



# CordisPulse

## August 2021

Welcome to August'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 see the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services publish its annual [Spring Survey of adult social care services in England](#). Cordis Bright provided analysis in partnership with ADASS Resource Leads to support this report. The report included the following key messages:

- Under investment means that more people are in need of social care and support but fewer are getting it and many are getting less.
- Delays to assessments and reviews are having a detrimental impact on people's lives.
- Government funding through the Adult Social Care Precept and Social Care Grant is insufficient to fund the costs of demographic pressures and the National Living Wage.
- Local authorities are increasingly reliant on local taxation and short-term and unsustainable funding sources.
- Funding for care and support for working age adults must be prioritised as well as for older people.
- There is a growing disconnect between increasing adult social care need and the financial ability and confidence of Directors (on behalf of local authorities) to meet that need.
- Directors want to prioritise investment in earlier intervention and prevention and new ways of working, but do not have adequate resources to do so.



- Much of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector is at risk over the next year.
- Care markets have been further hit by the pandemic.
- There is an impending crisis in the retention of social care staff. We must reward as well as recognise the role that staff in adult social care play.
- We will only enable the NHS to recover post-Covid by prioritising adult social care.
- This is about people, not numbers.

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](mailto:stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk).

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford  
Director and 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](mailto:stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk) or 020 7330 9170.

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## Cordis Bright News

### ADASS Spring Survey 2021

ADASS published its annual Spring Survey of adult social care services in England. Responses were received from 147 local authorities (97% response rate). We undertook analysis in partnership with ADASS Resources Leads. The report highlighted key issues outlined in the introduction to this month's Pulse above.



### Leading in Colour

The Staff College has recently published this resource aimed at white leaders across the public sector to help them become and stay inclusive and culturally competent, as well as an active contributor towards creating fairer workplaces and local communities. *Leading in Colour: The Fierce Urgency of Now!* has been produced by one of our associate's Meera Spillet, in partnership with Rose Durban and Rosemary Campbell-Stephens MBE.



We are lucky to have access to Meera's expertise as she is a longstanding Cordis Bright Associate. As well as working on a range of projects for Cordis Bright, Meera has recently designed and led a training programme with the Cordis Bright team on cultural competency. She has also contributed to an action planning workshop with our management team.

We recommend **Leading in Colour** to anyone wanting to learn more about how to be more inclusive and culturally competent.

### Digital-first strategy

Cordis Bright, like many organisations, has been reflecting on what we have learned about our working practices during the period of lockdown and home working. We conclude that online platforms offer real efficiencies to our clients in terms of both costs and time. This is particularly for complex projects with multiple stakeholders where organising physical meetings can be extremely challenging and often results in a slower timeframe.

Therefore, we will structure our projects based on a 'digital first' strategy in terms of meetings and other contacts with clients. We do appreciate that it may, on occasion, be appropriate or desired to have a physical meeting, for example, at the launch of an assignment. There are also aspects of our work that do not lend themselves so readily to a digital-first strategy, such as consultation with some vulnerable groups or frontline staff teams where a meeting in their place of work is often more efficient. We will work with our clients to ensure a best value approach to delivery, capitalising on



the benefits of digital working and utilising physical meetings where they offer a real advantage in terms of quality and outcomes.

## Adult Social Care and Health

### Reports

#### The Health Foundation. Unequal pandemic, fairer recovery.

The Health Foundation published a report reviewing the factors that fuelled the UK's COVID-19 death toll. It examines how the pandemic has revealed stark differences in the health of the working-age population - with those younger than 65 in the poorest 10% areas of England being almost four times more likely to die from COVID-19 than those in the wealthiest.



#### Care Quality Commission. Provider collaboration review: care for people with a learning disability living in the community during the pandemic.

The Care Quality Commission conducted a review looking at care and support for people with a learning disability in 7 areas of England. Issues including the following were identified for systems and health and care providers:

- Understanding and managing the impact of the pandemic on people with a learning disability, including children and young people, and the long-term effects of service disruption. This includes making sure that people receive the additional support and care they need when they need it to prevent a breakdown in care arrangements
- Reviewing the use of digital technology in care
- Ensuring that the needs of people with a learning disability, including any health inequalities and specific needs relating to protected characteristics such as ethnicity, age and gender, are part of a system-wide strategy. This includes having learning disability specialists or champions as part of the governance structure.

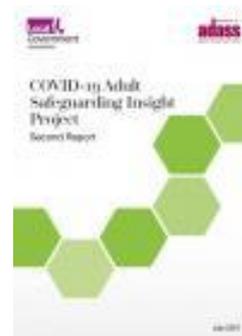
#### Public Health Wales. COVID-19 in Wales: The impact on levels of health care use and mental health of the clinically extremely vulnerable.

This report identified marked declines in hospital care during COVID-19 amongst those clinically extremely vulnerable to severe Coronavirus symptoms. This population was at a higher risk of experiencing poorer mental health than the general population from March to September 2020.



## LGA: Covid-19 Adult Safeguarding Insight Project (Second Report)

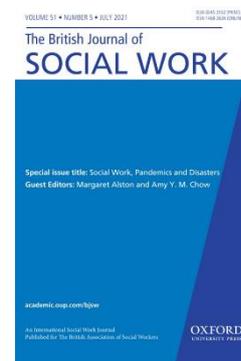
The LGA has published a report which provides information on safeguarding adults activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. It follows from the first report, which provided a picture of how safeguarding adults activity in England was affected by the initial stage of the pandemic and first lockdown, up until June 2020.



## British Journal of Social Work. To Shield or Not to Shield? There Should Be No Question - Black African Social Workers Experiences During COVID-19 In England

The British Journal of Social Work published a qualitative study examining the experiences of twenty Black African social workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in England. The findings suggest a different and often less favourable application of the rules and policies for Black African social workers concerning COVID-19 compared to their White peers.

Recommendations are made for culturally responsive leadership, alongside the need for managers, supervisors, and employers to become allies to their staff from Black and other minority ethnic backgrounds.



## Disability Unit. Exploring the everyday lives of disabled people.

This research aimed to gain deep insight into the lived experiences of disabled people. Lived experience refers to knowledge acquired through direct, first hand and personal experience. This is essential concerning disabled people as the variety of impairments makes assumptions about them problematic.

The research aimed to:

- Inform cross-cutting policy development and policy announcements
- Enable policies developed for disabled people reflecting their lived experiences
- Help inform the Government how to better integrate departmental policies and services

## Tools and Guidance



## The Kings Fund. Understanding integration: how to listen to and learn from people and communities

The Kings Fund and Picker have worked with NHS England and NHS Improvement on how ICSs can listen to and learn from people and communities. They have produced a practical guide for partners working in these systems to ensure services are co-ordinated around what matters to people and communities.



## LGA. Must Know: Treatment and recovery for people with drug or alcohol problems

The LGA has published a guide, developed in partnership with Public Health England, to raise awareness about drug and alcohol-related harms. This guide introduces treatment and recovery services, key considerations, signposting to useful resources, and guidance to support councillors in making effective decisions in this area.

## Children and Young People's Services

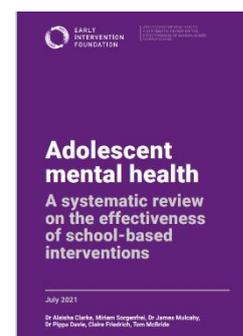
### Reports

#### **National Foundation for Educational Research: IELTS thematic report: Young children's development and deprivation in England**

The National Foundation for Educational Research has published a report investigating how deprivation relates to the learning outcomes of five-year-old children in England. It is based on the International Early Learning and Child Well-being Study (IELS). This report aims to increase awareness and understanding of the risk and protective factors for all children. It suggests the need for a wide-ranging response from teachers and Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) staff, including encouraging persistence and on-task behaviour and targeted interventions to support the language development of children with English as an Additional Language (EAL) living in deprived areas.

#### **The Early Intervention Foundation. Adolescent mental health: A systematic review on the effectiveness of school-based interventions**

The Early Intervention Foundation has published a report that reviews the latest evidence on school-based mental health interventions, providing a picture of what works, for whom and under what circumstances in relation to interventions that enhance mental health, prevent mental health difficulties, and prevent behavioural difficulties.



#### **Education Policy Institute. The evolution of cognitive skills during childhood across the UK.**

The Education Policy Institute has published a report providing insight into pupils' educational outcomes in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland since devolution. It compares outcomes for children aged 3 to 14 in reading, vocabulary, language, and maths. The study controls for several differences in pupils' demographics, socio-economic backgrounds, and early life conditions, allowing for more similar comparisons.



### **The Nuffield Foundation. Explaining high rates of infants in care proceedings in deprived areas of Wales**

The Nuffield Foundation has published a short report that summarises the results of an analysis published by the Family Justice Data Partnership that aims to pinpoint the particular domains of deprivation associated with rates of infant entry into care in local authorities in Wales.



### **HM Government. The national strategy for autistic children, young people, and adults: 2021 to 2026**

This strategy builds on and replaces the preceding adult autism strategy, Think Autism, published in April 2014. It extends the scope of the strategy to children and young people for the first time.

## **Briefings**

### **National Foundation for Educational Research. Recovering from Covid-19: What Pupils and Schools Need Now**

The National Foundation for Educational Research has published a study providing insights into pupils' and schools' needs in summer 2021, based on interviews with senior leaders in 50 mainstream primary and secondary schools predominately serving deprived populations across England.

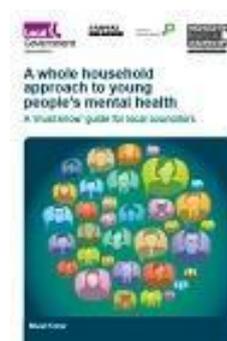
### **The Early Intervention Foundation. The case for early intervention to support levelling up and Covid recovery**

The Early Intervention Foundation has published a briefing setting out how the Government can invest in effective early intervention to achieve its ambitions to 'level up' and support recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic through this year's Spending Review.

## **Tools and Guidance**

### **LGA. A whole household approach to young people's mental health: A 'must know' guide for local councillors**

The LGA has published a guide that sets out the vital information local leaders need to know about supporting young people's mental health. A whole household approach to young people's mental health recognises the important roles that parents, carers or siblings can play in supporting young people's mental health.

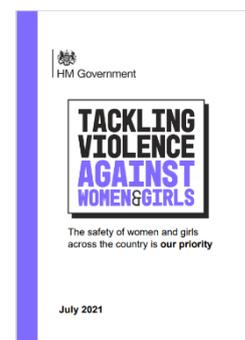


## Criminal Justice

### Reports

#### Home Office, Tackling violence against women and girl's strategy

The Home Office has published a new strategy covering the Government's plan to tackle violence against women and girls, following the Government's previous 2010, 2016, and 2019 Strategies.

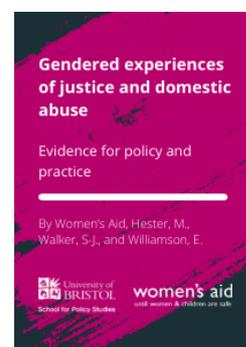


#### HMICFRS. Interim report: Inspection into how effectively the police engage with women and girls

HMICFRS has published an interim report, based on one part of their inspection, focusing on how effectively the police respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG) offences. These are violent and high-harm crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking and female genital mutilation (FGM). They state a whole-system approach is needed to tackle these issues, involving the police and other partners such as the Crown Prosecution Service, health, social care, and education. The final report is to be published in September 2021.

#### Women's Aid England. Gendered experiences of justice and domestic abuse. Evidence for policy and practice

Women's Aid and the University of Bristol have published a report about the gendered nature of domestic abuse. They researched gendering discourses and the role they play in women's experiences of domestic abuse.



#### Home Office. Evaluation of the Building a Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) programme

Building a Stronger Britain Together was launched by the Home Office in 2016 as the main work programme under the Government's 2015 Counter-Extremism Strategy. The Home Office published a report outlining what BSBT delivered from 2016 to 2020 and presented findings from an independent evaluation of the programme's effectiveness. It also draws on wider lessons for what works in tackling extremism.



### Briefings

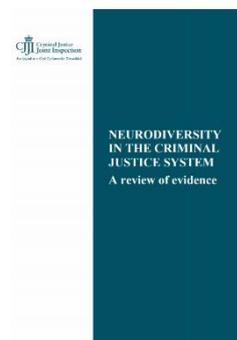
### **Clinks. Evidence on mental health in prison**

Clinks submitted evidence to the Justice Committee's Inquiry into Mental Health in Prison. Their response focuses on the scale of mental health issues within prisons in England and Wales and whether enough is in place to determine the scale of the problem, and the effect of Covid-19 on prisoner mental health, including access to services. Their response provides further information on the appropriateness of prison for those with mental health needs and the mental health care pathway from prison to the community.

### **HMICFRS. Neurodiversity in the criminal justice system: A review of evidence**

The HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM Inspectorate of Probation, with support from HMICFRS, undertook an independent review of neurodiversity in the criminal justice system. The review focused on four main themes:

- Screening to identify neurodivergence in CJS service users;
- Adjustments that are made to the existing provisions to support those with neurodivergent needs;
- Programmes and interventions which have been specifically designed or adapted to neurodivergent needs; and
- Training and support available to staff to help them support people with neurodivergent needs.



### **Clinks. Response to Department for Health and Social Care's Women's Health Strategy**

Clinks submitted evidence on the health and care needs and experiences of women in contact with the criminal justice system and the voluntary sector's role in addressing these needs. This includes considerations of the significant and entrenched health inequalities, including poor mental health and experiences of substance misuse women in contact with the criminal justice system face, and the impact of COVID-19 on women's health and care within the criminal justice system.

### **Revolving Doors Agency. 10 points for Police and Crime Commissioners: Creating developmentally appropriate responses to young adults at risk of, or involved in, offending**

The Revolving Doors Agency published a briefing that seeks to assist PCCs in including evidence-led priorities focused on young adults in their Policing and Crime plans to facilitate the prevention and reduction of crime.

