

October 2013

Welcome to October'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.

Probably the most important publication was the Serious Case Review relating to the death of Daniel Pelka. Since then a number of articles have been written asking why recommendations and learning from serious case reviews do not appear to be implemented. Cordis Bright is currently working with a number of local authorities to help them ensure that practice and management takes into account this learning and, in particular, how partnership working and outcomes-based assessment and planning can be strengthened.

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.



Children and young people's services

Policy and research

Serious case review for Daniel Pelka

Coventry Local Safeguarding Children Board published the serious case review following the death of Daniel Pelka. The review highlights that a number of agencies were in contact with Daniel's family and failed to recognise or respond to safeguarding concerns. A copy of the report is [here](#).

Changes to inspection

Ofsted and CQC both announced changes to inspection for children and young people's services. Ofsted published its new framework for inspecting children's services which will be used from November 2013. The framework states that a local authority's performance and grade will be focused on three key service areas: the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection; the experiences and progress of children who are looked after (including adoption and care leavers); and leadership, management and governance. These three themes will be used to set the overall score. For instance, if a local authority is judged "inadequate" in any of the three key areas, it will automatically be judged "inadequate" overall. In addition, CQC launched a dedicated child protection inspection regime of health services in England. The two-year project will target health services in 110 council areas where CQC research has shown children are at greatest risk.

[Click here for further information about the Ofsted framework.](#)

[Click here for further information about CQC inspection.](#)

Careers guidance in schools

A number of reports have been produced in connection to careers guidance in schools. In September 2013, Ofsted published their thematic review of careers guidance, called '[Going in the right direction? Careers guidance in schools from September 2012](#)'. This highlighted that substantial improvements were needed by schools in relation to careers guidance. For instance, three quarters of the schools visited for the survey were not implementing their duty to provide impartial careers advice effectively. Further information is available at: . Following this report, the Government published an [action plan](#) to address Ofsted's concerns.

LARC5 report: 'We should have been helped from day one': a unique perspective from practitioners, children and families

This report shows that families with children at risk of neglect (among other difficulties) feel under-informed about how local services can help them, and will often only ask for help once they reach crisis point because of the stigma attached to this and fear of what action children's social care might take. The report highlights a range of recommendations put forward by parents and practitioners to improve take-up of early help services.

[Click here to access the full report.](#)

Research into the phase 4 locally-led delivery projects for raising the participation age

This report summarises the learning from the earlier phases of work, and examines in detail the findings from phase 4. Stemming from this a document on 'top tips' for raising the participation age has been produced.

[Click here to access both documents.](#)



Thematic review of the police response to domestic violence across England and Wales

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary will be undertaking this review which will be published in April 2014. It will focus on four aspects: (1) the effectiveness of the police approach to domestic violence and abuse, focusing on the outcomes for victims; (2) whether risks to victims of domestic violence and abuse are adequately managed; (3) identifying lessons learnt from how the police approach domestic violence and abuse; and (4) making any necessary recommendations in relation to these findings when considered alongside current practice.

[Further information is available here.](#)

Free school meals in infant schools

From September 2014, the government will be funding free school meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This is designed to bring about improvements in children's health and attainment and for families' cost of living.

[Further information about the announcement is available here.](#)

Future of Doncaster children's services

Michael Gove has removed the requirement for Doncaster children's services to be established as an organisation independent of the local council.

[Further information is available here.](#)

Guidance and tools

Troubled Families initiative: progress

Data has been published by local authority area which shows the number of families who have been engaged through the Troubled Families initiative. It shows, for instance, that the percentage of target families who have been engaged by the initiative ranges from 26% in North Somerset to 100% in Bournemouth, Bromley, Bury, Camden, Darlington, Greenwich, Hackney, Hampshire, Hartlepool, Isles of Scilly, North Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Oldham, Sandwell, Southwark, Stockton-on-Tees, Sutton, and Wokingham.

[The data can be downloaded here.](#)

Early years outcomes

This non-statutory guidance for practitioners and inspectors is designed to help inform understanding of child development through early years. It covers communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; maths; understanding the world; and express arts and design.

[Click here to access this document.](#)



Planned expenditure on schools, education, children and young people's services by local authorities: financial year 2013 to 2014

These tables outline planned expenditure by local authorities on a range of services relating to schools, education, children and young people's services for the financial year 2013 to 14. It shows the following average changes in spending across local authorities:

- Children's Centres and Early Years: -14.8%
- Looked After Children: +2%
- Safeguarding: +2.4%
- Family Support Services: +13.8%
- Services for Young People: -2%
- Youth Justice: -4.9%

[The tables can be access here.](#)

National curriculum in England: framework for key stages 1 to 4

This sets out programmes of study across all four key stages. It excludes information in relation to English, Maths and Science on which there is currently a consultation. A report on this consultation has also been published, which summarises the views of the 750 stakeholders who responded.

[Click here to access the framework.](#)

[Click here to access the consultation results.](#)

New data and information portal from Public Health England

Public Health England have developed a new portal that gives direct access to tools and resources relating to public health. Data on child and maternal health includes breastfeeding, health schools profiles, infant mortality, and CAMHS. Data on adults includes learning disabilities, mental health and long-term conditions.

[The portal is available here.](#)

Revised guidance on safeguarding children in education in Wales

This consultation seeks stakeholders' views on updated guidance on safeguarding children in education. The revisions have been introduced to reflect recent legislative changes since 2008.

[A copy of the consultation materials are available here.](#)

The future of regulation and inspection of care and support in Wales

This consultation seeks stakeholders' views on improvements to regulation and inspection of care and support in Wales. Some of the proposals include: (1) Regulation and inspection will be based on people's outcomes, service specific quality standards and expectations; (2) providers will be required to produce an annual report which will include information on outcomes and complaints; (3) the use of a quality judgement framework linked to outcomes will be considered; and (4) the service regulator will involve citizens and their families/carers in their processes and practices. The consultation is open until 6 January 2014 and is available [here](#).



Framework for Action on Independent Living in Wales

This document provides further information about actions that will be implemented in order to tackle barriers and support disabled people so that they can live independently and exercise choice and control in their daily lives. The plan covers: information, advice, advocacy, and peer support; housing; personalised care and support; technology; transport; and employment.

[The document can be downloaded here.](#)



Criminal Justice

Policy and research

Transforming Rehabilitation: a summary of evidence on reducing reoffending

This document provides an overview of key evidence relating to reducing the reoffending of adult offenders. It examines three main aspects: (1) information on reoffending, including factors linked to reoffending and those associated with desisting from offending; (2) a description of the features of effective working with offenders; and (3) evidence on specific approaches to reducing reoffending.

[The report can be downloaded here.](#)

Integrated Offender Management Survey

This report presents the findings of a survey of Community Safety Partnerships on integrated offender management which brings local partners together to target the offenders who cause most damage locally. The survey looks at the partners involved in IOM, numbers of offenders being worked with, priority offenders, and types of monitoring data being used.

[A copy is available here.](#)



Adult social care and health

Policy and research

Statement of Government Policy on Adult Safeguarding

This updates the policy from 2011, mainly by adding new resource materials. It includes the statement of principles for local authority social services and housing, health, the police and other agencies to use, for both developing and assessing the effectiveness of their local safeguarding arrangements. It also describes, in broad terms, the outcomes for adult safeguarding, for both individuals and organisations.

[Click here to access.](#)

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