



CordisPulse

August 2019

Welcome to August'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.

It's been a bumper month for interesting reports – so enjoy the Pulse! However, we were particularly interested to read a number of reports around children and young people involved in the criminal justice system.

Three reports highlighted the criminalisation of different groups of children and young people;

- The Youth Justice Board's (YJB) disproportionality tools outlines the extent to which BAME children are over-represented in each stage of the youth justice system.
- The Howard League for Penal Reform report on the criminalisation of children in residential care shows that some children's homes are excessively calling the police, but efforts to reduce criminalisation are beginning to have some impact.
- The Children's Society research on responding to children who are criminally exploited show that 14-17 year-olds are the most likely to be exploited by criminal gangs, and professionals are struggling to keep up with the scale of the problem.

Cordis Bright has recently worked with Central Government Departments, Multi-Agency Boards, Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Authority Children's Services and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations on their responses to Serious Youth Violence and Gangs, Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitation, evaluated programmes, innovations and initiatives designed to improve responses to these issues, and worked with Youth Offending Team Boards to review their work on disproportionality. Based on this experience we agree with the call from these reports for a more joined-up approach and improved sharing of information between statutory and non-statutory agencies to better support children and young people involved, or at risk of involvement, with the criminal justice system.



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.

Cordis Bright Ltd, 23/24 Smithfield Street, London, EC1A 9LF.

Telephone: 020 7330 9170

E: info@cordisbright.co.uk  [@CordisBright](https://twitter.com/CordisBright)

W: www.cordisbright.co.uk  [Cordis Bright](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cordis-bright)



Cordis Bright News

Enablers of evidence-based practice in health and social care.

This report outlines the enablers of implementing evidence-based practice (EBP) in a health and social care context, and describes some frameworks that support the implementation of EBP. It is based on our review of health and social care contexts in the UK, the USA and Australia, which explored the implementation of new innovations based on research as well as the incorporation of research in day-to-day practice. In this review, we have identified six key enablers for successful implementation; context, collaboration, leadership, skills, capacity and funding.

The Health Foundation. Enhanced Health In Care Homes.

We were really pleased to see two reports produced by the Health Foundation's Improvement Analytics Unit on Enhanced Health in Care Homes. Both referenced the interesting evaluation work we delivered in collaboration with NHS Nottingham City CCG colleagues concerning the Enhanced Health in Care Home New Care Model Vanguard in Nottingham City. The reports are:

The impact of providing an enhanced package of care for care home residents in Nottingham City. This can be accessed [here](#).

Emergency admissions to hospital from care homes: how often and what for? This can be accessed [here](#).

Co-Production with Experts by Experience

If you have not yet had a chance to access our content on co-production released last month, we would recommend listening to this Cordis Bright podcast and reading the accompanying blog. In our podcast, we talk to two Expert by Experience researchers, Anne and Mero, about their experience conducting research with us in our evaluation of the National MEAM Approach. The year 1 and 2 reports can be found [on their website](#). We discuss how we involved people with lived experience in each phase of the research, and the value this added to the final evaluation. Our accompanying blog offers a useful tool for co-producing research, outlining the key lessons that we learned from the process. The importance of equal relationships where everyone has shared responsibilities is highlighted as a key factor underpinning the success of co-production.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

LGA. One Year on: The LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing.

This new publication marks one year on from the LGA's consultation of their own Adult Social Care green paper. It gives a number of perspectives on two broad issues: what is happening to adult social care on the ground and what life is like for people who experience care and support; and what the context is to the debate about the future of Adult Social Care and where that might go next. Its recommendations include that the Government uses the forthcoming Spending Review to close the projected adult social care funding gap, and leads a sector-wide campaign to raise awareness on what adult social care and support is, why it matters and what it could and should be with the right investment.



Alcohol Change UK. Learning from tragedies. An analysis of alcohol-related Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

In 2017, 5,507 deaths in England were directly attributable to alcohol, with vulnerable adults particularly at risk. Alcohol Change UK undertook an in-depth analysis of safeguarding reviews and analysed collective themes, in order to better understand the role that alcohol plays in situations where vulnerable adults die, and to draw out lessons that can be learned. The overarching findings of this research are presented in this report. It was found that most of the adults in these reviews had multiple complex needs in addition to alcohol misuse, and in almost all cases, support services failed to cope with that complexity.

Welsh Government: Government social research. Research into accessing primary care services delivered in a general practice setting.

Welsh Government commissioned this qualitative research project to explore public perceptions and experiences of accessing primary care services delivered in a GP setting. The most prominent factors that influenced patients' positive and negative experience centered on getting through to the surgery and being able to make an appointment at a time that suited their needs. For Welsh-speaking participants, being able to access services in their language of choice was important. Participants were also generally positive about the idea of the primary care model and triage approach, perceiving it to give them quicker access to appropriate care and reducing the pressure on GPs.



Department of Health & Social Care. 2018 Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit: Report and Declaration on Achieving Equality for Mental Health in the 21st Century.

In October 2018, the UK established and hosted the first ever Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit. This report shares the messages from those who attended the summit, including policy makers, politicians, experts by experience and civil society. The summit was organised around 6 main workstreams; the discussion and recommendations from each are outlined in this report. Recommendations include that all nations uphold children and young people's rights to access care at the right time and that prevention of mental health conditions and suicide are reflected in government strategies. The report also argues that mental health care and services should be central to the policy and delivery across all universal health coverage, with most services being community based and integrated across primary care, specialist care, social care and housing.

Department of Health and Social Care. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer, 2019: Partnering for Progress.

Chief Medical Officer Professor Dame Sally Davies' latest report considers current and future UK engagement with global health. It discusses the wider determinants of health (biological, social and commercial) and conceptualises global engagement on health as encompassing three main areas; equity, sustainability and security. It outlines recommendations relating to governance and funding, mutual learning, scholars and universities, research and innovation, and antimicrobial resistance.

Government Social Research. Employment Advisers in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies: Process Evaluation Report.

This research report presents the findings from the process evaluations of the 'Employment Advisers in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' programme. Findings from the case studies indicate that the programme has been well-received, fills gaps in local provision, and that timely employment adviser intervention can support improvements in clients' mental well-being, including increased confidence, assertiveness and motivation, improved mental health and a return to work. The report also outlines facilitating factors supporting the effective setup of employment advisers in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services that future programmes may wish to consider.

The Health Foundation. Understanding Primary Care Networks.

From 1st July 2019, all patients in England should be covered by a primary care network (PCN) made up from groups of neighbouring general practices. The NHS Long-term plan envisages that these networks will also be a vehicle for improvements in primary care and population health. This report outlines what PCNs are, what they will do and how they will do it. It also discusses how recent examples of scaled-up general practice and networked provision of services provide no clear evidence of impact on quality of care, patient experience or cost-effectiveness. It



outlines the risks and challenges of PCNs, and argue that a safety net must be created to identify and support PCNs that struggle. The report also highlights the importance of distributing resources in proportion with deprivation and health need, and in allowing sufficient time and support for collaborative relationships.

Briefings

The Health Foundation. Emergency admissions to hospital from care homes: how often and what for?

In January 2019, the NHS published its 10-year Long term Plan, including its commitment to rolling out the Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH) framework across England. One of the aims of this framework is to reduce emergency admissions from care homes, which can expose residents to stress, illness, and loss of independence, as well as putting pressure on the NHS.

This briefing synthesises the learnings of evaluations of four local initiatives to improve health and care in care homes: Principia enhanced support in Rushcliffe, Sutton Homes of Care, Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and Nottingham City CCG. The briefing draws upon the findings of Cordis Bright's own evaluation report for Nottingham City CCG of their Enhanced Health in Care Homes Vanguard. The findings show that for several of the initiatives there were reductions in at least some measures of emergency hospital use for residents who received enhanced support. This report also highlights the key lessons for implementing the EHCH framework in care homes.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Work. Social Workers and a new Mental Health Act.

The APPG proposed to look at the role that social workers play in upholding the four principles laid out in the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983, published in December 2018; choice and autonomy, least restriction, therapeutic benefit, and people as individuals. Recommendations in this report include addressing the social determinants of mental illness, adopting a coherent approach, and integration between health and social care as well as between children's services and children's mental health services.

Department of Health and Social Care. Advancing our health prevention in the 2020s – consultation document for the Green paper.

The government has launched an open consultation on the Green paper on public health. It describes a new personalised, prevention model of public health, which will involve transforming and expanding the NHS Health Check programme and intelligent screening, and Public Health England working with partners to evaluate and model predictive prevention at scale. The paper also outlines challenges in relation to alcohol, drug use and sleep, and describes how a new Social Prescribing Academy will support national plans to make social prescribing available throughout



England. Finally, it highlights the importance of building strong foundations for good health throughout life in relation to early years, healthy places, active ageing, local action and world-class research.

Tools and Guidance

Department of Health and Social Care. Capability Statement for Principal Social Workers in Adult Services.

The government has released guidance on the capabilities and [responsibilities](#) of Adult Principal Social Workers (PSWs) in order to reduce uncertainty around the PSW role. This capabilities statement says that PSWs should be party to decision-making with managers in the top tiers of the organisation, should occupy a position of significant influence in the local health and social care system, and should be highly visible. The roles and responsibilities documents states that they have responsibilities relating to professional development, effective supervision, and disseminating findings from safeguarding adults reviews.

Public Health England. Place-based approaches for reducing health inequalities.

This guidance has been informed by consultation with stakeholders to support action at local level to reduce health inequalities. Its aims are to reinforce a common understanding of the complex causes and costs of health inequalities and provide a practical framework for places to reduce health inequalities - the population intervention triangle (PIT). There are three components to the PIT model. The first is the three segments of community-centered interventions, civic-level interventions and service-based intervention. The second is place-based planning, and the third is how effective place-based planning can enhance impact by focusing on three seams between the segments: civic service integration, strengthen community action and service engagement with communities.

Public Health England. Whole systems approach to obesity: a guide to support local approaches to promoting a healthy weight.

Most of the adult population in England is living with overweight or obesity, and the causes exist in the place we live, work and play, where the food and built environment often makes it difficult to make healthier lifestyle choices. A growing body of evidence suggests that whole systems approaches could help tackle problems like obesity. This document provides a practical “how to” guide to creating a whole systems approach to tackling obesity, structured across 6 phases: setup, building the local picture, mapping the local system, action, managing the system network and refresh and reflect.

Public Health England. Public health advice and support arrangements into Integrated Care Systems in England.



Local NHS organisations in England are increasingly focused on their contribution to population health outcomes as part of local integrated care partnerships including through new Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). Many sustainability and transformation partnerships are evolving rapidly into ICSs, alongside their ambition within the NHS Long Term Plan for all STPs to become an ICS by April 2021. This advice note focuses on the role of Directors of Public Health and their teams in England in supporting local improvements in population health and reducing inequalities through developing, leading and influencing local population health plans. The main message is that the focus should be on local needs and priorities and building and strengthening local partnerships and collaboration.

Children and young people's services

Reports

Home Office. An evaluation of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians – early adopter sites.

The government has committed to rolling out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) nationally, who are an additional, independent source of advice for all trafficked children, and somebody who can speak up on their behalf. In January 2017, the ICTG service was introduced into three early adopter sites: Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and nationally in Wales. This report outlines the findings of evaluations of these sites in relation to establishing and delivering the service and outcomes for children. The evaluation shows that British children were the most common nationality referred to the Service, and had been mainly subject to criminal or sexual exploitation, and that ICTGs were valued by professionals for their support of children through immigration, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Criminal Justice Service (CJS) processes. The report also states that a quarter of children referred to the Service went missing at some point and the most common reason for people exiting the Service was reaching 18, at which point the service is no longer available.

Local Government Association. Children's Social Work Health Check Survey 2018: Report of Findings.

Local Government Association
Children's Social Work Health Check Survey 2018 - Report of Findings
November 2018

The Health Check is intended to support and deliver effective social work and, for the past two years, the LGA has worked with the Department for Education to formulate a survey to capture the results for Children's Services. Respondents' most frequently cited achievement over the past 12 months was the introduction of new training and development. Conversely, training and development was also the most commonly identified key area for improvement. The report presents other key findings in relation to effective workforce planning, safe workloads and case allocation, managing risks and resources, effective and appropriate supervision, continuing professional development, professional registration, and effective partnerships.



Coram. Data visualisation in Children's Social Care.

This project, commissioned by the Nuffield Foundation, sought to identify how the power of data could be harnessed to understand the experiences of children when they come into contact with social services, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions made. The key message of the report is that longitudinal administrative data resources are an essential but under-used resource for the evaluation of children's social care. Delays in processing permissions to use administrative data for research continue to frustrate advancements in the use of data for public benefit, and research and transparency are necessary to improve data processing.

Welsh Government. National Action Plan for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse.

This plan sets out the actions the Welsh Government will take to prevent Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) (including Child Sexual Exploitation and Harmful Sexual Behaviour). It outlines the arrangements for the prevention of CSA, the protection of children at risk of CSA, and for the support of children who are sexually abused. There are ten overall objectives within the plan, which the Welsh Government expect to be implemented by the end of 2021. These include increased awareness of how to help keep children safe from CSA for parents/carers, practitioners and the public, ensuring practitioners have access to resources and training to equip them to provide effective responses to children at risk of abuse, and collecting evidence on the prevalence of CSA to inform the planning of services for children who have been sexually abused.



Department for Education. Adoption support fund: long-term follow-up.

The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) was introduced in England in May 2015, aiming to increase the access of adopted children and their families to therapeutic adoption support. This report presents the findings of the third wave of the longitudinal survey of applicants to the ASF, which sought to identify the longer-term effects of receiving support through the ASF, the experience of the families accessing the support in the longer term, and families' perceptions of their future support needs. The research found significant improvement for families in relation to adopted children's behaviour and mental health, the functioning of families, and parents' wellbeing. Respondents also made a range of suggestion for change to the Fund, mostly around broadening the scope to include additional types of support, improving coordination with education services, and loosening financial restrictions to permit greater quantities of support to be accessed.

Barnardo's Scotland, the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice and the University of Strathclyde. "Trauma, Bereavement and Loss: Key learning and messages from research and practice"

This paper presents the summary findings of five research papers looking at informing the development of trauma-informed approaches. From these papers, emerging themes are identified and commented upon. For example, the authors argue that research shows trauma and loss-informed provision in universal services such as school is a necessity to create the right environment for development, learning and thriving. This has implications for organisations who must ensure that staff not only possess the knowledge and skills to implement trauma-informed approaches, but also take responsibility for ensuring policies and procedures support staff appropriately, including in dealing with the impact of their own trauma where



appropriate. Targeted and specialist provisions should also be available when needed.

The Children's Society. Counting Lives: Responding to children who are criminally exploited.

This research consists of analysis of Freedom of Information responses from local authorities and police forces, interviews with professionals working with young people across the country, and a survey of police staff about the criminal exploitation of children. Findings show that 14-17-year olds are the most likely age group to be exploited by criminal gangs, and professionals are struggling to keep up with the scale and context of criminal exploitation. The response from statutory agencies is often too variable or too late. Moreover, children are too easily criminalised, and are not viewed as victims. The report argues that the problem requires a joined-up approach from statutory and non-statutory agencies, and accurate sharing of intelligence.

The Nuffield Foundation. How do we know if children's social care services make a difference? Development of an outcomes framework.

This report presents findings from a study that aimed to develop an outcomes framework for children's social care services based on the views of those who plan, deliver and use these services, as well as research evidence. The study found a consensus that children's social care services need better evidence to make well-informed decisions about service planning and delivery. A first step to improve this evidence base has involved the development of an outcomes framework. There are 30 outcomes in total, each with a set of indicators needed to measure them. They are linked to four main themes; the right conditions and culture to support good practice; reaching families and children who need help; children and families are valued and involved, and; child outcomes.

Education Policy Institute. Education in England: Annual Report 2019.

This report summarises evidence on the attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils and their more affluent peers in state-funded schools, based on data from summer 2018. The data indicates that the disadvantage gap has continued to narrow during the primary phase but has now stopped closing in the early years and by the end of secondary schools. Between 2017 and 2018, these gaps have widened slightly, particularly for the most disadvantaged pupils. The report also includes a [geographical analysis pack](#) that shows the attainment gaps in different areas of the UK.

Buttle UK. What it is really like for children growing up in poverty in the UK in 2019.

Buttle UK surveyed over 1,200 child support workers to find out about their current experiences of working with children in poverty. Results highlighted that often



children are having to survive without the basics; for example, 60% of support workers reported often seeing families who were unable to afford food, household items, or fuel. Nearly 100% of support workers said they saw families experience issues of raising debt, delays due to Universal Credit, and cuts to welfare services. Findings also show that there has been substantive growth in the availability of foodbanks, but a limited growth or in some cases a decline in other support, such as local authority welfare assistance schemes.

Department for Education. A systems mapping approach to understanding child and adolescent wellbeing.

Systems mapping was used to capture practitioners' perceptions of the interdependencies and interrelationships between the various factors that influence children and young people's wellbeing. Key findings suggest that there are three key factors influencing children and young people's wellbeing which should be priorities for practitioners, school leaders and policy makers. These include: the nature of the overall educational and school environment; the development of a range of appropriate intra-personal and interpersonal skills, and; a stable and safe family environment.

Briefings

National Assembly for Wales. Early Childhood Education and Care- Quality matters.

This research briefing uses international evidence to examine what quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) looks like, how quality ECEC needs to be organised and how this is reflected against current policy, provision and practice in Wales. The review identifies a number of key principles that need consideration in Welsh policy for the potential of ECEC to be fully realised. These include an entitlement to universal rather than targeted ECEC provision, integrating public policies with adequate funding, and ensuring that the workforce is highly qualified with limited levels of turn-over.

NSPCC. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019: Briefing on key updates to statutory draft guidance for schools in England.

The Department for Education has published an updated version of this statutory guidance which come into force for schools in September 2019. This briefing outlines the key changes to the guidance, which include information relating to 'upskirting', the addition of specific guidance to support schools in recognising where pupils may be at risk from serious harm, new safeguarding partners and child death review arrangements, relationships and sex education, and honour-based violence.

The Children's Society and Barnardo's. Joint briefing for debate on the role and sufficiency of youth services.



This briefing outlines the importance of youth services in supporting young people as they transition from childhood to adulthood, and the extent to which they have been affected by funding cuts. The areas suffering the largest cuts to spending on young people have seen the biggest increases in knife crime, with young people reporting that there are no safe spaces in their local community for them to spend time. The charities recommend that the government invests £3.1 billion in services for children and young people to provide them with safe spaces in their community, be exposed to new experiences and receive support.

The Children's Society. Briefing for debate on children and mental health services

This briefing outlines research which shows that one in eight children and young people have a mental health difficulty, but less than half of children referred to CAMHS actually receive treatment. The charity's latest estimate puts the average waiting times for NHS CAMHS services at 83 days, and suggests expanding the provision of counselling and services in the community to improve this.

Tools and Guidance

The Home Office. Commissioning framework for commissioners of support services for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in England.

This framework has been developed to assist commissioners with responsibility for child sexual abuse support services to navigate their way through the commissioning landscape, and support children and adults affected by all kinds of harm. It outlines five key commissioning principles, and discusses the importance of collaborative working, assessing need, and identifying and measuring outcomes. The document also includes examples of good practice and advice about reviewing and evaluation.

HMI Probation, HMICFRS, CQC and Ofsted. Guidance for joint targeted area inspections on the theme: children's mental health.

This guidance focuses on a deep dive investigation into how local services respond to children and their families when children are living with mental ill health. It includes the scope of the inspection and evaluation criteria. It states that the focus will be on how agencies work collaboratively with partners to identify children aged 10-15 experience mental ill health and how they intervene early to support these children when problems arise. They will look for examples of how partners work collectively to provide support to prevent deterioration in mental health and promote good mental well-being and resilience.



Criminal Justice

Reports

Ministry of Justice. The impact of short custodial sentences, community orders and suspended sentence orders on reoffending.

The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 extended statutory rehabilitation to short-sentenced offenders released from prison. Five years on, this report examines the reoffending impact of short custodial sentences with supervision on release for the 2016 cohort of adult offenders in England and Wales. It found that sentencing offenders to short-term custody with supervision on release was associated with higher proven reoffending than if they had instead received community orders and/or suspended sentence orders.

HM Prison and Probation Service. Experiencing long term imprisonment from young adulthood: identity, adaptation, and penal legitimacy.

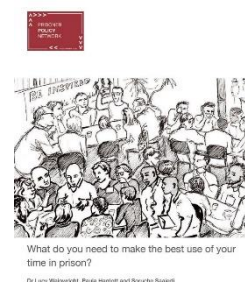
This report summarises the findings from a study of prisoners serving long sentences of 15 years or more, who were sentenced at age 25 or under. Key findings show that the most severely felt problems related primarily to missing others outside prison and feeling that one's life was being lost or wasted. The early sentence stage was characterised by feelings of trauma and disorientation, with prisoners further into their sentence considerably more positive and finding some meaning in their situation. Most participants said they had changed profoundly as a result of having to cope with their environment. These changes – such as social withdrawal – might act as a barrier to reintegration after release.

Ministry of Justice. Economic and social costs of reoffending: analytical report.

This report estimates the economic and social costs of reoffending in England and Wales, based on a cohort of offenders identified in 2016 who subsequently went on to reoffend over a 12 month follow up period. The main results show that the total estimated economic and social cost of reoffending was £18.1 billion, with adults accounting for £16.7 billion of this total amount. Theft, followed by violence, made up most of these costs.

Prison Reform Trust. What do you need to make the best use of your time in prison?

This is the second report from the Prisoner Policy Network, which was launched in 2018 to support prisoners to contribute effectively to policy issues that affect them. The responses of this consultation show that prisoners would like the breadth of education, employment and training to be increased. This is linked to a desire for connection with wider society, for reintegration and a wish to not be forgotten about. The consultation has also shown that prisons need to promote personal growth as an end to itself, not just a means to reduce offending. The report offers 11 recommendations to support these objectives.



Briefings

Howard League for Penal Reform. Ending the criminalisation of children in residential care: 'Know your numbers': using data to monitor and address criminalisation.

The national protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked-after children and care leavers states that implementation should be underpinned by use of data. This briefing addresses this by providing up-to-date figures on the levels of criminalisation of children in residential care and police contact with children's homes. The data suggests that although some children's homes are calling the police excessively (as many as 200 times a year) efforts to reduce criminalisation are having an impact. The proportion of children formally criminalised while in residential care was reduced from 15% to 10% between 2014 and 2018. To build on this progress, the briefing calls on police forces and the government to improve their recording practices and interrogate their data to better understand the scale of criminalisation of children in residential care.

Clinks. Reducing Reoffending Third Sector (RR3) Advisory Group. Special Interest Group (SIG) on employment support for people in contact with the criminal justice system.

In May 2018, THE Ministry of Justice published its Education and Employment Strategy for adult prisoners, and with it announced the launch of the New Futures Network (NFN), a national infrastructure with the purpose of engaging and persuading employers to take on ex-prisoners. In response to these developments, the RR3 convened a SIG on employment support for people in contact with the Criminal justice System. This group was comprised of 14 voluntary sector experts who identified key challenges and opportunities for Ministry of Justice and NFN to improve the employment outcomes for people with convictions. The recommendations relate to numerous challenges identified. They include ensuring sufficient income on release from prison, humanising people with convictions, utilising the voluntary sector, and tackling multiple disadvantage.

Tools and Guidance

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The journey of the child: exploring racial disparity in the youth justice system.

The Youth Justice Board has produced materials that offer insight into where disproportionality occurs to help bring about change. This data is highlighted in an infographic and a presentation. The findings show that BAME children are over-represented at most stages of the youth justice system. This is driven mostly by the over-representation of black children who are more likely to be arrested, face harsher penalties and are less likely to break free from a cycle of reoffending. The resources explore disproportionality in pathways, education, pre-court, offence, court, custody and reoffending.

Home Office. Concordat on children in custody: preventing the detention of children in police stations following charge.

This document recognises that agencies must work together to ensure that legal duties are met with regards to children being held in custody only as a last measure of resort and for the shortest amount of time possible. The report suggests that often children are being held in custody in circumstances that don't meet this legal duty of care. Therefore, the concordat aims to bring about a decrease in the number of children being held overnight in police custody. The guidance outlines 7 key principles to support this aim, but acknowledges that the document is not a substitute for effective collaborative arrangements between police forces and Local Authorities at a local level to ensure transfers happen as they should.

