March 2015

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.

During February, we were pleased to see a number of interesting reports with regard to children’s and young people’s services which have sought to bring together the views of practitioners and the general public. For example, the Department for Education’s Workload Challenge which invited teachers to identify unnecessary and unproductive tasks provoked over 20,000 responses and lead to a number of significant reforms. Similarly, the Nuffield Foundation’s research into public attitudes towards child maintenance presents strong evidence for reassessing current practice.

Several evaluations are included in this month’s Pulse. These reports relate to programmes such as the Government financed Alcohol Fund Project and the Big Lottery sponsored U R Boss Project which aimed to improve processes and outcomes for young people in the criminal justice system. Both projects sought to deliver innovative solutions to complex problems involving young adults.

A range of guidance has been published in the areas of criminal justice and social care and health. The Ministry of Justice, for example, have produced guidance on “Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements” and the Department of Health have produced a series of factsheets relating to the latest Care Act. As we begin to approach this year’s general election a number of policy organisations have started to put forward suggestions for future Government policy. A good example of this is Policy Exchange’s recent report examining the issue of welfare, which sets out a range of policy recommendations.

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

Department of Health: Jimmy Savile NHS investigations - lessons learned

This report identifies common themes from the NHS investigation reports into matters relating to Jimmy Savile and the NHS-wide guidelines and procedures produced in light of the related investigation. This report also suggests that understanding of the events and issues associated with Jimmy Savile are enhanced by appreciating the historical context.

To access this report, please click here

NFER: The SpringBoard Bursary Foundation Impact Assessment: Year 1

This report presents an evaluation of the SpringBoard Bursary Foundation. Established in 2012, the Foundation exists to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people through the provision of full bursaries at state and independent boarding schools. The report finds that SpringBoard is starting to positively transform the lives of pupils selected to take part and that the programme’s comprehensive network of support is central to its success.

To access this report, please click here

Department for Education: Workload challenge for schools - government response

In October 2014 the Government launched the Workload Challenge which invited teachers to identify unnecessary or unproductive tasks. More than 20,000 people responded to this challenge. This report presents the government’s response to the issues raised by teachers in their responses to the workload challenge.

To access this report, please click here

The Bevan Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Community-based approaches to tackling poverty

This document represents a joint submission as part of the National Assembly for Wales Inquiry into Poverty. The submission highlights the importance of area-based approaches to reducing poverty and disadvantage and argues that many things can be done locally to reduce poverty.

To access this submission, please click here

The Nuffield Foundation: Child maintenance: how would the British public calculate what the state should require parents to pay?

This report examines public attitudes towards child maintenance, with a view to understanding how much maintenance people thought the state should require non-resident parents to pay in a range of circumstances that vary according to the income of each parent. Among other things, the report found that the amounts that the public thinks the law should require non-resident fathers to pay are higher than those set by the current statutory child maintenance formula and that non-resident fathers should provide amenities beyond a basic minimum when they can afford to do so.

To access this report, please click here
Tools

Department for Education: Timelines for schools to convert to academies
This guidance provides information for schools wishing to convert to academies, including the documents that need to be provided and the deadlines by which they should be submitted.

To access this guidance, please click here

Department for Education: Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 - statutory guidance
This statutory guidance is for: local authorities; school leaders; school staff; governing bodies. The guidance sets out the responsibilities of local authorities (in the exercise of their education functions) and schools along with the circumstances where staff should be directed to apply to Ofsted to waive disqualification.

To access this guidance, please click here

Criminal Justice

Reports

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies: Prisoners and looked after children
This collection of slides presents the findings of Dr Roger Grimshaw's recent research examining anti-poverty strategies for prisoners and children looked after by local authorities. This report finds that both groups would benefit from increased support to families and individuals, the provision of lifelong education, and full employment in the most disadvantaged communities.

To access this report, please click here

Ministry of Justice: Reoffending analysis of MAPPA eligible offenders
Established in 2001 Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) primary foci are public protection and the prevention of serious harm through reductions in serious reoffending. This report details research that builds on a 2011 comparison study of reconviction rates of MAPPA eligible offenders between 1998 and 2004, and updates the findings using rates of proven reoffending as a more accurate indicator of offending behaviour. The reductions in reoffending for new MAPPA eligible offenders suggest that MAPPA may be making a positive contribution to managing offenders convicted of serious offences.

To access this report, please click here

The Howard League for Penal Reform: Public legal education – an evaluation
This report presents the fourth interim evaluation of the U R Boss project and looks at the Public Legal Education (PLE) strand of the programme. Supported by the Big Lottery Young People's Fund, over the period July 2009 to June 2014, the U R Boss project aims to improve processes and outcomes for young people in the criminal justice system. PLE training was delivered on the issue of resettlement,
which had been identified as a major issue by U R Boss participants. This evaluation discusses the origins, developments and achievements of the PLE programme.

To access this report, please click here

Statistics

Ministry of Justice: Changes to criminal justice statistics

Criminal justice statistics quarterly presents key statistics on activity in the criminal justice system for England and Wales providing users with information about proven offending and its outcomes. From 20 November 2014 to 22 January 2015, the Ministry of Justice ran a consultation on changes to the criminal justice statistics quarterly. This document sets out a number of proposed changes to the publication, which aim to improve the way in which information is made available to users.

To access this report, please click here

Tools

Ministry of Justice: Multi-agency public protection arrangements - guidance

Multi-agency public protection arrangements are in place to ensure the successful management of violent and sexual offenders. This guidance sets out the responsibilities of the police, probation trusts and prison service. It also touches on how other agencies may become involved, for example, the Youth Justice Board will be responsible for the care of young offenders.

To access this guidance, please click here

Ministry of Justice: Revenge Porn Factsheet

Under new legislation which will cover England & Wales, the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill, it will soon be easier to prosecute instances of ‘Revenge Porn’. This factsheet provides information about the definition of revenge porn, the changes that are taking place, and sources of more information.

To access this factsheet, please click here
Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

The Kings Fund: The Future is Now

This report builds upon NHS England’s NHS five year forward view. Published in October 2014, this document presented a clear case for new models of care. The present report brings together examples of change that is taking place in pockets across England and internationally, offering a glimpse of a future that already exists, albeit unevenly distributed.

To access this report, please click here

John Rowntree Foundation: The Low Pay, No-Pay Cycle

This research assesses the scale of the ‘low-pay, no-pay’ phenomenon, whereby people cycle between periods of low pay and worklessness. The report finds that being low paid increases the probability of periods of worklessness by around 10 per cent, after accounting for a host of individual, family and employment characteristics. The report found that more than third of low-paid workers experience a period of worklessness over a four year period.

To access this report, please click here

Crisis and others: The Homelessness Monitor, England 2015

This report is part of a five year (2011-2016) study designed to provide an independent analysis of the impact on homelessness of recent economic and policy developments in England. This year 4 report monitors the impact on homelessness of the economic downturn and effects of welfare and housing reform and analyses key trends from the baseline account of homelessness developed in 2011.

To access this report, please click here

Policy Exchange: Welfare Manifesto

This report presents a number of policy recommendations relating to welfare. They include: asking pensioners to 'opt-in' to receive the their winter fuel payment, which could save as much as £400 million a year; increasing the personalisation of the welfare system, and including the state pension in the welfare cap.

To access this report, please click here


In November 2014, Dr Litchfield, the Chief Medical Officer, published his independent review of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). In this report the Government sets out what it will do to work towards achieving Dr Litchfield’s recommendations to help further improve the WCA.

To access this report, please click here

Department for Work and Pensions: Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessments first independent review - government response

In December 2014, Paul Gray, chair of the Social Security Advisory Committee, published an independent review of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment. In this report the
Government sets out what it will do to work towards achieving Mr Gray’s recommendations, with a full response planned in due course.

To access this report, please click here

Department of Health: Choice in end of life care

This report considers how the quality and experience of care for adults at the end of life and those close to them could be improved by expanding choice. Many people consulted as part of the research explained that they wanted choice over their place of care and death; others wanted choices over other aspects of their care, such as pain control and involvement of family and those close to them. The report makes a number of recommendations to improve the choices offered to people at the end of their life.

To access this report, please click here

Department of Health: Suicide prevention, second annual report

This report summarizes the latest trends, research and developments on suicide prevention in England. The report calls on services to be more ambitious about suicide prevention, and challenge the assumption that suicide is inevitable; it also highlights 3 areas in England that have already adopted a zero suicide ambition and outlines how services can improve by adopting this new attitude.

To access this report, please click here

Department of Health: MyNHS – planning 2015-2017

The MyNHS website enables health and care organisations, as well as the public, to compare the performance of services over a range of measures, at both local and national level. The site is hoping to encourage organisations and professional teams to compare their performance and see where they can improve what they do and the services they offer. This document summarises the current plans for how the information on MyNHS will be expanded and improved between 2015 and 2017.

To access this report, please click here

Department for Communities and Local Government: Alcohol fund - end of project summary

The Alcohol fund project provided a share of £1 million to 20 areas tasked with finding innovative solutions to problem drinking and anti-social behaviour. This presentation provides an overview of the Alcohol fund project, its outcomes and learning gathered from the 20 areas that were given funding.

To access this report, please click here

Statistics

Department of Health: Statistical update on suicide

This official statistical release provides key statistics about the number of people who have committed suicide, as certified by a coroner’s inquest. This information brings together information relating to prison deaths, apparent suicides following police custody, and self-inflicted deaths by people in contact with mental health services.

To read this statistical release, please click here
Tools

Department of Health: Care Act 2014 factsheet
The Department of Health has produced a series of fact sheets which provide information for Local Authorities on matters ranging from their general responsibilities, assessing needs and determining eligibility, through to market oversight and providing support to adults detained in prison.

To access this guidance, please click here

Department of Health: getting ready for the cap on care costs - funding to support implementation
This document gives advice to local authorities about using the additional £146 million of funding provided from April 2015 to plan and prepare for the final set of changes to fully implement the Care Act.

To access this guidance, please click here

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs: Prevention of drug and alcohol dependence
This briefing paper provides a summary of some of the key recent discussions in the substance use prevention field in order to inform policy development and UK prevention providers. The report observed that there is little clear evidence of ‘what works’ in drug prevention although recent advances in prevention science mean that high quality service evidence is being generated. The paper finds that environmental prevention activities such as pricing, taxation and marketing controls have evidence for success in reducing use and harms associated with alcohol and tobacco use.

To access this briefing paper, please click here

Independent Living Fund: Independent Living Fund, ADASS, and LGA code of practice
This guidance is intended to support the effective transfer of Independent Living Fund users to sole local authority support in England from July 2015. Originally published in April 2014, this version takes into account the publication of the Care Act 2014 regulations and guidance and reflects the progress made on the transfer programme.

To access this guidance, please click here

Welsh Government: Guidance for Welsh local authorities on cross-border placements for adults
Schedule 1 to the Care Act 2014 sets out principles governing occasions when a local authority decides that a person's need for care and support is best met by a placement into residential care in a different part of the UK. Provisions relating to cross-border placements and dispute resolution will come into force across the UK, including Wales, in April 2015. This document provides guidance on these changes and the principles underpinning cross-board placements.

To access this guidance, please click here