



CordisPulse

February 2022

Welcome to February'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 saw the announcement of a further National Lottery Community Fund grant to support the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Approach network over the next two years. The MEAM Approach is a non-prescriptive framework to help local areas design and deliver better coordinated services for people experiencing multiple disadvantage. It is currently being used by cross-sector partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in more than 30 local areas across England.

We have been the national evaluators of the MEAM Approach for the past four years and have published a range of reports (available [here](#)) which have helped to build the evidence base for work using the MEAM Approach and inform its future development. 2022 will see the publication of our final report. Here we will reflect on the progress and impact of local work using the MEAM Approach and its legacy for improving support and systems so that they work better for people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

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

Screening and assessment in youth justice interventions: An evidence review.

We have recently published a briefing providing an overview of screening and assessment in a youth justice context. It is based on a rapid literature review of youth justice interventions in the UK and Europe, USA, Canada, and Australia. We explore the definition and role of screening and assessment in youth justice interventions and establish why screening is used in a youth justice setting.

We propose seven key principles of good practice for screening tools in youth justice: specialist or clinical input, use of a scoring system, brief and straightforward, validity, reliability, and standardization, well-trained practitioners, clarity of process, and creating a safe space.

Looked after children services stress-test

We have recently published our looked after children services stress-test for 2021. This uses publicly available data to examine recent trends in the numbers, rates and spend on looked after children (LAC) in England. The first section presents national trends from 2012 to 2020. The second section examines trends across local authorities. As part of this, it highlights those local authorities that we think, from the data, may be experiencing the most pressures in catering for LAC. We also highlight local authorities that may be sites of effective practice.

CAMHS stress-test

This is the second year we have produced a stress-test looking at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in England. The analysis presents a national picture and then examines how these trends vary by local area. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are often experiencing different pressures to the national average: we aggregate 13 indicators to identify those which we think are experiencing the most pressures.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

The Health Foundation. Tackling the inverse care law: Analysis of policies to improve general practice in deprived areas since 1990.

This analysis reviews attempts to tackle inequities in the supply of general practice services in England over the past 30 years. The report looks at policies on general practice funding, workforce, premises, contracts and commissioning.

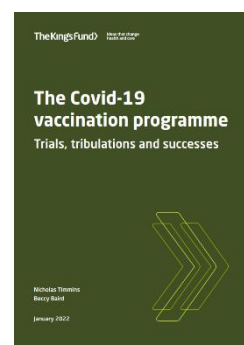


In the first part, the Health Foundation summarises the problem – describing recent evidence on differences in the provision of GP services between more and less deprived areas of England. In the second, the Health Foundation assesses past attempts to address the problem – reviewing national policies to reduce inequities in the supply of general practice services in England. In the final part, they discuss the implications of their analysis and set out policy recommendations for addressing the inverse care law in general practice.

The Health Foundation provides several recommendations for national policymakers, including: a new equity test for all new policies in general practice; an independent review of general practice funding allocations; and a long-term workforce strategy for general practice that should consider stronger central coordination and oversight of GP distribution.

The King's Fund. The Covid-19 vaccination programme: trials, tribulations and successes.

The Covid-19 vaccination programme has been one of the few almost unqualified successes of the UK's response to the pandemic. This report sets out what the roll-out in England has achieved as well as its trials and tribulations, with the aim to ascertain whether certain of its aspects could be 'bottled and reused' to improve other areas of NHS service and delivery. Findings from this report focus on:

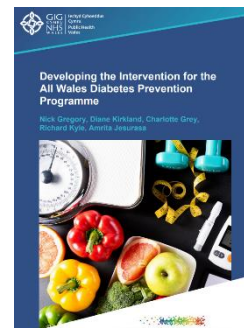


- System-working.
- Importance and contribution of Primary Care Networks (PCNs).
- Importance and contribution of volunteers.
- Use of data.
- Outreach and the development of a vaccine equity tool.

- Remaining challenges, including lower uptake among ethnic minority groups and younger cohorts.

Public Health Wales. Developing the Intervention for the All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme.

Following Welsh Government's funding commitment in March 2021, the All Wales Diabetes Prevention Programme (AWDPP) was established to begin the roll out, with in-built evaluation, of a national type 2 diabetes prevention programme, based on Prudent healthcare principles and delivered through Primary Care Clusters (hereafter referred to as 'Clusters'). The AWDPP builds on the approaches piloted and evaluated in two separate Clusters, Afan Valley and North Ceredigion.



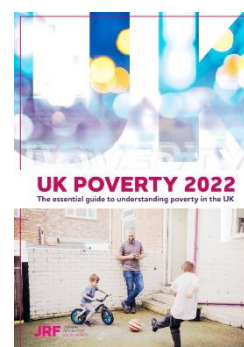
This report describes:

- The AWDPP intervention design, in particular: the inclusion and exclusion criteria, equitable access to the intervention and the minimum dataset needed.
- The key elements of work which underpinned and informed the final AWDPP intervention design and promote its robustness.
- The key decisions made in the AWDPP intervention design and the rationale for these decisions.

Independent evaluations of both pilot interventions suggested that the approach has promise in terms of both effectiveness in reducing the risk of diabetes and value for money.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. UK Poverty 2022: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)'s report looks comprehensively at trends in poverty across all its characteristics and impacts. The report gives a clear statement, agreed by JRF's Grassroots Poverty Action Group, that the UK needs coordinated commitment, effort, and action to help mitigate the following issues identified:



- Poverty is proving to be deep and persistent for a cohort of the population, with 43% of households in receipt of Universal Credit being food insecure.
- The benefits system is increasing poverty for some. JRF cites the two-child limit in income-related benefits and the five-week wait for the first Universal Credit payment as examples of policies that are increasing poverty.
- The rise of inflation, which is forecast by the OBR to be above 3% until April 2023.



- Increased existing educational inequalities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Geographical variations in responses to poverty, including between the countries of the United Kingdom, and within England itself.

Briefings

Department of Health and Social Care. Revisiting Safeguarding Practice.

This briefing is for social workers and other safeguarding practitioners working in adult social care who are involved in safeguarding. It sets out the roles and responsibilities in relation to adult safeguarding in local authorities, including the statutory duties social workers and others with delegated responsibilities are expected to fulfil.

REVISITING SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE



This briefing also covers:

- The importance of maintaining consistent good practice principles.
- The application of our duties under the care act, with a focus on adult safeguarding.

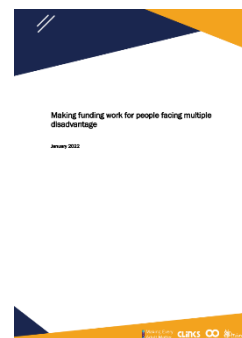
The King's Fund. Briefing on the Health and Care Bill: House of Lords Committee Stage.

This briefing focuses on Parts 1 and 6 of the Health and Care Bill (House of Lords Bill 2021-22), which deal with the NHS and its relationships to other parts of the system, including the powers of the Secretary of State, plus changes to the cap on social care costs. In addition to this document, The King's Fund will issue separate briefings relevant to discrete aspects of the Bill where they have joined with partner organisations to suggest specific amendments.



MEAM. Making funding work for people facing multiple disadvantage.

This report by MEAM explores the way that national funding streams are made available to local areas to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, substance misuse, mental health, and criminal justice. These funding streams are delivered by teams of civil servants and create positive impact for many people. However, the way in which government funding streams are





traditionally designed, offered, coordinated, and monitored can limit the collective impact they have for people facing multiple disadvantage.

This briefing is the first part in an exploration of the various streams of funding that have been made available to local areas over the last 18 months and the impact these have had on the ability of local areas to support people experiencing multiple disadvantage. MEAM will publish a second report later in 2022, focusing on the experiences of civil servants, including a series of policy and practice recommendations around how funding could be more effective.

Shelter. Briefing: Protecting social housing tenants at risk of violence.



This briefing discusses the Social Housing (Emergency Protection of Tenants Rights) Bill, to address a gap in social housing regulation whereby social housing tenants who need to flee violence can end up in danger of homelessness. Shelter recommends that the government work with social housing providers to protect families at risk of violence:

- Social landlords should cooperate in circumstances where a social tenant needs to move to another area to protect their family.
- In the event that social tenants have to move because of a risk of serious violence, their tenancy rights must be protected.
- The government must invest in a new generation of social housing, to ensure that every family has access to a safe, secure, affordable home.

Tools and Guidance

NHS England. Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN): 2022/23.



The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique set of challenges and required innovative new ways of working to provide an effective response. As part of that response, the NHS adopted special payment arrangements for 2020/21 and 2021/22, removed the requirement for trusts to sign formal contracts and disapplied financial sanctions for failure to achieve national standards. The Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) financial incentive scheme was also suspended for the entire period. To support the NHS to achieve its recovery priorities, CQUIN is being reintroduced from 2022/23.

This document sets out the requirements for all providers of healthcare services that are commissioned under an NHS Standard Contract (full-length or shorter-form version) and are within the scope of the Aligned Payment and Incentives rules, as set out in the National Tariff and Payment System. These requirements take effect from



1 April 2022. Under the Health and Care Bill, it is proposed that integrated care boards (ICBs) will be established to replace clinical commissioning groups (CCGs).

Department of Health and Social Care. Vaccination of workers in social care settings other than care homes: operational guidance.

This guidance supports the implementation of the [Health and Social Care Act 2008 \(Regulated Activities\) \(Amendment\) \(Coronavirus\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2022](#) ('the regulations'), in wider social care settings, including home care, extra care housing and supported living. This guidance does not cover care homes.

From 1 April 2022, social care providers registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) must ensure that anyone they employ or engage to carry out direct and face-to-face CQC-regulated social care activities meets the vaccination requirements as following:

- Satisfy the vaccination requirements.
- Are exempt from vaccination.
- Are covered by other exceptions.

This guidance is aimed at:

- Service providers.
- CQC registered persons.
- Local authorities.
- People who are employed or otherwise engaged to carry out CQC-regulated social care activity in settings other than care homes.
- People who receive care and support services in these settings.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Education Policy Institute. The Features of Effective School Groups: Measuring pupil inclusion at school-group level.

This new research paper by the Education Policy Institute (EPI), calls for multi-academy trusts and other school groups to be judged on a wider range of measures relating to pupil inclusion to allow for more informative comparisons.

Previous research has measured the effectiveness of school groups, such as academy trusts, federations, dioceses and local authorities, but this has mainly focused on pupil progress and attainment. The EPI paper, which is sponsored by the National Education Union (NEU), argues that solely focusing on these measures has serious limitations and can lead to exclusionary practices, such as not admitting vulnerable children, excluding them or “off-rolling” them before they sit their GCSEs.

As part of a wider project which aims to highlight effective school groups, the research paper proposes that school groups should be judged on positive examples of pupil inclusion, alongside progress and attainment.

Key findings include:

- School cohorts should broadly reflect the characteristics of their local communities: particularly in terms of disadvantage, ethnic background, and special educational needs.
- Attendance should be encouraged, and school-driven mobility (exclusions, managed moves, unexplained exits) avoided where possible.
- Disadvantaged pupils and other vulnerable pupil groups should be supported effectively in their learning, to reduce attainment gaps between these pupils and their peers.

Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion. Poverty and parenting in the UK: Patterns and pathways between economic hardship and mothers' parenting practices.

This research examines to what extent there are differences in parenting across income groups, and whether these differences are unique to low-income parents. Key findings include:

- There are some positive differences in the parenting of low-income compared to middle-income mothers.



Poverty and Parenting in the UK:
Patterns and pathways between
economic hardship and mothers'
parenting practices

Dr Kerris Cooper

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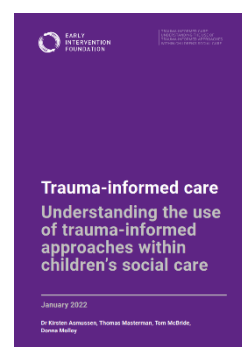
CASE 2022
January 2022

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- Where there are negative differences, these are not unique to low-income mothers, but part of a broader income-parenting pattern.
- Mothers' mental health is an important mechanism in explaining the relationship between economic hardship and parenting, though it is more important for some parenting behaviours than others.
- Movements into/out of hardship are associated with worse/better maternal mental health.

Early Intervention Foundation. Trauma-informed care: Understanding the use of trauma-informed approaches within children's social care.

Over the past 20 years, 'trauma-informed' approaches have become increasingly popular as a means for reducing the negative impact of childhood adversities and supporting child and adult mental health outcomes. In this study, the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) considers how trauma-informed care principles have been adopted by children's social care teams to improve the quality of their service. The key findings include:

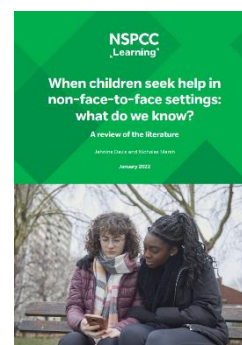


- Trauma-informed care is widely used and perceived to add value to children's social care.
- No single model of trauma-informed care currently exists within children's social care teams in England.
- There is a high degree of overlap between trauma-informed care activities and standard children's social care practice.
- Trauma-informed activities rarely led to evidence-based interventions.

NSPCC. When children seek help in non-face-to-face settings: what do we know? A review of the literature.

Children and young people are seeking help in non-face-to-face settings, such as online or via telephone, in increasing numbers (Best, P. et al, 2016; Leech, T. et al, 2019; James, 2020).

NSPCC commissioned [Listen Up](#), to explore how, when and why children and young people seek help in non-face-to-face or remote settings and the possible factors that may influence this. Key findings suggest that:



- Some children and young people prefer to receive support online or via the telephone.

- Some children particularly prefer to take their first help-seeking steps in a non-face-to-face setting for a range of reasons, including: the availability of services, the accessibility of services as and when they are needed, it allows children and young people to engage, disengage and re-engage with support on their terms.
- There is a lack of evidence on the experiences of minoritized and marginalised children and young people.

NSPCC. The GCP2 assessment tool for neglect: Understanding how the Graded Care Profile 2 supports families and practitioners to achieve change.

Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) is an assessment tool that helps practitioners take a strengths-based approach to measuring the quality of care a child is receiving and supports them to identify neglect. [Previous research](#) has already shown that the GCP2 is a reliable tool for assessing families where there are concerns about neglect. NSPCC was seeking to discover if GCP2 had further benefits and could contribute to changes for families such as changes to parents' mental health or wellbeing. Key findings include:



- GCP2 helps practitioners communicate concerns to families to bring about positive change.
- Changes to home environment are often easier for families to implement than changes to parenting behaviours.
- Using GCP2 can help practitioners make decisions about cases.
- Change for families is affected by lots of factors.
- The parent-practitioner relationship is key to enabling changes to occur.

The Sutton Trust. School Disruption January 2022.

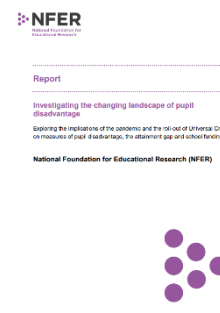
While schools remain open, disruption caused by the pandemic is continuing, with staff absences impacting on the quality of learning offered to students, and both pupil and staff absences forcing some back to remote learning.

Over the course of the pandemic, research from the Sutton Trust has found that children's experiences of remote learning varied substantially across different socio-economic backgrounds, with the poorest pupils in state schools being hit hardest by disruption.

A new survey of teachers with provides an overview of how schools are coping in the first term of 2022, looking at levels of staff absences across different school types and regions, access to devices in the context of a renewed demand for remote learning and the key issues facing schools during this period.



National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). Investigating the changing landscape of pupil disadvantage.



This research examines the impact of recent and anticipated changes in free school meal eligibility on state-funded mainstream schools in England. In particular, the research focuses on the extent to which both the pandemic and transitional arrangements introduced to smooth the roll out of Universal Credit are affecting free school meal eligibility. It also explores the implications for both the measurement of the attainment gap and for how government funding for schools is being targeted towards pupils from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

Ofsted. 'Ready or not': care leavers' views of preparing to leave care.

For many children in care, approaching adulthood and leaving the care system is a time of extra challenges, anxiety and fear. This research looks at the planning and preparation that happens before leaving care.

Ofsted's findings reflect what care leavers told them about their experiences through the survey and interviews. Key findings include:

- More than a third of care leavers felt that they left care too early. This was often because the move out of care happened abruptly, and they were not ready for all the sudden changes.
- Many care leavers felt 'alone' or 'isolated' when they left care and did not know where to get help with their mental health or emotional well-being.
- Although statutory guidance requires that young people should be introduced to their personal adviser (PA) from age 16, over a quarter of care leavers did not meet their PA until they were 18 or older.
- Some care leavers could not trust or rely on the professionals helping them to prepare for leaving care.
- Care leavers were not involved enough in plans about their future.

Briefings

NSPCC. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Briefings.

The NSPCC has produced three Coronavirus (Covid-19) briefings. They are for:

- (a) Schools.
- (b) Social Workers.
- (c) Early Years providers.



The briefings cover the following range of topics:

- Safeguarding and child protection.
- Remote education/ digital access.
- Direct work with children and young people and their families.
- Supporting children and young people's wellbeing.
- Coronavirus protective measures.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Royal College of General Practitioners and IAPDC. Protecting lives: a cross-system approach to addressing alcohol and drug related deaths within the criminal justice system.



Protecting lives: a cross-system approach to addressing alcohol and drug-related deaths within the criminal justice system

January 2022

The scale of drug and alcohol misuse in the criminal justice system is significant and both directly and indirectly leads to deaths in custody. It impacts those in custody and the staff who are asked to provide for their care. When individuals are released into the community, support is often not available or accessed. These concerns are occurring against the backdrop of a rising number of drug deaths in England and Wales.

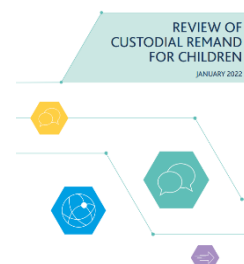
This paper presents the findings of joint research carried out by the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody (IAPDC) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) into these issues. Key recommendations include:

- Improving the evidence base, to review to detail the current size of the problem in prisons.
- Increasing the resources of community drug and alcohol services to ensure full coverage and reduce the waiting times between court sentence and treatment starting.
- Collaborative commissioning of providers, so they become ‘catch-all’ services rather than providers of a collection of different parts of an individual’s recovery.
- Substance misuse commissioners and community providers to work together to ensure continuity in their use.
- Introduction of ‘bridging liaison’ roles to reduce the risk of professionals working in silos and ensure continuity in treatment plans.
- Investigators of substance misuse-related deaths should take into account both the clinical and security factors relevant to the incident.

Ministry of Justice. Review of Custodial Remand for Children.



Remands make up over a third of the children and young people in custody. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in 2019 recommended that the Government examine the scale and appropriateness of youth custodial remand. This report is the result of that review.



The report highlights areas of best practice and makes proposals to strengthen frontline delivery. It explores issues affecting accommodation and community provision to ensure robust alternatives to custody are available where risk can be managed effectively in the community. The report

investigates racial disparity in remand outcomes and provides detail on the legislative measures in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to tighten the legal tests courts must satisfy to impose a custodial remand on a child. It also identifies steps that can be taken across Government and youth services to improve current practice and enhance scrutiny and oversight.

Key findings question the dominant narrative that the number of children on remand has increased significantly or that custodial remand is regularly 'overused'. It highlights that remand is a complex decision-making issue and that courts do not make custodial remand decisions lightly.

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. 'Out of Place': The Criminalisation of Black and Minority Ethnic Looked After Children in England and Wales.

In the last decade, the youth justice system in England and Wales has experienced a significant contraction, which has culminated in the child prison population falling by over 70 percent. This decline has been attributed to the proliferation of diversionary schemes, as well as pragmatic considerations relating to austerity politics.

While absolute numbers have reduced, it has had the perverse effect of increasing the disproportionate representation of two particularly vulnerable groups; Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) children and looked after children.

This article draws upon findings from ESRC-funded PhD research that explores the over-representation of looked after children and BME children in the youth justice system in England and Wales. This article demonstrates that:

- Existing inequalities in relation to ethnicity and looked after status have intensified.
- BME looked after children experience a 'double whammy' of disadvantage.
- There is a complex relationship between stability for BME children within the care system and difficult behaviour.
- There is an issue of criminalisation within care placements, especially likely to impact BME children.
- Structural factors play a significant role in youth justice involvement of looked after children, particularly those who come from an ethnic minority background ultimately resulting in the institutionalised criminalisation of BME looked after children.



Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. Challenging perceptions of Care-Experienced Girls and Women.

A key message arising from the Care Experienced Conference in April 2019 was that those with care-experience want to be viewed as worthy of far more respect, and that stigma and discrimination are unacceptable. This paper explores professionals' perceptions of care-experienced girls and women in the criminal justice system, focusing on three key themes:

- The complexity of societal expectations.
- Damaging staff cultures in care homes.
- Importance of moving beyond negative labels to raise aspirations.

Key findings from the article highlight:

- The potential damage created by negative judgements that emerge in a variety of professional spaces.
- Lack of respect for care-experienced girls and women may develop in different ways.
- Lack of respect for care-experienced girls and women may ultimately contribute to a denial of victimisation and unnecessary criminalisation.

