



# CordisPulse

## July 2020

Welcome to July's edition of the CordisPulse – a monthly digest of key research and policy developments across the sectors in which Cordis Bright provides research and consultancy services, i.e. children and young people's services, criminal justice, and adult social care and health.

This month we have produced an innovative analysis concerning the need and demand for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The Cordis Bright CAMHS stress-test, available [here](#), presents a national picture of trends in mental health services for children and adolescents, and then examines how these trends vary by local area. Our analysis shows a range of interesting trends and findings including:

- The number of people in contact with CAMHS and the number of open referrals in these services have both increased substantially over the past 4 years, by 66% and 76% respectively.
- The planned annual spend by CCGs on CAMHS has only increased by 26%, suggesting that funding is not keeping up with the overall increase in caseloads and demand for these services.
- There is a higher degree of variation in how CCGs are performing both as a snapshot in time and in terms of trends over time; the national trends disguise substantial differences between CCGs.

As well as this original research, there are a range of other interesting and important reports in this Month's Pulse. If you would like to discuss any of these issues, please do contact us on 020 7330 9170.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford



## Head of Research

If you would prefer not to receive future editions of the CordisPulse, please click 'unsubscribe' at the very end of this email. If you would like to discuss anything that arises from the Pulse (or if there are others who you think would like to receive copies) then please contact Dr Stephen Boxford on [stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk](mailto:stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk) or 020 7330 9170.

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## **Cordis Bright News**

### **CAMHS stress-test 2020**

Cordis Bright recently published our Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) stress-test for 2020. This document presents an analysis of trends in CAMHS in England, and is available [here](#). It 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 19 indicators to identify those which we think are experiencing the most pressures. The purpose of these stress-tests is to provide new insight by analysing existing publicly-available datasets in new and different ways.

If this analysis raises questions for your local CCG or local authority then Cordis Bright can help in the following ways:

- We can produce bespoke versions of this stress-test plotting your CCG's performance against each indicator. This helps understand your relative strengths and weaknesses. We are able to do similar for a basket of CCGs, e.g. your statistical neighbours. There is a small charge for this analysis.
- We are experts at service reviews and evaluation.
- We also offer needs assessments, helping you map local need and service provision and identifying gaps and areas for improvement.

Our team draws upon the expertise of people who have previous experience within children and young people's mental health as well as children's services more generally. If you would like to discuss any of these options further then please contact Colin Horswell on [colinhorswell@cordisbright.co.uk](mailto:colinhorswell@cordisbright.co.uk).

### **The Immigration Bill, COVID-19 & the social care workforce**

Cordis Bright recently published a blogpost on the Immigration Bill and its impact on the social care workforce. The piece explores the sector's dependence on immigration, sector reactions to the proposed new immigration system and what steps the social care sector can take in the face of these challenges. It is available [here](#).

### **Fulfilling Lives: national evaluation and learning**

Cordis Bright recently participated in a webinar as part of the national evaluation and learning for Fulfilling Lives, focused on the theory and practical examples of evaluating system change. The webinar is likely to be of interest to people involved in planning, implementing and funding system change, and to those who commission or conduct evaluations of system change programmes. Slides from the webinar can be downloaded [here](#).

## Adult Social Care and Health

### Reports

#### **-Public Health England. Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19**



Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19

This report by Public Health England is a descriptive review of data on disparities in the risk and outcomes from COVID-19. This review presents findings based on surveillance data available to PHE, including through linkage to broader health data sets. It confirms that the impact of COVID-19 has replicated existing health inequalities and, in some cases, has increased them. The largest disparity found was by age: among people already diagnosed with COVID-19, people who were 80 or older were seventy times more likely to die than those under 40. Risk of dying among those diagnosed with COVID-19 was also higher in males than females; higher in those living in the more deprived areas than those living in the least deprived; and higher in those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups than in White ethnic groups.

#### **Public Health England. Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups**

As mentioned above, the PHE review of disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19 shows that there is an association between belonging to some ethnic groups and the likelihood of testing positive and dying with COVID-19. This report builds upon the PHE epidemiological review by summarising a rapid literature review and external stakeholder engagement.

The report concludes that the unequal impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities may be explained by a number of factors ranging from social and economic inequalities, racism, discrimination and stigma, occupational risk, inequalities in the prevalence of conditions that increase the severity of disease including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease (CVD) and asthma. The report concludes with a series of recommendations, including further support of community participatory research, improvement of access and outcomes of NHS, local government and integrated care systems commissioned services by BAME communities, and ensuring that COVID-19 recovery strategies actively reduce inequalities caused by the wider determinants of health to create long term sustainable change.

#### **The Health Foundation. Public perceptions of health and social care in light of COVID-19**

This report presents the findings of a survey commissioned by the Health Foundation and conducted by Ipsos MORI between 1 and 10 May 2020. The results highlight how public perceptions have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 9 in 10 people (86%) now believing national government has a 'great deal' or 'fair amount' of responsibility for ensuring people generally stay healthy, significantly up from 61% in 2018. The survey shows that over three-quarters (77%) of British people are concerned about the impact of social distancing on the health and wellbeing of the nation, a figure that rises to 83% among over 65s. The results also show that the financial impacts of COVID-19 risk affecting people's health and wellbeing in the longer term with two fifths (41%) of people having experienced a negative or significantly negative impact on their income.

## Crisis. Crisis Housing Support Evaluation (2020)

This evaluation of the Crisis (the national charity for homeless people) Housing Support Offer, was conducted by its in-house evaluation team. It concluded that the most effective housing-related support for ending homelessness were advocacy on behalf of a member, capacity building, and benefits support, among other effective interventions such as support with searching and viewing accommodation, financial support, and effective joint working with other organisations. The evaluation also found that the mechanisms that ensured the success of this work were one-to-one coaching, alternative formats for interventions such as courses or focused drop-in sessions, and good quality partnership working.

## St Mungo's. Home for Good: the role of social housing in ending rough sleeping

This report by St. Mungo's investigates the experiences of people who have slept rough and gone on to try and access social housing. They interviewed clients, surveyed frontline staff, and analysed published data, including CHAIN, to learn more about how people access social housing, and also reviewed the social housing allocation policy of every local authority in England to determine how likely people with a history of rough sleeping are to access social housing in these areas. Some of the key findings of the report are as follows: the proportion of single homeless people who move into social housing has decreased dramatically, falling by 44% in 10 years; the main reason that people who have slept rough struggle to access social housing is that there simply isn't enough of it; and, troublingly, housing associations can be reluctant to let to vulnerable people because not enough support is available.



## Briefings

### Care Quality Commission. Innovation and inspiration: examples of how providers are responding to coronavirus (COVID-19)

This briefing presents a number of examples of the new procedures and ways of working that health and care providers have implemented in response to the coronavirus pandemic. These case studies were shared with the CQC from a wide range of providers across adult social care, primary medical care services, hospitals, hospices and mental health services, which represent a cross-section of the work being carried out by providers in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The intention of the briefing is to share examples with providers who may be experiencing similar issues.

### Local Government Association. Rethinking local

This document by the Local Government Association examines the potential of the next six months, as the country moves out of lockdown, to address the stark inequalities the pandemic has exposed, and to connect with people's identities and sense of community. It sets out a series of offers to Government, alongside a set of asks, related to adult social care, public health, and the support of vulnerable local people.



## **Welsh Government. Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population in Wales**

This article summarises findings from a range of analyses relating to the Black, Asian and minority ethnic group (BAME) population in Wales. It focuses on areas where the impact of COVID-19 and/or the subsequent preventative measures may disproportionately affect the BAME population. Numerous reports have highlighted issues which, for different ethnic groups, could affect the risk of the COVID-19 pandemic on their health and well-being either directly or through a disproportionate impact on socio-economic factors that could have longer term consequences. This analysis presents the data that is available for Wales about a range of these issues and sets the context for Wales within which wider England and Wales or UK evidence can be considered.

## **Tools and Guidance**

### **Local Government Association. Councillor's workbook on mentally healthier places**

This workbook has been designed as a distance learning aid to support councillors develop mentally healthier communities. It is structured to reflect the three most important factors influencing health as identified by the World Health Organisation: individual characteristics and behaviour, physical environment and economic context. Although health and social care services are vital, this resource focuses further 'upstream' on prevention, which also reduces service demand and aids recovery.

### **Local Government Association. Health and Wellbeing Boards reset tool: to support HWB chairs move into the next stage of COVID-19**

The Local Government Association has developed this tool to support Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) chairs move into the next stage of COVID-19. It provides a model agenda for Health and Wellbeing Boards first meeting following the immediate emergency phase.



#### **Health and Wellbeing Boards reset tool**

To support HWB chairs move into the next stage of COVID-19



### **Local Government Association. Accessing support: The role of the voluntary and community sector during COVID-19**

The purpose of this document is to provide councils and their community and voluntary sector partners with a briefing on the role and contribution of the community and voluntary sector and the use of volunteers in local and national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Children and young people's services

### Reports

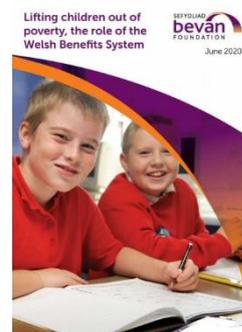
#### Public Health England. National child measurement programme (NCMP): trends in child BMI between 2006 to 2007 and 2018 to 2019

This report presents data on the trends in child body mass index from the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), between 2006 to 2007, and 2018 to 2019. The report covers trends in severe obesity, obesity, and excess weight (overweight and obesity combined). Trends are examined within different socioeconomic and ethnic groups, to assess whether existing health inequalities are widening or narrowing.

The key findings from this year's child weight trends report are: obesity and excess weight prevalence is showing a downward trend in Reception boys which is driven by a decrease in prevalence for all pupils, apart from those in the most deprived areas which showed no change; Reception girls and Year 6 boys and girls are seeing an upward trend in the prevalence of obesity and excess weight which is driven by increases for pupils from the most deprived areas, which is offsetting any decreases seen for pupils from the least deprived areas; and inequalities are widening in obesity, excess weight, and severe obesity across all age and sex groups. This widening of inequalities is also seen when examining the slope index of inequality (SII) for obesity; the obesity inequalities gap is greater in Year 6 than in Reception, and is widening at a faster rate.

#### Bevan Foundation. Lifting children out of poverty: the role of the Welsh Benefits System

In its efforts to end child poverty, the Welsh Government has designed a number of schemes to support families with their living costs, such as Free School Meals, the Pupil Development Grant – Access and Healthy Start Vouchers. The Bevan Foundation's latest work on the Welsh Benefits System finds that these schemes can be reformed and improved to help lift children out of poverty, to ensure that no child in Wales misses out of this minimum standard of living. Amongst these reforms are changes to eligibility criteria to ensure every child living in poverty is provided with access to support, an improvement in the value and quality of support provided and improved administration of each scheme to improve take up.



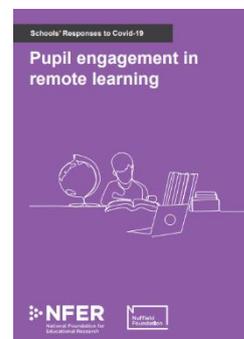
#### Early Intervention Foundation and Action for Children. COVID-19 and early intervention: Understanding the impact, preparing for recovery

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) and Action for Children carried out qualitative research with a range of professionals delivering local early intervention services between March and May 2020, exploring the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on early help services. The research explored the response of local services to the immediate challenges and the challenges on the horizon. The impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable children and families is likely to be profound, and this report finds that school closures, social distancing and lockdown measures have seriously affected the ability of services to support children and families at the very time when these children and families are facing even greater challenges. The report also finds that the response of local services to the situation has been characterised by innovation and rapid adaptation. The report concludes that ensuring local

authorities and their partners are funded at a level that enables them both to meet the anticipated increase in demand for statutory child protection services *and* early help services will be a critical part of the pandemic recovery phase.

### **National Foundation for Educational Research. Schools' Responses to COVID-19: Pupil engagement in remote learning**

This report is part of a larger research project by the National Foundation for Educational Research focusing on schools' responses to COVID-19. NFER undertook an independent assessment to see how engaged pupils are, and the factors that might be driving this, as well as how schools are providing remote learning support for pupils. The report is based on findings from a national survey of 1,233 senior leaders and 1,821 teachers in publicly-funded, mainstream primary and secondary schools in England. Its key findings include: pupil engagement is lower in schools with the highest levels of deprivation; teachers report that, on average, just over half (55 per cent) of their pupils' parents are engaged with their children's home learning; and schools delivering learning content to pupils through online conversations have higher general pupil engagement levels (five percentage points) and an increased probability of having highly engaged disadvantaged pupils (eight percentage points).



### **Briefings**

#### **Department for Education. Participation in education, training and employment: 2019**

This statistical release provides national participation in education, training and employment figures for 16 to 18 year olds to the end of 2019. It contains information from different post-16 learning options, including school, further education colleges, apprenticeships and higher education. Headline measures are the percentages of 16 to 18 year olds in education and apprenticeships, and who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The statistics show that participation rates have increased across all ages, and were the highest on record for ages 16, 17 and 16-18. The overall NEET rate has remained fairly stable for age 16-18, but has increased at age 16.

#### **NSPCC. Isolated and struggling: Social isolation and the risk of child maltreatment, in lockdown and beyond**

This briefing from the NSPCC pulls together research evidence to explore whether the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic heighten the risk of child maltreatment in the UK. While a range of different risks and issues are considered, particular attention is paid to areas in which the NSPCC has a strategic focus through their service delivery, research, and policy work. Three main areas of risk were identified: Increase in stressors to parents and care givers; Increase in children's and young people's vulnerabilities; and Reduction in normal protective services. The briefing finds that the combined impact of increased stressors on caregivers, increased child vulnerability, and reduced safeguards increases the potential for new and recurring





cases of abuse in all its forms. It concludes with recommendations for a national and local response together with practical countermeasures to minimise harm to children and young people during this time and to aid their recovery.

### **The Children's Society. Supporting young people and parents: the impact of COVID-19 on adolescents, parenting and neglect**

This briefing from The Children's Society – based on recently-published academic research, data collected since the onset of the pandemic and consultation with practitioners – highlights the challenges that adolescents and their parents face at the current time. It explains how all adolescents are likely to be severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, how parents' capacity to provide care and support may be compromised, leading to increases in neglect, and that it is important to try to prevent this or to alleviate the associated harm to young people's health and well-being in the short and long term. The briefing also offers advice for professionals on how to reduce the likelihood of neglect occurring or to mitigate its effects and includes recommendations for national and local decision makers around prevention and responses to adolescent neglect.

## Criminal Justice

### Reports

#### Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. Independent review of the use of pain-inducing techniques in the youth secure estate

The Ministry of Justice commissioned this independent review into the Department's policy framework which permits the use of certain pain-inducing techniques on children who are in Young Offenders Institutions (YOI), Secure Training Centres (STC) or being transported between court and custody. The review finds that overall there is a substantial gap between the high-end needs of many of the children in YOI and STC and the ability of staff and leaders in the secure estate to meet them, and that this deficit has led to unacceptable levels of violence in STC and YOI and the frequent use of inappropriate restraint on children that cannot be justified in any framework. The review makes a series of recommendations to bring about a change in culture that would reduce violence, restraint and the use of pain in these settings.

#### Centre for Justice Innovation and the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research. Time to get it right: Enhancing problem-solving practice in the Youth Court

This report details the findings of a research project which was jointly undertaken by the Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) and the Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research (ICJPIR), Birkbeck, with funding from the Nuffield Foundation. The project examined current practice in the youth court, including how the court was meeting the needs of vulnerable young people. Specifically, the report outlines current youth court practice and explores the potential impact of practices aligned with problem-solving justice – an evidence-based approach which seeks to hold people accountable and to help them to proactively engage with the court to address the factors driving their offending. The report finds that youth courts need to be enhanced to change outcomes for the vulnerable young people who appear there, and concludes with a series of recommendations, including the improvement of procedural fairness and specialisation of youth courts, the bolstering of services to improve collaborative supervision and intervention, and the evaluation of trials of the judicial monitoring 'problem-solving' review model.



### Briefings

#### Clinks. Clinks response: the future of mental health care in prison

This briefing from Clinks is a response to the Centre for Mental Health's call for evidence to contribute towards a review to guide the future of mental health care in prison. The response, written in the context of COVID-19, outlines how far mental health support is currently meeting need, examples of good practice, how needs are likely to change in the future and what this might mean for prison health services, and areas for development and improvement. The response details the impact that COVID-19 is having on the mental health of people in prison, as well as the ability for voluntary sector organisations delivering mental health services to operate. A key





recommendation is for voluntary organisations delivering mental health services to people in prison to be seen as strategic partners that prisons engage with, to ensure that they are able to support service users. This also means supporting the sustainability of these organisations during and beyond COVID-19.

## **Tools and Guidance**

### **Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. COVID-19: Probation Roadmap to Recovery**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, exceptional delivery arrangements have been introduced across the probation system to accommodate government and public health advice and to protect the health and safety of staff and service users. This guidance summarises how the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS plan to continue to deliver probation services whilst COVID-19 remains a factor but government guidance on lockdown is gradually relaxed. The Probation Recovery Roadmap sets out the key principles and objectives for how recovery will be taken forward in stages across the probation system in step with the easing of government restrictions whilst continuing to adhere to public health advice.

### **Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. COVID-19: National Framework for Prison Regimes and Services**

This framework sets out how the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS will take decisions about easing the coronavirus-related restrictions in prisons implemented to protect staff and prisoners, guided by public health advice and the best available data. While the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS do not anticipate a simple easing of restrictions across the estate, the purpose of this national guidance is to ensure there is consistency in decision-making by governors.