
March 2017

Welcome to March'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, **across health and adult social care**, we were interested to see the King's Fund report on the 44 sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) which show how local health and social care systems can respond to an environment of increasing demand and reducing finance. Cordis Bright has reviewed all these plans and finds two interesting points of note. First, despite much adverse publicity, very few plans include concrete proposals to close hospital beds, and secondly, around a third of the STPs do not yet contain any plans at all for social care savings. So whilst these plans are an important start they do not yet provide full clarity about how the health and social care challenge can be tackled.

It is often easy to forget that one of the factors which unites the majority of adult social care users, apart from their involvement in care and support services, is that they are often at, or sometimes below, the poverty line. This month, two pieces of research from Joseph Rowntree Foundation explore this theme in their reports on: a) the minimum income standard (which many vulnerable people and people with a disability do not meet), and b) on how poverty affects people's decision making processes.

Concerning **children's services**, the report by the Child Welfare Inequality Project on how poverty affects the numbers of children in care or subject to a child protection plan reflects our own experiences of working across the country where we have identified substantial variation in numbers and in the quality of social work practice. One of the more worrying findings from the research, we think, is that children living in pockets of deprivation within affluent council areas were 50% more likely to be taken into care than children in equally deprived neighbourhoods in poorer local authority areas.

We agree with the report's conclusion that the most likely explanation for this is poorer authorities – facing greater overall demand for child protection services and proportionately larger funding cuts – are more tightly rationing expensive safeguarding interventions. There is a real risk, therefore, that vulnerable children



in some areas are not receiving the support they need. We have worked with a number of local authorities, experiencing significant resource challenges, to help them ensure that there is robust and defensible decision-making in place with the interests of the child at the forefront. Combined with support to ensure effective social work practice, we are helping to ensure that children are protected, whilst resources are used effectively and in an impactful way.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse please do contact us on 020 7330 9170.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford

Head of Research

If you would like to receive a copy of the Cordis Pulse in your inbox every month then please sign-up at <http://www.cordisbright.co.uk/pulse.php>. If you would like to discuss anything that arises from the Pulse then please contact Dr Stephen Boxford on stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk or 020 7330 9170.

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Cordis Bright News

Delayed Transfer of Care (DToC) update (part 2): homecare provision

Hospitals are working hard to streamline DToC processes. But these efforts will falter without urgent and significant interventions in the local provision of homecare. We argue that it's time for CCGs and hospitals to think about what they can do to improve homecare provision. This is no longer an issue that local authorities can and should tackle alone.

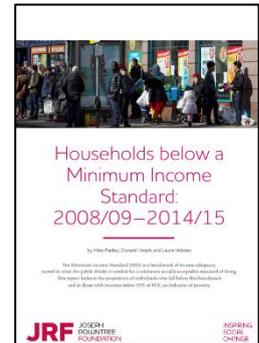
Cordis Bright's latest update on DToC is available [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Households below a Minimum Income Standard: 2008/09 to 2014/15](#)

This report looks at the changes in the adequacy of incomes, as measured by individuals' ability to reach the Minimum Income Standard (MIS), a measure rooted in what the public considers necessary for a minimum acceptable standard of living. This is the fifth annual report monitoring the total number of individuals in the UK living below the MIS threshold.



It looks in detail at the families and households who fall below this threshold. It focuses in particular on three demographic groups (children, working-age adults and pensioners), exploring how they have fared between 2008/09 and 2014/15.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation. How poverty affects people's decision-making processes](#)

This report summarises the most recent evidence on the relationship between socioeconomic status and the psychological, social and cultural processes that underpin decision-making. It highlights:

- the results of 15 systematic reviews of recent evidence on the relationship between socioeconomic status and psychological, social and cultural processes underpinning decision-making;
- insights on the impact of poverty on thinking, behaviour patterns, facing challenges and engaging with the social world;
- a discussion of what these relationships mean for decision-making by those living in or near poverty;
- how decision-making in contexts of poverty serves important immediate functions, even if it has negative consequences for long-term outcomes; and
- implications for interventions designed to empower those living in poverty to make decisions that enhance their long-term well-being.

[The King's Fund. Delivering sustainability and transformation plans](#)

This report examines the content of the 44 sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) that were submitted in October 2016. STPs are the main vehicle for transforming health and care services in England in line with the *NHS five-year forward view*. The report discusses the main challenges that lie ahead in implementing STPs and realising the opportunities they identify.



[The Work Foundation. Social prescribing. A pathway to work?](#)

This report summarises research conducted by The Work Foundation to understand the current use, and the implications of use, of social prescribing as a mechanism for achieving work-related outcomes. It looks at the extent to which work is included in the social prescribing remit, and how this is addressed in practice. Additionally, it explores where there might be potential to increase effectiveness of social prescribing in this regard, and what the barriers and enablers to this might be.

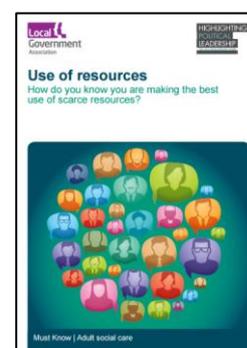
[The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence. Tackling domestic abuse in a digital age](#)

This report covers The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Violence's new recommendations on responding to online abuse.

Tools and Guidance

[Local Government Association. Use of resources: How do you know you are making the best use of scarce resources?](#)

Lead members for adult social care are having to engage in a fundamental re-think about how they use their scarce resources to benefit the most vulnerable members of their communities. This guidance offers some key messages to consider when undertaking this and some questions lead members may wish consider when leading changes to the way services are developed and delivered.



[Department for Culture, Media & Sport. Enabling social action: guidance](#)

These publications provide resources, ideas and case studies on how to embed social action into existing services, develop new programmes and create the conditions for social action.

They are based on work conducted by the government in collaboration with the New Economics Foundation to develop resources for commissioners and other public sector leaders to help them embed social action in commissioning.

Briefings

[The Health Foundation. Reducing hospital admissions by improving continuity of care in general practice](#)

This briefing summarises research that analysed data from over 230,000 anonymised patient records for older people aged 62 - 82 years. They found there were fewer hospital admissions for certain conditions when patients saw the same GP more consistently. Patients seeing their usual GP two more times out of every 10 was associated with 6% fewer avoidable hospital admissions.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. *The relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect: an evidence review*

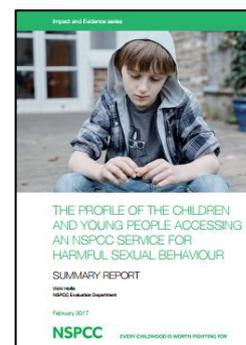
This report is based on a study conducted by The Child Welfare Inequalities Project (described [here](#)). It explores the economic costs of child abuse and neglect and outlines broad policy implications, with a particular focus on the UK.

The report outlines:

- UK and international evidence about the association between family poverty and child abuse and neglect;
- UK and international evidence about the impact of childhood abuse or neglect on poverty in adulthood;
- evidence about the costs of child abuse and neglect; and strengths and weaknesses in the evidence base;
- implications for policy-making.

NSPCC. *The profile of the children and young people accessing an NSPCC service for harmful sexual behaviour*

This summary report looks at the needs of the children participating in an extension of the NSPCC's Turn the Page service. The extension service focusses on girls, children under 12, and children with a learning difficulty. The report highlights learnings from practitioners about what works to support them.



Home Office. *Tackling child sexual exploitation: progress report*

This report gives an update on action the Government is taking to deal with child sexual exploitation. It outlines how much progress the Government has made to deal with child sexual exploitation since the report '*Tackling child sexual exploitation*' was published in March 2015.

Ofsted. *Future of social care inspection: Consultation outcome and next steps*

This report gives a summary of the responses to Ofsted's '*Future of social care inspection*' consultation and the changes Ofsted are making as a result. The report sets out what was learned from the pilot inspections that tested the proposed social care common inspection framework (SCCIF). It also describes the next development steps for the arrangements for the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS).

Department for Education. *Mental health services and schools link pilot: evaluation*

In summer 2015, NHS England and the Department for Education jointly launched the Mental Health Services and Schools Link Pilots. The pilot programme was developed in

response to the 2015 report of the Children and Young People’s Mental Health Taskforce, *Future in Mind*, which outlined a number of recommendations to improve access to mental health support for children and young people. This report reviews the effectiveness of the pilot in improving children and young people’s access to mental health support.

Action for Children. Growing up. Supporting young people to a successful adulthood

This report looks at the 16–25 age group. It highlights some of the issues that face vulnerable young people, and assesses what can be done earlier to prevent these issues affecting the transition into adulthood.

The report also includes the findings of two new pieces of research conducted by Action for Children: a survey of more than 330 young people on their views on school, work, home life and growing up; and a set of searching interviews with care leavers, disabled young people and young offenders.



Social Mobility Commission. Helping parents to parent

This report brings together evidence on parenting behaviours and the extent to which public policy can support parents. It considers different approaches to parenting; the home learning environment parents develop for their children; and examples of universal or large-scale international programmes alongside examples from the United Kingdom.

Tools and Guidance

Department for Education. Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners

This document includes guidance on the definition of child sexual exploitation, potential vulnerabilities and indicators of abuse and appropriate action to take in response.

This guidance is for:

- local authority chief executives
- directors of children’s services
- people leading local safeguarding arrangements
- people who work with children, including in social care, health, early years, education and the police

It replaces the 2009 guidance ‘*Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation*’

Local Government Association. *Improving outcomes for children and families in the early years: a key role for health visiting services*

This guidance includes case studies demonstrating innovation in health visiting since 2015, when it was moved to local government. It shows how integrating health visiting with other services, such as children's centres, early help, safeguarding and public health teams can provide better support to children and their families.



Ofsted. *The social care common inspection framework: questions and answers*

This document provides further information on the social care common inspection framework. It includes questions and answers for professionals, service users and all other interested parties.

Briefings

The Bevan Foundation. *Communities First: Next Steps*

This paper sets out the Bevan Foundation's latest thinking on the future of Communities First in Wales. The paper recommends that a new programme should be established for a limited number of disadvantaged communities which has a focus on reducing poverty experienced by individuals and households.

Criminal Justice

Reports

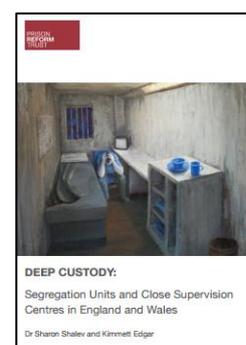
The Howard League for Penal Reform and Centre for Mental Health. *Preventing prison suicide: Staff perspectives*

This report discusses the perspectives of staff working in prison, as well as those reviewing clinical care post suicide. It focuses on staff views on what contributes to vulnerability and suicide risk, and makes recommendations based on staff members' views and their examples of promising practice. The report surveys challenges faced by staff in supporting prisoners with mental health issues and gives an overview of exacerbating factors in the prison system.

The Prison Reform Trust. *Deep Custody: Segregation Units and Close Supervision Centres in England and Wales*

The report sets out to examine how segregation units and close supervision centres (CSCs) are used; describe the skills and views of staff who work there; and to explore prisoners' perceptions of fair processes and their treatment.

The research is based on a survey sent to all prisons in England and Wales and visits to 15 prisons and interviews with 67 prisoners (50 in segregation and 17 in closed CSCs), 49 officers and 25 managers.



Ministry of Justice. Findings and Recommendations of the Youth Custody Improvement Board

This report gives the findings and recommendations of the Youth Custody Improvement Board. The Board was set up to explore and report on the current state of the youth custodial estate and recommend how the system could be improved, particularly focusing on any current risks to safety and well-being. The report underlines the importance of reforming the youth custody system.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Justice matters

This document details how the HMCTS change programme will improve services. It explains how investment of around £1bn will be used to make changes to the setting of justice, the use of technology and the Ministry of Justice's skills and capabilities.

Briefings

Clinks and Homeless Link. Are the accommodation needs being met for people in contact with the Criminal Justice System?

This briefing sets out the findings of a short scoping exercise to understand how the accommodation needs of people in contact with the criminal justice system are being met since the implementation of Transforming Rehabilitation (TR). The results show that some of the challenges in securing safe and appropriate accommodation are directly related to the implementation of TR, such as a lack of accommodation advice given by some community rehabilitation companies, yet many of them exist due to external factors including pressures on housing supply, leading to fewer housing options and reductions in local authority budgets.

