, there is a lack of high-quality research evidence on the risk and protective factors for becoming a victim of CSE or CSA. However, there is good evidence for the effectiveness of high-quality mentoring approaches. The report concludes that Home Office policy aimed at increasing trusted practitioner-child relationships available to vulnerable children should focus on the following: growing system capability for trusted relationships at the national and local level; supporting the development of consistent, high-quality mentoring for vulnerable young people; enabling effective implementation and evaluation, focusing on workforce behaviour and organisational culture on relational practice, and measurement that adds to the UK evidence-base.

Local Government Association. Don't be left in the dark: children and young people's mental health

This short guide provides an overview of the challenges facing mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people. Topics covered include: an introduction to mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people, how these services are funded, the main challenges facing these services – such as lack of capacity, difficulties matching services offered with needs of patients, and reaching the correct target populations.

Department for Education. Extending personal adviser support to all care leavers to age 25

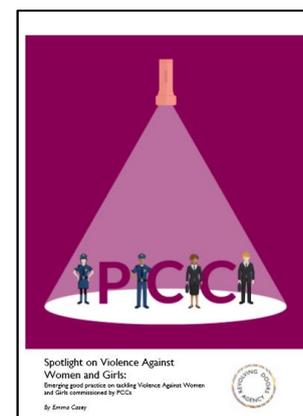
The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a new duty on local authorities, to provide PA support to all care leavers up to age 25, if they want this support. This document provides information to local authorities to assist them in implementing the new duty.

Criminal Justice

Reports

[Revolving Doors Agency. Spotlight on violence against women and girls \(VAWG\)](#)

This report, the sixth in Revolving Doors Agency's series of 'spotlight reports', focuses on emerging good practice on tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) commissioned by PCCs. The report finds that almost all Police and Crime Plans identified VAWG as a key vulnerability or need locally. However, only a third of plans translated this into a strategic priority. The report argues that given the prevalence of VAWG: (1.2 million women across England have experienced substantial physical and sexual abuse across their life time), and its ramifications on the lives of women: on mental health, homelessness, and substance use, it is vitally important that national and local leaders adopt robust strategic approaches tackling VAWG. The report identifies examples of good practice by PCCs, including prevention, early intervention, and diversion work, that recognises the underlying causes of VAWG including gender inequality, racial and ethnic discrimination, and social exclusion.



[HMICFRS. PEEL: Police Leadership 2017](#)

This report summarises the findings on police leadership from HMICFRS's annual PEEL assessment of all forces in England and Wales. The report draws out encouraging examples of police practice including: establishing cultures that support wellbeing and ethical behaviour; and improving working conditions through the use of tools such as annual workforce surveys. The report also identifies areas for improvement including: succession planning and identifying future leaders; taking action to improve the workforce's skills in looking after vulnerable people; and finding and developing new methods of working or ideas for dealing with problems.

[HM Inspectorate of Probation. Enforcement and recall: A thematic inspection.](#)

This inspection report critiques private probation companies (CRCs) enforcement of community-based court sentences, finding that staff do not see offenders frequently enough, and that this lack of meaningful engagement led to poor decisions in managing breaches of the orders. The report emphasizes that though the proportion of community-sentences completed or ended early through good progress has been gradually rising, it was still the case that in 2016-17 a total of almost 30,000 court orders were terminated through failure to comply, further offences or other reasons.

Briefings

[The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research. Employment and employability in Scottish prisons: A research briefing paper.](#)

The research involved an international review of literature and examination of existing policy, law and practice around employment in Scottish prisons carried out



from March 2017 to December 2017. The aim of the work is to explore how the SPS addresses the need for, and right to, employability and employment and to consider what kinds of legislative and policy reform can better enable the intended outcomes underpinning work in prisons in Scotland.

Prison Reform Trust. *Why are more women being returned to prison than ever before?*

This briefing explores the reasons behind the ongoing rise in the number of women recalled to prison since the overhaul of probation in 2014. The briefing stresses that while recalls for men have increased by 17% since the reforms, the number of women recalled to prison has more than doubled since 2014, despite the fact that women are far less likely to commit serious offences. The briefing attributes the rise in recalls to the general expansion of post-release supervision under *The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014*, which extends mandatory supervision to prisoners serving 12 months or less, with women being more likely than men to serve this length of sentence. In addition, the briefing argues that CRCs appear to have become more risk averse in their use of recall.

Howard League for Penal Reform. *Legal aid for prisoners to be reinstated following successful challenge by the Howard League and the Prisoners' Advice Service.*

From Wednesday 21st February, legal aid for prisoners will be reinstated for three key areas of prison law, after Chris Grayling's cuts were successfully challenged in court by the Howard League and the Prisoners' Advice Service. Cuts to legal aid for prisoners have coincided with record high prison numbers, self-injury and suicide rates, and calls to the Howard League legal advice line rose by 62% after the cuts came into force.