



CordisPulse

April 2021

Welcome to April'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.

A number of publications this month marked a year since the first national lockdown in the UK. They took the opportunity to reflect on the impact of the pandemic and to look ahead to the future. For example, Buttle UK published a report looking at the impact for children, young people and families who were already struggling.

Linked to the above, we were pleased to see an [article](#) in the Guardian this month about the Covid Financial Shield project. Cordis Bright are the evaluation partner of this project which is a pilot scheme in London aiming to improve physical, mental and financial wellbeing for people with long-term health conditions by providing dedicated financial support and advice. We look forward to publishing findings about this vital and often overlooked area and the results of the Covid Financial Shield project soon.

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

Parental conflict and substance misuse

Cordis Bright recently produced a literature review on behalf of the DWP examining the links between parental conflict and substance misuse and the impacts on children's outcomes.

The review investigates:

- The impact of parental conflict and substance misuse on children
- Interventions for addressing parental substance misuse and conflict and their relative effectiveness
- What characteristics of effective practice can be identified across interventions?

In addition, the review identifies where gaps exist in the evidence base and where these may need to be supplemented.

The report can be viewed [here](#). The DWP press release, which links the research to their other work in this area and announces more funding for local councils to support families and resolve conflict, can be found [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

PHE. Caring as a social determinant of health: Findings from a rapid review of reviews and analysis of the GP Patient Survey

In this work, PHE commissioned Newcastle University to a) explore the consequences of being an unpaid carer of older people, and b) identify evidence about how best to support this group of carers. A rapid review of existing evidence reviews was conducted, alongside analysis of data on carers (for any population) from the NHS England GP Patient Survey.



The main findings are:

- mounting evidence that unpaid caring should be considered a social determinant of health
- carers experience poor physical and mental health but also have unmet care needs themselves
- different groups of carers may have different support needs
- a lack of clear and robust evidence about how best to support people caring for older populations, and gaps in evidence on key outcomes

LGA. Public health annual report 2021: rising to the challenges of COVID-19

This year's annual report by the LGA looks back at what public health has helped to achieve and what could have been done better during the pandemic. It also looks to the future and considers the new UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the publication of the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) white paper, 'Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all' and the significant organisational changes these could bring.

LGA. The lives we want to lead: where next for the debate about care and support reform?

The LGA has published a report on the five roundtable discussions on social care reform that the LGA convened with colleagues from across the sector last summer. This builds on their report published last year on the future of adult social care and support by considering the impact of the pandemic on the issues facing social care, and calls for a clear roadmap for the years ahead.

JRF. Seeking an anchor in an unstable world: experiences of low-income families over time

This report considers the experiences of 14 low-income families over a five-year period, ending on the eve of the pandemic. It looks at what helped families keep afloat, as well as the risks they faced.

This report shares a joint findings document with a related report by the JRF, also published recently: [Staying afloat in a crisis: families on low incomes in the pandemic](#). It provides insight into the lives of the 14 low-income families, and explored how they coped with the first six months of the pandemic.



JRF. What the first Covid-19 lockdown meant for people in insecure, poor-quality work

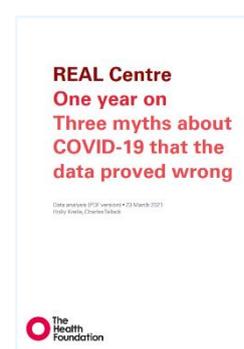
Workers who have fallen through the cracks in the Government schemes were those most exposed to insecurity and most at risk of poverty. People on zero-hours or temporary contracts were four times more likely to lose their job, and self-employed people were three times more likely to stop working compared to people on permanent contracts. The lowest-paid workers and part-time workers were twice as likely to lose their jobs compared to the highest paid.

Workers in poor-quality jobs in terms of security, hours and pay were disproportionately at risk of losing their job or having reduced hours, even compared to workers in the same sector and with the same personal and other job characteristics.

The results highlight one of the dangers of having a large number of insecure jobs during an economic downturn, and the need for a long-term solution where job quality should be a priority in order to deliver a stronger, fairer economy for the future, and better-quality jobs for low-paid workers across the UK.

The Health Foundation. One year on: Three myths about COVID-19 that the data proved wrong

In this analysis, the Health Foundation addresses the following three 'myths' that were prevalent at the very start of the pandemic: Myth 1: 'Those who die from COVID-19 would have died soon anyway'. Myth 2: 'It's just a bad flu season', and Myth 3: 'COVID-19 is the great leveller – we are all equally at risk'.



The Health Foundation. Securing a positive health care technology legacy from COVID-19

This long read explores the challenges of implementing health care technologies and investigates patient and staff experiences of technology during the first phase of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It draws on learning from the Health Foundation's programmes and YouGov surveys of over 4,000 UK adults and over 1,000 NHS staff conducted in October 2020.

Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. Born into care: One thousand mothers in care proceedings in Wales

The Family Justice Data Partnership's initial report on infants and newborn babies subject to care proceedings under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 revealed the scale and rising number of babies subject to care proceedings in Wales. This prompted questions, including what might be done to prevent infants being removed from their mothers' care.



Using population-level data collected by Cafcass Cymru and maternal health records, subsequent analysis showed that over half of mothers involved (53%) self-reported an existing mental health disorder at their initial antenatal assessment, while three-quarters (77%) had a mental health-related GP or hospital contact or admission recorded in their health records prior to the child's birth.

In this paper, Nuffield looks at the nature or type of mental health disorders experienced, including common mental disorders such as anxiety and depression, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, development disorder, conduct disorders, eating disorders, and severe mental illness such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

The King's Fund. The health and social care White Paper explained

In February, the Department of Health and Social Care published the White Paper *Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all*, which sets out legislative proposals for a health and care Bill. The White Paper brings together proposals that build on the recommendations made by NHS England and NHS Improvement in *Integrating care: next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England* with additional ones relating to the Secretary of State's powers over the system and targeted changes to public health, social care, and quality and safety matters.

The White Paper groups the proposals under the following themes: working together and supporting integration; stripping out needless bureaucracy; enhancing public confidence and accountability; and additional proposals to support public health, social care, and quality and safety.

In this long read, The King's Fund describe the main proposals under each theme and the rationale for each. They also provide an initial assessment of the proposals and their implications for the health and care system.

CQC. Provider collaboration review: Urgent and emergency care

The CQC looked at urgent and emergency care in eight areas of England in October 2020. It aimed to look at whether people were getting the right care at the right time and in the right place, and how collaboration across local areas had made a difference. This report shares the overall learning from the review, which falls broadly into the following themes:

- Ensuring access
- Tackling inequalities
- Governance and shared planning
- Safety and staff skills
- Use of technology

CQC. Protect, respect, connect – decisions about living and dying well during COVID-19

From the beginning of the pandemic, there were concerns that ‘do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation’ (DNACPR) decisions were being made without involving people, or their families and/or carers if so wished, and were being applied to groups of people, rather than taking into account each person’s individual circumstances.

The Department for Health and Social Care commissioned CQC to conduct a review into these concerns. This review, which took place between November 2020 and January 2021, looks at how DNACPR decisions were made in the context of advance care planning, across all types of health and care sectors, including care homes, primary care and hospitals and makes recommendations for the future.

Public Health Wales. Self-isolation confidence, adherence and challenges: Behavioural insights from contacts of cases of COVID-19 starting and completing self-isolation in Wales

A report from Public Health Wales’ has found people who have identified sufficient support and planned ahead for a potential period of self-isolation, feel less challenged by the prospect and more likely to succeed. The report combines data from two studies on the experiences of people in Wales who have had to self-isolate due to COVID-19.



Briefings

Women’s health strategy: call for evidence

Women are being encouraged to share their experiences of the health and care system to help inform the development of the government’s Women’s Health Strategy.

The call for evidence will run for 12 weeks and is open to everyone aged 16 or over. Individuals can participate by completing the [public survey](#). [Written submissions](#) from individuals or organisations with expertise in women’s health, such as researchers and third-sector organisations are also welcome.

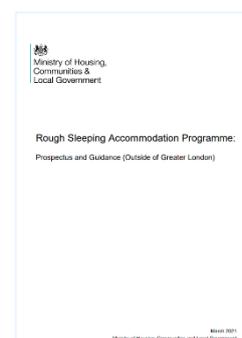
Tools and Guidance

NICE. COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19

One year on from the first national lockdown, NICE has published a collated guideline for the management of COVID-19 in children and adults. This guideline covers the management of COVID-19 for children, young people and adults in all care settings. It brings together existing recommendations on managing COVID-19 so that healthcare staff and those planning and delivering services can find and use them more easily. The guideline includes new recommendations on therapeutics, and will be updated further as new evidence emerges.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2021-24

Last year the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme was announced, which is backed by £433 million over the lifetime of this parliament. This funding will support up to 6,000 rough sleepers into longer term accommodation. Once in their new home, rough sleepers will be supported by specialist staff to access the help they need, such as support for mental health and substance abuse problems, moving towards training and work.



This guidance contains an overview of the 2021-2024 Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme and provides details of what will be funded as part of this programme and how the fund will work.

The King's Fund. Remote working toolkit for general practices and primary care networks

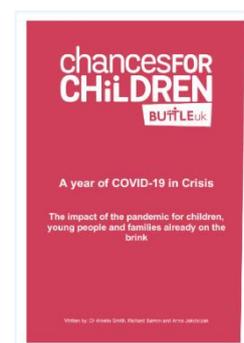
The King's Fund was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care to look into staff experiences of remote working in general practice. Using this work, and previous research into effective teams, they have developed this short digital guide for practice and PCN leaders to help them adopt practices and techniques to ensure that their teams work as well as possible, even if all the members of the team cannot be physically together in one place.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Buttle UK. A Year of Covid-19: The impact of the pandemic for children, young people and families already on the brink

Buttle has published evidence collected through 12 months of their Chances for Children grant giving, to mark one year after the first national lockdown in the UK.



This report uses Buttle UK statistics and families' voices to highlight how families in crisis have been impacted through a year of the pandemic. Their grants data highlights the increase in experiences of crisis such as domestic abuse, neglect and child abuse and shows how priorities and immediate support needs have changed. Families' voices highlight the increased difficulties faced by those already on the brink during COVID-19, particularly for mental health, education and financial hardship. Impact data also considers how Chances for Children grant have helped those in crisis through the pandemic.

UCL. Substance use and antisocial behaviour in adolescence

Researchers from University College London's Centre for Longitudinal Studies analysed data from the Millennium Cohort Study. This study collected information from nearly 10,000

people across the UK on a range of risky behaviours – including antisocial behaviour – when participants were 17 years old in 2018/19. Data on some of those behaviours had also been collected at ages 11 and 14. This report shows overall prevalence of engagement in risky behaviours, alongside breakdowns by sex, by parental educational level, and by UK country.

NFER. Teacher Labour Market in England

NFER's 2021 Teacher Labour Market in England Annual report, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, monitors the progress schools in England are making towards meeting the teacher supply challenge by measuring the key indicators and trends of teacher supply and working conditions.



The pandemic has had profound impacts on society, the economy and the education sector. Teachers' workload, well-being, recruitment and retention have been affected by the crisis. This report presents new analysis of the short-term impacts of the pandemic on teacher well-being, workload and supply.

NFER. Evaluation of the Tailored Support Programme (TSP)

Between June 2018 and November 2020, NFER evaluated the Tailored Support Programme (TSP) on behalf of DfE. The TSP provided support to schools experiencing challenges with teacher recruitment and retention. This included system leader support for senior leaders and mentoring, continuing professional development (CPD) and additional time off timetable for early-career teachers (ECTs). This research report presents the findings.

NFER/Save the Children. Randomised Controlled Trial Evaluation of Families Connect

This study evaluated Save the Children's parental engagement programme 'Families Connect', to establish whether the programme had a positive impact on the children and parents involved, and to highlight the key aspects of the programme that supported implementation within the schools involved.



NFER conducted a randomised controlled trial (RCT) exploring a range of parent and child outcomes and an implementation analysis on key aspects of the programme including participants' experiences.

NFER. Evaluation of philosophy for children: An effectiveness trial

Philosophy for Children (P4C) aims to improve pupils' and teachers' capability to think in a caring, collaborative, creative and critical way ('the 4Cs') in order to support pupils' personal, social and educational development. The whole-school approach includes staff training, and weekly sessions for pupils, which are gradually embedded into the school curriculum. Sessions involve enquiry-based discussions on concepts such as 'truth', 'fairness' or 'bullying'. The programme is provided to UK schools by The Society for the Advancement of Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education (SAPERRE).

This effectiveness randomised controlled trial, commissioned by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), involved 75 intervention schools and 123 control schools. It evaluated the

impact of P4C on Y6 pupils' reading, maths, and social and communication skills, with the main focus on pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). A process evaluation explored participants' views and experiences.

NSPCC. Formative Evaluation of Sharing the Science Building a Shared Understanding of Child Brain Development and the Impact of Early Adversity

Sharing the Science (now known as “Sharing the Brain Story”) is an NSPCC programme that aims to facilitate a shared understanding of child brain development between professionals and families across the UK. The programme also aims to support the practical application of this knowledge to help create nurturing and compassionate environments that promote children’s healthy development, wellbeing and mental health. Specifically, the programme provides a context for professionals working with children and families to develop their knowledge of early child development, and to learn an accessible language they can use to explain these concepts to children and families.



Here, the NSPCC report the evaluation findings of the pilot conducted in Glasgow – another of the NSPCC’s Together for Childhood sites.

EPI. Measuring the disadvantage gap in 16-19 education

This report by the EPI, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, finds that poorer students in sixth forms and colleges trail their more affluent peers by as many as three A level grades when taking qualifications at this level.

The new exploratory research finds that the disadvantage gap – the gap in educational attainment between poorer students and their peers – is substantial during the 16-19 education phase, with poorer students continuing to see far worse educational outcomes than their better off peers.

EPI. The Covid-19 pandemic and the early years workforce: November-February findings

Nurseries, pre-schools, and other early years settings have been heavily reliant on the government’s Coronavirus Job Retention scheme during the height of the winter lockdown, a new report from the Education Policy Institute (EPI) and the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) finds.



The report, which looks at how early years settings in England, Scotland and Wales were impacted by the pandemic during the winter months, shows that a lack of demand for early years education from families and financial instability in the sector led to a large proportion of staff being placed on the furlough scheme.

EPI. Identifying pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

A new study from the Education Policy Institute (EPI), funded by the Nuffield Foundation, highlights significant inconsistencies in how children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in England are identified and supported.

The research, which is the first study to fully quantify how SEND support varies nationally, shows that access to support is decided by a “postcode lottery” – with the chances of receiving SEND support from the school or from the local authority largely dictated by the school that a child attends, rather than their individual circumstances.

CYP Now. Machine Learning in Children’s Services: Does it work?

In this article, CYP Now report on a project by What Works for Children’s Social Care, which worked with four local authorities to develop models to predict eight outcomes for individual cases. The predictions focused on a point within the children’s journey where the social worker would make a decision about whether to intervene in a case and the level of intervention required, and looked ahead to see whether the case would escalate at a later point. The study tested whether the patterns learned enabled the models to predict well on cases the model had not yet “seen” but whose outcome was already known.

CYP Now. Online Programs as Tools to Improve Parenting: A Meta-Analytic Review

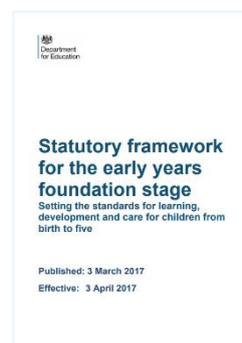
This review provides an assessment of 11 web-based parenting interventions in 12 studies. The authors highlight the potential of using the internet to offer parenting support/interventions.

Briefings

DfE. Changes to the early years foundation stage (EYFS) framework

The EYFS statutory framework changes in September 2021. This guidance provides information about the changes and what they mean for pre-reception early years providers.

The statutory guidance (the current version and the revised version which applies from September) can be found [here](#).



EPI. The National Funding Formula: consideration of better targeting to disadvantaged pupils

The EPI has been commissioned by the Cabinet Office to produce a paper for its Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. The research informs the final report published by the Commission on 31st March 2021.

The EPI paper provides a summary of the current school funding system in England including the origins of the national funding formula (NFF) and how its current formulation distributes funding across the country and different demographics.



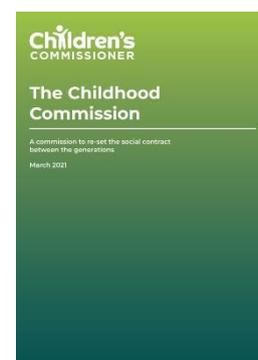
It draws on data from EPI's annual report to explore which areas of the country have the largest disadvantage gaps, how these have been affected by recent reforms to school funding, and how they relate to measures of disadvantage in the NFF – and hence whether funding can be better targeted to these areas under the current structure of the NFF. It concludes by considering how funding could be better targeted to address disadvantage gaps.

The Children's Commissioner. The Childhood Commission: A commission to re-set the social contract between the generations

The Children's Commissioner has launched a consultation called 'The Big Ask', which aims to hear from children about how the pandemic has affected them, their hopes and ambitions, and the challenges they face.

The purposes are:

- To identify the barriers preventing children in England from reaching their full potential
- To propose policy and services solutions
- To develop targets and metrics by which improvements can be monitored over 10 years



Tools and Guidance

Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families indicators 2021

Indicator data is used to track progress in tackling disadvantages affecting families' and children's outcomes. 'Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families' was published in April 2017, and set out proposals to improve outcomes for children who grow up in workless families and face multiple disadvantages.

Nine national indicators and underlying measures are used to track progress in tackling the disadvantages that affect families and children's outcomes. This document provides the latest 2021 indicator data.

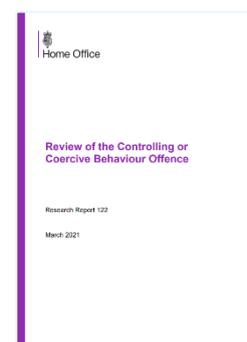
Criminal Justice

Reports

Home Office. Review of the controlling or coercive behaviour offence

The review considered the available criminal justice system data, academic literature, and engaged with stakeholders, to understand how the controlling or coercive behaviour (CCB) offence has been used since its introduction in 2015.

The review found that volumes of recorded offences and prosecutions have increased year on year since the offence's



introduction, indicating that the legislation has provided an improved legal framework to tackle this type of abuse. However, the review also concludes that there is likely still room for improvement in understanding, identifying and evidencing CCB, as it is likely that only a small proportion of all CCB comes to the attention of the police or is recorded as CCB, and charge rates remain relatively low.

Race Disparity Unit. Stop and search data and the effect of geographical differences

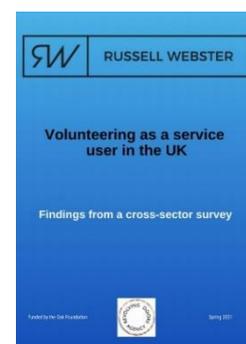
The Race Disparity Unit's Ethnicity facts and figures website shows data about the experiences and outcomes for different ethnic groups in areas including crime and policing, education and employment.

One of the biggest disparities identified is the stop and search rate between Black and White people, which has widened in recent years. This report explains the main factors affecting how stop and search rates are interpreted and the relative disparity between Black people and White people.

Russell Webster/Revolving Doors. Volunteering as a Service User in the UK

Russell Webster conducted an online survey in partnership with Revolving Doors Agency into the experiences of service users who go on to volunteer as peer mentors or any other role with helping services.

The survey focused on service user volunteers in the criminal justice, drug & alcohol, homelessness and complex needs sectors. The purpose of the survey was to inform a new best practice guide to enable organisations to provide the best support to service users working as volunteers and for service users to know what they should expect from the services they volunteer for.



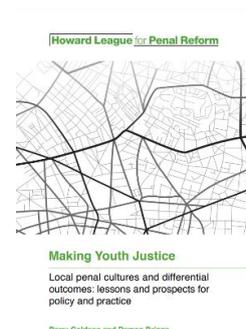
HMICFRS. Getting the balance right? An inspection of how effectively the police deal with protests

The Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS in September 2020 to conduct an inspection into how effectively the police manage protests. This followed several protests, by groups including Extinction Rebellion, Black Lives Matter and many others.

They inspected ten police forces with recent experience of policing protests and consulted a wide range of other bodies, including protest groups and the general public.

Howard League. Making Youth Justice Local penal cultures and differential outcomes: lessons and prospects for policy and practice

The report argues that youth justice is 'made' not only by national legislative and policy frameworks but also by practices that are operationalised at Youth Offending Service/Local Authority Area-level. The report illustrates such differential outcomes between areas and provides insights into how they come about.





Briefings

Ministry of Justice. Independent review of criminal legal aid: Call for Evidence

Sir Christopher Bellamy, Chair of the Review, is inviting interested parties at the heart of the Criminal Legal Aid System to submit evidence on how the system as a whole can be improved and placed on a sustainable footing for the future. The call for evidence closes on 7 May 2021.

Home Office. Independent review: Political violence and disruption

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has coincided with an increase in activity and prominence amongst far-right, far-left and other political groups.

In this call for evidence, the Independent Adviser on Political Violence and Disruption will examine the points at which the activities of such groups can cross into criminality and disruption to people's lives, and draw lessons for the UK from the action taken by international partners. The consultation closes on 10 May 2021.

Home Office/Ministry of Justice. Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021: overarching documents

A series of overarching documents have been published that relate to the new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.