

August 2014

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.

July was a busy month with a number of publications on a range of initiatives to support children and young people. We were particularly interested to see the report on Troubled Families and the profile of families accessing this support. In the area of criminal justice, two publications with a focus on Wales were released which explore current work with offenders in Wales and the needs of voluntary and community organisations working with offenders. Publications in adult social care and health cover such diverse topics as assistive technology, social work and benefits, including Personal Independence Payments.

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.



Children and young people's services

Policy

Cabinet office: Youth Engagement Fund Prospectus

This document outlines the structure and bidding process for HM Government's new Youth Engagement Fund. This is part of a package of measures announced by the government to help address youth unemployment and homelessness. The fund comprises over £16m over three years to tackle the attainment gap and reduce the number of young people who become NEET (not in education, employment or training) using social impact bonds.

[To access this document, please click here](#)

Department for Communities and Local Government: Delivering Differently for Young People programme prospectus

This document sets out the scope of the Delivering Differently for Young People programme, as well as addressing frequently asked questions. The programme provides £0.5m to help up to 10 local authorities improve their services for young people by using different approaches. The fund builds on the Delivering Differently Challenge launched in January 2014 for all services across local authorities.

[To access this document, please click here](#)

Research and Reports

Department for Communities and Local Government: Understanding Troubled Families

The Troubled Families programme was launched in 2011 and aims to intervene and promote change in families who are struggling and where children are at risk of leading similarly difficult lives to their parents. This report describes the families who entered the Troubled Families programme up to December 2013, examining some of the problems they had at the point at which local authorities started working with them as part of the programme. It also discusses the implications of these findings and how local authorities are now changing the way they work with families.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Department for Education: Assessing parental capacity to change when children are on the edge of care

This research provides an assessment of how possible it is for parents to change when their children are likely to enter care. It is intended to serve as a reference resource for social workers to support families where children's safety and development are at risk. The report brings together research findings from a wide range of disciplines and seeks to provide an overview of current research evidence. The evidence covered in this report confirms that change is both important and necessary when children are suffering abuse and neglect. However, it also makes it clear that change is difficult for everyone and even harder for those parents who are struggling with an interlocking web of problems.

[To access this report, please click here](#)



Department for Education: CANparent trial evaluation final report

The CANparent trial was a government initiative to explore the development of a universal offer of parenting classes to all parents of children aged 0-5 years. The aim of the trial was to evaluate whether the free provision of parenting classes would provide sufficient incentive to providers to start offering additional parenting classes nationally, including for parents beyond the foundation stage, and whether a universal approach could normalise and de-stigmatise parenting classes. This document is the final report examining the success of the project.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Department for Education: Evaluation of children's centres in England - parenting services

This report forms part of the national evaluation of children's centres in England (ECCE) research study. ECCE aims to provide an in-depth understanding of children's centre services, including their effectiveness for children and families and an assessment of their economic cost in relation to different types of services. This is the sixth report from ECCE and it seeks to look specifically at services for parents, staff perceptions of family needs, the range of parenting programmes offered, management of services, staff perceptions of the benefits for parents and children, and parental views of children's centre services.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Department for Education: School Exclusion Trial evaluation

The School Exclusion Trial tests the benefits of schools having greater responsibility for meeting the needs of permanently excluded pupils and those at risk of permanent exclusion. The trial started in autumn 2011 and ran to August 2014. It involves volunteer schools drawn from 11 local authorities. This evaluation assesses the issues emerging from the trial and provides information on the effect it has had on pupils, schools, local authorities and alternative provision providers.

[To access this evaluation, please click here](#)

Department for Work and Pensions: Innovation Fund pilots qualitative evaluation - early implementation findings

This report presents findings in relation to 10 pilot projects that received funding from the Innovation Fund in 2012. The projects support disadvantaged young people and those at risk of disadvantage, aged 14 years and over. The Innovation Fund was launched in 2012 to help address youth unemployment by supporting social investment projects. It involves funding of up to £30 million over three years.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Home Office: Multi-agency working and information sharing project

The Home Office funded a project to better understand multi-agency information sharing models. These seek to improve the safeguarding response for children and vulnerable adults through better information sharing and high quality and timely safeguarding responses. This final report outlines the results of the project profiling multi-agency models, their perceived outcomes and key barriers to effectiveness. It also explores the next steps for multi-agency teams.

[To access this report, please click here](#)



Office of the Children's Commissioner: annual report 2013 to 2014

This annual report discusses the impact of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's over the past year and sets out the organisation's accounts.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Ofsted: The pupil premium - an update

The pupil premium is additional funding given to publicly-funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. This report provides an update on the progress schools have made in using their pupil premium funding to raise achievement for pupils eligible for free school meals. It is based on evidence from 151 inspections carried out between January and December 2013, review of 1,600 school inspection reports published between September 2013 and March 2014, and national performance data for 2013.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Ofsted: Children's views reported by Children's Rights Director for England

From 2001 until April 2014, the Children's Rights Director has been a statutory role with the duty to investigate and report the views of children who are in care, getting help from social care services, living away from home in boarding schools, residential special schools or residential further education colleges, and care leavers. Ofsted recently published four reports exploring children's views of a range of topics:

Adoption Breakdowns: The views of children returned to care following adoption breakdown

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Telling health staff who is in care

[To access this report, please click here](#)

The Children's Happiness Scale

[To access this report, please click here](#)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: how children say the UK is doing

[To access this report, please click here](#)

University of York: Allegations concerning the abuse or neglect of children in care

This research was commissioned by the NSPCC to investigate long-standing concerns about historic abuse in children's homes and about the implications of allegations for foster carers and their families. The findings provide new UK evidence on: the number of allegations against foster carers and residential social workers; the proportion of these allegations that are substantiated; the extent and nature of confirmed abuse and neglect in foster and residential care; and the characteristics of the children and adults concerned.

[To access this research, please click here](#)

Welsh Government: Evaluating the Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase is a Welsh Government flagship policy of early years education (for 3 to 7-year old children) in Wales. It advocates a developmental, experiential, play-based approach to teaching and learning. This series of reports evaluates the foundation phase to look at its implementation,



impact, value for money and possibilities for improvement. The evaluation also seeks to put in place an evaluation framework for the future tracking of outputs and outcomes of the Foundation Phase.

[To access this evaluation, please click here](#)

Statistics

Cabinet Office: Local authority youth services survey 2013

This survey explores the different ways in which local authorities provide youth services and activities for young people. The survey asked questions about each local authority's statutory duty, other services and activities for young people and the challenges local authorities faced when providing services.

[To access this survey, please click here](#)

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Children in care in Northern Ireland, statistical bulletin 2012 to 2013

This statistical bulletin provides data about children in Northern Ireland who had been looked after continuously for 12 months or more at 30 September 2013. It details information on their educational achievements at Key Stage assessments and GCSE/GNVQ, health assessments and current activity. It also includes information on their age and gender, religion, disability, length of time in care, placement type, offences and convictions, and health assessments completed.

[To access this bulletin, please click here](#)

Welsh Government: Participation of young people in education and the labour market

This is an annual report providing information on the learning activities and labour market status of young people (aged 16 to 24) in Wales in 2012 and 2013. It shows information by age, level of study, gender and economic activity.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Welsh Government: Pupils educated other than at school

This is an annual report which presents data on individual pupils receiving education outside of school, including Pupil Referral Units. It includes data by age, gender and the type of provision.

[To access this report, please click here](#)



Tools and Guidance

Department for Education: Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children

This document provides statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children. This guidance must be complied with by local authorities when exercising these functions, unless there are exceptional reasons to deviate from the guidance.

[To access this guidance, please click here](#)



Criminal Justice

Policy

Ministry of Justice: Criminal Justice and Courts Bill fact sheets

The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on 5 February 2014. It covers a range of areas, including: how offenders are dealt with before and after conviction; the proceedings and powers of courts and tribunals; judicial review; and amending the offence of possession of extreme pornographic images. 24 fact sheets have been produced to accompany the Bill.

[To access these fact sheets, please click here](#)

Research and Reports

Welsh Government: All-Wales domestic abuse and sexual violence helpline evaluation

The Welsh Government commissioned Cordis Bright to conduct an evaluation of the All-Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Helpline. The evaluation is based on a review of strategic documentation and monitoring data, and consultation with Welsh Government policy representatives, Welsh Women's Aid, senior managers, Helpline staff, callers to the Helpline and agency representatives. The purpose of the evaluation is to help inform decision-making in relation to the Helpline in the future.

[To access this evaluation, please click here](#)

British Academy: A Presumption Against Imprisonment - Social Order and Social Values

This report looks at the issues of crime and punishment and at the use of imprisonment in the UK. The study explores the reasons behind the high prison population in the UK, as well as offering contributions to the ongoing debate about potential reductions in the number of people imprisoned, and the length of time for which they are imprisoned.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

HM Inspectorate of Probation: Inspection of Adult Offending Work in Wales

This report gives the results of the final of six inspections of adult offending work in Wales. It assesses whether the sentence of the court is delivered effectively, and whether work with the individual offender protects the public, reduces the likelihood of reoffending, and provides a high quality service to courts and victims. The sample encompasses work with a range of offenders.

[To access this report, please click here](#)



Centre for Mental Health: Keys to diversion – successful liaison and diversion services

Liaison and Diversion services exist to identify offenders who have mental health, learning disability or substance misuse vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system. They aim to ensure that these offenders are either supported through the criminal justice system or diverted into treatment, social care services or other relevant intervention or support services. This report identifies the key elements of successful liaison and diversion services in Lewisham, Manchester, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Bodmin and Truro. The report makes recommendations for NHS commissioners to ensure they offer the most effective support for people with multiple needs.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

CLINKS: A snapshot from Wales - the voluntary sector working in criminal justice

CLINKS, in partnership with the University of South Wales and the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice, have produced this snapshot as a needs assessment of the voluntary sector working in criminal justice. Those who took part represented a wide range of voluntary sector organisations including those working with: sex offenders, prisoners, young offenders, families, substance misusers, homeless people, victims of crime and people with mental health problems. The report provides a profile of the voluntary sector organisations and their specific needs and conclusions about the organisations' associations with CLINKS.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Statistics

Home Office: 'Drug misuse: findings from the 2013 to 2014 Crime Survey of England and Wales'

These statistics provide data on estimated and reported drug use in 16 to 24 year olds and 16 to 59 year olds. Tables include: reported drug use, drug type used, frequency of use, source of drugs, location of obtaining and use, and attitudes towards the acceptability and safety of drug taking. They can be broken down by households, areas, age group and gender. Data are available, which are linked to the report of the same name.

[To access these tables, please click here](#)

[To access this report, please click here](#)



Ministry of Justice: Proven reoffending statistics October 2011 to September 2012

This publication provides key statistics relating to the reoffending of offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand or warning, or tested positive for opiates or cocaine. Latest figures for October 2011 to September 2012 are provided and compared to the previous 12 months. Trends going back to 2000 are also presented. Data is presented on age, gender, previous offences, type of reoffence, and location by local authority and individual prison.

[To access this publication, please click here](#)

Tools and Guidance

CLINKS: Partnership Finder

CLINKS' Partnership Finder provides a searchable index of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations who work with offenders or their families in England and Wales. It aims to enable commissioners, service providers and other organisations to find new partners. The index is searchable by size of area covered, region, field of work, type of service user, prison worked in, type of organisation, custody/community work, turnover, and number of paid/unpaid staff, peer mentors and service users.

[To access this tool, please click here](#)

Public Health England: Prescribed places of detention health needs assessment toolkit

This toolkit provides support for producing a health needs assessment (HNA) for prescribed places of detention, which includes prisons, young offender institutions, secure training centres, secure children's homes and immigration removal centres. These documents explain the background and context for HNAs as well as providing guidance for establishing multi-agency steering groups and a specific template for HNAs in local adult prisons and Young Offender Institutions (18 years and above).

[To access this toolkit, please click here](#)



Adult social care and health

Research and Reports

Care Quality Commission: Special measures: one year on

In 2013, Sir Bruce Keogh led a review of 14 NHS Trusts that had high mortality rates. The review identified problems relating to quality and safety and/or leadership in all 14 Trusts and 11 of the 14 were put into 'special measures'. The Care Quality Commission reassessed all 14 Trusts this year using its new approach to comprehensive inspections. This report analyses the success of the 'special measures' in light of these reports. Individual reports are also available via the link below.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Department for Business, Innovation & Skills: Community learning learner survey - family learning courses

Family learning, which is part of wider community learning provision, helps parents and carers improve their self-confidence and parenting skills. Some courses are directly aimed at improving the English, maths and language skills of parents and carers, and their ability to help their children with their school work. Others are designed to support different generations of family members to learn together and can be particularly effective by helping to change attitudes to learning. This report analyses data from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills Community Learning Learner Survey to provide a profile of learners in these courses and assess the self-reported impact of the courses.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Department of Health: Assistive technology research and development

This report is an annual update on Assistive Technology by the Department of Health. It provides information about government-funded projects supporting the development, introduction and evaluation of assistive technology that might increase the range of activities and independence or wellbeing of disabled and older people.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

King's College London: Evaluation of the Social Work Practices with Adults Pilots

This final report summarises the results of the independent Evaluation of the Social Work Practice with Adults (SWPwA) pilots, which was undertaken from 2011 to 2014. SWPwAs can be defined as organisations independent of local authorities that are contracted to carry out functions that were previously the duty of local authorities in supporting adults in the community who may be in need of social care and support, especially in regards to assessment, care planning and reviews. The evaluation explains the policy context behind the creation and development of SWPwAs and analyses their efficiency, innovative practice, financial decision making, relationship with local authorities, user outcomes and future plans.

[To access this evaluation, please click here](#)



National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: Annual report and accounts for 2013 to 2014

This is the first annual report and accounts of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) under its new name. The report includes an explanation of the structure of NICE, outlines of current and future developments, a review of the impact of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and a financial overview.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Public Health England: Promoting the health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men

This paper sets out Public Health England's initial findings on the health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. It summarises some of the principal challenges that men who have sex with men face and the evidence-base for effective public health interventions – including potential areas where Public Health England could take action.

[To access this paper, please click here](#)

University of York: Early Process Evaluation of New Claims for Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

This research was commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions to analyse each stage of the PIP claiming process, including requests for reconsideration and the special processes for people with terminal health conditions. The research took place in the early days of the new benefit in order to identify quickly what was working well and where improvements could be made. Some findings have possible policy implications.

[To access this research, please click here](#)

The Victoria Climbié Foundation and HCL Social Care: Voices from the front line

This document records the views of frontline social workers on management support, listening to the frontline, training and development and recruitment and retention. This paper makes key recommendations which are specifically intended to support change in the current social work system to ensure that this workforce is enabled to carry out its role in protecting and supporting the most vulnerable in society.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Statistics

Department for Communities and Local Government: Homelessness prevention and relief England 2013 to 2014

This is an official statistical release on homelessness prevention and relief in England that took place outside the homelessness statutory framework in 2013 to 2014. Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local housing authorities must have a strategy for preventing homelessness in their district. The strategy must apply to everyone at risk of homelessness, including cases where someone is found to be homeless but not in priority need and cases where someone is found to be intentionally homeless.

[To access this release, please click here](#)



Department for Work and Pensions: Claimants on working-age benefits for 3 out of previous 4 years July 2014

This statistical publication details the number of claimants who were on one or more of the main Department for Work and Pensions working-age benefits as of 31 March 2013, for each local authority in England, Scotland and Wales. The release also gives the number who had been in receipt of such benefits for at least 3 of the last 4 years.

[To access this publication, please click here](#)

Department for Work and Pensions: Statistics on DLA claimants under 16 by local authority and main disabling condition Nov 2011, Nov 2012, Nov 2013

These statistics are released in response to a freedom of information request. They detail the number of Disability Living Allowance claims by people aged under 16 years where the main reason for a claim is a behavioural disorder or Hyperkinetic Syndrome. The statistics are broken down by local authority.

[To access this data, please click here](#)

Health and Social Care Information Centre: Community Care Statistics, Social Services Activity, England - 2013-14

This is a report on the social care activity of Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities in England. It contains key facts about the number of clients, assessments, reviews and service users across England.

[To access this report, please click here](#)

Tools and Guidance

Home Office: Female Genital Mutilation strategies and communications by local authorities

These documents provide examples of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) strategies and action taken across Bristol, Lambeth and Manchester councils. Documents provided are Bristol's communications diagram for tackling FGM and the subjects covered at their quarterly FGM meetings, an awareness-raising email to schools from Lambeth and an introduction to Manchester FGM forum.

[To access these documents, please click here](#)

Department of Health: Supporting adult carers through community nursing

The document provides a pathway explaining how community nursing can be used to improve the health and wellbeing of adult carers. It is designed to help community nurses to work more collaboratively with other key professionals and partners to deliver improved quality of life and health outcomes for both carers and the people for whom they care. The overarching rationale for the pathway is to support consistent, seamless support and care for carers.

[To access this guidance, please click here](#)