



CordisPulse

March 2021

Welcome to the March 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. adult social care and health, children and young people's services, and criminal justice.

This month we were pleased to see the report by the Children's Commissioner [Still not safe: The public health response to youth violence](#). It suggests that although Ministers have committed £35 million to Police and Crime Commissioners to set up Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across 18 police forces, insufficient attention has been paid to the need for agencies in other areas to adopt both a safeguarding and public health response, working in partnership with local police forces. This has meant little work to incentivise, and crucially, monitor and oversee the implementation of action taken by public health bodies themselves and by children's services.

This Children's Commissioner's report suggests that the vast majority of Local Authorities do not have a sufficient grip on the drivers for youth violence in their areas, nor do they have a cogent strategy to reduce risk factors in vulnerable cohorts. We have been working with clients in this space and are aware of good practice in this space. In addition, we worked with the LGA on developing a resource: [Public health approaches to reducing violence](#).

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse, please do contact us on 020 7330 9170 or email stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk.

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

Sunderland All Together Better evaluation

In this case study we explore our work to evaluate Sunderland All Together Better.

Download the PDF [here](#).

City & Hackney Integrated Care Programme

In this case study we highlight our work with City and Hackney to provide evaluation and development support for their Integrated Care Programme. The work is led by Cordis Bright in partnership with PPL and COBIC. For further information about this collaboration visit [Sonder](#).

Download the PDF [here](#).



Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Care Quality Commission. Collaboration in urgent and emergency care.

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest population health challenges the world has faced. It has required health and social care providers to rapidly respond as partners, enabling people to continue to receive care quickly and safely, and often working together in different ways.

Collaboration and system-working have never been so important. The CQC set out to complete a national programme of provider collaboration reviews (PCRs). The aim of these reviews was to support providers of health and social care services by sharing learning and helping to drive improvements for those accessing care. The ambition was to look at how providers are working together in every system by May 2021.

Care Quality Commission. Enabling innovation and adoption in health and social care: Developing a shared view.

Innovation can be a powerful tool for improving the health and social care that people receive, but the evidence suggests that we are not taking full advantage. Despite advances in technology and care models, the health and social care system in England could be better at spreading the best innovations and maximising the benefits for people who use services. Health and social care providers have a crucial role in changing this situation. To help them do this, national bodies working across the health and care system have come together to develop a shared understanding of what providers need to do to innovate well and how regulators and other national bodies can support them to do this.



This work points to six principles that are crucial for providers to be more effective at innovating. The principles are based on reviews of the literature on innovation, CQC reports and engagement with over 60 health and social care organisations.

Department of Health and Social Care. Working together to improve health and social care for all.

This paper sets out the legislative proposals for a Health and Care Bill. Many of the proposals build on the NHS's recommendations in its Long Term Plan. The proposals aim to help the NHS and local government in the immediate work of recovery from the pandemic by making joint planning and delivery of services easier, and over the long term by helping to address the needs of everyone, from children to older people, at different stages of their lives.



Local Government Association. COVID-19 public opinion research.

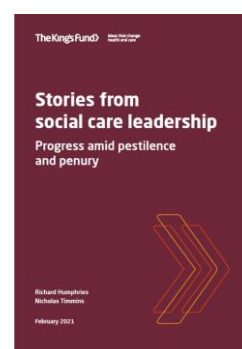
To help councils with their thinking and to shape a narrative that will resonate locally, the Local Government Association commissioned BritainThinks to research how the pandemic has changed public opinion and behaviour, and what matters most for them.

The research had two core objectives:

- Understand the extent to which public attitudes and behaviours have changed as a result of Covid-19.
- Understand how the public defines 'local' following the experiences of Covid-19, including any changes in attitude toward civic participation.

The King's Fund. Stories from social care leadership: Progress amid pestilence and penury.

Adult social care is the often forgotten and invisible part of the welfare state. For the past decade, the sector has been under acute financial pressure. Funding is both public and private, and there is a bewildering array of providers, commissioners, representative bodies and voices involved.



The King's Fund conducted interviews with people from a range of organisations, from a small number of more national voices to directors of adult social services and service users. They asked where leadership in social care lies? How effective is it? What could be done to improve it?

The King's Fund heard that there is huge variation in the quality of both services and leadership, with some of the best leadership being very local indeed. There was a widespread complaint about a lack of leadership from the Department of Health and Social Care, on top of the longstanding failure to 'fix' social care. They heard that key issues included a lack of data, of infrastructure and research, and of training and development.

The King's Fund. The health of people from ethnic minority groups in England.

This explainer examines the differences in health outcomes for ethnic minority groups, highlighting the variation across groups and conditions, and considers what is needed to reduce health inequalities.

The King's Fund. Covid-19 recovery and resilience: what can health and care learn from other disasters?

As Covid-19 swept the globe, countries scrambled to tackle the immediate threat of the virus. Entire new hospitals were built in just days, people have been required to restrict their activities on a scale previously inconceivable during peacetime and a

new class of vaccine was developed, trialled and approved within a matter of months. The scale of the emergency response has been extraordinary.

The King's Fund set out to understand what the health and care system can learn from the experience of recovery from other disasters. They spoke to people involved in recovery work around the world, including in New Zealand in the aftermath of the Christchurch earthquakes, in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire in London, and many others to learn how their insights and experiences could inform Covid-19 recovery.

Bevan Foundation. A Better Future for the People of Wales: a programme for transformation.

The Bevan Foundation has developed a suite of proposals for the next Welsh Parliament term and next Welsh Government. They are based on an analysis and in-depth policy development over several years. Together they provide an agenda to put Wales on a path towards greater equality and prosperity.

This summary brings together the Bevan Foundation's key proposals for change in the next Welsh Parliament term.



Briefings

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Short-term fixes fail to be a lifeline for families on Universal Credit.

At the start of the pandemic, the Government temporarily increased Universal Credit (UC) and Working Tax Credit (WTC) by £20 per week per household. This has been a lifeline to millions of families but is due to end at the beginning of April.

Discussions about how to continue supporting families bearing the financial brunt of this pandemic are current and urgent. There have been several proposals that would be ineffective and inefficient, including extending the uplift until the summer or giving all current claimants a one-off lump sum payment.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, along with many charities, think tanks and cross-party politicians, have argued that this uplift should be made permanent, and the majority of the public agree - in this briefing they set out why it must be kept for at least the next fiscal year. Any shorter extension would be bad policy and work against the economic recovery.

Bevan Foundation. Differing Experiences of Poverty in Winter 2020.



The Bevan Foundation's report, [*A snapshot of poverty in winter 2020*](#) highlighted the devastating impact the pandemic is having on households across Wales and across the income distribution. Having looked at the impact of the pandemic by household income in the last briefing this briefing examines the economic impact of the pandemic on different demographic groups in more detail.

The report's key findings are:

- Incomes have fallen broadly consistently across most demographic groups.
- Many households have seen their living costs increase. Parents, 25 to 49 year olds and social renters have been especially affected.
- There has been a squeeze on living standards with many households having to cut back on essential spending. Disabled people, 50 to 64 year olds, Renters, Lone parents and Single person households without children have been especially affected.
- There is a growing personal debt crisis in Wales. Disabled people, 25 to 49 year olds, Renters and Parents have been especially affected.

Tools and Guidance

Public Health England. Understanding and addressing inequalities in physical activity.

This guidance can be used by local level practitioners and commissioners to begin tackling inequalities in physical activity across and within protected characteristic groups. It presents the findings of a review, analysis and research aimed at understanding the enablers, barriers and opportunities for increasing physical activity across inequality groups.



National Institute for Health Care Excellence. Safeguarding adults in care homes.

This guideline covers keeping adults in care homes safe from abuse and neglect. It includes potential indicators of abuse and neglect by individuals or organisations and covers the safeguarding process from when a concern is first identified through to section 42 safeguarding enquiries. It also includes recommendations on policy, training, and care home culture, to





improve care home staff awareness of safeguarding and ensure people can report concerns when needed.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Children's Commissioner. Building Back Better.

In this report, the Children's Commissioner sets out how the landscape of children's policy has changed over the last six years and outlines the progress that has been made in addressing some of these concerns. The report also includes new analysis into the ways in which poverty, special educational needs and childhood vulnerability interact to create multiple disadvantage which means fewer than 1 in 6 children who experience all these difficulties get their Maths and English GCSEs.



The pandemic has meant that these children are at greater risk than ever of slipping under the radar. There has already been an increase in children moving into home education, and a spike in children's mental health problems. But it has also been a wake up call for our society so that it is much harder for anyone to pretend that these children, these families, don't exist, or that there are groups of children 'that we can't help'. The Covid crisis has created a burning platform to create a framework in which Governments at a national and local level, and partners like schools, the NHS and the police, can work together to Build Back Better for these children.

Children's Commissioner. Still Not Safe: The public health response to youth violence.

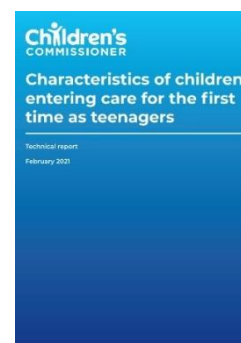
This report shows that the vast majority of Local Authorities do not have a sufficient grip on the drivers for youth violence in their areas, nor do they have a cogent strategy to reduce risk factors in vulnerable cohorts. Most were not tracking local school exclusions – widely acknowledged as a trigger for a significant escalation of risk for children. Drug misuse is also a key risk factor for gang exploitation. However, the numbers of children accessing drug treatment has fallen by 41% nationally.



This is particularly concerning as understanding has developed about the ever-evolving models that gangs use to exploit children. These gangs may act like sophisticated and entrepreneurial businesses, and as many businesses adapt their models to capitalise on the pandemic, so too have criminal gangs.

Children's Commissioner. Characteristics of children entering care for the first time as teenagers

This analysis by the Children's Commissioners shows that children who end up going into care between the ages of 13 and 15 clearly face disadvantages at an earlier age: before they went into care, around two-thirds were eligible for free school meals and just over two thirds had special educational needs. They were also more likely to face instability in school: in the year before entering care, one in ten was out of school for a term, one in six moved school in the middle of the year, one in three was persistently absent, and more than one in three had a fixed-term exclusion.



Even with these high level of needs, they are often not getting support. Although these children are more likely to have an identified special educational need or disability, they are less likely to be provided with intensive support from an Education, Health and Care Plan. A significant group of teenagers appear to be coming into care because of risks outside the home rather than within it. The Children's Commissioner's [annual Stability Index](#) shows that teenagers in care are significantly more likely to have the following issues flagged up by social workers: child sexual exploitation, going missing from home, gangs, trafficking and child drug misuse. These children are being drawn into dangerous or criminal behaviour and exploitation which parents often aren't able to stop.

Department of Health and Social Care. Social work and autistic young people: an exploratory study.

This study was conducted to improve understanding and oversight of three key areas in the context of social work practice with autistic people:

- How responsive social workers were to the needs of young adults and their families?
- What barriers there were to enable more effective interventions?
- How things could be done differently to improve outcomes?

The study offers a series of insights and recommendations to improve the experiences and outcomes of autistic young people and their families.

Education Policy Institute. Education reopening and catch-up support across the UK.

The Education Policy Institute has published a new report, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, which compares the education catch up plans of the four UK nations, and examines how they previously approached the reopening of schools.



The report finds that the catch-up plans of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland offer insufficient support for pupils, and are unlikely to address the scale of learning loss following the pandemic.

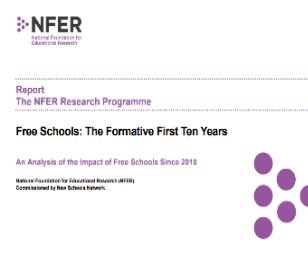
National Foundation for Educational Research. Impact of partial school closures on KS1: potential implications for practice in year 2.

This analysis, produced by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), looks at Year 2 pupils' performance in maths and reading tests in November 2020 to identify common patterns, misconceptions and errors. It also considers potential implications for teacher practice and is intended to complement broader school efforts to support pupil wellbeing and ensure positive outcomes for children.

It forms part of an ongoing EEF-funded study assessing the extent to which Key Stage 1 pupils' attainment in reading and maths are impacted by partial school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic, and particularly the effect on disadvantaged pupils. As part of a larger study investigating the impact of partial school closures on Key Stage 1 children, this new publication gives a detailed analysis on how year 2 children's performance in reading and maths may have been affected since the start of the pandemic.

National Foundation for Educational Research. Free Schools: The Formative First Ten Years - An Analysis of the Impact of Free Schools Since 2010.

To mark the ten-year anniversary since the introduction of the free schools programme, New Schools Network (NSN) commissioned the NFER to conduct an independent data-led investigation into what impact free schools have had since their introduction in 2010.



The report examines the impact that free schools have had since 2010 through the lens of three broad research questions:

- How do pupils in free schools perform in terms of attainment outcomes compared to their peers in other types of schools, at different key stages of education?
- Have free schools managed to establish themselves with families as a credible and popular choice for educating their children?

- How do the demographics and supply dynamics of the teacher workforce in free schools compare to other schools?

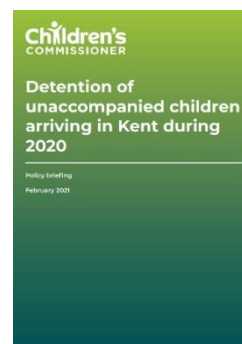
Ofsted. The education of children living in children's homes.

This report documents research into where children living in children's homes receive their education and what the quality of this education is like. This study covers the full range of school-aged children living in children's homes and a wide range of educational providers between the period 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.

Briefings

Children's Commissioner. Detention of unaccompanied children arriving in Kent during 2020.

This briefing looks at the immediate conditions unaccompanied asylum-seeking children faced after travelling to the UK, usually via boat, during 2020. Specifically, it focuses on the children who arrived at the Kent Intake Unit, where children's identities are checked and their initial asylum claims are processed before they can be accommodated by local authorities.



After visiting this unit in August 2020, the Children's Commissioner had some concerns about how long children were being held there. In order to investigate further, the Commissioner requested data from the Home Office on how long unaccompanied children were kept at the intake unit between April and December 2020, when high numbers of children were making this journey across the English Channel to the UK. The Commissioner used her statutory powers of data collection to obtain this information, as it is not publicly available. This briefing contains the key findings from this data.

Children's Commissioner. Five things you need to know about SEN in schools.

The SEND system was radically overhauled by the Children and Families Act 2014. It was hoped that this would lead to better support for children, and consequently transform their outcomes. But despite the initial promise of the reforms – which were widely welcomed – it is over six years since the legislation was passed and, as this paper shows, too many children with SEND are not receiving the support promised by the reforms.

In September 2019, the Government announced a review of the SEND system to identify the reasons behind this and what action is needed to address it. This Review was due to be published last year but was delayed due to Covid-19. It is now due to be published this year and work is ongoing. Furthermore, the Government is in the process of reforming Alternative Provision (AP), and children with SEN make up the majority of children in these schools.



This briefing outlines five things you need to know about children with SEN, with a specific focus on how children's needs are met (or go unmet) in schools, and the implications of these for the SEND Review and other reforms.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Turning the tide on child poverty in Scotland.

This May's Scottish election is a vital moment for the 1 million people, and almost a quarter of a million children, who are caught in poverty in Scotland. In 2017, the Scottish Parliament unanimously agreed ambitious targets to reduce child poverty to under 18% by 2023/24 and to under 10% by 2030. It was right to set these targets, but we are not on course to achieve them. This analysis shows how much there is still to do, but more importantly, it shows the art of the possible.

The main findings were:

- Despite the Scottish Child Payment (SCP) and the recent £20 uplift to Universal Credit (UC) and Working Tax Credit (WTC), the Scottish Government is likely to miss their interim child poverty target by four percentage points, failing to lift 40,000 children locked in poverty.
- If the £20 UC/WTC lifeline is cut the target will be missed by six percentage points (around 50,000 children).
- But meeting the target through the SCP is possible if the weekly payment amount rises to £30 per week per child, at an additional cost of £380 million per year, or £40 a week at an additional cost of £520 million if the UC/WTC lifeline is removed.

Tools and Guidance

Children and Young People Now. Guide to Outcomes-Based Commissioning.

This guide includes information to support local authorities to commission quality providers based on agreed outcomes across a range of interventions for children and families; a case study of how one council secured a project team to progress a backlog of social care cases, so it could focus on its own recruitment and retention needs; and links to more information to support commissioning requirements.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Commission for Countering Extremism. Operating with impunity: legal review.

The independent Commission for Countering Extremism has published a legal review, to examine whether existing legislation adequately deals with hateful extremism.



HMICFRS. An inspection of the effectiveness of the Regional Organised Crime Units.

In this inspection, HMICFRS examined how effectively and efficiently the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) tackle the threat from serious and organised crime (SOC). SOC remains one of the greatest problems for policing in the UK and overseas.

Their last inspection report on ROCUs was published in 2015; [Regional Organised Crime Units – A review of capability and effectiveness](#). Since then, the ROCU network has made substantial progress in some areas. HMICFRS wanted to see how well ROCUs led the response to SOC while working with local police forces and other law enforcement agencies. They found evidence of some good work, but also found some inconsistencies. They make six recommendations.

HMICFRS. Disproportionate use of police powers - A spotlight on stop and search and the use of force.



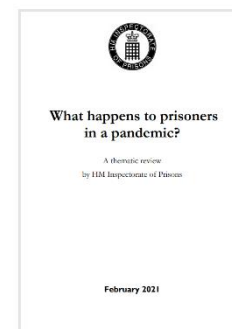
Over 35 years on from the introduction of stop and search legislation, HMICFRS have found that no force fully understands the impact of the use of these powers. When the police use their powers disproportionately – in differing proportions on different ethnic groups – it causes suspicion among some communities that they are being unfairly targeted.

Disproportionate use of police powers
A spotlight on stop and search and the use of force

This can undermine police legitimacy, which is a fundamental aspect of the British model of policing by consent. For some, particularly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people, it can reinforce the perception that there is a culture of discrimination within the police. And, now that some long-awaited data is accessible on the police use of force, similar concerns are arising about this area of practice. This report sets out HMICFRS' findings.

HMIP. What happens to prisoners in a pandemic?

This thematic review explores the effects of the restrictions introduced in prisons during 2020 in response to COVID-19. HMIP interviewed men, women and children living on standard residential units who had not been able to attend work or education and had typically spent more than 22 hours a day in their cells since March 2020. HMIP found that the most disturbing effect of the restrictions was the decline in prisoners' emotional, psychological and physical well-being.



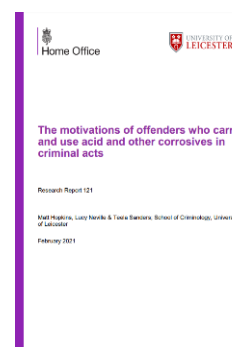
What prisoners told HMIP calls into question whether the right balance had been achieved between managing the risk posed by COVID-19 and providing them with enough meaningful activity, engagement and time out of cell.

HMIP. Children in Custody 2019-20.

This report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons presents the findings from 613 questionnaires completed by children detained at three secure training centres (STCs) and five young offender institutions (YOIs), plus a separate specialised unit at one site, between 2 April 2019 and 9 March 2020. HMIP received 613 completed questionnaires back from 789 children who were in custody at the time, a 78% response rate. All surveys were conducted to support unannounced inspections of each establishment.

Home Office. The motivations of offenders who carry and use acid and other corrosives in criminal acts.

This report presents the findings of a study that explored the motivations of offenders who carry and/or use acid and other corrosive substances. This fulfils an action within the Government's Serious Violence Strategy (Home Office, 2018) and the Acid Attacks Action Plan to undertake research due to the growing concerns over the increased use of acid and corrosive substances in crime. The project was conducted in three phases.



Revolving Doors. The Knot: An essay collection on the interconnectedness of poverty trauma, and multiple disadvantage.

A new essay collection, supported by Lankelly Chase, that explores the knots between poverty, trauma and multiple disadvantage and how service providers, policymakers, researchers and people with lived experience, can better make sense of and start to untangle these knots.

Revolving Doors. Understand us: A survey exploring young adults views and experiences of policing.

This publication analyses results from two national surveys that aimed to understand young adults' views of policing. The first survey was designed and delivered by Revolving Doors Agency in conjunction with New Generation Campaigners, an independent group of young adults who advise us on our policing policy work. The second was an independent poll commissioned by Revolving Doors Agency and conducted by Populus.



Revolving Doors have assessed how experiences differ by gender, ethnicity, and life circumstances, and what can be done to improve young adults' trust and confidence in policing. It is their hope that this survey begins a national conversation about policing young adults. Both surveys highlight the new generation's changing attitudes towards policing, crime, and justice. Young adults today expect the police to understand their personal circumstances and show compassion towards them. They want police officers to be able to identify their health and human needs and divert them away from the criminal justice system and into support. It is vital that the police leaders listen to young adults, particularly those with lived experience of the criminal justice system, understand their concerns, needs and expectations and co-create the future of policing in collaboration with them.

Women's Aid. Fragile funding landscape.

The report, 'Fragile funding landscape: the extent of local authority commissioning in the domestic abuse refuge sector in England 2020', by Women's Aid reveals the huge number of refuge services running without any statutory funding, including a significant proportion of specialist services 'by and for' Black and minoritised women.



The report finds that:

- More than 1 in 5 refuge services in England received no local authority commissioned funding in 2019/20 (60 out of 269 refuge services)
- 18.5% of all refuge bedspaces running in November 2020 were not funded through local authority commissioning (788 out of 4251 bedspaces)
- There were 18 refuge services run by specialist 'by and for' Black and minoritised women's organisations running at November 2020. A much higher percentage, 57.5% (146 out of 254), of spaces in these services were provided by non-commissioned refuge services, compared to the overall 18.5%.
- Women's Aid survey data shows that only 19.8% of commissioned services (20 out of 101) received enough funding to cover all of their support staff costs.

- The current commissioned refuge sector is currently supported by a significant number of non-commissioned spaces. Without these, the shortfall in spaces would increase from 24.5% to 42.5%.

Briefings

Prison Reform Trust. CAPPTIVE Prisoner's health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

People in prison have revealed the devastating impact of Covid-19 restrictions on their mental health and wellbeing. This Prison Reform Trust briefing examines the issue of prisoners' health during the pandemic. Based on evidence received from prisoners and their families from June, the briefing highlights the consequences for prisoners of being locked in their cells for up to 23 hours a day for the past 10 months under conditions which amount to "prolonged solitary confinement". It also highlights measures taken by prisons which had made the situation more bearable. These include kindness and empathy from staff, access to exercise and other activities, mental health support, good communications and effective precautions against the disease.

This briefing covers precautions against transmission, routine health care, disabilities, prisoners' well-being, mental health, self-harm, and what helped. CAPPTIVE received 180 responses from prisoners related to health, drawn from 79 identified prisons and six unspecified prisons.

Tools and Guidance

Ministry of Justice. Prison Leavers Project: improving outcomes for prison leavers.

This guidance provides information on the Prison Leavers Project, a cross-government project that will work with service users and stakeholders to test innovative ways to improve social inclusion of people leaving prison, and reduce reoffending. The Shared Outcomes Fund (SOF) was set up to test innovative ways of working across the public sector and drive the modernisation of public service, with an emphasis on thorough plans for evaluation. £20 million of the SOF has been awarded to the Prison Leavers Project.

The project will bring innovation into the reducing reoffending challenge and build robust evidence on what works, by rapidly developing and testing multiple interventions at a small scale, before scaling up the most effective over time. This work is part of the government's £220 million package to reduce crime. The Prison Leavers Project will compliment this work, by addressing a wider range of user needs and making their impact more sustainable.

Home Office. Help young people avoid involvement in Serious and Organised Crime.

A toolkit to help practitioners deliver interventions to young people who are involved in, or at risk of involvement in, Serious and Organised Crime (SOC).

Guidance on good practice to ensure that partners in the third sector, local government, youth offending teams, law enforcement and education are providing the most effective interventions.

The toolkit has been designed in consultation with law enforcement and partners who work with young people to help them target and deliver the most effective interventions to people involved in or at risk of becoming involved in SOC offending, with a view to reducing the harm and costs of SOC.



Public Health England. County lines exploitation: applying All Our Health.

This guide is part of All Our Health, a resource which helps health professionals prevent ill health and promote wellbeing as part of their everyday practice. The information in this guide will help front-line health and care professionals use their trusted relationships with patients, families and communities to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Important actions that managers and staff holding strategic roles can take is also included.