

## July 2014

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.

During June there were a number of interesting evaluations published including of: (a) Children's Centres in England, (b) payment by results in Children's Centres, and (c) the Families First programme in Wales. As well as these evaluations, we were also interested in new guidance published by the YJB in relation to local partnership working. In the arena of adult social care and health there were a number of interesting publications including: the Department of Health's guidance to local authorities on scrutinising health services and the King's Fund report on reforming the NHS from within.

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



## Children and young people's services

### Policy

#### **DfE: New freedoms to help local areas support vulnerable children**

Local authorities will be given new freedoms to encourage innovation and achieve better outcomes for vulnerable children. Under new regulations, local authorities will be able to delegate social care functions to mutuals, community interest companies and other not-for-profit organisations to deliver children's social care. The details are outlined in the government's response to the consultation on powers to delegate social care functions.

[To access the news story, please click here](#)

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

#### **DfE and DoH: SEND code of practice – 0 to 25**

This guidance reforms the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25 in England. It must be approved by Parliament before it comes into force on 1 September 2014. This statutory code is for headteachers, governing bodies, school staff, SEN coordinators, early education providers, health and social services staff, and local authorities.

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

#### **DWP and DfE: Child poverty strategy launched**

Supporting families into work, improving living standards and raising educational attainment are the fundamental aims set out in the government's child poverty strategy. The government is seeking views on a proposed new persistent child poverty target for the UK, to be achieved by 2020. The consultation is open until 14 August 2014.

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

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

#### **HM Treasury: Government introduces Bill to help working families with childcare costs**

The government has introduced the Childcare Payments Bill, which aims to help working families by giving basic rate tax relief on childcare of up to £2,000 per year for each child. The Bill would build on the £5 billion per year the government already spends on early education and childcare and provide 1.9 million working families with 20% of their childcare costs.

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

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



### **PHE: Reducing unintentional injuries among children and young people**

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of preventable death for children and young people and a major cause of ill health and serious disability. This guidance provides action areas for local authorities and their partners to help develop injury prevention strategies for children and young people.

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

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

## **Reports**

### **DfE: Evaluation of children's centres in England (ECCE)**

This research examines the effectiveness of children's centres in England at providing services to eligible families. The evaluation studies the management, organisation and programmes offered in the centres; it includes a longitudinal study of families and children who used these children's centres, and a cost-benefit analysis of the programme. The research shows that children's centres are reaching over 90% of families most in need.

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

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

### **DfE: Lowest rate of young people NEET for 20 years**

New stats reveal the proportion of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) is at the lowest level since comparable records began 20 years ago. The statistics also show the number of 16- to 18-year-olds NEET has dropped by more than a quarter since the end of 2009.

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

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

A related report evaluates and analyses the effectiveness of the youth contract for 16- to 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training to encourage participation in education or training.

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

### **DfE: Payment by results in children's centres evaluation**

This report summarises the findings of a trial of payment by results (PbR) in children's centres. The trial looked to test the effectiveness of PbR in local decision making. The stated objective of the PbR trial was to see whether PbR incentivised a local focus on the core purpose in terms of: encouraging a local focus on the importance of early intervention in the early years and the role of children's centres, encouraging local investment in early intervention and children's centres, and encouraging evidence-based decision-making which takes account of the results for families.

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



### **DfE: Primary schools providing access to out-of-school care**

This report provides estimates of the number and percentage of primary schools in England providing access to before school care, after school care, holiday care, and two or all three types of care. The report found that in 2013, 64% of all primary schools in England provided access to before school care, 70% provided access to after school care and only 19% provided access to holiday care.

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

### **UK Commission for Employment and Skills: Youth employment in an international context**

This is the fourth report in the UK Commission for Employment and Skills' (UKCES) series on the labour market and young people. It provides an overview of the current state of the labour market and young people, and presents statistics on UK youth unemployment with international comparisons. It demonstrates the importance of access to the workplace, either through work experience or through opportunities to earn and learn (including apprenticeships as well as combining part-time work with full-time study).

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

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

### **Welsh Government: National evaluation of Families First**

Research on Families First was conducted with a range of stakeholders, including families who were engaged with the programme. The report includes updates on the following areas: implementation, management and governance, changes in systems and process, family outcomes, and what works in Families First delivery. Messages from the reports will be used to inform the future delivery of the Families First programme.

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

### **Welsh Government: Research into employment outcomes for young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders**

This research investigates the extent and nature of employment outcomes and barriers to employment for young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) living in Wales. This research was commissioned in order to inform the development of the refreshed ASD Strategic Action Plan and in response to concerns about post-education employment outcomes of young people.

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



## **Criminal Justice**

### **Policy**

#### **YJB: Youth offending teams – local partnership working**

This document gives updated guidance for youth offending teams on effective governance of youth justice services in England. It will help local authorities and statutory partners in health, police and probation fulfil statutory duties in relation to the delivery and management of youth justice services locally, whether they are new to such work or experienced. It may also be of use to non-statutory partners who contribute to the delivery and oversight of local youth justice services, such as senior housing officers, magistrates or voluntary sector representatives.

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

### **Reports**

#### **House of Commons Justice Committee: Crime reduction policies – a co-ordinated approach?**

The Justice Committee's report suggests that the Treasury should seriously question whether taxpayers' money is used in ways most likely to reduce future crime and victimisation. The report calls on the Treasury to develop a longer term strategy for the use of resources tied up currently in the criminal justice system. Despite significant spending cuts in all parts of the criminal justice system, it appears that the Government has shied away from using the need to make those cuts to re-evaluate how and where money is spent. The report sets out a number of recommendations for moving forward.

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

#### **MoJ: Public experiences of and attitudes towards the family justice system**

This summary presents findings from the 2012 to 2013 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) examining public attitudes and experiences of the family justice system, including mediation. Overall, the CSEW shows that although the public's direct experience of the family justice system (FJS) was limited, those who had been involved reported positively on their experiences. Around half of adults were aware of the FJS and mediation as an alternative to court. Overall, the majority of adults were confident in the FJS.

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

#### **National Children's Bureau: Youth courts inquiry - final report**

NCB has been providing the secretariat for the Independent Parliamentarians' Inquiry into the Operation and Effectiveness of the Youth Court. The inquiry published its final report which sets out findings and a range of recommendations to provide a blueprint for the reform of the youth court.

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



## Adult social care and health

### Policy

#### **DCLG: Government investment to build thousands of new homes**

Secretary of State Eric Pickles announced millions of pounds of investment across a range of programmes, to boost the supply of new homes in all areas of the housing market. A variety of investments are being put in place to help fix the broken housing market. This includes further investment in the Local Infrastructure Fund, Build to Rent, and a new serviced plots prospectus investment fund.

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

#### **DoH: Advice to local authorities on scrutinising health services**

Local authorities are responsible for scrutinising local health organisations to ensure they are providing effective, efficient services and encourage improvement. The guidance explains the health scrutiny regulations and provides local authorities with advice about how to implement them to ensure that existing health services are providing effectively for local communities.

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

#### **DoH: Updating our care and support system: draft regulations and guidance**

The Department of Health is seeking views on how local authorities should deliver the care and support reforms in the 2014 Care Act, which come into effect in April 2015. The draft regulations and guidance have been developed by working with expert groups, including users of care and support, local authority staff, voluntary sector organisations, social workers, and national representative bodies including those drawn from local government. The consultation closes on 15 August 2014.

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

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

#### **MoJ and DoH: Mental Capacity Act – government response to the House of Lords Select Committee report**

This is a government response setting out a system-wide programme of work to implement the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The government has considered the 39 recommendations of the House of Lords and reviewed inputs and insights received from discussions with a wide range of stakeholders. The response sets out a system-wide programme of work over 2014 to 2015 and beyond that they believe will improve to the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act.

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

#### **Monitor, NHS England and NHS Trust Development Authority: Urgent and planned care – operational resilience and capacity planning for 2014/15**

This framework sets out best practice requirements across planned and urgent and emergency care that local healthcare systems should reflect in their local plans, as well as providing information on more general requirements such as operational planning, patient experience and planning for higher dependency patient groups.

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



### **PHE: Knowledge strategy – harnessing the power of information to improve the public’s health**

This document describes the strategic approach to information and knowledge that the public health system needs to take in order to improve and protect public health and reduce inequalities. The knowledge strategy was developed following an extended consultation process and incorporates responses from local government, national organisations and key partners. The strategy addresses the entire knowledge lifecycle from understanding the requirements of those who are using public health knowledge through to what technologies PHE will use to disseminate it. It concentrates on openness, transparency and partnership working.

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

## **Reports**

### **DoH: NHS Jimmy Savile investigation – assurance report**

Twenty-eight NHS hospitals have published the findings of their investigations into Jimmy Savile. The publication of these reports follows the disclosure of information by the Metropolitan Police Service in 2012 and a document review as part of a Special Police Services Agreement in 2013. The investigations have been overseen by Kate Lampard, who was asked by the Secretary of State to provide independent assurance on behalf of the Department of Health.

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

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

### **DoH: Payment by results – costing in the NHS**

This report summarises the findings of a review into the costing accuracy and processes of 50 NHS providers. It found that improvements are needed in the quality of cost information at the majority of trusts audited. Reference cost submissions at one third of trusts audited were materially inaccurate, with ‘at risk’ trusts in particular struggling to cost accurately. Just 12% of trusts had good quality costing across all services. These findings demonstrate the challenges that using this information present at national and local levels.

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

### **JRF: The impact of welfare reform on social landlords and tenants**

This research explores how significant cuts to welfare spending are affecting social housing tenants and landlords. It focuses on changes to a number of benefits including the Housing Benefit size criteria, Council Tax Benefit, disability benefits, and Universal Credit. The study highlights the financial and social impact of the reforms on tenants. It shows the difficult decisions they are faced with, such as cutting back on food, heat and electricity, falling into debt and selling belongings to survive. It also looks at the changing relationship between social landlords and tenants, and the types of services housing associations are having to provide. Finally, the report explores whether such welfare reforms will make people more or less dependent on welfare.

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



A related report by the JRF provides a detailed examination of the impact of the Housing Benefit size criteria – also known as the ‘spare room subsidy’ or ‘bedroom tax’ – in its first year of operation.

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

### **PHE: Promoting the health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men**

PHE has set out the challenge and vision for the health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Their research has identified three distinct but overlapping areas of concern, which disproportionately affect MSM - sexual health and HIV, mental health and the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. They recommend a new approach: one that focuses on these three areas of greatest need and places them in the context of the life course – from school children through to old age.

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

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

### **The King’s Fund: Reforming the NHS from within – beyond hierarchy, inspection and markets**

This paper reviews the impact of three approaches to NHS reform in England since the late 1990s: targets and performance management, inspection and regulation, and competition and choice. It argues for a fundamental shift in how the NHS is reformed, learning from what has worked (and what has not) in England and elsewhere. Such a shift requires a much stronger focus than hitherto on bringing about improvement and change from within health organisations and networks of care. The paper argues that this is the best route to system-wide transformation, particularly given the limited impact of reforms that rely on external stimuli.

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

### **The Leadership Alliance for the Care of Dying People: One chance to get it right**

This report sets out a new approach to care of the dying in England based on the needs and wishes of the person and those close to them. The response sets out the Alliance’s commitment that care for all people in the last days of their life should be compassionate and tailored to the needs and preferences of the dying person. To achieve this, the Alliance has developed five new Priorities for Care, which set out the standards of care that dying people and their families should expect to receive. This replaces the Liverpool Care Pathway as the new basis for caring for someone at the end of their life.

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

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

### **Welsh Government: Barriers faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in accessing domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, and sexual violence services**

The study involved an evidence assessment, qualitative interviews with 18 professionals and written submissions from 34 LGBT people across Wales. The research found that LGBT people who experience domestic abuse, stalking and harassment and sexual violence may face specific barriers to accessing services. These included “individual barriers” related to their knowledge and perceptions, “interpersonal barriers” related to control and abuse from other people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and “structural and cultural barriers” that related to the way existing services have been designed with the needs of heterosexual, cisgender women in mind.

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



## Tools

### **PHE: Improved guidance to improve the health of people living with a mental illness**

Public Health England, NHS England, NHS Improving Quality and the National Audit of Schizophrenia have co-produced an updated version of the Lester UK adaptation of the positive cardiometabolic health resource guidance for healthcare and public health professionals to help improve the physical health of people with mental illness. The Lester Tool is a downloadable resource designed to be used in a range of healthcare settings to improve screening and to ensure a person's physical and mental health condition are jointly addressed. It provides a systematic framework for screening and recommendations for treatment and support.

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

### **PHE: New Mental Health Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Networks**

PHE launched the National Mental Health Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Networks, consisting of four pilot profiling tools which will support the delivery of improved physical and mental wellbeing services in local areas and reduce the negative impacts of ill health. The Networks operate collectively and will provide commissioners, local decision makers and other health professionals with authoritative intelligence, research and evidenced best practice. It provides indicators about risk factors, prevalence, access to services, outcomes and finance, and includes profiling tools looking at common mental health disorders, severe mental illness, community mental health profiles, and neurology.

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