



CordisPulse

June 2021

Welcome to June'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.

Part of the forthcoming [Serious Violence Duty in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021](#) will include a requirement for local partnerships to complete a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to understand how violence is affecting their communities and to help them develop a response strategy. As such, this month, we were pleased to see the publication of the Department of Health and Social Care, the Home Office and Public Health England's [Serious Violence Duty: strategic needs assessment guidance](#).

Representatives of 'duty holder' authorities (i.e. the police, fire and rescue authorities, justice organisations, health bodies and local authorities) will be required to work together to: (1) undertake an evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence, (2) develop a strategic needs assessment based on the analysis, and (3) develop and implement a strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area, which will need to be reviewed every year. Central to this assessment and strategy will be taking a public health approach.

This links to a range of our recent work where we have been supporting our clients by supporting needs assessment and strategy development concerning violence, understanding and demonstrating how public health approaches are applied and what impact they have and also evaluating approaches to violence reduction including innovative community-led approaches.

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

Pride at Cordis Bright

For Pride month, colleagues at Cordis Bright will be sharing their reflections of being LGBTQ+ or an ally, summarising research on inequalities faced by LGBTQ+ people, and thinking about how we can be more inclusive in the workplace and in our projects.



LGBTQ+ health inequalities

Following our evidence review for the Health Foundation on LGBTQ+ health inequalities, we recently published a blog highlighting the poorer mental and physical health outcomes experienced by the LGBTQ+ population in the UK. This explores the role of stigma and discrimination as a social determinant of health among LGBTQ+ people, noting its operation at a macro level, through policies and community norms, and an individual level, through microaggressions and violence, and the impact these long-term stressors have on the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people.

SEN stress-test 2020

This document presents an updated analysis for 2020 of SEN trends nationally and how these trends vary between local areas.

It has a particular focus on:

- Numbers and rates of children with SEN.
- Types of need.
- Profile of provision used to respond to these needs.
- Spending on Independent and Non-Maintained Special Schools (i.e. specialist provision that is used when children's needs cannot be met locally).

The latter half of the analysis – the SEN stress-test – recognises that local authorities are experiencing different pressures. We use 7 indicators to identify those who we think are experiencing the most pressures and stresses in relation to SEN provision.

Adult Social Care and Health

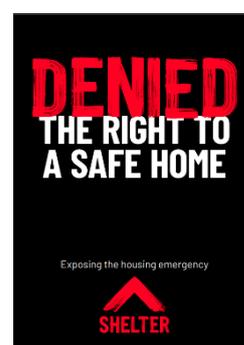
Reports

NHS Digital. Statistics on obesity, physical activity and diet, England 2021

This report presents newly published information on obesity-related hospital admissions and the number of prescription items provided in primary care for the treatment of obesity. The report also provides links to information on obesity, physical activity and diet from a variety of sources, including the Health Survey for England, the National Diet and Nutrition Survey and Sport England's Active Lives surveys.

Shelter. Denied the right to a safe home

This research surveyed 13,268 respondents and used eight criteria to measure if someone has access to a safe and secure home, assessing the affordability of their home, whether it is fit and stable, and finding out if they have been subject to discrimination. The report concluded that Britain's housing system is unaffordable, unfit, unstable and discriminatory. It argued that these issues have been worsened by the pandemic, and called on the government to de-escalate the housing emergency, and build at least 90,000 good quality social homes a year.



Public Health Wales. Covid-19 and employment changes in Wales: insights for policy – young people, employment and health

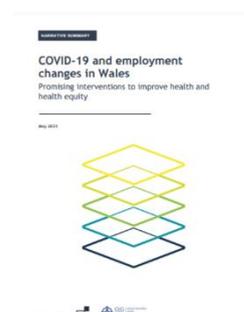
This report found that young people, and those in precarious work, have been identified as being especially vulnerable to employment changes caused by the pandemic, with mental wellbeing and struggles to find or keep work cited as major concerns.



Many young people are unaware of the support that is already available and how to access it, suggesting a greater need for organisations to engage with young people on a deeper level, in order to find solutions to the barriers they face for gaining good, fair employment –critical for people's good health and wellbeing.

Public Health Wales. COVID-19 and employment changes in Wales, Promising interventions to improve health and health equity

This report identifies and describes promising interventions from published literature that could mitigate the adverse effects of the Covid-19 related employment changes on health and health equity of current and future generations in Wales. For this purpose, they developed a map summarising current evidence on labour market interventions that can be implemented to improve health and health equity outcomes for people in Wales, and protect them from the employment hardship caused by the Covid-19 crisis.





Local Government Association. Education to employment: supporting youth participation

In November 2020 the Local Government Association (LGA) commissioned York Consulting LLP to undertake a project to support the sector through action learning; to better understand those not in education, employment, or training (NEET); and those at risk of becoming NEET. The LGA commissioned this work to promote a more integrated and localised system for youth participation. It acknowledges the important role that councils and combined authorities play in the local economy and in ensuring that employers have a skilled workforce.

NHS England. NHS staff survey national qualitative findings for 2020

This report provides a national level summary of the topics most discussed in the qualitative responses to the COVID-19 related 2020 NHS Staff Survey open-text questions. The survey collects staff views and experiences of working in their NHS organisation. Two qualitative COVID-19 related questions were asked as part of the 2020 survey, asking staff what lessons should be learned based on their experience of working through the Covid-19 pandemic, and what worked well and should be continued.

Briefings

Making Every Adult Matter. Policy into Practice: Integrated care systems and multiple disadvantage

In the latest briefing in their policy into practice series, Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) explore the role of Integrated Care Systems, key issues for their development, and opportunities they pose to address the issues faced by people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

The King's Fund. House of Commons debate on the address: A plan for the NHS and social care

The Queen's Speech included commitments to strengthen the health and care system, support health and wellbeing, and increase NHS funding. This briefing outlines The King's Fund's response ahead of the debates on the Queen's Speech in parliament.

The Health Foundation. Adult social care and COVID-19 after the first wave: assessing the policy response in England

In this briefing The Health Foundation analyses policies to support adult social care during the height of the second wave of the pandemic in January and February 2021, and in the months leading up to it. They provide a narrative summary of central government policies related to adult social care in different areas, such as policies on testing and support for the workforce. They also provide a summary of the latest publicly available data on the impacts of COVID-19 on adult social care. In the final part, they make an assessment of the policy response since June 2020, consider how policies changed over time, and identify priorities for the future.



Shelter. Briefing: Queen's Speech debate on affordable and safe housing for all

In this briefing, Shelter argue that while the 2021 Queen's Speech included promising commitments on renters' rights with the government recommitting to the Renters' Reform Bill, there was little detail on how its planning system reforms will deliver social housing on the scale that is needed. They propose that in order to end the housing emergency the government must:

- Invest in social housing and ensure that reforms introduced to the planning system deliver much more social rented housing than the current system, backing this up with the investment needed to scale up delivery of social housing across the country.
- Give security to private renters, by delivering the Renters' Reform Bill and putting an end to Section 21 "no fault" evictions, and take immediate action to support renters that have fallen into arrears during the pandemic.
- Improve standards in social rented housing, by bringing forward reforms to the regulation of social housing with dedicated legislation, and fulfil its promise to implement last year's Social Housing White Paper, by bringing forward a Social Housing Bill within this parliamentary session.

Shelter and Women's Aid. Briefing: The benefit cap and domestic abuse

This briefing sets out the concerns of Shelter and Women's Aid Federation of England regarding the impact of the benefit cap on survivors of domestic abuse. It is argued that the cap has caused hardship, destitution and homelessness and has had a disproportionate impact on women and children experiencing domestic abuse by limiting their access to safe affordable housing and creating a barrier to escaping abuse.

National Adult Social Care Strategic Partners: Response to 2021 Queen's Speech

This briefing by National Adult Social Care strategic partners argues that the government's proposals for the future of social care must be brought forward with a clear timeline of action. It states that social care funding should be at the heart of the government's thinking on how best to emerge from the pandemic, and argues that funding is needed for three priorities:

- To stabilise social care for the short-term and prevent escalation of pressures social care has faced before and during the pandemic.
- To kick start the shift towards a focus on preventative activity, support for the care workforce, action on inequalities, investment in innovation and technology, and transformation and improvement support to councils and providers.
- To secure the long-term future of social care, to support models of care that are more preventative and person-centred than the pre-Covid status quo.

Tools and Guidance

The Work Foundation and Totaljobs. Social care: a guide to attracting and retaining a thriving workforce

The Work Foundation and Totaljobs have developed a new guide to tackle workforce challenges in adult social care through research with care workers and engagement with providers and expert stakeholders.



Social care:
a guide to attracting and retaining a thriving workforce



Public Health England. Sexual health: variation in outcomes and inequalities

Public Health England have developed a toolkit to guide sexual health commissioners, public health teams and sexual health service providers to explore inequalities at a local level in England. The purpose of this toolkit is to use existing data about sexual and reproductive health indicators between and within local authority areas to:

- Understand where variation occurs.
- Identify the principal causes and underlying factors.
- Inform ways to target and reduce sexual and reproductive health inequality
- Improve outcomes.

Public Health England. Covid-19 Health Inequalities Monitoring in England Tool (CHIME)

Public Health England have developed a national monitoring tool that will bring together data monitoring the direct impacts of COVID-19 on health inequalities. The CHIME tool brings together data relating to the direct impacts of COVID-19, such as on mortality rates and hospital admissions. By presenting inequality breakdowns, including by age, sex, ethnic group, level of deprivation and region, the tool provides a single point of access to:

- Show how inequalities have changed during the course of the pandemic and what the current cumulative picture is.
- Bring together data in one tool to enable users to access and utilise the intelligence more easily.
- Provide indicators with a consistent methodology across different datasets to facilitate understanding.
- Support users to identify and address inequalities within their areas and identify priority areas for recovery.



Public Health England. Parents with alcohol and drug problems: support resources

Public Health England have developed a toolkit containing guidance, data and other resources to support professionals who are helping families affected by parental alcohol and drug problems. These resources support local areas to:

- Understand the extent of problem parental alcohol and drug use and support needs in their area.
- Assess whether local systems have sufficient processes, capacity and resources to support families affected by problem parental alcohol and drug use.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Early Intervention Foundation. Evaluation of the Early Years Transformation Academy

Early Intervention Foundation's Early Years Transformation Academy (EYTA) was an intensive 12-month programme which ran between April 2019 and March 2020. The EYTA engaged with five local areas to support the development of integrated maternity and early years systems in which the latest evidence on early intervention and early childhood development was applied.

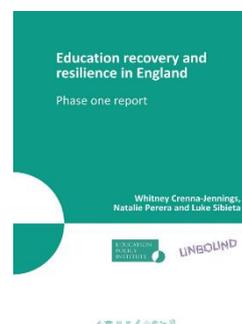


This formative evaluation was intended to capture early learning about the development of the EYTA, recruitment and retention of local areas, delivery of and participation in the programme, and the overall value of the EYTA. It involved qualitative interviews with the design partners (Better Start Bradford, Born in Bradford and the Staff College), and with local team members and senior sponsors in each of the five participating areas, and also used programme data on attendance at and satisfaction with the design workshops. In total nine representatives of the design partners and 28 local area participants were interviewed.



Education Policy Institute. Education recovery and resilience in England

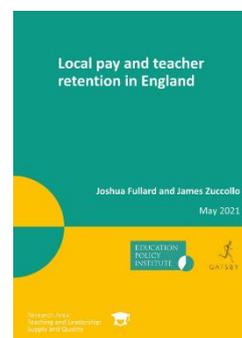
A new report by the Education Policy Institute (EPI), finds that a three-year funding package totalling £13.5bn will be required by the government to reverse the damage to pupils' learning as a result of the pandemic. The analysis, which models the impact of lost learning and sets out a series of proposals, suggests significant investment will be required to deliver on the Prime Minister's promise to the nation that "no child is left behind."



Education Policy Institute. Local pay and teacher retention in England

This report from the Education Policy Institute (EPI), funded by the Gatsby Foundation, examines the current supply of teachers in England, and considers whether reforms to pay policy, particularly at a local level, may lead to improvements in recruitment and retention. It suggests that:

- Covid-19 has not solved teacher retention problems.
- Pay policy should continue to support retention.
- Differences in pay across regions can lead to teacher supply difficulties.

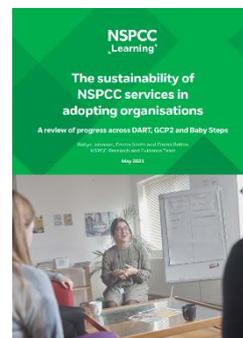




- Regional pay and funding adjustments should be reviewed together.

NSPCC. The sustainability of organisations delivering NSPCC services

Since 2016, the NSPCC has worked with organisations to adopt and deliver some of its evidence-based services locally to reach more children and families through their 'test, learn and scale' model. The process involves developing, delivering and evaluating a service before 'scaling it up' to other organisations to deliver.

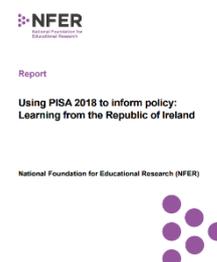


Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART), Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) and Baby Steps were the first three evidence-based services to be 'scaled up'. The NSPCC revisited 21 sites that had adopted the three NSPCC services, two to four years after their initial implementation to find out:

- How well these services were being delivered.
- Whether the delivery of services in local areas is sustainable.
- If there were any challenges and how they were addressed.
- How organisations can benefit from adopting these services.

National Foundation for Education Research. PISA 2018 additional analyses: using PISA 2018 to inform policy: learning from the Republic of Ireland

The Republic of Ireland has a history of high reading scores in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Analysis from PISA 2018 shows that although the country has many cultural similarities to the four UK nations (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), 15-year-old pupils in the Republic of Ireland achieved significantly higher scores for reading literacy than their counterparts in the UK.



The National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) interviewed policy makers and education experts in the Republic of Ireland to develop an in-depth understanding of its policies, its history and to understand more about its perceptions on what impacts most on its higher performance in PISA reading. Comparing PISA results and policy history across the country and the four UK nations, the report draws out findings which provide potential lessons that could be applied more widely in the UK.

Department for Education. Wood review of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements

The Department for Education have published a report on the implementation of new multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children by Sir Alan Wood CBE. The review sets out recommendations for making new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for local areas more effective.

Safeguarding Partners are responsible for:



- The strategic oversight of all local safeguarding children policies in their area.
- Arrangements for child safeguarding practice reviews.
- Working with child death review partners on reviewing all child deaths in the area.

Department for Education. Placing children for 'welfare' and 'justice' reasons together in secure children's homes

The Department for Education have published a research report considering whether the practice of placing children together in secure children's homes for justice and welfare reasons increases the risk of child sexual abuse. The research was conducted as part of recommendation 2 of the 'Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions: 2009-2017 Investigation Report'.

Ofsted. Supporting SEND

Around 1.4 million pupils in English schools have an identified special educational need (SEN). These range from the most severe to comparatively minor. Identified numbers have increased for the fourth consecutive year, from 14.4% of all pupils in 2016 to 15.5% in 2020. Many of these pupils are in mainstream primary and secondary schools. Research suggests that there are varying interpretations and practices across professionals, schools and local authorities in both SEN identification and provision.

Although recent reports by Ofsted and others have highlighted some strengths in the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) system, there are also significant weaknesses. These include:

- Gaps in external provision and training.
- Lack of coordination between services.
- Lack of accountability.
- Weak co-production.

This study was developed to explore how the needs of children and young people are met in mainstream schools and how approaches vary between providers.

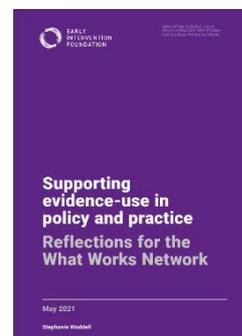
Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2020

This is the second annual report from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. It looks at serious child safeguarding incidents between 1 January and 31 December 2020. It sets out patterns in practice for national government and local safeguarding partners to better protect vulnerable children.

Briefings

Early Intervention Foundation. Supporting evidence-use in policy and practice: reflections for the What Works Network

This briefing outlines five key insights on how to think about supporting evidence-use. It is based on EIF's recent work, which includes a focus on understanding context and behaviour through their impact framework, drawing on the COM-B model of behaviour change. It introduces key reflections for the What Works Network and other organisations focused on translating evidence from research for use in important decisions about policy and practice. It is based on observations from EIF's own programme of work, where they have focused on 'getting evidence used', and uses case examples to embed these insights in practice. Although directly informed by EIF's work on early intervention services and support, these lessons are widely applicable to other areas of public policy and practice.



NSPCC. A summary of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2020

The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel is independent of the government and oversees the commissioning of reviews of serious child protection cases in England. The Panel's second annual report shares key messages and learning from serious incidents reported to the Panel, rapid reviews, local child safeguarding practice reviews and case reviews from 2020.

The NSPCC's briefing summarises this report covering:

- Data about the children involved in incidents reported to the Panel.
- The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on child protection.
- Key practice themes from rapid reviews and case reviews.
- The Panel's work programme for 2021-22.

The Sutton Trust. Fairness first: social mobility, Covid and education recovery

Here, the Sutton Trust outlines its priorities for a 'fairness-first' recovery plan, from the early years to sixth forms and college, based on three principles:

- The right scale and duration to match the challenge.
- A targeted approach.
- Including children and young people of all ages.

This report is published alongside new polling, conducted by YouGov, which asked parents of young children between the ages of 2 and 4 about how the pandemic has impacted their child.



The Sutton Trust. Measuring disadvantage

A major challenge when contextualising admissions to university, or recruitment for jobs, is access to high quality information on a young person's background, to identify those who should benefit. Granular and verifiable information about prospective students' socio-economic background is, in practice, limited. As a consequence, universities and employers often need to use 'proxy' measures, for example looking at the local area someone grew up in based on their home postcode. But little is known about how well these measures capture individual-level socio-economic status.

This report uses data from the Millennium Cohort Study to look at how various proxies for family background correlate with long-run family income, based on data for over 7,000 children.

Department for Education. Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse custodial institutions report: government response

The government have issued a response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) custodial institutions report about placement in secure children's homes. The government has responded to recommendation 2 of the IICSA 'Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions: 2009-2017 Investigation Report' which was published on 28 February 2019. The government response provides an overview of the related research findings and the government's position on the recommendation.

Criminal Justice

Reports

National Crime Agency. National strategic assessment of serious and organised crime 2021

Online is the new frontline in fight against organised crime— says the National Crime Agency (NCA) on publication of annual threat assessment. Criminals are exploiting advances in technology to drive serious and organised crime, with increased online usage leading to a rise in offending. The report uses intelligence from across law enforcement, government, the third sector and private industry to set out the UK's understanding of the threat posed by organised criminals.



Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, College of Policing, Independent Office for Police Conduct. The hidden victims: report on Hestia's super-complaint on the police response to victims of modern slavery

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), the College of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) have published a report in response to the super-complaint submitted by Hestia about the police response to victims of modern slavery.



A joint investigation by HMICFRS, the College of Policing and the IOPC found that while the police response to modern slavery has improved, victims are not always made to feel safe and do not always get the support they deserve. The report recommends that the Home Office, Chief Constables, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Victims Commissioners and the Crown Prosecution Service should work together to better understand victims' experiences and what improvements they need to make. It also recommends that Chief Constables should ensure staff have access to training and specialist knowledge, and understand victim support arrangements.

Clinks. A window of opportunity: understanding the needs and experiences of pregnant women and new mothers in contact with the criminal justice system in the community in England

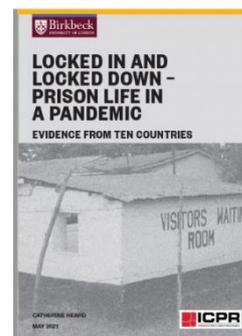


Clinks and Birth Companions have come together to publish a report providing evidence on the needs and experiences of pregnant women and early mothers in contact with the criminal justice system in the community context. Based on the lived experiences of these women and those involved in their care, they have made 16 recommendations for change aimed at criminal justice agencies, health services, voluntary sector organisations and social services.

The report, commissioned by the VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance, and funded by the Department for Health and Social Care, was informed by surveys that they conducted with professionals in the voluntary sector and specialist midwives, as well as interviews with women with lived experience and the voluntary sector organisations that work with them.

Institute for Crime and Justice Policy Research. Locked in and locked down – prison life in a pandemic: evidence from ten countries.

The prisons research team at the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR) at Birkbeck, University of London has published new research on measures taken to control the risk of COVID-19 in prisons, and their impact on prisoners' health and wellbeing. The research covers a diverse group of countries across five continents and includes first-hand accounts of how life in custody changed from March 2020.



The research shows that the health and social impacts of the pandemic and the measures taken to contain it are more severe in countries with overcrowded, under-resourced prisons. The risks of spread of infection are much greater in prisons with limited physical space and inadequate staffing levels – conditions that also make it even more difficult to maintain provision for education, work, rehabilitation, and social interaction at this time of public health emergency.

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice. A thematic review of the quality and effectiveness of probation services recovering from the impact of exceptional delivery models: action plan

A thematic review action plan of the quality and effectiveness of probation services recovering from the impact of exceptional delivery models introduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in response to HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice. Race equality in probation: action plan

A thematic review action plan of Race Equality in Probation: The experiences of Black, Asian and minority ethnic probation service users and staff.

Briefings

Revolving Doors and partners. Entrenching racial disparities

This briefing provides a response to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Bill on behalf of a coalition of organisations: EQUAL, Criminal Justice Alliance, Clinks, Alliance for Youth Justice, Agenda, Transition to Adulthood Alliance, Prison Reform Trust, Zahid Mubarek Trust, Maslaha, Do It Justice Ltd, Revolving Doors Agency, Leaders Unlocked, Switchback and Women in Prison. The briefing expresses concern that the government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will further entrench racial inequality in the criminal justice system. The briefing notes that Black, Asian and minority ethnic people continue to face much poorer outcomes than White people and have much lower levels of trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. It states that the government's new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will deepen this inequality.



Tools and Guidance

Public Health England, Department of Health and Social Care, Home Office. Serious Violence Duty: Strategic needs assessments

The Serious Violence Duty in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 will require local partnerships to complete a strategic needs assessment to understand how violence is affecting their communities and to help them develop a response strategy.

This guidance explains the framework and component parts of a serious violence strategic needs assessment, as well as how to use data to inform your results and recommendations.

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service. Family public law and adoption

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service reform aims to make court processes in Family Public Law and Adoption (FPLA) more efficient, by ensuring that courts, parties and their representatives have access to the right information at the right time.

To achieve this, they have created a digital service that allows local authorities to complete and submit online applications for care and supervision orders (Form C110a).