

## December 2014

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

During November we were pleased to see a number of important reports published, especially in the area of children and young people's services. These included reports by Ofsted and the Communities and Local Government Committee in response to the concerns raised by the *Jay Report* into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham. Both reports highlight a number of failings with the way in which child sexual exploitation has been dealt with across the country, and present detailed recommendations for local authorities to review their arrangements to ensure that lessons are learnt on a national level.

With regard to criminal justice, the Ministry of Justice released prison population projections which predict a rise in prisoner numbers in the next six years, reversing its 2013 projections. As well as this, a number of tools have been made available by the Youth Justice Board designed to support practitioners and managers in ensuring a continued focus on the needs of young people in the secure estate.

In the area of adult social care and health, The King's Fund has published an in-depth report into how quality is managed in community health services, making a series of recommendations as to how outcomes can be measured and bench-marked against robust, comparable national indicators. The Department of Health has released its Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, now in its fourth year, which provides tools for measuring outcomes for people using social care services and their carers. There was also a report published by the Local Government Information Unit into the future of the home care workforce, calling for improved work and pay conditions for care workers.

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

Seasons greetings and we wish you a prosperous new year.

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](mailto:stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk) or 020 7330 9170.



## Children and young people's services

### Policy

#### **Department for Education. Boarding schools: improving outcomes for vulnerable children**

This paper sets out to encourage education professionals, local authorities and social workers to consider a boarding place for vulnerable children. While it acknowledges that the number of vulnerable children for whom boarding would be the most suitable option is always going to be relatively small, it argues that for those whom it is, boarding presents a wide range of social and educational benefits.

[To review, please click here](#)

### Reports

#### **Children's Rights Alliance for England: State of Children's Rights in England**

This report examines how recent government cuts to children's services impact on children's basic rights as outlined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It finds that cuts to local authority budgets are leaving children and their families without access to vital support services, and that this is threatening children's basic right to a good start in life. Showing how children with special educational needs and disabilities are left particularly vulnerable, it argues that a more long-sighted perspective on the impacts of cuts is needed.

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

#### **Children's Services Development Group and the Local Government Information Unit: Children's Services Taskforce**

This report is based on discussions with 16 local authorities, and explores how the commissioning and delivery of services for children and young people with complex needs can be improved to achieve better outcomes. It argues that a national outcomes framework is needed in order to define a range of measurable outcomes, and amongst its recommendations suggests that this could be used to guide commissioning and provide greater clarity and consistency for providers.

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

#### **Communities and Local Government Committee. Child sexual exploitation in Rotherham: some issues for local government**

This report was carried out in response to the concerns raised by last month's *Jay Report* into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, and looks into the accountability and governance issues which arose. It concludes that organised child sexual exploitation is widespread across England, and that local authorities need to review their arrangements to ensure they fully investigate concerns when they arise.

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



### **Department for Education. Indicators of neglect: missed opportunities**

This report aims to help children's social care practitioners to spot risk factors associated with actual or future harm and abuse to very young children. It presents a system of assessment which highlights areas where it has found there to be failings in the past, and intends to help practitioners understand the evidence base behind indicators of actual and future harm and abuse.

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

### **Department for Education. SEND pathfinder programme**

These three reports focus on 19 to 25 year old provision, workforce development, and the local offer for the SEND pathfinder programme. They present a number of key findings and learning points, evaluating the programme and its effectiveness in increasing choice, support and value for money for those with special educational needs and disabilities.

[To access these reports, please click here](#)

### **Health select committee. Children's and adolescent's mental health and CAMHS**

This report into the commissioning and delivery of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) found a number of serious and deeply ingrained problems running through the whole system, from prevention and early intervention to inpatient services for the most vulnerable young people. It makes a number of recommendations to ensure that children are better served by services, focused around a call for a clear national policy directive for CAMHS, accompanied by adequate funding.

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

### **NFER. Changing attitudes to vocational education**

This report argues for a fundamental change in the way in which vocational education is viewed. While there has recently been a number of welcome reforms to vocational education, perceptions have not kept up and this paper argues that changing attitudes is a key step which the education system must take in order to provide young people with the skills needed to be competitive in a global marketplace.

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

### **NSPCC. Social workers' knowledge and confidence when working with cases of child sexual abuse**

This report focuses on social workers in England, finding that they often lack confidence in working with children affected by sexual abuse, and that this can be attributed to a lack of access to training and managerial support. Accordingly, it presents a number of recommendations for educators, employers and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

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

### **Ofsted. Meeting local skills needs: the responsiveness of further education and skills providers in Greater Manchester**

This report focuses on the aspects of good practice and the barriers facing providers of further education and skills in Greater Manchester when developing their curriculum to meet local needs. It seeks to address the comparatively low-skilled workforce of the Greater Manchester area, and



provides recommendations for providers who wish to further develop their curriculums to meet local needs.

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

### **Ofsted. The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?**

This thematic report evaluates the effectiveness of local authorities' current responses to child sexual exploitation. It finds that there are a number of failures common to the majority of local authorities, ranging from strategic leadership issues to performance management weaknesses. Drawing upon findings from practice, the report makes recommendations for local authorities, their partners, and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

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

### **Research in Practice. That Difficult Age: Developing a more effective response to risks in adolescence**

This report looks at the complex needs of adolescents, and finds that existing child protection systems are ineffective because they are overly focused on the prevention of harm to younger children. Based on evaluations of current practices, it calls for the creation of an adolescent-centred approach that takes into account a range of factors which go beyond risk within their own families, such as increased risk-taking and gang involvement.

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

## **Statistics**

### **Association of Directors of Children's Services. Safeguarding Pressures**

This statistical study has collected data from local authorities since 2007/08, and finds that the number of calls to councils about the safety and well-being of children has increased by nearly 12% between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

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

### **Department for Education: EYFSP attainment by pupil characteristics 2013 to 2014**

This statistical release expands on last month's national and local authority level results, providing attainment data for the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP). It provides specific statistics relating to attainment by pupil characteristics; notably ethnicity, special educational needs and level of deprivation.

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

### **Office for National Statistics. Measuring National Well-being, Exploring the Well-being of Young People in the UK, 2014**

This statistical release uses a ten-point framework to measure the well-being of young people aged 16 to 24 in the UK. It identifies correlations between levels of well-being and a number of factors such as leisure time, health, income, and being in employment, education or training.

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



## **Tools and guidance**

### **NFER. NEET prevention: Keeping students engaged at Key Stage 4**

This guidance for senior leaders outlines ways in which schools can deliver support programmes to those students who have no substantial issues or barriers but are still at risk of disengaging from learning. It is based on NFER research into existing programmes operating across England.

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

### **Public Health England. Troubled families: supporting health needs**

This guidance, from Public Health England, the Department of Health, and the Department for Communities and Local Government, details the expanded Troubled Families Programme which will be working with families who have mental and physical health issues. It seeks to clarify the roles and responsibilities of individual agencies in the integrated provision of services to a wider group of troubled families from 2015 to 2020.

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



## Criminal Justice

### Statistics

#### **Ministry of Justice. Prison Population Projections 2014 – 2020 England and Wales**

This official statistics release provides the Ministry of Justice's prison population projections for 2014-2020 in England and Wales. The report estimates that between November 2014 and June 2015, the prison population will rise from 85,925 to 87,700, and will reach 90,200 by June 2020. This is in contrast with last year's projections, which estimated a fall in prison population. The report details key reasons for this change, identifying an increase in recorded crime for certain offence types as outweighing the fact that overall crime is falling.

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

#### **Ministry of Justice. Statistics on Women and the Criminal Justice System 2013**

This report provides key statistics about females and males in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in England and Wales. It presents key findings and trends relating to a number of aspects of the CJS, highlighting areas where practitioners may wish to undertake further analysis.

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

#### **National Offender Management Service. Offender Equalities Annual Report 2013 – 2014**

This statistics publication provides an equalities-focused commentary on information relating to a number of offender statistics, including self-harm and death in prisons.

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

### Tools and guidance

#### **Youth Justice Board. Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act: guidance for YOTs**

This guidance is for youth offending teams (YOTs), YOT managers and operational managers with responsibility for anti-social behaviour and liaising with the courts. It is intended to highlight areas of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which are relevant to actions and requirements where a young person is involved.

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

#### **Youth Justice Board: AssetPlus desistance table**

This tool is designed to support intervention planning and encourage a focus on the young person's needs and behaviours. It allows practitioners to visually bring together the push and pull factors which may cause or negate desistance in the young person's life.

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



### **Youth Justice Board: YOT to YOT transfer questions**

This tool is in the form of a number of transfer questions, designed to support caretaking or complete case transfers between Youth Offending Teams (YOTs). It is intended to be used by practitioners prior to the transfer of the young person, as part of a fuller review.

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



## Adult social care and health

### Reports

#### **Joseph Rowntree Foundation. How can 'positive risk-taking' help build dementia-friendly communities?**

This report explores how dementia care services can learn from approaches developed in statutory mental health services by taking calculated and reasoned risks, arguing that the benefits of positive risk-taking can outweigh the negative effect of avoiding risk altogether. It is based upon the results of consultations with service users living with dementia and organisations working in the field, and presents a number of recommendations of what should happen next in order to enable the facilitation and creation of dementia-friendly communities.

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

#### **Local Government Information Unit. Key to Care: Report of the Burstow Commission on the Future of the Home Care Workforce**

This report, led by former Care Minister Paul Burstow, analyses existing data and takes evidence from those involved in the home care sector to assess the state of the current workforce in the light of a number of scandals in residential care homes. Its findings are damning, concluding that due to a number of factors such as low pay and zero-hour contracts there is a serious lack of stability in the care workforce, and suggests that it is only a matter of time before there is a major scandal in home care. It makes a number of recommendations as to how this can be avoided, including giving care workers key-worker status and paying the living wage, ultimately concluding that care providers must be paid more by councils for the work they do.

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

#### **Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Bevan Foundation. Death and dying in Wales – An analysis of inconsistencies in access to specialist palliative care and hospital activity in the last year**

This report, written by the Bevan Foundation in partnership with Marie Curie Wales, analyses unique NHS data on every person who died in Wales in 2012 to investigate any association between socio-economic factors, hospital activity in the last year of life, and the receipt of palliative care. It finds that only 17% of people dying received specialist palliative care, revealing some striking findings relating to admission and bed days in the last year of life, and showing a smaller role for deprivation than anticipated.

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

#### **The King's Fund: Commissioning and contracting for integrated care**

This report describes how clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in England have been given greater scope for innovation, and looks at how this has been used to promote a focus on integrated care. Using research undertaken in five geographical areas across England, the report outlines four key lessons which CCGs, other commissioners and care providers should keep in mind when commissioning and contracting integrated care services.

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



### **The King's Fund: Managing quality in community health care services**

This report presents findings from a small-scale study into how quality is managed in community services. Focusing on the ways in which community health care providers can define and measure quality, it recommends that quality information and management systems in community services are developed and supported in order to ensure that the hard work of local level providers can be benchmarked against robust, comparable national indicators.

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

## **Statistics**

### **Independent Age and The Strategic Society Centre. The Bigger Picture: Understanding disability and care in England's older population**

This statistical report uses data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing to estimate the numbers of older people in England who are receiving varying degrees of care. Its results reveal a significant lack of support for older people in need, and also gives insights into how service users rate the suitability of care they are receiving.

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

## **Tools and guidance**

### **Department of Health: Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) 2015 to 2016**

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) is now in its fourth year, and provides a means for measuring outcomes for people using social care services and their carers. This year's framework shows continued improvements in overall outcomes, and highlights areas where more improvement is needed.

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

### **Social Care Institute for Excellence. Gaining access to an adult suspected to be at risk of neglect or abuse: a guide for social workers and their managers in England**

This guidance seeks to clarify existing powers relating to the access of adults suspected to be at risk of abuse or neglect. It does so by drawing upon examples of good practice and offering advice as to how it can be embedded into everyday social care provision.

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