



CordisPulse

October 2021

Welcome to October'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 publication of three reports from the fourth year of our national evaluation of the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Approach, a non-prescriptive framework to help local areas design and deliver better coordinated services for people experiencing multiple disadvantage (available [here](#)). This programme has similarities with the [Changing Futures](#) programme which is now underway in 15 local areas, funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the National Lottery Fund to improve support for people experiencing multiple disadvantage – defined as a combination of homelessness, substance misuse, poor mental health, domestic abuse, or contact with the criminal justice system.

The MEAM Approach is currently being used by cross-sector partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in 33 local areas across England. Our fourth year evaluation reports present eight key findings on the impact of the MEAM Approach on individual wellbeing for people experiencing multiple disadvantage, on the use of resources in local areas and on local services and systems. We also present thematic analysis focussing on the involvement of statutory mental health services in MEAM Approach partnerships, which is designed to support local areas to further develop their work using the MEAM Approach.

Next year will be the final year of our evaluation and we are looking forward to reflecting on the progress and impact of local work using the MEAM Approach over the whole five-year period. We will also shine a light on systems change work and its impact.

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

MEAM Approach Year 4 evaluation

We are the national evaluators of the MEAM Approach, a non-prescriptive framework to help local areas design and deliver better coordinated services for people experiencing multiple disadvantage. The MEAM Approach is currently being used by cross-sector partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in 33 local areas across England. Our five year evaluation takes a mixed methods approach in which we are collaborating with an expert research group of eight people who have lived experience of multiple disadvantage. We are publishing three reports at the end of year four:

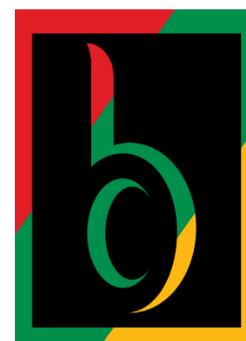


- The main report presents eight key findings on the impact of the MEAM Approach on individual wellbeing for people experiencing multiple disadvantage, on the use of resources in local areas and on local services and systems.
- The thematic report focuses on the involvement of statutory mental health services in MEAM Approach partnerships, and is designed to support local areas to further develop their work using the MEAM Approach.
- The technical appendix details the research methodology and data supporting our findings.

The MEAM Approach has been developed by the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition, which is formed of the national charities Clinks, Homeless Link, Mind and associate member, Collective Voice. You can read more about MEAM [here](#).

Black History Month

October is Black History Month. In line with Catherine Ross' recent article (available [here](#)), we are using this as another opportunity to re-affirm our commitment as individuals and as an organisation to educate ourselves about Black history, heritage and culture – as part of our efforts to understand racism and to stand in solidarity against it. It is perfect timing as it follows on from two company-wide training sessions on cultural competency and a cross-company coproduction approach to developing a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. This month we are making a particular effort to educate ourselves about the contributions that Black people have made across the sectors in which we specialise (children's services, adult social care, criminal justice and the NHS): both historically and in contemporary society. We will use this material to stimulate further discussions across the team and we plan to share outputs on our website too. We hope you'll find them useful and interesting.





GMHSCP Local care approach

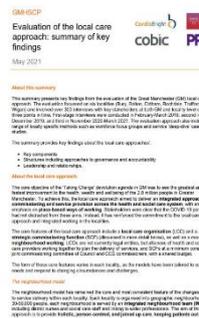
The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) and six localities from across the GM region (Bury, Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale, Trafford and Wigan) commissioned Cordis Bright, in partnership with [PPL](#), [COBIC](#) and [Traverse](#), to evaluate their local care approach. The local care approach forms part of the process to devolve health and care to Greater Manchester, and includes the development of a local care organisation, strategic commissioning functions, and a neighbourhood model for delivering health and care in each locality.

Our evaluation ran from December 2018 to May 2021. It included qualitative consultation with stakeholders at locality and GM system level, a workforce survey, and 'deep-dive' case studies focusing on different elements of the local care approach in each area.

This summary report includes learning from research conducted with all six localities as well as strategic leaders from across Greater Manchester. It identifies lessons regarding:

- Implementation of key components of the approach;
- The role of leadership and relationships;
- Structures including approaches to governance and accountability.

This report identifies factors which supported progressed towards a more integrated health and care system at place level, as well as obstacles. These lessons may be applicable to other areas developing Integrated Care Systems.



Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

HM Government. **Build back better: Our plan for health and social care**

This paper sets out the government's new plan for health and social care.

It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the electives backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.



LGA. **Voice of the sector: Supporting rough sleepers at a time of national crisis**

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic hit, councils worked with partners to implement the Government's 'Everyone In' initiative. This required them to work at exceptional pace, taking urgent action to support and accommodate rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping, helping to stop wider transmission of the virus.



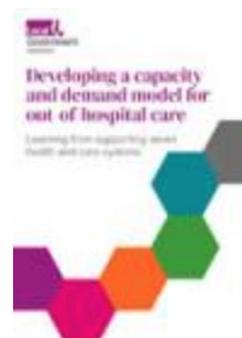
To enable shared learning, the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) worked together to develop the Rough Sleeping Peer Support programme, which involved facilitating a programme of 28 Delivery and Impact Panels involving 222 councils.

This report captures the overarching key themes and emerging learning from the panel discussions and represents the voice of the sector - those directly involved in the effort to safely accommodate rough sleepers at a time of national crisis. The report highlights what can be achieved when all parts of the public, voluntary and community sectors work together towards a common goal.

LGA. Developing a capacity and demand model for out of hospital care

This report shares the learning and developments that took place in seven health and care communities between July 2020 and June 2021 to improve their local arrangements on hospital discharge with a focus on the needs of older people.

The work took place in a period of challenging times for both the NHS and Local Government as the second wave of COVID-19 hit communities hard during this period. This did mean that some systems were unable to prioritise this work for a short period but after the success of the vaccination programme led to reduced demand on the hospitals all the key players resumed work to improve their discharge arrangements. The programme had been intended to end in March 2021 but was extended to June 2021 to allow all the parties to complete their work on the stages of the programme.



Bevan Foundation. Debt in the pandemic

This report from the Bevan Foundation sets out to explore the impact of the pandemic on debt and to consider what solutions should be taken forward by the Welsh and UK Governments.

The economic impact of Covid-19 has seen the financial position of many Welsh families deteriorate, pushing some into problem debt for the first time and deepening the amount of debt owed by some of those already struggling. Across Wales 130,000 households, 10 per cent of all households, had fallen behind on a bill between January and May 2021. Over the same period 230,000 households, 17 per cent of all households had borrowed money. Amongst the report's key findings are:

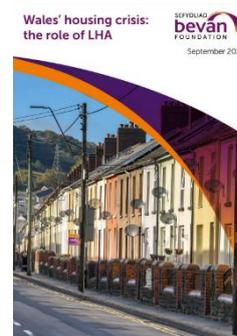
- Problem debt has become a greater issue for those who were already at a heightened risk of being in problem debt pre-pandemic.
- Problem debt has not become as significant a problem for the population as many may have feared at the outbreak of the pandemic.
- We are yet to see the full impact of the pandemic on problem debt and the situation may deteriorate further this autumn.



Bevan Foundation. Wales' housing crisis: The role of local housing allowance

This report from the Bevan Foundation explores how the design of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is contributing to the housing crisis in Wales.

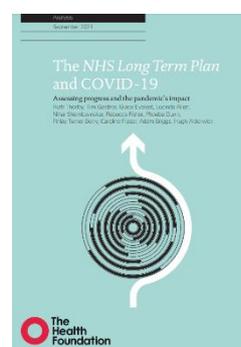
This research has found that the LHA rate only covers the full, advertised rent of 4.8 per cent of properties on the market. On average, there is a gap of £133.53 a month between the LHA rate and the 30th percentile of advertised rents for shared accommodation. The size of the shortfall pushes some households into financial hardship, leads others to rent inadequate housing and excludes some from accessing housing completely, contributing to homelessness and housing insecurity.



The Health Foundation. The NHS Long Term Plan and COVID-19

This report looks at progress on the main pledges in the NHS Long Term Plan and the impact of COVID-19 on their delivery.

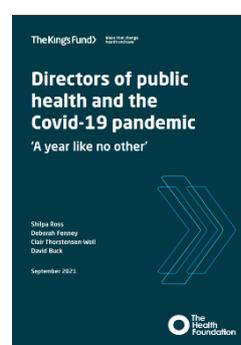
The NHS Long Term Plan remains the blueprint for the NHS's evolution, but the pandemic has dealt a huge blow to both the NHS and social care. In this report, The Health Foundation provides a narrative of what was achieved before the pandemic, assembles the evidence of how the pandemic has affected progress against the plan's major commitments, and identifies implications for the future as the NHS and government plans its recovery from the pandemic.



This report finds that the core principles set out in the Long Term Plan remain as relevant now as they were before COVID-19, but their implementation has been derailed. While the government's focus on reducing the NHS backlog is welcome, it should not come at the expense of addressing health inequalities already widened by COVID-19.

The Kings Fund. Directors of Public Health and the Covid-19 pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented situation that has tested local public health systems to the extreme for more than a year. Directors of public health in particular have had a unique viewpoint and have been at the forefront of making complex decisions about their local populations. They have been responsible for a wide range of health protection activities from testing in the community, to facilitating the uptake of the vaccine, to planning for the availability of food and emotional support for local people.

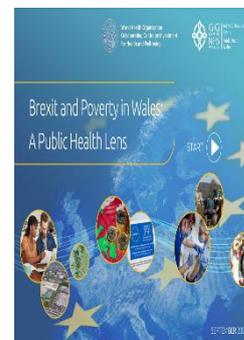


The report highlights key learning from the experiences of directors of public health to build a picture of what has happened over the past year and what is important for a strong public health response to the recovery from the pandemic and any future public health emergencies.

Public Health Wales. Brexit and poverty in Wales: A public health lens

A report published by Public Health Wales highlights Wales' vulnerability to any negative impacts of Brexit on the nation's health and wellbeing following the Coronavirus pandemic.

Building on evidence that the pandemic has had an unequal effect on Welsh society, the study details how, now more than ever, it is important to understand how Brexit and future trade agreements will impact health and wellbeing for those living in, or at risk of poverty. The report focuses on five key areas where Brexit effects are likely to be felt by those who are experiencing poverty. These are employment and skills, financial resilience, funding for addressing inequalities, public services, and food security.



Briefings

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. What's causing structural racism in housing?

During coronavirus structural inequalities played a part in worsening housing insecurity and health issues for BAME communities. These include deep inequalities in the labour markets, the social security system, and the effects of hostile immigration policies.

This briefing offers answers for a more equal, just housing system. Key findings include:

- More than a quarter of BAME working adults spend over a third of their income on housing compared to just over 1 in 10 white workers.
- BAME workers in the lowest-paid occupations are far more likely to face unaffordable housing costs than white workers in the same occupations or white workers on average.
- Immigration policy, discriminatory rental legislation and social welfare policy are among the drivers of unequal housing outcomes for BAME communities.

MEAM. Health Reform Explainer

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) have published a briefing which explores the latest developments in health reform and what these could mean for people experiencing multiple disadvantage. This briefing explores central health function reforms, changes to the local structure of health bodies and how services will be commissioned.

Tools and Guidance

Department of Health and Social Care. Guidance on Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) engagement

This guidance sets out The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and the LGA's expectations for the role of Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) within Integrated Care Systems.

It aims to support local authorities, Integrated Care Boards and other key stakeholders in considering what arrangements might work best in their area when laying the foundations for establishing ICPs.



NHS England. Meeting the healthcare needs of adults with a learning disability and autistic adults in prison

This guidance is for healthcare commissioners, providers and staff operating within the adult prison estate to assist them with the planning and delivery of healthcare for adults with a learning disability and autistic people accessing healthcare services in prison.

The guidance is designed to support the implementation of the national prison healthcare service specifications and other relevant national strategies and standards. It also provides background information and resources for prison healthcare commissioners and providers.



Children and Young People's Services

Reports

The Children's Society. The Good Childhood Report 2021

The Good Childhood Report 2021 is the tenth in a series of annual reports on the well-being of children in the UK. This report presents the most recent trends, and provides insights into how children are faring over one year on from the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. Working within national restrictions on social contact, this report has worked with a small group of children to develop and test questions, prioritising surveys which ask children about their lives, and consulting directly with young people to help contextualise and further understand the report's main findings.



Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. Modernising post-adoption contact: findings from a recent consultation.

Research and evidence shows that when children are separated from their birth families and are either adopted, placed in long-term local authority care, or live with a kinship carer, maintaining contact with the people who are important to them—from separation and right throughout childhood—has significant impact on their well-being.



Evidence suggests that letter writing, an almost universal approach to post-adoption contact which has been the norm for 20 years, needs substantial change to make it fit for the modern world.

This paper outlines learnings from a six-month consultation, and draws on existing research into contact, post-adoption contact and virtual contact. This highlights some of the issues that adoption agencies should consider when planning to modernise their systems and approaches.

NFER. Recovery during a pandemic: The ongoing impacts of Covid-19 on schools serving deprived communities

This report provides insights into schools' support for the recovery of learning, wellbeing and opportunity, as well as challenges and support needs, once pupils returned to school full-time from March 2021. It is based on in-depth interviews with senior leaders in 50 mainstream primary and secondary schools across England, predominantly serving deprived populations. Key findings included:

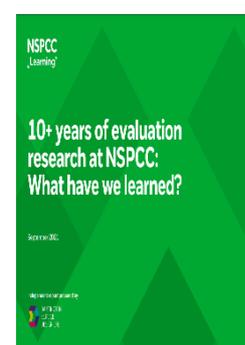
- Curriculum modification was a typical recovery strategy.



- Pupils' wellbeing and mental health was an immediate, pressing concern. Most leaders reported a deterioration in wellbeing, especially increased anxiety.
- Pupils were less emotionally and academically ready for transition than usual, especially those moving between early years, reception and Year 1, and those moving from Year 6 to Year 7.
- School leaders identified several key support needs: properly-funded professional support for pupil wellbeing, flexible holistic recovery funding for schools, for leaders to deploy according to individual setting/pupil needs; and ongoing (medium/long-term) support for academic recovery.

NSPCC. 10+ years of evaluation research at NSPCC: What have we learned?

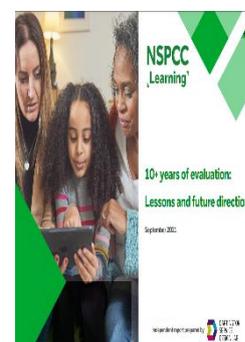
The NSPCC commissioned Dartington Service Design Lab to complete an independent review of its evaluations spanning more than a decade of work. The review examined 71 evaluation reports, covering more than 40 programmes. The review consolidates the learning from the NSPCC approach to programme design, delivery, scaling and evaluation. It generates recommendations around NSPCC's strategic direction in the generation and use of evidence in child protection.



NSPCC. 10+ years of evaluation: Lessons and future direction

The NSPCC commissioned Dartington Service Design Lab to complete an independent review of evaluation reports written over the last 10 years. The second part of this review aimed to consolidate the learning across all of this work to:

- Examine themes from NSPCC's evaluations to consider learning from programme design, delivery and scaling.
- Provide an overall strategic review of the evaluations to consider the challenges and successes of the methodological approaches adopted.
- Generate recommendations for NSPCC's future approach to evaluation, programme design and implementation.



Action for Children. Beyond reach: Barriers to accessing early years services for children

Non-childcare early years services are essential to giving children the best start in life. However, this vital support is too often overlooked by policymakers. In this report, Action for Children explored the types of support parents need during this time, and their experiences accessing it. Action for Children



surveyed over 2,000 parents of 0 to 5s in England between June and July 2021 to find out about their experience of using early years services. They found that parents want early years supports, but that too many parents are struggling to access these services: 82% of parents had either been unable, or struggled, to access a service. Therefore, Action for Children are calling for the government to establish a minimum service guarantee of the early years services families should be able to access in their local area.

Buttle UK. The State of Child Poverty 2021

The State of Child Poverty 2021 report tells the story of the ongoing impact of COVID as witnessed by frontline services that support an estimated 36,000 vulnerable children and young people.



There is clear evidence of the impact of COVID on the mental health of all children, but those who were already vulnerable due to family circumstances have been some of the hardest hit. These children have had to deal with the same disruption to their schooling, the isolation from friends and wider family and the broader anxieties of living through a global pandemic as all children have. However, critically, added to this has been the significant added challenges in their ability to overcome trauma brought on by a range of adverse childhood experiences and poverty. These issues – along with lack of digital access – are seen by support workers as the main drivers to children falling further behind in their education compared to their more affluent peers.

Buttle UK therefore supports calls by the Children and Young People’s Mental Health Coalition and others for an integrated, long-term educational strategy that focuses on prevention and early intervention around mental health in all UK nations.

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The myth of invisible men: Safeguarding children under one from non-accidental injury caused by male carers

This national review sets out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners to better protect children under 1 year old from non-accidental injury. It is a qualitative study of 23 cases from 19 local areas regarding children who died or experienced serious harm, and their father or male carer was the known or suspected perpetrator. This report calls for investment in three areas, namely:



- Research into male perpetrators of abuse against babies.
- Children’s social care provision.
- Local pilots to develop end-to-end system change.

British Journal of Social Work. What do parents think about statutory child and family social work services in the UK?

Higher levels of 'service user' satisfaction are associated with more positive outcomes in many service settings. They are also an important measure of service quality in their own right. This article reports the results from a survey of 500 parents in relation to statutory child and family social work services in the UK. The primary outcome measure was the Client Satisfaction Questionnaire, a valid instrument that has been used in a range of settings and types of service. Parents overall had relatively low levels of satisfaction, compared with research in other settings. Levels of dissatisfaction were higher for parents from lower socio-economic groups and parents of adolescents. These findings suggest that parents are likely to be dissatisfied with the services they received and suggest a pressing need for more representative data to understand the experiences of parents across the UK.



Tools and Guidance

NSPCC. Coronavirus briefing: Safeguarding guidance for schools

This guidance summarises the latest advice for UK schools on safeguarding and child protection during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This guidance summarises information on risk assessments, mixing and "bubbles", tracing close contacts and isolation, remote education and wraparound provision.

Criminal Justice

Reports

HMICFRS. Metropolitan Police Service: National child protection inspection assessment of progress



This report sets out findings from HMICFRS's 2021 assessment of the progress made by the Metropolitan Police Service against recommendations and findings from 2016, 2017 and 2018 child protection inspections.

National Child Protection
Inspection – assessment of
progress
Metropolitan Police Service
11 January–12 February 2021

This inspection started in early 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic meant this had to be postponed until 2021. Methodology was adapted for a remote inspection, using video calls for discussions with police officers and staff, their managers and leaders, together with online reviews of incidents and investigations.

HMICFRS. Police response to violence against women and girls



In March 2021, the Home Secretary commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to inspect the effectiveness of police engagement with women and girls.

Police response to violence
against women and girls
Final inspection report

This report sets out findings concerning how effectively the police respond to violence against women and girls offences. These are violent and high-harm crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls, such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking and female genital mutilation.

House of Commons Justice Committee. Mental health in prison



This report looks at mental illness in prisons in England and Wales. While there have been improvements in prison mental healthcare, this report found that provision is still not adequate. The high unmet need for treatment for mental illness in prisons is surprising and disappointing. Around 10% of prisoners were recorded as receiving treatment for mental illness with one suggestion that as many as 70% may have some form of mental health need at any one time. NHS work is long overdue to quantify the gap between mental health treatment needs and the services provided.

Mental health in prison
Fifth Report of Session 2021-22
Report, together with formal minutes relating
to the report
Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 21 September 2022

HC 22
Published on the internet 2022
by authority of the House of Commons

The Justice Committee therefore recommends that the NHS should use its prison mental health treatment 'needs analysis' to quantify shortfalls in mental health services, make plans and allocate resources so mental healthcare in prisons is at least equivalent to services outside prisons, having taken account of the specific needs of the prison population.

Briefings

LGA. Tackling domestic abuse - innovative approaches by councils and partner organisations

Social Finance, on behalf of the LGA, has produced 12 case studies showcasing some of the innovative approaches taken by councils and partner organisations, to tackle domestic abuse before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ambition for these case studies is to share and disseminate best practice from across local government nationally to support locally led solutions. Key themes identified across the case studies included multi-agency working, engagement with victims and survivors, raising staff awareness and upskilling practitioners, data and information sharing, and access to funding.



Howard League. What's wrong with remanding children to prison?

The Howard League for Penal Reform launched a project in Spring 2021 to tackle the surge in the use of remand for children in prison. This briefing summarises the project's emerging themes and highlights particular concerns about the failure of services around them.

Almost half of all children in custody in England and Wales are being held on remand, despite the fact around two-thirds of children remanded to custody will not go on to receive a prison sentence. The number of children remanded to custody increased between 2017 and 2019, even though the number of children sentenced to custody has been falling since the late 2000s. Some children could not apply for bail, or had their bail applications rejected, because the local authority had not found them a safe place to live.

This briefing is the first in a series of publications which will discuss the experiences of children on remand and how practitioners can effectively support children with bail applications and resettlement.