



CordisPulse

June 2019

Welcome to June'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.

If Benjamin Franklin was right and nothing in this world is certain except death and taxes, he might also have added that a third certainty is that they will be unequal.

In this month's Pulse, the report from the Office for National Statistics which looks at the relationship between how well off you are and how likely you are to die as the result of a preventable condition makes a simple point: The poorer you are the more likely you are to die before your time. This has always been so, but this inequality was improving between 2001 and 2010, but has got worse again between 2011 and 2017.

The NHS England Learning Disability Mortality Programme action from learning report looking at premature deaths by people with a learning disability further highlights the nature of inequality. Since 2015 eleven people with a learning disability died primarily as the result of constipation - a both highly preventable and treatable condition in the wider population.

There are no simple answers to the inequality of early deaths by any part of the population but it is true that the poorest and most vulnerable people have a far greater reliance on support from publicly funded services. Reducing spend which results in a reduction in provision rather than a greater efficiency means that this pattern of inequality is unlikely to change anytime soon.

It has been strange, almost surreal, to watch debates between experienced politicians vying to be the next Prime Minister where there appears to be collusion in the denial of the relationship between the levelling of tax and the amount of money available to fund public services.



Even the very best and most efficient public services are not necessarily going to be cheap. If there really is an appetite for better services then it is vitally important that we are honest about the tax implications of such an ambition and start to acknowledge that after years of austerity it is increasingly the case that improvements cannot be delivered for free.

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

What works: delivering Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes

We have been the evaluation partner for a number of Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes (DAPPs), which can form part of a wider response to domestic abuse. Here we present the findings of our review of the literature regarding the principles of good practice in delivering DAPPs, based on guidance documents and existing evaluations. The review also discusses the robustness and challenges of the DAPP evaluations completed to date. You can read this evidence review [here](#).

ADASS

The ADASS Budget Survey 2019, co-written by Jane Harris of Cordis Bright, was released this week. The Guardian describes this year's report as a 'withering assessment' of the failure of successive governments to get to grips with the escalating financial crisis in social care. The survey of directors of adult social services found that councils are facing the prospect of having to de-commission services in the Autumn if they do not receive assurances about the continuation of time-limited funding, designed to shore up adult social care pending the publication of a Green Paper and a longer term funding solution. There is widespread frustration about the failure to publish a Green Paper and directors lack confidence in their ability to deliver further savings, after cuts amounting to £7bn since 2010. Almost half of councils have seen the closure of care home or home care providers and/or the handback of contracts, affecting over 10,000 people. Directors' biggest concern about the impact of savings made or planned is the prospect of providers facing financial difficulty and quality challenges. Echoing the findings of a survey of healthcare leaders by the NHS Confederation, the report concludes that the NHS and social care are interdependent and that without a settlement for social care the NHS will not be able to deliver on the commitments of the Long Term Plan. The full report is [here](#).

NHS ConFed

NHS Confederation held its annual conference last week, and colleagues from Cordis Bright were there to hear from leaders from across the country about the current state of our national health service. Highlights included an impassioned speech by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, stressing the importance of public services across the board supporting one another and working together to deliver the best outcomes for communities. As in recent years, integration of health and social care was a hot topic of discussion, but so too were the reforms to primary care set out in the NHS 10 Year Plan. We were interested to note that while leaders were optimistic about the direction of NHS reforms, there was agreement that without a new funding settlement for social care improvements in the health of our communities may not be possible.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

The Bevan Foundation. New Perspectives on Health Inequalities

Health inequalities have long been a focus of public policy, yet gaps in health between rich and poor show few signs of closing, despite significant public spending. In this paper Macmillan Cancer Support and the Bevan Foundation examine health inequalities in Wales, revealing an appetite for more and better evidence and a desire for urgent and radical action.



They found there is a strong interest in developing a wider view of health inequalities and alternative measures of inequality that are more meaningful to people and easier to track than current approaches. They also identify concern that action does not always reach people in lower socio-economic groups or with certain protected characteristics, especially at a scale sufficient to make a difference. The report calls a greater political commitment to reducing wider social and economic inequalities and for closer liaison between those concerned about public health and those responsible for other services like housing, the economy and environment.

Age UK. Care deserts: the impact of a dysfunctional market in adult social care provision

A report commissioned by Age UK has found that many parts of the country have become 'care deserts', which means that older people can't access residential or home care, regardless of whether they can pay for it or not. As a result, 1.4 million older people are missing out on the right level of care. The report provides a geographical breakdown of where these deserts are. In terms of causes, the report identifies the squeezing of local authority budgets over several years, which has meant that private care providers are finding it increasingly difficult to keep trading on the basis of council-funded places alone. Another contributing factor is the number of vacancies for registered social care nurses, which has tripled between 2012/13 and 2017/18, indicating that there are not enough people to fill these jobs.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Homelessness monitor: England 2019

This annual report funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and Crisis analyses the impact of economic and policy developments on homelessness drawing on a survey of councils, statistical analysis and in-depth interviews. While the introduction of both the Homelessness Reduction Act and the Rough Sleeping Strategy in 2018 has brought some sense of relief amongst local authorities, 71% of local authorities who participated in this year's survey reported that homelessness had been recently rising.



The rise since 2010 in the number of households made homeless by the ending of private tenancies seems to have peaked, but homelessness temporary accommodation placements



have continued to rise. The report also notes concerns about social housing provision, welfare reform, and changes to housing association tenancy allocation policies. They conclude that there is encouraging evidence that the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) is enabling councils to help more people in housing need.

Department for Work and Pensions. Understanding self-employment for people with disabilities and health conditions

This report identifies barriers and benefits to self-employment for individuals with disabilities and health conditions as well as the types of support wanted in this area. It was produced in response to the 2017 green paper 'Improving lives: the future of work, health, and disability' which highlighted the potential advantages of, and the importance of support with, self-employment for people with disabilities and health conditions. The report found that self-employment can have many advantages for this group, but that they may need more support because it is common for them to feel that it is their only option and thus to begin with less financial and mental preparation. The need to examine how the benefit system supports disabled entrepreneurs is highlighted, particularly regarding earnings levels which disqualify applicants from receiving support.

Care Quality Commission. Review of restraint, prolonged seclusion and segregation for people with a mental health problem, a learning disability or autism: Interim report

This report gives the interim findings from the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) review of the use of restrictive interventions in places that provide care for people with mental health problems, a learning disability and/or autism. It makes a number of recommendations for the health and care system, including the CQC. One recommendation is for an independent review of every person who is being held in segregation in mental health wards for children and young people and wards for people with a learning disability or autism to examine the quality of care, the safeguards to protect the person and the plans for discharge.

They found that services were unable to meet the needs of many people, and that many staff lacked the necessary training and skills. A high proportion of people in segregation had autism and some people were experiencing delayed discharge from hospital, and so prolonged time in segregation, due to there being no suitable package of care available in a non-hospital setting.

NHS England. Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme: Action from Learning

This review highlights the work which is happening nationally in response to common themes raised through NHS England Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeRs) across the country, particularly addressing the premature mortality of people with a learning disability. There is growing recognition across the health and social care sector of the inequalities faced by people with a learning disability and their families. The LeDeR programme has introduced expectations for a mortality review which the NHS expect to be completed in a timely way and to lead to tangible service improvements.



Office of National Statistics. Socioeconomic inequalities in avoidable mortality, England and Wales: 2001 to 2017

In their latest analysis of the link between avoidable mortality and deprivation in England, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) have found that roughly twice as many of the avoidable deaths in England and Wales in 2017 were experienced by people living in the most deprived areas than by people living in the least deprived areas. The absolute difference in the rate of avoidable death caused by cardiovascular diseases between the most and least deprived areas narrowed between 2001 and 2017 but has widened for injuries in both England and Wales. In comparison to 2011-2017, 2001-2010 saw greater annual improvements in avoidable mortality rates, particularly amongst males living in the most deprived areas.

In [response](#) to the findings, the Health Foundation commented that to reduce deaths from preventable diseases, the NHS have a role to play and cross-government, cross-sector action is needed, ranging from tackling poverty to investing sufficiently in local authorities to create the circumstances that enable everyone to live a healthy life.

The King's Fund. Investing in quality: the contribution of large charities to shaping the future of health and care

The report reflects on how the statutory system and the wider voluntary and community sector can work together to deliver some of the key priorities of the NHS long-term plan and drive improvements in health and care. It considers how the National Garden Scheme's work with its beneficiaries (including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, the Queen's Nursing Institute, and Parkinson's UK) fits within the context of the future of policy development in health and care.

Sitra. A Finnish Model for the Secure and Effective Use of Data: Innovating and promoting the secondary use of social and health data

This report describes how Finland has taken a new approach to the use of health and well-being data, and the development of legislation as part of this approach. The Act on the Secondary Use of Health and Social Data facilitates the establishment of a new central data permit authority in Finland. This is the first successfully enacted law on the secondary use of well-being data that meets the requirements of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The legislation aims to make the secondary use of social welfare and healthcare data easier and make the data more available, as well as to promote its secure use for more extensive purposes. The report describes how developing work to promote the secondary use of well-being data in Finland involved extensive co-operation between the public and private sectors.

Briefings

Public Finance. Report urges prevention rather than cure in public health spending

A joint report from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Public Health England (PHE) argues for recasting preventative health spending as an investment, not a cost, for communities. Preventative care took up just 5% of the UK's health spending in 2017 at £7.7 billion. CIPFA and PHE claimed that there is difficulty in forming a coherent, local, system-wide view of prevention investment when costs and benefits are



spread across a number of organisations and when there is a perception that decisions to invest in prevention are subject to a much higher bar than those to justify treatment spend. To tackle this, the report calls for the creation of a robust and consistent evaluation, which would identify economic costs and benefits.

The Health Foundation. The real cost of a fair adult social care system

New analysis by the Health Foundation finds that Government spending on adult social care in England fell per person between 2010/11 and 2016/17 and that if funding levels in England had grown in line with increasing demand since 2010/11, adult social care funding would have been £6bn higher than actual spending in 2017/18. Without additional funding, they state that the money available for adult social care will rise much slower annually than the rate of increase promised to the NHS of 3.4% a year and demand pressures of 3.6% a year. They also note that without a similar pay uplift for social care staff to what NHS staff saw, social care will continue to struggle to compete with other sectors, including health care, in recruiting and retaining staff.

The Health Foundation. NHS cancer waiting times in 2018/19 the worst since targets were set

Commenting on NHS Monthly Performance Statistics, the Health Foundation note that NHS performance on cancer waiting times in 2018/19 is the worst since targets were set, despite repeated promises of improvement. While the increasing numbers of patients being referred to rapid diagnostic pathways from GPs is good news, cancer services aren't keeping pace with the rising demand. The Health Foundation highlight the need for additional staff to address current shortages and investment in diagnostic equipment to meet growing demand.

St Mungo's. Tackling homelessness together

St Mungo's have praised the Government's introduction of Homelessness Reduction Boards (HRBs) as a means to deliver long-term and strategic interventions, ensure a joined-up and evidence-based approach to service provision, and to hold all parts of the local system to account for their role in tackling homelessness. They note the need for long-term funding, and make a number of recommendations including that HRBs be introduced on a statutory footing, with primary responsibility for place-based strategic responses to homelessness, and that £1 billion per year is invested by the Government to tackle homelessness.

The Health Foundation. A worrying cycle of pressure for GPs in deprived areas

This commentary from the Health Foundation draws on NHS Digital statistics from April 2019 which show that the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs is falling. Despite a very public pledge in NHS England's 2016 General Practice Forward View to recruit an additional 5,000 GPs by 2020, the reverse has happened. These falling GP numbers come at a time of population growth – the number of people registering at GP practices has increased by 3% from September 2015 to September 2018, during which time the number of FTE GPs fell by 4%. The analysis also identifies a worrying trend that the number of patients per GP is 15% higher in the most deprived 10% of CCGs than in the least deprived 10%.

The King's Fund. What does NHSX have to learn from other countries' experiences of digitisation in health systems?



This news briefing from the King's Fund explores the new NHSX, which brings together under the parts of NHS England, NHS Digital, and the Department of Health and Social Care that cover key digital policy areas. It describes NHSX as a new vehicle for unifying tech policy-making and national leadership, which has historically been very fragmented. This article notes that the NHSX's aims are initially to develop basic infrastructures and enforce standards.

Tools and Guidance

NHS England. Sustainable Improvement Impact Framework

This framework has been developed to systematically capture the impact of large-scale change programmes within NHS England. The Impact Framework has been developed based on approaches used by others in the field of developmental evaluation, tailored to support improvement work in complex systems. It includes guidance and tools on how to articulate intended change using a logic model, a diagram of drivers and their links to aims and activities, evaluation plans, and outcome measures.

Public Health England. Health matters: Prevention - a life course approach

This resource for NHS and public health professionals focuses on taking a life course approach to the prevention of ill health and explores the evidence base for this approach. A life course approach recognises that a person's physical and mental health and wellbeing are influenced throughout life by the wider determinants of health. These are a diverse range of protective and risk factors alongside behavioural risk factors which often cluster in the population. The resource signposts to evidence-based interventions and tools, as well as to evaluation and monitoring techniques.

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Carers' breaks: guidance for commissioners and providers

This guide is for commissioners, providers and others involved in the planning, shaping and delivery of support for adult carers, primarily in England. It includes key messages about respite and carers' breaks and information about the context of holistic approaches to supporting carers and their loved ones. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) makes recommendations on how commissioning can be effective, creative, and tailored to local needs. Examples, as well as links to relevant laws, policies, pieces of evidence, and other resources are listed.

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Learning from the Macmillan Local Authority Partnership Programme

This guide focuses on implementing system change in cancer care by drawing on the experience of the Macmillan Local Authority Partnership Programme (MLAPP). The guide supports leaders, commissioners and practitioners from health, social care, housing and voluntary and community sector organisations to implement a person-centred, integrated approach to providing care and support to people living with cancer and other long-term conditions (LTCs).

Welsh Government Social Research. Key mechanisms in intergenerational practices: effectiveness at reducing loneliness/social isolation



Intergenerational practices (IP) are activities that aim to bring people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities. These aim to promote greater understanding and respect between generations and contribute to building communities that are more cohesive. This report highlights enablers and barriers to IP, and states that IP can improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, as well as confidence and knowledge. Case studies demonstrate that IP does more to reduce social isolation (lack of social connections) than loneliness (perceived isolation).

1000 Lives Improvement. Shared Decision-Making Training Manual

1000 Lives Improvement, the national improvement service for NHS Wales delivered by Public Health Wales, have published new guidance on teaching Shared Decision Making (SDM) to others in NHS Wales. SDM is intended to ensure that patients are equal partners in any decisions about their health. The training manual is designed to support individuals who have attended SDM 'train the trainer' training, are willing to engage and facilitate others to embed SDM across teams and their organisation, or will have a significant role in teaching, informing, and supporting others to embed SDM in their organisation.

NHS England. A New Approach to Supporting Community Healthcare Funding - Testing and Guidance Document

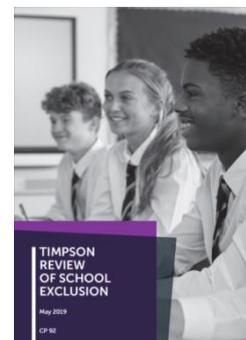
This new guidance from NHS England sets out the process for testing the draft currencies developed as part of the Community Currency Development Project. Currencies are intended to support a new approach to funding community healthcare. A currency is a way of grouping patients' activities into units that are clinically similar and have broadly similar resource needs and costs. The guidance is intended for: CCG Clinical Leaders, Care Trust CEs, Foundation Trust CEs, Medical Directors, Directors of Nursing, NHS England Directors of Commissioning Operations, Directors of Finance, Allied Health Professionals.

Children and young people's services

Reports

HM Government. Timpson review of school exclusion

The Timpson review of school exclusions notes that vulnerable groups of children are more likely to be excluded, with 78% of permanent exclusions issued to children who had special educational needs (SEN), or classified as in need or eligible for free school meals. They also found higher likelihood of exclusion amongst pupils with social, emotional, and mental health difficulties (SEMH), pupils who are disadvantaged, Black Caribbean pupils, Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils, children on a Children in Need Plan, and children on a Child Protection Plan. It concludes that action is needed to ensure that permanent exclusions are only used as a last resort. Thirty recommendations are made to Government, including that that schools are accountable for any pupils they exclude.



In the same month, both Ofsted and the Children's Commissioner also published reports into off-rolling - when a child is removed from the school roll for the school's benefit, rather than in the child's best interests - and school exclusions, respectively. Ofsted [found](#) that two thirds of 1,000 teachers surveyed felt that off-rolling is on the rise, with academic achievement being a key factor. They also noted that teachers believe parents with less understanding of the education system and their rights are most likely to be pressured into taking their child out of school.

The Children's Commissioner [report](#) into exclusions found that a minority of schools are responsible for the majority of exclusions, and that better support is needed for children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) with accessing early support for any behavioural difficulties, appropriate assessment and diagnoses, and in their experiences of school exclusion.

Children's Commissioner. Who are they? Where are they? Children locked up.

This report looks into the children across England who are detained in institutions, such as secure children's homes, youth justice settings, mental health wards and other residential placements, either for their own safety or the safety of others. The report identifies the demography and number of children in different settings and typical pathways through the system, but identifies key gaps in the existing data, particularly around children whose settings we do not have information about. The Children's Commissioner recommends that local authorities and the NHS record more data on children who are detained, and that a joint working group is set up by the Department for Education, the Minister of Justice and Department for Health to address evidence gaps.

Children's Commissioner. Far less than they deserve: Children with learning disabilities or autism living in mental health hospitals

Too many children with learning disabilities and autism are unnecessarily being treated in mental health hospitals, states this report by the Children's Commissioner for England. It calls for system reform to prevent children going into hospital, stating that vulnerable children

are currently subject to a 'postcode lottery' of community support. It finds that many children's experiences leave them traumatised and parents feeling powerless, and evidence of poor practices and sedation, children being kept in hospital for too long, in some cases are spending months and years away from their communities and home. In response, the children's commissioner states that a national strategy and better data collection are needed.

The Bevan Foundation. Kids on the breadline: solutions to holiday hunger



The Bevan Foundation highlight how the Welsh Government, local authorities, social landlords and others can provide immediate help to low-income families as well as indicating longer-term solutions to the severe pressure that low incomes families face during school holidays. In this period, they lose free school meals and face the high costs of food, childcare and holiday treats. They recommend increased investment in schemes, defined nutrition standards, parent/carer involvement, co-ordinated planning, holiday benefits supplements, and flexible payment options.

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee. Funding of local authorities' children's services

This report by the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee into the funding of children's services found that funding for statutory and non-statutory children's services is not sufficient. They note that there are funding pressures as well as other pressures on the system, such as increasing demand for children's services and growing responsibilities for the services (such as children with no recourse to public funds, or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children). The Committee recommend increased funding and systemic change in response.

NHS Wales. Responding to adverse childhood experiences - An evidence review

Public Health Wales' Policy, Research and International Development directorate in conjunction with the Public Health Collaborating Unit at Bangor University, has produced a new report examining evidence across a variety of programmes responding to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). ACEs are stressful events that occur during childhood. These can include being the victim of physical or sexual abuse or growing up in a household where there is alcohol or substance misuse, domestic violence, mental ill-health and family incarceration. Around half of the Welsh population has suffered at least one ACE.

Nurture UK. Now you see us

Wellbeing charity Nurture UK have published a report claiming that children's insecurities are often well hidden and need addressing in order to prevent escalation into more complex mental health problems. The research is based on more than 6,800 children in 25 primary schools in England, and found that one in three pupils suffers from a moderate of severe level of social, emotional, and mental health need (SEMH). They call for teachers to be equipped with better tools for boosting pupil wellbeing, and note that systematic assessments are not carried out to identify needs among pupils.

Nuffield Foundation. Sure Start had major health benefits for children in poorer neighbourhoods

The Nuffield Foundation reports findings from a study they commissioned by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) which followed children who had access to Sure Start children's centres through to the end of primary school. The Sure Start programme – now known as Children's Centres – is a major source of government support for families with young children. The IFS find that the programme did meet its aim of having a positive effect on children's health, reducing hospitalisations. That positive effect was concentrated on children living in disadvantaged areas. Spending has been cut by two thirds since its peak in 2010 with the closure of more than 500 centres and service cuts affecting many more sites.

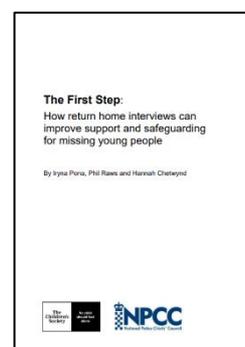
Briefings

Education Endowment Fund. Teachers' engagement with research: what do we know?

There is growing recognition of the potential of evidence-informed practice in schools to transform teaching and learning and there have been a number of practical infrastructure developments over recent years, which aim to bridge the gap between research and practice. While these developments are resulting in some promising practice change, there is still some way to go to achieve evidence-informed practice across the teaching profession in England, as research evidence has only a small influence on teachers' decision-making in comparison to other sources such as colleagues' recommendations and teachers' own experiences.

The Children's Society. The First Step: How return home interviews can help improve support and safeguarding for missing young people

This report details new research by the Children's Society (TCS) to help understand the national picture of Return Home Interview (RHI) provision in England and Wales. A RHI is an in-depth discussion between an independent trained professional and a child or young person who has been missing. TCS found that on average, 50% of missing episodes resulted in return home interviews (RHI) taking place, despite it being a statutory requirement on local authorities to offer them each time a child goes missing. TCS recommend a 'young person-centred' approach to RHIs to allow the necessary individualisation of responses, and that trained professionals and a dedicated service for RHIs are used.



Education Policy Institute. Maternal mental health: how does it impact on children and young people?

This overview of existing evidence around maternal mental health from the Education Policy Institute (EPI) highlights that it is increasingly clear that maternal mental health is one of the most crucial determinants of a child's mental health. The influence of poverty on maternal mental health, the consequences for mothers who do not meet diagnostic thresholds, and the level of awareness of the importance of maternal mental health, are all drawn out as important aspects of this topic.



Education Policy Institute. Improvements and errors: Ofsted's new framework is difficult to grade

In response to Ofsted's newly published inspection framework for education (see 'Tools and Guidance' section below), the Education Policy Institute (EPI) has identified positive and negative aspects of the changes. They praise the focus on 'off-rolling', improved focus on children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged children, and balancing qualitative and quantitative judgements. However, EPI criticise the removal of recommended Pupil Premium Reviews for schools with weak strategies or outcomes, the lack of evidence on children with SEND, the omission of speaking and listening from the early years and early reading sections of the schools' handbook, and poor linking of evidence about off-rolling and Ofsted's approach to behaviour in schools.

Education Policy Institute. 16-19 education funding: trends and implications

School sixth forms, sixth form colleges and further education (FE) colleges funding fell by 16 per cent between 2010/11 and 2018/19. The real-terms cuts are double the rate seen across the schools budget, which fell by 8 per cent between 2009/10 and 2017/18. The Education Policy Institute highlights that 16 to 19-year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds could be adversely affected by funding cuts, and notes that the education sector is calling for an urgent government review of the impact of cuts.

Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University. Local indicators of child poverty, 2017/18

The End Child Poverty coalition has published findings that child poverty is rising particularly rapidly in parts of major cities, especially London, Birmingham and Manchester, suggesting that inequality between areas is growing and that poverty is rising fastest in places where it is already highest. As a result, they call for the major Parties to outline ambitious child poverty-reduction strategies.

Tools and Guidance

Ofsted. Guidance on inspecting the curriculum using new education inspection framework

Ofsted have published a new inspection methodology and a new education inspection framework (EIF) covering early years, maintained schools and academies, non-association independent schools and further education and skills providers. The EIF will be effective from September 2019 and will replace the current common inspection framework (CIF). The most significant change is the introduction of a 'quality of education' judgement, combining aspects of the previous key judgements of 'teaching, learning, and assessment' and 'outcomes' to provide a more holistic view of standards, particularly focusing on the curriculum.

Local Government Association. Early Help Resource Pack

This pack, which includes contributions from the [Early Intervention Foundation](#), is designed to help councillors better understand their own local offer and how they can look at the role of evidence in developing and improving early help services for children and families. 'Early help' covers a broad range of vital services and support that are brought in before any formal interventions to help children, young people and families achieve good outcomes.



The Children's Society. New learning programme to help children affected by family alcohol misuse

The Children's Society's new learning programme aimed at children affected by parental alcohol misuse provides free online resources and toolkits as well as workshops and training to frontline professionals who work with young people. It will support NHS staff, social workers, police, youth, school and voluntary workers to increase their awareness and understanding of children who may be affected by parental alcohol misuse and help them to identify those that are at risk.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Home Office. Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act: final report

The final report into the Modern Slavery Act 2015 found an increased proportion of children who are potential victims (largely due to the rise in county lines and other criminal exploitation) and a corresponding increase in the proportion of potential victims who are UK nationals. More generally, the report states that the number of potential victims has more than doubled since 2015. As a result, the Home Office recommend improved data collection, a reformed National Referral Mechanism, and measures to ensure businesses take seriously their duty to check their supply chains and emphasise transparency.

The Prison Reform Trust. Out of the shadows. Women with learning disabilities in contact with or on the edges of the criminal justice system

The Prison Reform Trust (PRF), with KeyRing Living Support Networks, reports findings that women with learning disabilities are at risk of becoming drawn into the criminal justice system due to failures to recognise their disability and a lack of appropriate support. Abuse by men lay behind the offending behaviour of most of the participating women. The authors make recommendations to help to ensure the needs of women with learning disabilities are recognised and met. The report draws on the experiences of women as well as practitioners working within criminal justice, social care, and women's services.



Out of the Shadows
Women with learning disabilities in contact with or on the edges of the criminal justice system

Tacy Hammond and Jenny Talbot, with Jenny Earle and Ashleigh Murray

Ministry of Justice. Prolific Offenders

The Ministry of Justice data found that prolific offenders had high rates of juvenile offending, and that prolific offending is linked to poor educational attainment, poverty and school exclusions. A prolific offender is someone who has committed a disproportionately large number of offences relative to their age group - four or more offences for juveniles, eight or more for young adults and 16 or more for adults.

HM Inspectorate of Probation. Post-release supervision for short-term prisoners

This inspection of post-release supervision for short-term prisoners, which was introduced in 2015. This report found no tangible reductions in reoffending in the group that were studied, or in reoffending rates nationally. HM Inspectorate of Probation found that in order a more system-wide approach is needed as well as more purposive probation supervision in order to move away from short sentences. Since its introduction, recall rates for men have increased by 29%, while for women they have risen by a shocking 166%, [according](#) to Mark Day, head of policy and communications at the Prison Reform Trust.



Post-release supervision
for short-term prisoners:
The work undertaken by
Community Rehabilitation
Companies

A thematic inspection by
HM Inspectorate of Probation
May 2019

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. PEEL spotlight report: A system under pressure

This report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) gives an overview of the emerging themes from the first group of 2018/19 PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) inspections. Based on 14 police force reports, HMICFRS finds that police forces are offering a good level of service but are doing so under significant pressure.

Given the current operational and financial context forces find themselves in, it is not clear for how long they will be able to maintain their current performance levels.



Briefings

Ministry of Justice, National Probation Service, and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. Justice Secretary announces new model for probation

The Justice Secretary has set out a blueprint for the future of probation, involving bringing all offender management under the National Probation Service (NPS). Under the new model, each NPS region will have a dedicated, private or voluntary sector 'Innovation Partner' - responsible for direct provision of unpaid work and accredited programmes. The new model will also give local criminal justice partners a direct role in commissioning services together with NPS. Frances Crook, Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform, [welcomed](#) the move to 'scrap the failed market and re-unify probation services.'

Barnardo's. New research draws link between youth service cuts and rising knife crime

Research suggests a growing link between cuts to youth services and the country's knife crime epidemic, according to Barnardo's. Figures obtained by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Knife Crime show the average council has cut real-terms spending on youth services by 40% over the past three years. Some local authorities have reduced their spending – which funds services such as youth clubs and youth workers – by 91%. There was a 68% increase in knife offences recorded by police in England and Wales over the same period (from 25,516 in the year ending March 2014 to 42,790 in the year ending September 2018). The areas suffering the largest cuts to spending on young people have seen bigger increases in knife crime.

Howard League for Penal Reform. Response to the government's National Autism Strategy: 'Think Autism'

In response to the Government's [call](#) for evidence to refresh its national autism strategy, the Howard League for Penal Reform calls for greater attention to the experience of people with autism in the criminal justice system. The League argue that a more robust approach is required to meaningfully impact the difficulties they face, because aspects of the process and conditions of custody are often ill-suited to the needs of people with autism, resulting in an experience which is unduly punishing and unfair, traumatic, and beyond the deprivation of liberty. As a result, they recommend that the Government engage with people with autism throughout their consultation, and give special consideration to the early identification of children and young people who suffer from autism in the criminal justice process.



Tools and Guidance

Youth Justice Board. Youth Justice Plans: practice note for youth offending partnerships

This guidance from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) details how youth offending teams (YOTs) should produce a youth justice plan. Local authorities have a legal duty to produce an annual youth justice plan that shows how they will provide and fund youth justice services. Included in the guidance is the legal framework and timing that plans should follow, as well as its content, structure, and what happens following submission.

Home Office. Engaging police and crime commissioners in national policy

This new protocol from the Home Office sets out key principles for engagement between national Criminal Justice System (CJS) departments and agencies represented on the Criminal Justice Board and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), the responsibilities the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and PCCs will fulfil in return, and practical methods of taking PCCs' views. These key principles focus on engaging, updating, and informing PCCs on national CSJ policies, reforms, and any changes in these, as well as supporting them with local implementation.

Home Office. Local forums and the role of police and crime commissioners

The Home Office have published a Local Operating Framework, which sets out how Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) can play an active role in local Criminal Justice System (CJS) forums to improve co-ordination and achieve shared CJS outcomes. It states that by taking a leading role in local CJS partnership arrangements, PCCs can help CJS partners and agencies become more visible in the local area and help align and set priorities and address cross-cutting local issues. As such, the Framework proposes minimum standards for local CSJ engagement in local areas, consistently across England and Wales.