

May 2017

Welcome to May'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.

This month, we have conducted a review of the party manifestos for the 2017 General Election and what they potentially mean for adult social care and health and for children and young people's services. Please see more in the Cordis Bright news section.

A positive is the increased focus on adult social care. In the 2015 General Election, adult social care barely got a mention. The Conservative manifesto commitment to implement the higher threshold for means testing and the introduction of a cap on the total cost of care were both postponed eleven weeks after the election.

Now the Conservatives have put forward another scheme which is the effective abolition of free or subsidised homecare for anyone who owns a property in England. We can find only four areas of the country where the average value of a home is less than £100,000. Following a poor reception for this idea the Conservatives have reversed their position on a cap on the lifetime costs of care and suggested that consultation on this would form part of the process of developing a green paper.

As a strategy it is probably right to look to an income raising measure to pay for it, but the brevity of the manifesto combined with the further alterations to the policy raise many more questions than answers, chief amongst these are:

- The level of the cap is critical. The original plan of having a cap on the cost of care set at £72,000 meant in practice that very few people entering residential care would ever live long enough to reach this amount.
- Equity release is a complex area and there is a significant cost difference between Universal Differed Payment (UDP) schemes operated by local authorities and the products available in the private sector.



- The UDP scheme is already patchy in application and it is far from clear that Local Authorities could manage a significantly extended scheme in both scale of resources and duration of loans.

One of the possible unintended consequences of this policy change could be a growth in residential care. Under the current system the value of an asset plays no part in determining what an individual pays for home care but does for residential, remove this anomaly and suddenly residential care can become a more attractive option for families to consider.

All parties in this election have attempted to say something of substance about the provision of adult social care and for all of them the harsh reality is that with an aging population the demand for these services will rise and with them the cost. The dilemma is really about who takes responsibility, the individual alone, the collective via the state, or a combination of the two.

Concerning **Children's Services** we were pleased to see the findings of the evaluation of Birmingham City Council's Step Down programme. This evaluation conducted by the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford shows the impact of a partnership approach to bringing young people out of residential homes into foster placements. It suggests the approach in Birmingham has achieved both potential cost savings as well as positive impacts on placement stability and young people engaging in much higher levels of activities than they were in their prior residential placements. These findings link to our work supporting a number of areas to improve their approaches to foster and residential care for children and young people.

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.

Cordis Bright News

Manifesto Analysis 2017

Ahead of GE2017, we have reviewed the manifesto commitments made by UK-wide parties on **health and social care, children and young people's services, criminal justice** and **Brexit**. Common themes across the parties include a much greater focus on adult social care than in 2015; better mental health services provision for children and younger people; rehabilitation in prisons; and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Read Cordis Bright's analysis of manifesto commitments on:

- **health and social care**;
- **children and young people's services**;
- **criminal justice**; and
- **Brexit**.

Delayed Transfer of Care (DToC) update (part 3): recruitment and retention of social workers

Integrated hospital discharge teams can find it hard to recruit and retain social workers. It seems critical, but somewhat overlooked, in the research we have seen about how best to tackle DToC. Here we share our understanding of why this problem occurs and the tactics which can improve things. We also explore options for diverting existing expenditure to try to improve retention.

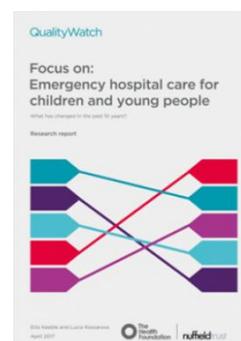
Cordis Bright's latest update on DToC is available [here](#).

Children and young people's services

Reports

Quality Watch. Emergency hospital care for children and young people. What has changed in the past 10 years?

This report looks at the use and quality of emergency hospital services for children and young people aged up to 24, using Hospital Episode Statistics from 2006/07 to 2015/16. It identifies key trends including rates of hospital emergency care use, reasons for admissions, re-admittances and lengths of stay. Headline findings include an increase in emergency hospital admissions and A&E attendances for under 25s over the past ten years, in both absolute and proportional terms. This is particularly acute for infants and young children. However, children and young people now tend to spend less time in hospital following an emergency admission.





The Rees Centre. Evaluation of Birmingham City Council's Step Down Programme

The Step Down Programme started in July 2014 and aims to bring young people out of residential homes into foster placements. It is financed in part by a Social Impact Bond contract with a social investor topping up on the element met by Birmingham City Council. This preliminary report, based on quantitative and qualitative data, finds “compelling reasons” to suggest the programme improves the young people’s quality of life. Placement stability and engagement in activities have increased and the programme is seen to offer good quality, individualised support to young people and to carers. The programme also appears to bring about cost savings in the long run.

Early Intervention Foundation. Inter-parental conflict and outcomes for children in the contexts of poverty and economic pressure

In this report, the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) review the evidence on links between inter-parental conflict and poor child and adolescent outcomes across emotional, behavioural, social, academic and relationship domains, in the contexts of poverty and economic pressure. They also provide a review of evidence on the effectiveness of interventions to improve inter-parental relationships and child outcomes, both in the UK and internationally.

Early Intervention Foundation. Exploring parental relationship support: A qualitative study

This report provides a “deep-dive” on service provision for inter-parental relationship support in five case study areas. This is part of a wider study, in conjunction with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, to better understand the extent and nature of services supporting inter-parental relationships in the UK, with a particular focus on families in or at risk of poverty. The report explores the range of relationship support services in each of the case study areas in terms of perceived aims; range of provision and perceived gaps; how services are commissioned and provided; access to and take-up of services; understandings of effective provision and current monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and recommendations for improving provision.

The Sutton Trust. Pupil Premium Polling 2017

The Sutton Trust have published findings from their annual poll of teachers. The Trust say the results of their survey of 1,361 teachers highlight how budget cuts are affecting schools across England. Almost a third of head teachers said they use pupil premium funding to plug gaps in their school’s budget. Four fifths of secondary school heads said they had cut back on teaching staff or teaching assistants to save money. Schools with more disadvantaged pupil populations were also more likely to report cuts to staff than the least disadvantaged schools.



Criminal Justice

Reports

Joint Committee on Human Rights. Mental Health and Deaths in Prison: Interim Report (Seventh Report of Session 2016-17)

In the context of peak numbers of self-harm and suicide in prison, the Joint Committee have been leading an inquiry into mental health and deaths in prison. As their inquiry has been interrupted by the Dissolution of Parliament prior to June's general election, this report summarises the inquiry's work to date and further work planned. It also sets out their provisional conclusions and proposals for legislation. Recommendations include a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to specify and maintain a prison officer to prisoner ratio at each institution; a legal obligation for the Prison Service to ensure a key worker is assigned to each young prisoner or adult prisoner with mental health problems; and a legal maximum limit on the length of time a prisoner can be kept in their cell each day.

Prison Reform Trust and Zahid Mubarek Trust. Tackling Discrimination in Prison: still not a fair response.

This is the first formal study of the discrimination incident reporting form process in prisons. The study analyses 610 investigations from eight London prisons in 2014. Only one in every 100 prisoners who made discrimination allegations against prison staff had their case upheld, whereas cases were upheld for three in every four staff reporting discrimination by prisoners. The report finds that the system for handling discrimination complaints is not fair, not impartial, and does not have the confidence of prisoners. The report also finds that the process does not provide prisons with opportunities for learning and tackling discrimination within their institutions.

Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). Report to the Government of the United Kingdom on the visit to the United Kingdom

This report was produced by the CPT following its recent visit to law enforcement agencies, prisons, psychiatric institutions and immigration detention centres in the UK. Headline findings include concerns about safety for inmates and staff in English prisons due to violence, chronic overcrowding and poor regimes; criticism of the use of force, long-term segregation and night-time confinement of patients in secure psychiatric hospitals; and recommendations to increase the recruitment and retention of mental health nurses.

Briefings

HMIC. State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2016

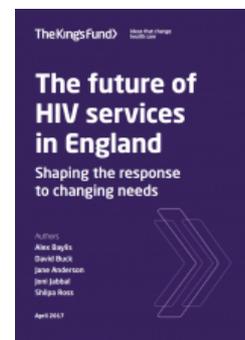
HMIC have published their annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of each police force in England and Wales. This includes an overview of the state of policing, an overview of the findings from all inspections conducted by HMIC in 2016, and a full list of their reports published in the year.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

The King's Fund. *The future of HIV services in England*

Effective care for people with HIV has led to increasing numbers of people living with HIV into older age with normal life expectancy. However, the recent health reforms and local government budget cuts are making HIV services more complex to plan and difficult to fund. In this report, the King's Fund assesses the challenges and opportunities facing HIV services in England, and makes recommendations on future developments to local and national leaders.



Care Quality Commission. *Review of CQC's impact on quality and improvement in health and social care*

In this report the CQC reviews what it currently knows about its impact and the extent to which it is achieving its purpose of ensuring high quality health and social care and encouraging improvements in quality. The report draws upon a range of sources including an analysis of ratings given to providers, self-completion surveys, internal management information, and case studies of providers regulated by CQC. Findings are generally positive: the majority of care providers find the CQC's guidance, standards and inspections useful in helping them deliver good care; and the study identifies widespread and wide-ranging improvements following CQC inspections.

The Health Foundation. *In short supply: pay policy and nurse numbers*

This report explores what it considers to be the most significant workforce issues if the NHS is to sustain high quality care in England: nurse numbers and staffing standards, and pay policy. It identifies large current and predicted shortfalls in nurses, and anticipates the crisis becoming more acute once the UK leaves the EU. The report also predicts that between 2010/11 and 2020/11 the pay of NHS staff will have declined by at least 12% in real terms. Given this context, the report identifies the absence of a coherent workforce strategy as an "Achilles heel" of the NHS in England.

Local Government Association Housing Commission. *Building our Homes, Communities and Future*

The Local Government Association (LGA) Housing Commission was established to help councils deliver homes that are affordable, meet the diverse needs and aspirations of their communities and ageing populations, and that are well supported by services and infrastructure. This is the Commission's final report. The report recommends that housing is put "at the heart" of health and care. This involves the integration of health and care services into neighbourhood plans to support positive ageing; inclusion of health and wellbeing boards in neighbourhood planning processes; provision of stable funding and policy support to increase the supply of specialised housing for vulnerable older people; and Age Friendly



neighbourhood principles being built into planning policies. The Commission also makes recommendations on housing supply and affordability (finance, borrowing and planning regulation), improving town planning and increasing the national skillset, and improving employment and earnings for low-income households.

Crisis. An examination of the scale and impact of enforcement interventions on street homeless people in England and Wales (2017)

This study examines how enforcement is being used to address street homelessness. It explores interventions on behaviours associated with rough sleeping (such as street drinking and begging) to understand how these measures might impact on homeless people. Despite the increase in formal enforcement measures being used by local authorities, the report finds that rough sleepers experience informal measures far more frequently, with being ‘moved on’ and defensive architecture the most frequently encountered. While 94% of local authorities claim that support and advice is always given alongside enforcement actions, this study’s survey finds that no advice or support was offered in 81% of rough sleepers’ most recent experience of enforcement. When support was offered, the take-up rates were high.



Briefings

Local Government Association. Ten point plan to boost local services – key manifesto asks

Ahead of June’s general election, the LGA has issued a statement calling on all political parties to commit to their 10-point plan to boost local services, build homes, create school places, close skills gaps and drive economic growth. The LGA highlights the need to close the £2.3 billion funding gap facing social care services by 2020 and requests the incoming government conducts a formal review (in which local government leaders play a key role) to develop and secure a long-term sustainable solution. The Association also calls on the new government to fund the £2 billion gap that will be faced by children’s services in England by 2020, so that councils can keep children and young people safe.

The King’s Fund. Assessing the credibility of election manifesto promises on health and social care

The King’s Fund sets out five key areas for health and social care on which party manifesto promises should be assessed: ensuring sustainable funding; improving how care is provided; giving priority to population health; working with people and communities; and supporting the NHS and social care workforce. While the Fund accepts that meeting these challenges will be difficult, it argues that any credible manifesto needs to engage the public on these issues in a “grown-up conversation” about the balance between public and private responsibilities.

Tools and Guidance

Care Quality Commission. *Celebrating Good Care, Championing Outstanding Care*

This good practice guide brings together a series of case studies illustrating what the CQC consider to be good and outstanding care. It also shares the views of the people who are responsible for such outstanding care, and explains how they drive improvement within their services.



Centre for the Analysis of Social Media (at Demos) and The King's Fund. *Online support: investigating the role of public online forums in mental health*

This report explores methodological and ethical issues around the use of publicly available discussion data from online forums related to mental health. It describes methods for collecting one million forum posts, explores whether computational techniques can provide robust and useful insight from these discussions, and addresses the ethical challenges posed by such research.