



CordisPulse

November 2022

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

This month we were pleased to publish the final report from our five-year national evaluation of the MEAM Approach, a non-prescriptive framework that aims to help cross-sector voluntary and statutory partnerships to design and deliver better coordinated services for people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

The evaluation shows that co-ordinated, flexible and person-centred approaches bring improvements to support for those experiencing multiple disadvantage and that this support enables positive change and progress towards personal goals. The report also highlights the value of co-production in the design and delivery of this support, and the importance of embedding these principles across local systems to facilitate necessary systems change.

The report can be accessed by clicking [here](#). We have welcomed the opportunity to help build the evidence base around multiple disadvantage, and we are continuing to deliver research and evaluation in this area as part of the national evaluation of DLUHC and the National Lottery Community Fund Changing Futures programme among other projects.

We've also had an active 35th Black History Month. This year's theme was "Time for Change: Action Not Words". As vital as it is to acknowledge the past to learn from it, this theme underpins the fact that acknowledgement must be accompanied by a commitment to tackle racism wherever and whenever it persists. At Cordis Bright, we sought opportunities to continue to educate ourselves. We ran a number of events for staff to generate discussions on these themes, as well as sharing resources and reflections online. Our reflections on Black History Month can be read [here](#).



If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse, please do contact us on 020 7330 9170 or email stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk.

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

Evaluation of MEAM - year 5 final report

We are pleased to publish the final report from our five-year national evaluation of the MEAM Approach, a non-prescriptive framework to help local areas design and deliver better coordinated services for people experiencing multiple disadvantage that is being used by cross-sector partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies across England. Our evaluation took a mixed methods approach in which we collaborated with an expert research group of people who have lived experience of multiple disadvantage.



The evaluation shows that support for people experiencing multiple disadvantage is improved in local areas which work with the MEAM Approach. This improved support enables people experiencing multiple disadvantage to make positive changes in their lives, such as improvements in their accommodation situation and progress towards personal goals. There is also emerging evidence of some changes to systems in local areas involved in the MEAM Approach network. Future delivery and evaluation should focus on better understanding the key components of more effective systems, and of how to achieve necessary systems change.

We have published two reports at the end of the evaluation:

- The summative report outlines the 16 key findings of the evaluation.
- The technical appendix details the research methodology and data supporting our findings.

Both reports are available for download [here](#), and the full suite of our evaluation reports from the last five years are available [here](#).

We would like to thank everyone involved in shaping and delivering the evaluation over the last five years, with particular thanks to the MEAM team, the expert by experience research group who worked with us throughout the evaluation, and the staff and clients in local areas across the MEAM Approach network.

Financial impact assessment

This research published by Cordis Bright on behalf of 13 of the largest leading providers of social care shows the culmination of sustained underfunding of social care and labour shortages which increases cost, reduces quality, creates greater market instability and is in turn exacerbated by low pay.

The report, produced by Cordis Bright, recommends that central government commit to the principle of pay parity for equivalent roles across the whole NHS and social care economy, promoting this as the minimum pay floor rate for social care staff, and fund local authorities accordingly.



Tom Noon, Chair of Cordis Bright and author of the report said:

“The pay rates for staff working in social care should be tied to the NHS Agenda For Change. This would mean most front-line care staff aligning with NHS Pay Band 3, which is currently £10.40 per hour, which is still 50p less than the UK Living Wage. Additional funding for this could be specific and targeted, with employers providing audit trail proof that additional monies have gone into the wage packets of staff.”

Black History Month

In October we marked the 35th Black History Month. This presented a time to recognise the presence and achievements of those with African or Caribbean heritage within the UK. As part of the month, we were able to celebrate famous faces from history, lesser-known pioneers and Black people today who are pushing for greater equality in workplaces and classrooms across the UK. We also acknowledged that the racism and marginalisation that Black Britons have faced for generations continues to persist today.

The theme for this year’s Black History Month was “Time for Change: Action Not Words”. This theme underpins the fact that acknowledgement of the past must be accompanied by a commitment to tackle racism wherever and whenever it persists.

At Cordis Bright, in addition to internal Black History Month observances, we published a [blog post](#) answering the question, “Why do we think it’s important to acknowledge Black History Month?”, and a [disproportionality bulletin](#). This bulletin presents an overview of the findings from recent research into disproportionality for people from ethnic minority backgrounds in some of the sectors in which Cordis Bright specialises, i.e., health and social care, children’s services, and criminal justice. Across these sectors, we found that Black people and people from ethnic minority backgrounds experience a multitude of disproportionate outcomes. You can read our reflections on this year’s Black History Month [here](#).

Black History Month may only take place over October, but it is a stark reminder of the challenges continuously faced by Black people. At Cordis Bright we are committed to considering these issues as part of our work and championing change.



Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

The Health Foundation. The cost of caring: poverty and deprivation among residential care workers in the UK

The Health Foundation analysed national survey data from 2017/18 to 2019/20 to understand rates of poverty and deprivation among residential care workers in the UK and compare them to other sectors – including health, retail, hospitality, administration, and all workers.

They report that over a quarter of the UK's residential care workers lived in, or were on the brink of, poverty. Nearly 1 in 10 experienced food insecurity. And around 1 in 8 children of residential care workers were 'materially deprived', meaning they may not have access to essential resources such as fresh fruit and vegetables or adequate winter clothing.

In response to these findings, The Health Foundation argues that ensuring people are rewarded fairly in social care must be a priority for the new government. Increasing pay will require additional investment and action to ensure funding reaches staff. A mix of policy options should be considered – such as introducing a sector-specific wage for social care – as part of a comprehensive workforce plan.

The King's Fund. Poverty and the health and care system: The role of data and partnership in bringing change

Health and care systems can mitigate, reduce and prevent poverty's effects on health, but to do this they need to be much better at sharing and acting on data, according to The King's Fund. The deepening and widening of poverty will affect the health and behaviours of people who use the health and care system including its staff, with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimating that more than half a million employees in the health and care sector were already in poverty at the beginning of 2022. The King's Fund notes that poverty affects health in many ways, from affecting the ability to purchase health-enhancing goods and services, to having an impact on decision-making around health, to the psychological effects of stigma.

The King's Fund argues that the introduction of ICSs provides a specific opportunity to go further, and identifies three key opportunities for ICSs to make progress on tackling poverty in the coming year as new structures embed:

- Including poverty measures in shared outcomes frameworks for ICSs.
- Embedding poverty into ICSs' population health strategies.
- Collecting and sharing poverty data more systematically between partners, making use of ICPs.



Care Quality Commission. State of Care 2021/22

State of Care is the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) annual assessment of health care and social care in England. This report looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve.

The report reaches the following conclusions:

- The health and social care system is gridlocked. Staff shortages and recruitment and retention struggles are named as being at the heart of this gridlock.
- People are struggling to access care, as the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt by individuals, families and care staff.
- Inequalities pervade and persist across large parts of health and social care.

Other specific concerns identified include the quality of maternity care, the care for people with a learning disability and mental health services for children and young people.

Tools and Guidance

NHS England. Improving experience of care: A shared commitment for those working in health and care systems

This document is developed by the National Quality Board (NQB) and builds on the previous 'Improving experiences of care: Our shared understanding of and ambition' (2015) document.

The NQB is committed to ensuring that improving experience of care is embedded in quality work in ICSs, including within component health and care services, and across clinical pathways. This document:

- Sets out an updated shared understanding of experience and what the best possible experience of care looks like.
- Outlines key components for delivering the best possible experience of care in systems and providers, which are:
 - Co-production as default for improvement.
 - Using insight and feedback.
 - Improving experience of care at the core priority work programmes.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Home Office. **The Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**



This report is the final statutory report published by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. It sets out the main findings about the extent to which State and non-State institutions failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation and makes recommendations for reform. It draws on the Inquiry's 15 investigations and 19 related investigation reports, the Interim Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and 41 other Inquiry reports and publications. The Inquiry has made 20 recommendations in this report.

Three recommendations form the centrepiece of the Inquiry's work. The first relates to the introduction of a statutory requirement of mandatory reporting by individuals in certain employments (paid or voluntary) and professions. The second concerns the establishment of a national redress scheme for England and for Wales, to provide some monetary redress for child sexual abuse for those who have been let down by institutions in the past. The third recommendation is intended to secure the long-term spotlight on child sexual abuse through the creation of a Child Protection Authority (CPA) in England and in Wales. The CPAs will have powers to inspect any institution associated with children.

Education Policy Institute. **Current estimates of school funding pressures**

This policy analysis draws upon the Institute of Fiscal Studies' (IFS) analysis of trends in school funding and expected pressures by 2024-25 under current funding settlements, and uses it to estimate the financial impact on average sized primary and secondary schools.

It reports that the current funding settlement for schools will mean that, by 2024-25, per-pupil funding will be around 3 per cent lower in real terms than in 2010, and argues that as spending on children and young people is a long-term investment, the Chancellor and the new Prime Minister must avoid making further cuts to school and wider children's services budgets if they are serious about levelling-up and social justice.

Office of the Children's Commissioner. **Vision for care leavers**

Children in care and those leaving care are just as ambitious about their futures as other children. This report outlines a vision for what can be done to improve things for care leavers, so they can achieve all the things – a great education, a fulfilling job, a loving family, good health, and a fantastic future – that they want.

Key recommendations from this report include:

- Making sure every care leaver has a stable, suitable home through changes to their housing entitlements, benefit rates and ringfenced funding in the Household Support Fund.
- Supporting every care leaver to form and sustain loving relationships with carers and the professionals who support them, by enabling them to stay living with carers for longer and enhancing the role of Personal Advisor.
- Improving care leavers' mental and physical health with better training for professionals, as well as improved data.
- Enabling all care leavers to access the training, further or higher education, and job that they want through sharing best practice and increasing financial support.

British Journal of Social Work. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children in Child Welfare Services in England



Over the last five decades, there has been a growing concern that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children are overrepresented in child welfare services (CWS) in Europe. However, statistical data used to substantiate this concern often conflates ethnicity and nationality limiting our full understanding of the reported situation. This article provides a more comprehensive illustration of overrepresentation, advancing the quantitative study of this topic in England.

The study finds that disproportionality emerges in the number of referrals that are made to CWS and continues through to the overrepresentation Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children in state care. Reflecting on the data, it highlights the need for Early Help services to engage 'Travellers of Irish Heritage' and prevent families from falling into crisis. It also calls for an increased focus on developing effective child protection practices with 'Gypsy/Roma' children, as part of wider anti-racist strategies.

Public Health Wales. Harnessing peer support key to reducing homelessness in care leavers



Harnessing the support of those who have experienced the care system and homelessness is key to making the changes needed to prevent care leavers falling off the 'care cliff' and becoming homeless in the future, identifies a report from Public Health Wales.

There are various models of practice to support young people when they leave care to prevent an experience of homelessness. The aim of this study was to identify and analyse Welsh, United Kingdom (UK) and international models of response in relation to care experienced individuals (aged 16-25) and

homelessness prevention, and to identify promising practice in this field and further areas for improvement.

Public Health Wales. Differences in pregnancy outcomes 'unfair'

Health improvement experts at Public Health Wales and Fuse, the Centre for Translational Research in Public Health, have highlighted unfair differences in pregnancy outcomes and the critical role that maternity services can play in identifying and adapting approaches for those parents in higher risk groups.

This research looked at 35 studies and over 17 million pregnancies in the UK and Republic of Ireland and shows that people in lower paid occupations have a 40 per cent increased chance of having a pregnancy resulting in the baby dying, being born too early or being born with a low birth weight, in comparison with people in higher paid occupations.

Briefings

NSPCC. Online harm and abuse: learning from case reviews

Published case reviews highlight that the online world presents a growing number of challenges for those working to protect children and young people from harm and abuse. For example, children may be exposed to harmful content online, or be subjected to online grooming, sexual abuse and exploitation.

This briefing looks at case reviews published between 2015 and 2022, where online harm or abuse was a key factor.



It summarises:

- key issues around online harm and abuse highlighted in the case reviews.
- reasons why some children and young people are particularly vulnerable to online harm and abuse.
- learning to help professionals prevent and respond to incidences of online harm and abuse.

The following publications are the three briefings which form 'Wave 1' of the COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities (COSMO) study.

COSMO. Lockdown Learning

The COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that followed dramatically changed the experiences of schooling for young people in England. As a result of differences in experiences, an emerging body of evidence is showing that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds faced greater negative consequences from school closures. Reasons for this included:

- Barriers to remote learning – such as lack of access to a suitable device for learning or sharing a device, lack of a quiet space in the home, lack of support from teachers or parents.
- While many pupils without suitable devices received support through school and government distribution programmes, over half (53%) of those who lacked a device at the beginning of the pandemic had still not received one by the end of the second period of school closures.

This briefing finds that changes in patterns between lockdowns demonstrate the ability of better-off groups to adapt to crises and maintain their advantaged position. Furthermore, while much of the focus of attention of learning loss has been on younger children, this briefing finds that 15- and 16-year olds also faced significant barriers to learning during the pandemic. Additionally, socio-economically disadvantaged groups faced greater barriers and lost more learning time than others.

COSMO. Education recovery and catch up

After the second set of partial school closures in January 2021, pupils returned to their classrooms in early March of the same year and, while there have been no further periods of national closures, there has been continuing disruption.

To address the extended disruption, the government has announced several rounds of funding for COVID-related catch-up efforts. For students in the COSMO cohort, this has included a catch-up premium given to schools for all students, the National Tutoring programme (a flagship programme launched by government to provide additional tuition to young people in state schools), funding for summer schools, and an additional recovery premium for disadvantaged students.

This briefing looks in detail at young people's access to catch-up provision from schools, including the type of support on offer and how that has differed across different types of school, again providing breakdowns of access for several background characteristics. It also looks at young people's own perceptions of their educational progress after the acute stage of the pandemic.

The briefing finds that disruption to young people's education throughout the pandemic has been substantial, even after schools re-opened. This disruption has



also been greater, on average, for young people from more deprived backgrounds. While many young people have received an offer of catch-up support from their school, only just over half have taken part in any catch-up activities. Many young people are concerned that they have fallen behind due to the pandemic, with concerns about their educational progress and their progression onto their next steps in education, training, or employment. This cohort of young people are likely to need additional support going forward from both educational institutions and employers.

COSMO. Future Plans and Aspirations

This briefing reports that the COVID-19 pandemic had a strong bearing on young people's future plans. Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those attending state comprehensive schools (particularly those with more disadvantaged intakes) were among the most likely to have their plans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. They were also less likely to have access to career information, advice and guidance (IAG) during the pandemic.

This briefing notes that the pandemic has had implications for the future plans of so many young people, and so supporting them to make informed choices about their education and careers all the more important.





Criminal Justice

Reports

HM Inspectorate of Prisons. The experience of immigration detainees in prisons

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) reports that the number of detainees held in prisons under immigration powers rose sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic and immigration detainees continue to be held in most prisons in the country, although they comprise a very small proportion of each prison's population. However, they face distinct challenges when compared with prisoners serving criminal sentences and immigration detainees held in immigration removal centres (IRCs).

This short thematic report aims to increase understanding of their experiences. HMIP visited eight prisons and interviewed 45 immigration detainees and 33 key staff in the prisons where they were held during March and April 2022.

HMIP found that:

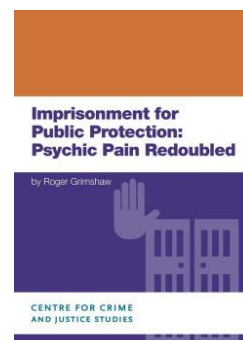
1. Many immigration detainees were held in prisons for long periods despite minimal progress in their cases.
2. Detainees routinely encountered difficulties in obtaining legal representation for their immigration cases.
3. Serving prisoners were usually given very little notice that they would be subject to indefinite immigration detention, causing significant distress among many.
4. Neither Home Office nor prison staff understood or applied the Adults at Risk in Detention policy that was intended to protect the most vulnerable detainees.
5. The lack of an equivalent to Detention Centre Rule 35 meant that vulnerable detainees, including victims of torture, were not routinely being identified and the Home Office was not considering their release in the same way as they were obliged to for those held in IRCs.
6. Detainees found it difficult to contact Home Office staff based in prisons.
7. Professional interpretation was often not used when prison and Home Office staff communicated with immigration detainees.
8. There was a poor understanding of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) among prison and Home Office staff.
9. The support available to immigration detainees in prison from nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and outside organisations was variable at best.

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. Imprisonment for Public Protection: Psychic Pain Redoubled

Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) has been described by a former Supreme Court Judge, Lord Brown, as “the greatest single stain on our criminal justice system”. The present report explores some of the main reasons for this assessment.

This report argues that the whole history of IPP should be the subject of concerted political, legal and psychological inquiry, so that its systematic flaws can be determined. In its place there should be a coherent alternative framework that will inform future criminal justice legislation and can be incorporated in an overarching constitutional law. It makes the following recommendations:

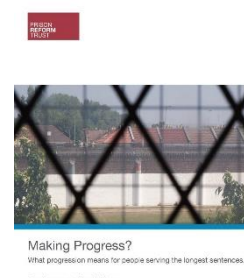
- The release, without delay, of prisoners on IPP sentences who have served time beyond the tariff set by the court.
- The setting of a clear, determinate, release date for all other IPP sentenced prisoners, either through judicial or executive decision-making.
- Mental health assessments and safeguarding measures should be part of the planning and support arrangements for release.
- A programme of close and immediate support for released IPP prisoners to enable them to adjust satisfactorily to freedom.
- The offer of adequate and prompt state reparations to IPP prisoners, on the basis of failures to provide programmes or meet known mental health needs, and unjustified time in confinement.
- The creation of an overarching legislative Code, influenced by provisions in the Human Rights Act, against which any future proposals for legislation on indefinite detention should be tested.



Prison Reform Trust. Making Progress? What progression means for people serving the longest sentences

This report presents the findings of a prisoner consultation carried out by Prison Reform Trust’s Building Futures programme. Around 100 responses were received from people in prison to four questions relating to their progression.

The report looks at what is meant by risk reduction and assessment, and progression both in terms of offending behaviour courses and the personal progression of prisoners. It also examines the relationship between risk and progression, and the lack of clarity felt by prisoners.



The report identifies missed opportunities for the progression and development of long-term prisoners but makes recommendations to improve the system.

HM Prison & Probation Service. Evaluation of Psychologically Informed Planned Environments



As part of the Joint NHS England and HMPPS Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) Pathway, Queen Mary University, London was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of Psychologically Informed Planned Environments (PIPEs) operating in prisons and Approved Premises in England.

PIPEs are one intervention offered as part of the OPD pathway in prisons and in Probation Approved Premises in the community. They are designed to support the transition and progression of prisoners and people on probation at significant stages of their sentence and beyond. Staff who work in PIPEs are trained and supported to work in an evidence based psychologically informed way.

The aim of the study was to identify how prisoners, people on probation and staff experience PIPEs and aimed to identify indications of effectiveness, looking at the first 5 years of delivery. It looked at both quantitative and qualitative data, considering factors such as social climate and relational functioning.

The findings of this study, which considers the preliminary, indicative evidence from this intervention approach, are presented in the report.

Briefings

Clinks. Procedural justice in the courts



Procedural justice concerns the treatment of members of the public by those in positions of power within the criminal justice system, such as police officers, prison officers and court officials. According to procedural justice theory, members of the public who experience fair decision-making and considerate and inclusive treatment are more likely to accept the outcomes of the criminal justice processes in which they are involved and to regard the justice system as legitimate.

This review covers a wide range of issues including:

- What procedural justice means.
- Why procedural justice matters.
- The limitations of procedural justice.
- Emerging evidence on procedural justice in the courts.

- Practical steps for enhancing procedural justice in the courts.

Tools and Guidance

Home Office. Anti-social behaviour principles

The Home Office chairs the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Board, which brings together a range of partners and representatives from relevant agencies and government departments to work together to identify and assess strategic issues relating to ASB and share information and good practice in order to support an effective multi-agency response to ASB.

The Anti-social Behaviour Strategic Board has developed a set of principles which seek to describe a consistent approach to understanding and addressing anti-social behaviour in local communities. The principles are not intended to fetter local decision making but rather to act as a guide in seeking to deliver the best possible outcomes for victims of ASB.

The principles are designed to be used by any agency/partner involved in tackling ASB; for example, local authorities, community safety partnerships, police forces, health agencies, housing associations, civil society organisations, police and crime commissioners and any other agency involved in the process right from the moment an incident has occurred through to case closure and victim support.

HM Prison & Probation Service. Pre-Release and Resettlement Policy Framework

Under the Probation Reform Programme, the approach to how we provide resettlement services has changed. On 26th June 2021, the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) unified to become the new Probation Service. All CRC contracts ended and responsibility for delivering resettlement activity transferred to the Regional Probation Directors (RPDs) and to Commissioned Rehabilitative Service (CRS) providers (commissioned by RPDs).

This policy framework identifies the activities to be carried out by the Pre-release Teams (PRT), working alongside probation and prison staff and the Commissioned Rehabilitative Services to deliver the in-custody pre-release element of Resettlement.