



CordisPulse

March 2019

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.

With increasing public, political and media attention directed at knife crime and serious violence, we have produced a blog-post which discusses the promise of taking a public health approach to addressing the issue. The full blog can be seen [here](#).

Linked to this are the new *Standards for children in the Youth Justice System 2019* which the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board have launched to replace the 2013 standards. The Government says that it is committed to maintaining a distinct Youth Justice System which delivers justice for those who are victims whilst also rehabilitating offenders. The principle of “*child first*” and “*offender second*” is a key feature of these new standards.

The five standards cover practice: (1) out of court disposals; (2) at court; (3) in the community (court disposals), (4) in secure settings, and (5) on transition and resettlement. They are intended to guide strategic and operational services' understanding of what is expected, but do not prescribe the services that should be designed and delivered. This provides Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) with an opportunity to shape how the standards will be delivered and will give them scope to adhere to the minimum standards or go above and beyond (where needed) depending on local priorities.

Cordis Bright has advised Youth Offending Team Boards in scoping these new standards in conjunction with their strategic National Probation Service (NPS) representative; their expertise will be invaluable in ensuring that YOTs deliver in the best way to meet the needs of children and young people in their area.



The YJB have a duty to have oversight of the standards to determine whether services are demonstrating accountability, improvements and showing evidence of impact and influence. This is where we can help, by assisting in developing/ revising local protocols for all five standards, or by way of case file audit. We are currently able to offer a service of auditing two cases over the course of a day against the new standards at no cost, in order to give you a flavour of the power of case file auditing. If you would you like to discuss this further or take up this option please contact Kam Kaur on 07919 483968 or via email: kamkaur@cordisbright.co.uk.

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 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

Cordis Podcast: substance misuse treatment.

The Cordis Podcast provides a concise and accessible insight into key issues across a broad range of social sectors, including children and young people's services, adult social care, criminal justice, community healthcare and the independent sector. Each episode addresses a different topic through interviews with our own research and consultancy team as well as insight from relevant experts within the field.

In this episode, Hannah Marshall interviews Cordis Bright Consultant Emma Van Oss on the topic of integration in services for substance misuse treatment. It looks to understand what more services can do to effectively transition those affected by substance misuse from prison to community services.

You can listen on SoundCloud [here](#).

Cordis Bright blog post: Knife crime, violence and the promise of a public health approach?

This topical blog post takes a look at the response to serious violence and knife crime. It describes how public health approaches provide a realistic alternative to police enforcement, and looks at the evidence supporting the new public health-based Violence Reduction Unit for London.

You can read the post in full [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Local Government Association. **Shaping healthy places: Exploring the district council role in health**

The LGA presents case study examples showing how district councils have improved the health of their local areas. This report discusses how districts impact the social determinants of health and wellbeing through four lenses; people, social/community environment, local economy, built environment and the natural environment. Methods to improve health and wellbeing within the case studies include access to good quality and affordable housing, planning of the spatial environment, and provision of leisure and green spaces.

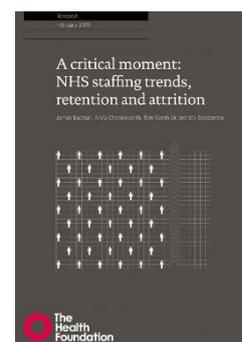


Joseph Rowntree Foundation. **The Homeless Monitor: Scotland 2019.**

This annual report analyses the impact of economic and policy developments on homelessness, drawing on a survey of councils, statistical analysis and in-depth interviews. It shows that nearly 29,000 people were found to be legally homeless in Scotland in 2017/18, and that the official numbers of people coming to their council for help with homelessness seem to be declining. It also reports views from local authorities around how difficult it is to access tenancies, and the impact they predict that the full roll-out of Universal Credit will have on homelessness.

The Health Foundation. **A critical moment: NHS staffing, trends, retention and attrition.**

This research report is the third from the Health Foundation analysing the NHS staff profile and trends in the NHS workforce in England, and is an annual update for 2018. The findings show that there is an ongoing deterioration for some key staff groups; the number of GPs is failing, as is the number of nurses and health visitors working in community and mental health services. It also outlines the Health Foundation's recommendations for the overall approach to workforce policy and planning.



Briefings

Shelter. **Westminster Hall debate on rough sleeping.**

Figures released in January showed that there were 4,677 people sleeping rough in Autumn 2018. This is a 2% decline since 2017, but an increase of 165% since 2010. This briefing outlines the root causes of homelessness, including lack of security in the private rented sector, design of Universal Credit and shortfall in housing benefit,

and the lack of social housing. The document also details some possible solutions to these challenges.

The Health Foundation. Reframing the conversation on the social determinants of health

Despite the extensive evidence for the impact of social determinants on people's health, public discourse and policy action is limited in acknowledging the role that societal factors such as housing, education, welfare and work play in shaping people's long-term health. This briefing presents the main findings from research analysing public understanding, expert opinion and media narrative around health. It identifies four key challenges that communicators must tackle to achieve wider public acceptance of the evidence on the social determinants of health: broadening what is understood by the term 'health', increasing understanding of the role of social determinants of health, including how social and economic inequalities drive health inequalities, and generating an understanding of the policy action needed to help keep people healthy.



Tools and Guidance

Ofsted. Social care commentary: using models of practice successfully.

In this article, Yvette Stanley, Ofsted's national director for social care, reflects on the lessons from inspections when considering implementing a social work model of practice. She discusses how Ofsted does not endorse a particular model or mode of practice, but highlights some key points to consider before and during the implementation of any social work model in order to apply it effectively. She also describes the 'ingredients' of different models of practice that enable them to be more effective, and talks about the value of systemic responses in addressing the challenges that children and families face.

Department of Health & Social Care. Strengths-based approach: Practice Framework and Practice Handbook.

This handbook introduces a practice framework for strengths-based practice for social work with adults. It is based on a five-quadrant model promoted as a set of practice triggers or prompts brought to action through knowledge, values, experiential learning, theories and skills. The handbook emphasises that a shift to strengths-based social work requires a change of culture based on strong leadership. It stresses that it is not about reducing support or putting more pressure on carers, but about working collaboratively with individuals and their families, focusing on their strengths.

Children and young people's services

Reports

Ofsted. Children's social care data in England 2017 to 2018: main findings.

This release contains information about providers of children's social care, the most recent inspections and outcomes for social care provisions, and local authority children's services inspections, until March/April 2018. It shows that the number of children's homes continues to rise, but the number of homes run by local authorities continue to fall. It also shows that the judgement profile for LAs has improved since the end of the Single Inspection Framework programme, and that residential special schools performed best across inspection sub-judgments in 2017 to 2018.

Coram Family and Childcare. Childcare Survey 2019

Coram Family and Childcare analyses data relating to the price of childcare, the availability of childcare and the 30 hours extended entitlement in England, and makes a series of recommendations for government to improve provision. The findings suggest that some parents are still worse off in work once they have paid for childcare (with the average childcare price for children under three rising above inflation this year), and that while support for costs are available and welcomed by many parents, the complexity of the system leaves parents at risk of missing out on the support they are entitled to.

 coram
Family and Childcare



Department for Education. The role and contribution of maintained nursery schools in the early years sector in England.

Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) were set up more than 100 years ago to provide early education and childcare to disadvantaged children in the most deprived areas of England. This research report aims to build the evidence base for discussions on future policy developments for these schools. It examines differences, including the value offered, between MNS and other Early Years providers. The report outlines findings relating to the characteristics of MNS Early Years provision, the provision of additional and specialist services that MNS offer, and future challenges. Its findings show MNS have a higher proportion of children from disadvantaged background and children with special educational needs, and that MNS offer a greater range and quantity of additional and specialist services than other Early Years providers.

Local Government Information Unit. Local Government Finance Survey 2019.

The annual survey found that children's service and education is the top immediate financial pressure council leaders face – 24% of leaders said they are looking to reduce activity in children's care services, and the same proportion are also planning on cutting funding for youth centres. In addition, 16% reported that there are planned cuts to special education and disability support. The survey found that more than half of councils (53%) are dipping into their reserves as a result of this financial pressure.

National Foundation for Educational Research. Being Present: The Power of Attendance and Stability for Disadvantaged Pupils

This research report highlights how pupils and cohort background factors link to the Key Stage 4 outcomes of disadvantaged pupils. The findings show that, on average, the association between being absent from school and KS4 outcomes is worse for disadvantaged pupils than their more affluent peers. The same was found for moving between schools in KS4. The implications such findings have for school leaders and policy makers is also discussed in the report, including how prioritising resources to improve attendance and targeting support to address individual barriers to education can improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Children's Commissioner. Keeping kids safe: Improving safeguarding responses to gang violence and criminal exploitation

The Children's Commissioner estimates that there are 27,000 children in England who are in gangs, only a fraction of whom are known to children's services. The findings of this research show that these children have high levels of vulnerability in their lives which increase the likelihood of their being groomed for gang membership. Vulnerability factors include, among others, coming from families with substance or alcohol abuse problems, neglect, and having special educational needs. The report argues that a change in thinking is needed to tackle this problem, which stops treating these children as criminals responsible for their own situation and instead sets out to protect them.

Children's Commissioner. Skipping School: Invisible Children.

This report examines what happens to children who are 'off-rolled' into home education by schools because they do not 'fit in'. It explores the factors driving the growth in home education, the impact it is having on children and what should be done to address it. Analysis of the data shows that academies see children move into home education at a higher rate than LA schools, and among pupil referral units these rates are even higher. Moreover, 93% of councils reported that they don't feel confident that they are aware of all the home educated children living in their area. In light of these findings, the children's commissioner offers a number of recommendations, including the introduction of a home education register and provision of advice and support for families home-schooling their children.



Briefings

Local Government Association. Briefing on the costs and benefits of free childcare, House of Commons.

Evidence shows that attending effective, high quality early years provision improves children's readiness and early development, and increases social mobility. This



briefing argues that recent changes, including the 30 hours free childcare scheme for working families, are a positive step to increasing access to this type of provision. It highlights the benefits of maintained nursery schools for delivering high standard education to disadvantaged children and those with SEND. The Local Government Association calls on the Government to extend the supplementary funding provided to maintained nursery schools into 2020/21 in order to provide certainty to providers, and points out the challenges posed by the new Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) which is resulting in less outreach work to encourage take-up of childcare and less training of Early Years staff.

Local Government Association. Support for Young Carers, House of Commons.

Councils currently support many young carers through a provision of a range of services such as information and advice, home care and respite care. However, this briefing argues that the ability of councils to provide the support needed to all carers is undermined by the funding to councils and the impact on social care budgets, coupled with increasing demands and increasing costs. In addition, although councils are under a legal duty to identify young carers and carry out impact assessments, finding these carers can be challenging as they are often isolated and hidden from view.

House of Commons. Health and Social Care Committee: First 1000 days of life.

Research shows that the first 100 days of life, from conception to age 2, is a critical phase during which the foundations of a child's development are laid. This report outlines the findings and recommendations from a cross-party enquiry examining how current policy and practice supports children, parents and families during this vulnerable period. It highlights six key principles that enable services to support families, and recommends a long-term, cross-Government strategy for the first 1000 days of life which should aim to reduce adverse childhood experiences, improve school readiness, and reduce infant mortality and child poverty.

Tools and Guidance

Public Health England. Improving school readiness: initiatives across the south-east.

School readiness is a measure of how prepared a child is to succeed in school cognitively, socially and emotionally. In order for each child to reach their full potential, they need opportunities to interact in positive relationships and be in environments that enable and support their development. Through data analysis, a survey of local authority public health teams, a review of local authority websites and focus groups, this report provides evidence relating to school readiness with a public health focus. It describes the current situation across the south-east of England and details local school readiness initiatives and case studies. It also signposts national and local resources and training for supporting school readiness and gives a parental perspective using results from focus groups.

NSPCC. Protecting children from harmful sexual behaviour.

The NSPCC has launched new online guidance on harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) to help children's health professionals identify risk. The new resources include a step-by-step guide and downloadable tools, and have been designed specifically with health professionals in mind. The charity points to NHS guidance which states that everyone who works in the health sector has a key role in recognising when a child's sexualised behaviour becomes problematic or harmful, stopping it from escalating and making sure everyone involved gets the support they need.

Criminal Justice

Reports

NSPCC. Falling short? A snapshot of young witness policy and practice

This research draws upon a report published ten years ago examining how well government policy and guidance met the needs of young witnesses in England and Wales. Researchers gathered views from 272 criminal justice policymakers and practitioners to find out what has improved and what work still needs to be done one decade on. The findings show that the policy practice and framework for young witnesses in England and Wales has improved since 2009, but provision of support is inconsistent. It also argues that there is not and should not be any one single overarching approach to safeguarding across the criminal justice system.



Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. Does stop and search reduce crime?

Although there have been recent declines in its use, stop and search continues to be one of the most controversial powers vested in police in England and Wales. This research report suggests that there is little evidence of the impact of stop and search on reduction of violent crime, arguing that it would take a huge increase in this method to deliver even a modest reduction in crime levels.

Revolving Doors. Reducing the use of short prison sentences in favour of a smarter approach.

Revolving Doors has launched a new paper showing the problems with short sentences. A poll they commissioned also shows that 70% of MPs back the Justice Secretary's plans to curb short sentences of less than 6 months. The report shows that of people sentenced to less than 6 months in custody, 3 in 5 report a drug or alcohol problem on arrival at prison, 1 in 4 are released homeless and 7 in 10 reoffend within a year. The report argues that the evidence suggests that short prison sentences disrupt family ties, housing, employment and treatment programmes, and do not provide any meaningful rehabilitation.

Tools and Guidance

Ministry of Justice. Legal Support: The Way Ahead.

The Ministry of Justice has published an action plan to deliver better support to people experiencing legal problems. The strategy follows a post-implementation review of legal aid reforms and is based on three key elements: entitlement to legal aid for the most vulnerable, ensuring people can access the right legal support at the right time, and ensuring the Government puts in place better systems, process and decisions. As part of the measures, the Government will bring forward proposals to extend eligibility for non-means tested legal aid for parents who wish to oppose applications for placement or adoption orders.

Ministry of Justice. Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019.

These new standards define the minimum expectation for all agencies that provide statutory services to ensure good outcomes for children in the youth justice system, and are intended to replace the *National Standards for Youth Justice (2013)*. The standards relate to five aspects of the youth justice system: out of court, at court, in the community, in secure settings, and on transition and resettlement. It also outlines the principles, oversight and monitoring of the standards.



Standards for children in
the youth justice system
2019

