

January 2013

We hope 2013 is treating you well? 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.

During December we were pleased to read about a number of new policies and recommendations aiming to improve the outcomes for looked after children and for adults with learning disabilities, two client groups with whom we work closely. We were also interested to see the publication of a new toolkit for local authorities working with troubled families that highlights good practice and outlines the research evidence in support of this type of work.

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

DoH: New child protection information system for hospitals announced for 2015

The DoH announced a new system in hospitals to help doctors and nurses spot children suffering from abuse and neglect. The system, called 'Child Protection – Information System' is being developed this year and will be launched in 2015. It will allow emergency departments or urgent care centres to see if the children they treat are subject to a child protection plan or being looked after by the local authority, or if over a period of time they have frequently attended emergency departments or urgent care centres.

This follows a report by The Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum which highlighted that professionals working in different care settings need to communicate better with one another on child protection issues, and which highlighted the proposed 'Child Protection – Information System' as an encouraging move towards ensuring that clinical professionals have immediate access to important child protection information.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

Welsh Government: New qualifications body for Wales to be created

The Welsh Education and Skills Minister Leighton Andrews announced the creation of a new qualifications body for Wales. 'Qualifications Wales' will be responsible for awarding qualifications and regulating and assuring the quality of all non degree level qualifications. The decision to create the body follows publication of the report from the Board of the Review of Qualifications for 14-19 year olds, which was published in late November 2012. The Review recommended that the regulation of qualifications in Wales should be strengthened and separated from government.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

DfE: More teenagers free to enroll at FE colleges to study vocational qualifications

From September 2013 further education (FE) colleges will be able to enroll 14 to 16 year-olds who wish to study high-quality vocational qualifications. FE colleges will be able to set up their own '14 to 16 centres' which will offer a combination of high quality vocational and academic subjects and aim to attract students of all abilities who want early access to practical and technical education. Currently, 14 to 16 year-olds can only attend FE colleges if they are released by their school, or if special arrangements are made with a local authority. This new freedom will allow FE colleges to enroll pupils directly and receive Government funding.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

DfE: More help for children in care to achieve better school results

Following publication in December of statistics showing that despite a narrowing in the attainment gap in some KS4 measures generally the results of children in care remain far below those of the average child, the DfE has announced a number of measures to help those in care during their school years. One such measure is the creation of a Virtual School Head in every council. Their primary focus will be to raise the educational attainment of children in care by getting them the support they need to succeed at school and in later life.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)



Welsh Government: Extension of early years support scheme announced

The Welsh Government announced that the Flying Start scheme will benefit from £19 million capital funding which it hopes will double the number of children benefitting from the scheme. The programme supports families with children up to four years old by providing free part-time childcare, parenting support, intensive health visitor support and support for early language development. At present the scheme operates in 22 local authorities. The £19 million capital funding will go towards developing the infrastructure needed to deliver Flying Start services in the new areas.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

DfE: New support for adoptive parents

In a new publication, 'Supporting Families Who Adopt' the Government set out a package of reform measures aimed at improving adoption support. These include giving adoptive parents the same rights to pay and leave as birth parents; publishing an Adoption Passport informing adoptive parents about what support they can expect; and piloting personal budgets which will enable parents to have a freer hand in choosing the right support for their family.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

Reports

HM Inspectorate of Probation: 'An inspection of the work of Youth Offending Teams with children and young people who are Looked After and placed away from home'

HM Inspectorate of Probation published a report of a joint inspection of the work of youth offending teams working with looked after children and young people. The report found that despite the hard work and effort of many YOT staff, the overall outcomes and future life chances for these children and young people are extremely poor. It found that the fact that they were away from their home areas and were moved frequently militated against their chances of rehabilitation and that the fact of being looked after could escalate a child into the criminal justice system.

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

Ofsted: Young people's views on complaints and advocacy

Ofsted published a new report based on consultation with 118 children and young people about their views on complaints and advocacy. Those consulted included both boys and girls, children and young people from different ethnic backgrounds, children looked after in care in both foster homes and children's homes, care leavers, and a small number of children from boarding schools and residential special schools. In the report the Children's Rights Director for England concludes that he perceives a real need for the government to review and improve children's complaints procedures.

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



Welsh Government: Welsh secondary school banding data for 2012 published

Banding data for secondary schools in Wales was published by the Welsh Government. Banding uses the performance of schools to group them into one of five bands – from Band 1, schools which are performing well; to Band 5, schools which need to improve. Schools are banded based on information about how well 15-16-year-olds have performed in examinations, and about their level of attendance. This was the second year that data of this kind has been released in Wales.

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

Tools

DCLG: Working with troubled families – a guide to evidence and good practice

DCLG has published a toolkit to help local authorities and their partners, who have asked for guidance on how best to work with troubled families and for the evidence about family intervention to be brought together in one place. The document brings together academic evidence, local evaluations of practice, what practitioners have said about what works in their services and what families say about what makes this kind of work different and successful for them.

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



Criminal Justice

Policy

Home Office: £500,000 to tackle gang and youth violence announced

An additional £500,000 to be targeted at young people at risk of becoming violent offenders and those already involved in gang and knife crime was announced in December. The money is to fund four more priority areas, including Merton, as an expansion of the existing Ending Gang and Youth Violence provision. The Ending Gang and Youth Violence frontline teams aim to encourage young people at risk of becoming violent offenders and those already involved in gang and knife crime to take a different path.

[To read the announcement, please click here](#)

Home Office: Victims of antisocial behaviour and low level crime to be given power to input into out-of-court punishments for offenders

A plan for a new 'Community Remedy' for anti social behaviour was suggested by Crime Prevention Minister Jeremy Browne as part of the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill. The remedy would allow victims of antisocial behaviour to choose from a list of out-of-court punishments for offenders and will be tailored to local areas and apply to crimes such as low level criminal damage or assault without injury, where a prison term is not applicable. Amongst other things the list of punishments would include the offender signing an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, taking part in mediation, paying reparation to the community, and attending structured activities such as alcohol treatment.

[To read the announcement, please click here](#)

[Consultation for this measure closes on 7th March and responses can be made by clicking here](#)



Adult social care and health

Policy

DoH: Mental health patients to be given more choice in services

The government's response to the No Decision About Me, Without Me consultation outlines how from April 2014 mental health patients will be able to choose from any provider in England when they are referred for treatment. Currently people who need mental health services are not able to make the same choices about their care and treatment as those who use other health services.

In addition to giving patients more choice, more steps to inform patients about the choices available to them have been laid out. These include introduction of individual care plans, introduction of a Choice Framework that sets out the choices patients have, and creation of a digital map showing the community services where there will be a choice of provider locally and a list of local organisations that have qualified to provide these services to date.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

DoH: Extra funding announced to support people in their own homes

Care and Support Minister, Norman Lamb announced an extra £40m will be added to the Disabled Facilities Grant to help people remain independent in their own homes for longer.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

DoH: Pilot projects to improve severe mental illness services announced

NHS demonstration sites that are already leaders in the mental health field were chosen to implement the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommended psychological therapies. Over coming months funding of £1.2m will be used to help these trusts share information with other health organisations about how they deliver the best treatments that lead to improved patient choice and recovery.

[To read this announcement, please click here](#)

Reports

DoH: Winterbourne View Report

The government published its final report about events at Winterbourne View Hospital. The report found that staff routinely mistreated and abused patients, and management allowed a culture of abuse to flourish. The report states that warning signs were not picked up, and concerns raised by a whistleblower went unheeded. The report also reveals weaknesses in the system's ability to hold the leaders of care organisations to account. In addition, it finds that many people are in hospital who don't need to be. It argues that people with learning disabilities or autism who also have mental health conditions or challenging behaviour can be, and have a right to be, given the support and care they



need in the community.

The report also outlines the government's programme of action, to be implemented in Spring 2013, to transform services so that vulnerable people do not live inappropriately in hospitals and are cared for in line with best practice.

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

JRF: Research into housing with care

A number of reports looking at the provision of housing with care were published in December by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Reports investigated how tenants who were paying for some of their own costs in housing with care felt affordability impacted on their choices of care and quality of life, and how they felt about the sharing of responsibilities between tenants and providers. Another report looked at different approaches to housing with care and how sites offering these services are being made socially inclusive places to live, and a further report involved a review of the evidence on the impact that supported housing (sheltered and private retirement) has on people's quality of life.

[To access these reports and others, please click here](#)

National Assembly for Wales: Residential care for older people in Wales

The National Assembly for Wales published findings from the Health and Social Care Committee's investigation into residential care for older people in Wales. The report is optimistic about the falling number of people in Wales who are in residential care settings, and the high quality of some of the new residential services that have been developed. However it also highlights a number of challenges, for example in relation to the funding of care in later life. The report brings together a number of key facts relating to residential care in Wales and also makes a number of recommendations for the Welsh Government. Among other things the report recommends increased advocacy, choice and information services for elderly people needing care.

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