



CordisPulse

January 2020

Welcome to January'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.

We are currently working with The Children's Society to evaluate an innovative programme to combat the criminal exploitation of children and young people. It operates across London, Birmingham and Greater Manchester. This month, we were pleased to see the first year evaluation report published. It is available [here](#).

Cordis Bright continues to expand its work on evaluation and other types of research and consultancy support in children's services, adult social care, criminal justice and the NHS. We are actively recruiting for new consultants and researchers to join our team. Further info is available on our [website](#).

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse please do contact us on 020 7330 9170.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford

Head of Research

If you would prefer not to receive future editions of the CordisPulse, please click 'unsubscribe' at the very end of this email. If you would like to discuss anything that arises from the Pulse (or if there are others who you think would like to receive copies) then please contact Dr Stephen Boxford on stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk or 020 7330 9170.



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Cordis Bright News

The Children's Society. Disrupting Exploitation

Cordis Bright has been commissioned by The Children's Society to conduct an evaluation of the Disrupting Exploitation programme. The programme will run for three years from 2018 to 2021, and is intended to focus on disrupting the exploitation of children and young people across three cities in the UK (London, Birmingham, and Greater Manchester) as well as nationally through systems change interventions including outreach and policy and strategy change, and one-to-one case work. This evaluation is being delivered across the three-year length of the programme. This report presents findings from Year 1.

Recruitment round

Cordis Bright continues to expand its work on evaluation and other types of research and consultancy support in children's services, adult social care, criminal justice and the NHS. We are a small but growing company looking to further enhance the skills and capacity of our Consultant and Research team. If you are self-motivated, intelligent and have a demonstrable commitment to the public sector then we hope you will consider applying. Further information is available [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Crisis. 'It was like a nightmare' – the reality of sofa surfing in Britain today.

This report shines a light on this most common and yet least visible and least understood form of homelessness, sofa surfing, which is characterised by a 'permanent impermanence'.

The research, which was conducted independently by Crisis, is based on face-to-face interviews with 114 people with current or recent experience of sofa surfing across 12 locations. It investigates the duration, cause and pathways of sofa surfing, its impact on relationships, health and employment, and looks at how it can be prevented and solved.



Shelter. This is England: A picture of homelessness in 2019

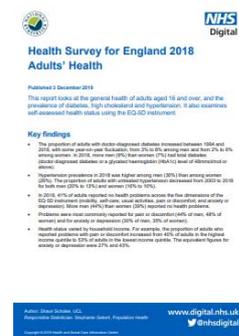
This report shows the numbers behind Shelter's Christmas media story about the total number of people who are homeless in England, released on 17th December 2019. Homelessness comes in many varied forms and is extremely difficult to accurately count. In this work, Shelter attempts to estimate a snapshot of the number of people homeless on one given night in 2019. It shows national and regional level tables, as well as full local results. It gives full details of the sources and methods used to produce these results.



NHS. Health Survey for England 2018

The Health Survey for England (HSE) monitors trends in the nation's health and care. It provides information about adults aged 16 and over, and children aged 0 to 15, living in private households in England.

This report looks at the general health of adults aged 16 and over, and the prevalence of diabetes, high cholesterol and hypertension. It also examines self-assessed health status using the EQ-5D instrument. More reports from the Health Survey can be found [here](#).



Briefings

Local Government Association (LGA). Myths and realities about Making Safeguarding Personal

This briefing has been developed to address misconceptions and a superficial understanding about Making Safeguarding Personal, and to caution those who interpret this approach simplistically. The briefing is aimed at front line practitioners and operational managers in all organisations that have a role in safeguarding adults. It is aimed at leaders at all levels and local councillors. It can also be used by anyone



interested or involved in safeguarding adults because 'safeguarding is everyone's business'.

Tools and Guidance

LGA. Making homelessness strategies happen: ensuring accountability and deliverability. Advice for local housing authorities

The LGA commissioned this guidance to offer advice and promote good practice for local authorities, in the drafting and issuing of homelessness strategies, in line with the measures set out in the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy. This guidance sets out the current legal obligations on local housing authorities relating to homelessness strategies. The guidance also contains good practice on the formulation of homelessness strategies, and the delivery and evaluation of homelessness strategies.

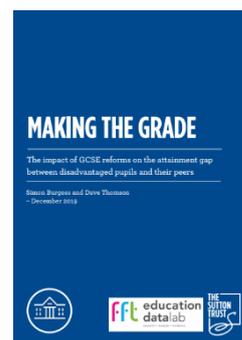


Children and young people's services

Reports

The Sutton Trust. Making the Grade: The impact of GCSE reforms on the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers

Reforms to GCSEs were introduced in 2015. The major changes were a move from modules to a focus on final exams, and a change in the grading system from letters (A*, A...G etc), to numbers (9, 8...1 etc). The aims of the reforms were to improve standards overall by making courses harder and increase differentiation at the top of the grade range.



This research by Simon Burgess, Professor of Economics at the University of Bristol and Dave Thomson, chief statistician at Fischer Family Trust (FFT) Education Datalab, examines the impact these reforms have had. The report analyses GCSE data before and after the reforms were implemented to explore the impact on disadvantaged pupils and the attainment gap.

Children's Commissioner. Pass the parcel: Children posted around the care system

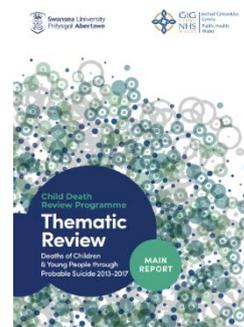
The Children's Commissioner conducted research in fifteen children's homes across England, in order to hear the children's own narrative rather than viewing them as 'problems' for the system. It aims to fill this gap of the children's own voices, which is absent from much of the national discussion about children's care.



Public Health Wales. Thematic review: Deaths of Children and Young People through Probable Suicide 2013-2017

The Child Death Review Programme committed to repeating a review of deaths of children and young people in Wales through suicide following its first review in 2014. It considered the cases of 33 children and young people who had died by suicide from 2013-2017.

This review examined factors that have contributed to suicide deaths, identified existing activities that contribute to the prevention of suicide, as well as new opportunities that could inform action. The review was undertaken to disseminate findings to reduce the risk of suicide for children and young people.



NSPCC. Childline Annual Review 2018/2019

Childline gives children and young people a safe and confidential space to talk, be listened to and get support. Their annual review explores what children and young people are telling Childline during counselling sessions. It looks at who is contacting Childline, why and when, and looks at how Childline is supporting children and young people.



Briefings

Shelter. Generation Homeless: The numbers behind the story

This report by Shelter shows the detailed numbers behind Shelter's Christmas media story about children who are homeless and living in temporary accommodation, released on 3rd December 2019. It shows national and regional level tables, as well as full local results, and looks at the rate of homelessness for children as well as adults. It also contains a section that briefly outlines the experiences of families and children in temporary accommodation and contains links to more detailed qualitative and investigative research on this.

Tools and Guidance

LGA. Chief executives' 'must know' for children's services

This publication has been shaped by chief executives who are either former directors of children's services or for other reasons have been closely associated with leading improvement journeys in council children's services. It is intended to be a clear summary guide for chief executives, showing how to avoid some of the more obvious and dangerous errors and challenges involved in leading children's services, one of the most sensitive, expensive and high-risk areas of local government. It also includes a number of actions, checkpoints and signals to be aware of as a chief executive.



Criminal Justice

Briefings

Department of Justice. Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey

This bulletin is based on findings from the 2018/19 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NICS). It focuses on crime victimisation (prevalence and incidence) rates in both Northern Ireland and England and Wales for the following broad crime types: crimes affecting the whole household (mainly property offences), and personal crimes against respondents only (mainly violent offences).

