



CordisPulse

December 2021

Season's Greetings to all our readers! Welcome to December'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.

There are some very exciting developments in this month's Pulse outlined in the Cordis Bright news section below. This includes being part of a consortium of organisations delivering the evaluation of the [Changing Futures programme](#). This is an important and much-needed three-year, £64 million government programme aiming to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage – including combinations of homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system. We're looking forward to building on our previous work in the field of multiple disadvantage and contributing to the evidence base on creating systems that better support people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

We're also pleased to have been appointed as evaluators of two innovative programmes designed to act as an alternative to arrest, conviction and custody for children and young people. The projects are funded by the Youth Endowment Fund and are Salford STEER delivered by the Salford Foundation and a project called Divert Plus delivered by Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit. We are working with each project to pilot a Randomised Control Trial. This evaluation approach, commonly considered a gold standard approach, will provide the most robust evidence of the extent to which any changes in young people's outcomes are attributable to the intervention. More information is available on the [Youth Endowment Fund website](#) (and in the our news section below).

We wish all our readers a happy and healthy festive season and new year.



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
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 or 020 7330 9170.

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Cordis Bright News

Webinar with Innovation Unit – lessons from our evaluation for Living Well UK

In November we ran a webinar with colleagues from Innovation Unit on lessons from our evaluation work for [Living Well UK](#), a programme supporting three places in the UK to build Living Well systems of support for good mental health and wellbeing. The webinar was attended by colleagues from across the NHS who are involved in community mental health transformation work. We really enjoyed hearing about local plans for evaluating community mental health transformation across England and considering how the approaches and tools we've used in the Living Well evaluation (such as the [ReQoL](#) measure of quality of life for people with different mental health conditions) might be applied to this work too. Please get in touch if you'd like to access the resources from the webinar.

Evaluation of the Changing Futures programme

We're also pleased to announce that we're part of a consortium of organisations delivering the evaluation of the [Changing Futures programme](#). This is an important and much-needed three year, £64 million government programme aiming to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage – including combinations of homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse and contact with the criminal justice system. We're looking forward to building on our previous work in the field of multiple disadvantage and contributing to the evidence base on creating systems that better support people experiencing multiple disadvantage. We'll be working on the evaluation with consortium partners [CFE Research](#) (lead organisation), [Revolving Doors Agency](#), [The School of Health and Related Research](#) at the University of Sheffield, [Qa Research](#) and [Collaborate](#).

Youth Endowment Fund Diversion Grant Round

Cordis Bright – working with Professor Darrick Jolliffe from the University of Greenwich – have been appointed as evaluators for two innovative mentoring programmes designed to act as an alternative to arrest, conviction and custody for children and young people.

- Salford Foundation's STEER project is focused on providing face-to-face mentoring for children who are at risk of becoming involved in violence. It is complemented by a programme of family support.
- Nottinghamshire VRU is rolling-out a multi-level programme involving a 'teachable moment' intervention when a child comes into police custody. This is followed by a tailored programme that combines mentoring, restorative justice or speech and language therapy, if appropriate.

These projects – and the evaluations – are funded by the Youth Endowment Fund via their Diversion Grant Round. We are working with each of these projects to pilot a Randomised Control Trial. This evaluation, commonly considered a gold standard approach, will provide the most robust evidence of the extent to which any changes achieved in children and young people's outcomes are attributable to the intervention.

More information about the funding programme is available on the [YEF website](#).



Ealing Building My Future awarded national Early Intervention Award

Ealing's Building My Future programme was judged to be the winner of the national Early Intervention Award at the Children and Young People Now Awards 2021 and was also shortlisted for the Public Sector Children's Team Award.

You can watch on this [video](#) at 24.50 minutes and 44.55 minutes.

Further information is available on the [BMF website](#) and the [BMF Learning Library](#) on EGFL. The Library includes contains:

- BMF Practice Handbook.
- BMF Practice Bulletins on the topics of: Co-Production, Goal Setting, Professional reflection, and Anti-Racism.
- BMF videos, including introduction to the BMF Programme, hidden disability video devised and produced by young people and BMF Youth Worker, and Life Skills Club.
- BMF Podcasts.
- External Evaluations, undertaken by Cordis Bright.

Congratulations to the Ealing BMF team!



Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Department of Health and Social Care. Adult social care: COVID-19 winter plan 2021 to 2022.

Building on last year's adult social care coronavirus (COVID-19) winter plan 2020 to 2021, and its review (see below), this plan sets out the key elements of national support available for the social care sector during winter 2021 to 2022, as well as the principal actions that local authorities, NHS organisations and social care providers across all settings (including those in the voluntary and community sector) in England should take this winter.

Its aims are to ensure that high-quality, safe and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it, while people who need care, their carers and the social care workforce continue to be protected from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

Each section of the plan sets out the government's offer of national support and expectations for adult social care providers alongside published guidance. It applies to all settings and contexts in which people receive adult social care, including people's own homes, residential care homes and nursing homes, and other community settings.

Department of Health and Social Care. Review of the adult social care COVID-19 winter plan 2020 to 2021.

The Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce have conducted an independent review of the government's winter plan 2020 to 2021 for the adult social care sector in England. Sir David Pearson was employed by the Department of Health and Social Care as the chair of the Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce, which supported the delivery of the adult social care: coronavirus (COVID-19) winter plan 2020 to 2021. Sir David and the taskforce were commissioned in February 2021 to conduct an independent review of the 2021 winter plan and its implementation. This resulted in 33 recommendations outlined in this review, in relation to supporting the workforce, infection prevention and control, vaccination, resources, and supporting people who receive social care and their carers. The government has since responded to these recommendations as part of this year's adult social care: coronavirus (COVID-19) winter plan 2021 to 2022 (see above for more information).

Department of Health and Social Care. Putting data, digital and tech at the heart of transforming the NHS.

This independent review considers how to ensure a coherent approach to digital transformation in the NHS national bodies. The review sets out 9 recommendations, which the Secretary of State has confirmed he will accept in full. The review argues for a shift in culture, operating model, skills, capabilities and processes to put data, digital and technology at the heart of how we transform health services. It identifies six areas where the current situation could be improved:

- Transformation model.
- Funding and benefits.



- Leadership.
- Capabilities.
- Data and technology.
- Organisational responsibilities.

NHS Digital. Mental Health Bulletin 2020-21 annual report.

This annual Mental Health Bulletin provides a comprehensive picture of people who used adult secondary mental health and learning disability services. This report also uses the most recent age/gender and ethnicity population data from the Office for National Statistics. It finds that:

- 2,803,244 people were known to be in contact with secondary mental health, learning disabilities and autism services at some point in the year. 768,083 of these were under 18 years of age.
- This means that 5.0% of people in England were known to be in contact with secondary mental health, learning disabilities and autism services during this year. This is compared to 5.1% of people in 2019-20.
- 3.5% (97,103) of people known to be in contact with secondary mental health, learning disabilities and autism services spent time in hospital as part of being in contact with these services during 2020-21. This is compared to 3.6% (104,536) in 2019-20.

NHS Digital. Psychological therapies, annual report on the use of IAPT services, 2020-21.

This statistical release is the annual report on the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme. IAPT is run by the NHS in England and offers NICE-approved therapies for treating people with anxiety or depression. It finds that:

- There were 1.46 million referrals to talking therapies, down 14% from 1.69 million in 2019-20.
- 90% accessed IAPT services within 6 weeks, up 2.6 percentage points from 87.4% in 2019-20.
- 1.02 million referrals accessed IAPT services, down 12.2% from 1.17 million in 2019-20.
- People had 7.5 sessions of treatment on average, up from 6.9 sessions in 2019-20.
- 634,649 referrals completed course of treatment, up 4.7% from 606,192 in 2019-20.
- 51.4% referrals moved to recovery, up 0.3 percentage points from 51.1% in 2019-20.

Shelter. Levelling up with social housing.

This report from Shelter looks at what an unlevel country is doing to the people who live in it. To do this they've pointed a spotlight on three key places: Burnley, Plymouth and Sheffield.

The report reveals the housing problems that are growing in places the government identifies as 'left behind'. These include unaffordable tenancies, poor temporary accommodation and long social housing waiting lists.

NICE. NICE impact: People with a learning disability.

Having a learning disability can affect how a person learns new things during their lifetime. They may need a range of extra support throughout life, depending on the complexity of their learning disability. This report highlights the lack of progress made in many areas. Data shows high levels of health inequality and limited positive change over time.



MEAM. Building on success. A strategy for the MEAM coalition.

Building on Success outlines three strategic aims (involvement and inclusion, partnerships and systems, and policy and influence) and MEAM's ultimate goal: that by 2025 every area in the country will have a partnership approach to multiple disadvantage in place and be taking practical steps to transform services and systems for people facing multiple disadvantage.



Revolving Doors Agency. Vaccine uptake amongst people with personal experience of multiple disadvantage in Birmingham: research findings.

This report presents findings from a piece of research about vaccine uptake amongst people with experience of multiple disadvantage in Birmingham. Overall, the research aimed to:

- Explore whether there is a problem with the uptake of the vaccine amongst people with lived experience of a combination of homelessness, substance use, contact with the criminal justice system, mental ill health and domestic violence.
- Understand how widespread this problem is, and the reasons behind it.
- Think about possible ways in which people with such lived experience can be supported to make informed decisions about the vaccine.



SCIE. A place we can call home: A vision and a roadmap for providing more options for housing with care and support for older people.

This report for commissioners and managers in health and social care develops a vision and roadmap for providing more options for housing with care and support. It is the result of the research undertaken by the Commission on the Role of Housing in the Future of Care and Support, which has identified seven key principles of excellence for housing with care and support:

- Person centred and outcome focused.
- Community connectedness.
- Strong leadership culture and workforce.
- Adopting innovation.
- Enabling choice and control.
- Promoting equality.
- Co-production and shared decision-making.



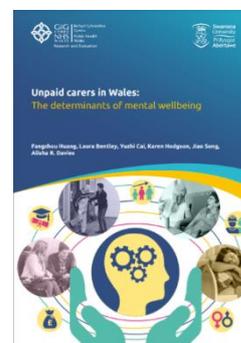
Public Health Wales. No place like home? Exploring the health and wellbeing impact of Covid-19 on housing and housing insecurity.

A new Health Impact Assessment conducted by Public Health Wales highlights how the Coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated that having a safe, secure home is essential for our health, wellbeing and equity, and what needs to be done to ensure that this is the reality for most people.



Public Health Wales. Unpaid carers in Wales: The determinants of mental wellbeing.

New research by Public Health Wales' Research and Evaluation Division and Swansea University, has found that unpaid carers have markedly poorer health than the general population in Wales; but that being in paid, secure employment and/or education whilst caring for others is associated with higher wellbeing amongst unpaid carers.



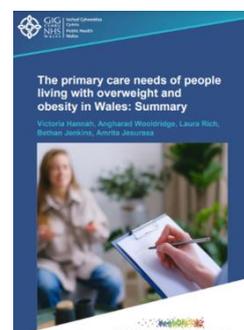
At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was estimated that there were over 700,000 unpaid carers in Wales, an increase from approximately 400,000 in 2019. However, due to the lack of a systematic data collection on unpaid carers, it is difficult to know the true number of unpaid carers in Wales, and to have a full understanding of their health needs.

The research carried out by Public Health Wales and Swansea University attempted to address this challenge by bringing together anonymous primary care data and the National Survey for Wales. The team were able to identify over 62,000 unpaid carers in Wales over the period 2011 to 2020, and describe the health of this group.

Public Health Wales. The primary care needs of people living with overweight and obesity in Wales.

This report published by Public Health Wales looks at the primary care needs of people living with overweight or obesity in Wales. This healthcare needs assessment (HCNA) of working age adults (18-64 years old) in Wales who are living with overweight or obesity, describes:

- The epidemiology of overweight and obesity in Wales.
- The policy context and strategic priorities.
- The perspectives of people living with overweight and obesity.
- Person-centred approaches.
- The role of primary and community care in Wales.
- Challenges and assets.



Public Health Wales. Behavioural insights from the primary care workforce on supporting weight management.

Undertaken between 26th May and 1st July 2021, this behavioural insights study from the primary care workforce on supporting weight management used mixed methods (an online survey and virtual focus groups) to understand primary care professionals' perspectives on their knowledge, skills and confidence to support weight and weight management, as well as to identify barriers and enablers to having weight management conversations.



Findings highlighted potential conflicts in primary and community care professionals' understanding of the wider determinants of obesity, illustrated by 93.6 per cent of respondents considering obesity as a chronic condition, whilst 48.0 per cent agreed, to some extent, that obesity is a result of personal choice.

Briefings

Local Government Association. Must know: Is your council doing all it can to improve mental health?

Mental health problems are on the increase, with a rising demand on services and increasing complexity of need. This was happening before COVID-19, but the pandemic has



undoubtedly made the situation worse. In this blog the LGA argues that local government makes a vital contribution to promoting good mental health and the need to continue to invest in this to ensure good mental health in their communities.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Communicating about housing the UK: obstacles, openings, and emerging recommendations.

This briefing identifies beliefs that stand in the way of social change in relation to housing, and explores what they mean for researchers and advocates in the housing sector. It offers recommendations to address obstacles and leverage openings in public thinking. It builds upon earlier project work 'Moving from Concern to Concrete Change', which offered evidence-based recommendations to communicate about social housing in the UK.

Shelter. International Day for the Elimination of VAWG: Links between domestic abuse and housing.

Unaffordable housing has a devastating impact on survivors trying to leave an abuser. Having access to an alternative safe, affordable and suitable home can be the difference between leaving and surviving an abusive relationship, and having to endure further abuse or even face being killed. Some 70% of women killed by men from 2009–2018 were killed in their own home or the home they shared with the perpetrator. This briefing from Shelter outlines why unaffordable housing is a barrier to ending domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

The Health Foundation. A radical new vision for social care: how to reimagine and redesign support systems for this century.

In 'A radical new vision for social care', Hilary Cottam points to examples of the forms of care and support she believes are needed and calls for a new framework that could allow these models to grow and, in turn, enable us all to thrive. In the closing section, Hilary looks at five areas largely absent from the current debate, which she views as a necessary foundation stone of any new system: 'The imagineers' (those with the experience of caring and being cared for), the carers, the craft, the new institutions and infrastructure, and the care economy.

REAL Centre
A radical new
vision for
social care

How to reimagine and redesign
support systems for this century

Hilary Cottam

REAL Challenge annual lecture • November 2021



The Health Foundation. Caring for older patients with complex needs: how does England compare with 11 OECD countries?

This long-read from the Health Foundation considers what international comparisons can tell us about the NHS and the implications for clinicians and policymakers in the context of the Covid-19 recovery. Key findings include suggestions that the NHS remains a relatively low-cost healthcare system, and that the mortality rate in England among older patients with high needs is higher than average among comparable countries.

The King's Fund. A 'radically realistic' vision for adult social care.

The King's Fund argues in this long read that for coherent reform to adult social care, it is essential to begin with a clear vision of what social care is intended to achieve, and the



measures needed to implement it. The government plans to set out such a vision in its upcoming White Paper, which will develop the reforms it has already outlined. The King's Fund suggests that this needs to spell out the real potential value of social care – to people who may need to draw on it, to their families and carers, and to those working in it – and accept that this value cannot be consistently delivered while problems persist. Here, they outline what evidence says should be in that vision.

The King's Fund. Public health and integrated care reform: doing the knitting.

All aspects of the health and care system are caught up in far-reaching reform. Public Health England has been abolished and replaced by two new successor organisations, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and the UK Health Security Agency. There is a landmark Health and Care Bill in parliament that will reform both the NHS and the way the NHS works with key partners including local government and the voluntary sector. And at the same time, after many false starts over successive governments, the current administration has brought forward fundamental reform of social care and promises more in further White Papers.

This new and evolving health and care system holds the potential to hard wire the public health system's contribution more coherently alongside the NHS and the wider care system in order to finally put population health as its core goal at local and regional level. Yet there remain deep challenges to realising this potential. This long read looks at the opportunities ahead, identifies the remaining missing pieces for public health in the health and care architecture, and concludes with the remaining key challenges.

The King's Fund. Briefing on the Health and Care Bill: House of Commons report stage and third reading.

The Health and Care Bill (House of Commons Bill 2021–22) introduces new measures to promote and enable collaboration in health and care, building on earlier recommendations made by NHS England and NHS Improvement in 2019. The Bill also contains new powers for the Secretary of State to intervene in the health and care system, and targeted changes to public health, social care, and the oversight of quality and safety.

This briefing focuses on Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Bill, which deal with the NHS and its relationships to other parts of the system, including the powers of the Secretary of State, plus proposed changes to information sharing across the health and care system.

MEAM. MEAM responds to the 2021 spending review.

On 27 October, the government delivered the 2021-23 budget outlining its spending priorities for the next three years. MEAM reviewed the detail to identify the key points for people facing multiple disadvantage and the services supporting them. Whilst there are some positive commitments, settlements for individual sectors reveal a mixed picture, outlined in this review.

SCIE. Family Group Conferencing: the 'where' and 'how' in adult social care.

Adult legislation such as the Care Act 2014, Mental Health Act 2007 and Mental Capacity Act 2005 are very much aligned with the values and ethos of Family Group Conferencing, so why are we not seeing more of this in practice? In this article, SCIE argue that the reason is not



that practitioners in adult social care do not have a commitment to the ethos behind Family Group Conferencing (FGC) or that they do not see why it is good; there is an element to this style of working that ASC practitioners try to accomplish within their day to day working already.

SCIE suggest that the adoption of strengths-based models such as Signs of Safety, Three Conversations and others are being viewed as reasons for ASC to not have to consider the take up of Adult FGC. Instead, they argue that the discussion needs to become less about an either or when it comes to a social care and FGC co-habitation and focus more on the how FGC fits within and compliments strengths-based practice in adult social care.

Tools and Guidance

NICE. New menu of treatment options for those suffering from depression.

An independent NICE guideline committee has developed the first guideline for 12 years to identify, treat and manage depression in adults. It has looked at the evidence on the treatment of new depressive episodes, chronic depression, preventing relapse, patient choice, and the organisation of, and access to, mental health services. The committee has created this menu of treatment options to allow patients to pick the one which is right for them, in a shared decision-making discussion between them and their healthcare practitioner.

NICE. Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence.

This guideline covers support to stop smoking for everyone aged 12 and over, and help to reduce people's harm from smoking if they are not ready to stop in one go. It also covers ways to prevent children, young people and young adults aged 24 and under from taking up smoking. The guideline brings together and updates all NICE's previous guidelines on using tobacco, including smokeless tobacco. It covers nicotine replacement therapy and e-cigarettes to help people stop smoking or reduce their harm from smoking.



Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Department for Education. Evaluation of family hubs.

The family hubs evaluation innovation fund is part of £2.5 million for research and the development of best practices around family hubs. The scoping report for this evaluation summarises the approach to the mixed-methods evaluation of family hub models in Essex, Leeds, Bristol, Suffolk and Sefton. The feasibility study explains the design of an evaluation of the family hub model in Doncaster, looking at service implementation and performance, outcomes and impacts, and value for money.

Department for Work and Pensions. Reducing Parental Conflict Programme evaluation: second report on implementation.

This report summarises evaluation findings from the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme for the period from December 2019 to January 2021. This report was commissioned to provide further evidence about programme implementation. It includes perceptions of the impact the programme has had, and could have, on local practices to support families experiencing conflict and improve children's outcomes. Key findings include:

- Lower than expected volumes of referrals to the interventions being tested through the programme had been experienced by providers.
- Nearly all local authorities had accessed the Practitioner Training grant ensuring a good reach for the training element of the programme.
- Nearly all of the local authorities had taken up the Strategic Leadership Support grant, indicating widespread interest in the agenda.
- Looking ahead to the future of the programme Regional Integration Leads and local authorities both felt that the sustainability of progress beyond the funding period would vary by local authority.

Department for Work and Pensions. Reducing Parental Conflict Challenge Fund: learning from second phase of delivery.

Through the Reducing Parental Conflict Challenge Fund, 10 organisations received grants to test what works to reduce parental conflict. From 1 April 2020, 6 organisations were invited to continue delivery for a further 9 months to 31 December 2020. This report collates and analyses the learning gathered by funded organisations during this second phase of delivery. This included:

- Expanded evidence base of programmes which are effective in reducing parental conflict.
- Evidence that programmes can be tailored to reach targeted groups.
- Broader understanding of 'what works' in supporting parents in conflict - including specific work around prisoners' families, dads and BAME groups.



- Trained practitioners able to continue delivering programmes in local areas.
- Clear evidence that parents do seek support in the digital space – with Good Things Foundation videos reaching over one million views.
- Evidence that proper support for separating couples can reduce court proceedings (and produce better outcomes for families).
- More practitioners skilled and knowledgeable about couple conflict: more confident to speak to families about this ‘private’ area and intervene early.
- Greater awareness of early intervention – supporting couples in conflict before escalation to domestic violence or abuse.
- Greater understanding of the opportunities presented by virtual/digital delivery including greater reach and costs savings.

Care Quality Commission. Provider collaboration review: mental health care of children and young people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In this review, the Care Quality Commission looked at mental health care of children and young people in seven areas of England in June and July 2021, considering 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. They carried out specific activities to attempt to get to the heart of children and young people’s experiences. Through these activities they heard from just over 1,700 children and young people. Key findings include:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on the mental health of children and young people, and has led to an increased demand on services, particularly eating disorder services.
- While leaders responded quickly to try and ensure that there were enough staff with the right skills in the right places, services have also struggled to meet demand. This increased the risk of children and young people’s symptoms worsening and reaching crisis point, and led to them being cared for in unsuitable environments.
- Across all areas, there were positive examples of systems working collaboratively together to ensure continued access to mental health support. However, there were some concerns around silo working.
- Communication, both between services and with families, was mixed, with some people not always aware of what support was available.
- The pandemic has also shone a light on, and exacerbated, health inequalities faced by some children and young people, in particular those people living in deprived areas. While some areas were taking steps to tackle this, more needs to be done.
- Digital technology enabled services to adapt almost overnight, ensuring continuation of care and, in some cases, increasing support for children and young people in comparison to pre-pandemic levels. But alongside there were associated risks to children and young



people's safety, for example staff missing cues or issues that would have been picked up face-to-face, as well as unseen risks within the home environment.

Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. Uncovering private family law: adult characteristics and vulnerabilities (Wales).

This report by the Family Justice Data Partnership, a collaboration between Lancaster University and Swansea University, exposes the heightened socioeconomic and health vulnerabilities of women and men involved in private law proceedings in Wales between 2014/15 and 2019/20. The research team analysed anonymised linked healthcare (GP and hospital admissions) and private law (Cafcass Cymru) data for 18,653 adults involved in their first private family law application, either as an applicant or a respondent, between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2020. Findings were compared to a group of 186,470 adults in the general population of Wales with similar demographic characteristics, matched on age, gender, local authority and deprivation quintile. Within the cohort group:

- 94% were parents, and mostly involved in an application for a child arrangements order.
- Men were more likely to be applicants (73%), and women more likely to be respondents (68%).
- 84% were involved in an application between two parents the remainder of the cases involved one or more non-parents.
- Almost a third of adults lived in the most deprived areas of Wales.

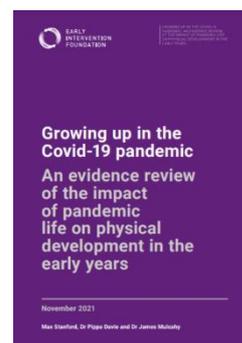
Public Health Wales and Bangor University. Health and financial costs of adverse childhood experiences in 28 European countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

New research published in The Lancet Public Health by public health researchers at Public Health Wales and Bangor University shows the estimated costs of adverse childhood experiences to the affected adults and to society across 28 European countries.

This new meta-analysis of available studies provides stark evidence for policy makers across Europe to consider when setting priorities for post-COVID reconstruction. The study estimates the cost of ACEs across twelve health risks and causes of ill health for each of 28 European countries, based on an analysis of the proliferation of recent research on the topic. In all the 28 European countries, ACE attributable costs exceeded 1% of national GDP, with the median proportion being 2.6%.

Early Intervention Foundation. Growing up in the Covid-19 pandemic: An evidence review of the impact of pandemic life on physical development in the early years.

This report is a brief review of emerging international and UK evidence on seven key factors associated with children's early physical health and development, and the extent to which the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic (such as lockdowns and social distancing) have impacted on these factors and affected children's early physical development, including children from low-income and UK ethnic minority families.



Education Policy Institute. Social and emotional learning: an evidence review and synthesis of key issues.

This analysis by the EPI about social and emotional learning suggests that it can play a central role in helping children to develop the skills for educational success and lifelong wellbeing. As well as supporting pupil re-engagement after school closures, SEL can contribute to reducing the long-standing attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers. Despite this, there is no targeting of social, emotional or mental health in the government's education recovery plans or as part of the levelling up agenda. In this analysis the EPI suggest some policies that the government should pursue and issues it should consider in relation to SEL.

Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition. Members' report 2021.

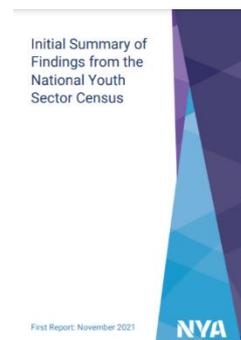
This report is based on the insights gathered from the Coalition's member organisations, as well as from young people and parents. It reflects on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people, and on the coalition's members. Members, young people, parents and carers were concerned about the rising mental health need among children and young people following the pandemic. The pandemic has also placed additional pressures on mental health support services, with many of the Coalition's members from the voluntary and community sector reporting a surge in demand for their services. Education, community and health settings are also vital sources of support for infant, children and young people's mental health. The report explores the many challenges these settings still face, despite recent policy initiatives and investment to increase the availability of support.



The report calls for a cross-departmental strategy to put the mental health and wellbeing of all babies, children and young people at the heart of decision-making. Further investment is also required into the mental health support provided through education, community and health settings to ensure that early intervention and prevention is prioritised.

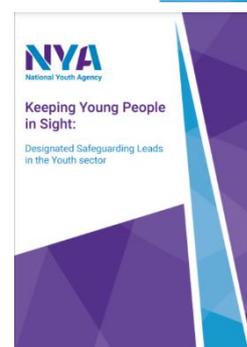
National Youth Agency. National Youth Sector Census: first report.

Findings from the national census of youth provision in England reveal the large disparity in the amount and type of provision available to young people depending on where they live. The data suggests that there is twice as much youth provision in the most affluent areas as opposed to the most deprived areas, alongside 50% more buildings purpose built for, or dedicated towards, young people in affluent areas.



National Youth Agency. Keeping young people in sight: Designated Safeguarding Leads in the youth sector.

This report from the NYA builds on a series of their reports on young people's known and emerging needs through the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. The new report specifically looks at the widening role of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and additional infrastructure support that is needed to ensure DSLs can safeguard effectively. The NYA in collaboration with the National Youth Safeguarding Forum, the NSPCC, UK Youth and London Youth commissioned research that underpins this report on the role of Designated Safeguarding Leads within a youth work setting.



Briefings

The Bevan Foundation. Evidence to the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee for its inquiry – Childcare and parental employment: the pandemic and beyond.

This autumn the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee called for written evidence as it began its inquiry into childcare and parental employment in Wales. The Bevan Foundation have submitted a response that looked at a variety of issues relating to the way that childcare is currently provided in Wales and its impact on parental employment. Among the issues considered in their response are:

- The lack of state supported childcare for parents of children under 3 and the prohibitive cost of private childcare.
- Issues with the eligibility criteria of the Welsh Government's childcare offer that excludes many parents that work part time.
- The lack of flexibility within childcare provision and the lack of wrap-around care.

Action for children. Parity begins at home.

For the last decade, when government has thought about how to improve children's lives, it has usually focused on what more schools can do.

Joe Lane, Action for Children's Head of Policy & Research, argues that the diminishing benefits of that focus have become increasingly clear as the other services that children rely on – social care, SEND, or mental health services for instance – have become increasingly



overwhelmed. He suggests that it shouldn't need those services to be under such a strain for government to recognise the limits of what schools can do, and the government needs to get its new support for parents right.



Criminal Justice

Reports

Association of Directors of Children's Services, Association of YOT Managers, Local Government Association. A Youth Justice System that works for children.

ADCS, the Association of YOT Managers and the Local Government Association have produced this joint policy position paper which articulates the challenges facing the youth justice system, including the overrepresentation of children with special educational needs, who are in care or are from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds in the system plus a crisis in some areas of custodial provision.

The paper puts forward a series of recommendations to existing policy or practice to better align the current system with Child First principles, including closer working between the police and YOTs and routinely applying rules on vulnerable witnesses to all children appearing in youth courts. In the longer term, the paper proposes a more sophisticated, multi-agency response is needed to meeting the more complex needs of the cohort of children in conflict with the law, which is best achieved via a cross-Whitehall public health response to youth justice and wider childhood vulnerabilities.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. A joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders.

Between April and May 2021, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation – supported by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, Care Quality Commission, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons – carried out a joint thematic inspection.

This inspection followed the progress of individuals with mental health needs and disorders through the criminal justice system, from first contact with the police to release from prison. Key findings include:

- Significant problems in information exchange occur in every agency in the CJS and at every stage of an individual's criminal justice journey.
- Staff are committed, but may need better training and supervision.
- Court reports need improvement and more sentences should include treatment.
- Assessment and diversion services in policy custody have improved, but they need to link to the rest of the criminal justice system.
- There is a shortage of good quality mental health provision and unacceptable delays to accessing it, which has worsened during the pandemic.
- Mental health provision in prison has improved but post-release treatment and support are poor.
- Cross-system management and leadership needs to be better.

Women’s Aid and other charities. Shadow pandemic: shining a light on domestic abuse during Covid.

The Covid-19 pandemic increased existing pressures on survivors of abuse, including economic and mental strains, with over-stretched services making access to support harder than ever. Specifically, the past 18 months highlighted the urgent need to address discrimination and structural inequalities creating barriers to survivors getting help.



Ten leading domestic abuse charities are calling for long-term, sustainable funding and adequate support for survivors of domestic abuse, off the back of data gathered during the Covid-19 pandemic. In November, the partnership published its report, The Shadow Pandemic – shining a light on domestic abuse during Covid. The report calls for a funding solution that is long-term, sustainable and ensures survivors from minoritised groups have better access to specialist support services. The partnership highlights the urgent need to tackle all forms of discrimination and structural inequality that enable abuse and prevent survivors getting help.

Clinks and Recoop. Understanding the needs and experiences of older people in prison.

Clinks and Recoop have come together to publish a report providing evidence on the needs and experiences of older people in prison, with key recommendations for policymakers to influence the development of the Older offender strategy. Based on the lived experiences of older people in prison, this joint work has revealed the particular challenges they face and has highlighted the need for an overarching and consistent approach to meeting these needs. The report investigates four key themes:

- Ensuring older people are placed in establishments which can meet their needs.
- Access to age appropriate meaningful activity.
- Access to health and care provision which meets multiple and complex health and social care needs.
- Preparing for resettlement in the community upon release or end of life in prison.

Home Office. Exploration of an alternative approach to calculating stop and search rates in the Metropolitan Police Force Area – Experimental Statistics.

These Experimental Statistics explore stop and search rates for the Metropolitan Police Service at borough level for the year ending March 2021. The analysis explores traditional resident based rates at borough level and compares these to rates using suspects of police recorded violent crime. The key findings were:

- Stop and search rates varied considerably between boroughs, with the highest found in Westminster and the lowest found in Barnet.
- Disparity ratios (i.e. the likelihood of being stop and searched compared to the White group) using resident population estimates were slightly lower when using 2020 GLA estimates compared with 2011 Census estimates, although the difference was more significant at borough level. For the MPS: Black people were 3.7 times more likely to be



stopped and searched compared with White people (compared with 4.0 using 2011 Census estimates) and for Asian people it was 1.3 times as likely (compared with 1.6 using 2011 Census estimates).

- Disparity ratios using the Suspect-Adjusted Disparity method reduced disparity for Black people compared with the traditional method, falling from 3.7 to 1.2. This pattern was seen across all boroughs. For the Asian group, disparity increased slightly using this method, from 1.3 to 1.7 although the picture was mixed at borough level, with some boroughs seeing decreases. Whilst disparities narrowed using this method for Black people, they still remain.

Office for National Statistics. The lasting impact of violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls includes a variety of experiences such as domestic abuse, harassment and homicide. This analysis details the prevalence of these experiences across England and Wales and the long-term effects on victims and survivors, including mental health issues and homelessness.

Briefings

Shelter. Transforming rehabilitation: Impact and lessons learned.

Housing support to people transitioning out of the criminal justice sector is essential, both to their successful rehabilitation and to tackling the housing emergency. Shelter provide help to find or maintain accommodation, as well as finance, benefits and debt support. Over the course of the delivery of their Transforming Rehabilitation contracts from May 2015 to June 2021, Shelter report having helped a total of 51,800 people in custody and in the community with their accommodation, finance, benefit and debt need, and achieving positive outcomes for 89% of the people they supported. This blog outlines some of the lessons learned in the process.

Tools and Guidance

Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Service and HM Prison Service. Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA): Guidance.

Multi-agency public protection arrangements are in place to ensure the successful management of violent and sexual offenders. This updated guidance sets out the responsibilities of the police, probation trusts and prison service. It also touches on how other agencies may become involved, for example the Youth Justice Board will be responsible for the care of young offenders.

Home Office. Domestic abuse: how to get help – easy read version.

This document tells you how to know if you are a victim of domestic abuse. It also tells you where to get help and support if you or someone you know is being abused at home.

