



CordisPulse

November 2018

Welcome to November'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.

The Early Intervention Foundation's report on *Realising the Potential of Early Intervention* received a mixed reception. Local authorities and their partners agree on the importance of intervening early to prevent need from escalating but remain concerned about financial pressures which prevent them from investing in this space. At the National Children and Adult Social Care Conference, Department for Education colleagues suggested that further evidence was needed to prove that early intervention was making a real difference. Until then, it appears that central government is likely to continue to focus on statutory services and funding innovative projects that have the potential to reduce demand – and create cashable savings – at tier 3 and 4.

The State of Health and Social Care 2018 report written by CQC continues to describe a pattern of experience first identified in 2016 when they reported on services reaching 'tipping point'. Nothing illustrates this more strongly than the distances from home of out of area health placements for people with serious mental health needs. CQC is a regulator and cannot therefore recommend a 'solution' beyond the need for greater alignment between health and social care, or highlight that the most critical impact of Brexit is the 'domestic void' where national strategy on health and social care should be. The green paper on adult social care is now due before the end of year (along with a 10 year plan for the NHS). It is fair to say that further delay will only increase the scale and complexity of what it must address.

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

Integrated health and social care best practice evidence reviews

As an independent evaluator of a number of innovative integrated health and social care programmes including seven NHS New Models of Care Vanguard projects, we have been sharing evidence-based practice on a range of issues related to integrated health and social care. This month we shine a spotlight on **effective practice in hospital discharge services**. You can review the report [here](#).

Cordis Bright SEN Stress-Test

Cordis Bright's [SEN Stress-Test](#) features in a recent article in TES about SEND pressures. You can view the article [here](#).

A Dynamic Future gaps analysis and impact summary

Over the past five years, Cordis Bright has been conducting a longitudinal evaluation of A Dynamic Future, a project aiming to support and improve the transition process for disabled young people aged 14-25 living in Wrexham and their families. 2018 represented the final year for the evaluation and included elements of gaps analysis which is available [here](#).

Evaluation of A Dynamic Future: final report

The ongoing development of A Dynamic Future has been informed by the longitudinal evaluation of the project and the annual reports produced each year. As well as the gaps analysis, the evaluation included a range of other methods, including: review of literature; collation and analysis of monitoring and outcomes data; and consultation with young people, their family members, project staff and other local organisations. The final report for the evaluation is available [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Care Quality Commission. The state of health care and adult social care in England 2017/18

This review by the Care Quality Commission focuses on the quality of health and adult social care services based on how safe, effective, caring, responsive and well led they are. The report finds that overall quality of care in the UK is good and that this standard has been maintained since last year. However, it also argues that this hides a more mixed reality in which some services have improved while others have struggled to cope with challenges and declined. In particular, the report highlights recruitment problems across health and social care services; wide variations in access to care across the country; the need for significant improvements in many NHS acute hospitals and mental health services; funding challenges; and a growing mismatch between demand and capacity. Solutions exist in greater collaboration, digital technology and more focus on person-centred care.



St Mungo's. Women and rough sleeping

This report from St Mungo's reviews the current evidence surrounding women and rough sleeping and what can be done to end it. The evidence shows that women sleeping rough tend to be younger than men, face gender-based violence and abuse and are more likely than men to need support for mental health problems. Attempts to hide from harm may mean that women sleeping rough aren't able to access homelessness services or are missed in official statistics. St Mungo's recommends a dedicated workstream to record and measure women's homelessness, engaging directly with women with experience of rough sleeping, exploring ways to strengthen data on hidden homelessness and recognising women's rough sleeping in the government Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.



The King's Fund. Sustainability and transformation partnerships in London: An independent review

In this report, the King's Fund reviews the development and progress of sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) in London. STPs, introduced in 2015, are local strategies for the future of health and care services which are expected to outline plans for collaboration across health, social care and local authorities and how improvements to the quality and efficiency of services and overall health will be made. The report finds that STPs are achieving many of their aims at neighbourhood- and borough-levels but would benefit from greater collaboration across London. Additionally, local government involvement in STPs is variable and a better understanding of how relevant stakeholders can work together across London is needed.

Birth Companions and Revolving Doors Agency. Making Better Births a reality for women with multiple disadvantages

This peer research report from Birth Companions and the Revolving Doors Agency explores the experiences of perinatal women facing multiple disadvantage who access care and support services in north-east London. Women with experiences of multiple disadvantage led the research as peer researchers, in co-production with local commissioners. Their experiences include substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, homelessness, involvement in the criminal justice system and extreme trauma. Key findings from the report include fear and mistrust of services among women facing multiple disadvantage, their desire for more opportunities to be heard and express needs, and the value of greater continuity between carers, specialist midwives, and ongoing support post-birth.



Briefings

The Health Foundation. Taking our health for granted: Plugging the public health grant funding gap

This briefing paper from the Health Foundation analyses cuts to the public health grant since 2014/15 and the amount needed to fill the gap that has emerged. The analysis shows that spending per person is anticipated to fall by almost a quarter between 2014/15 and 2019/20 despite growing concerns around health outcomes and rising health inequalities. Full reallocation of the grant, restoring real-term losses and preventing reductions in any local area would cost £3.2bn of additional funding per year. However, the fund allows local authorities to provide vital services to improve and maintain health.



The King's Fund. Is the NHS being privatised?

In this article, the King's Fund explores the current involvement of the private sector in the NHS and how this has changed over time. The analysis shows a slight increase in NHS contracts awarded to private providers following the Health and Social Care Act 2012 but little evidence for overall increased privatisation of the NHS following the Act. The involvement of private providers also varies across areas of care and is often higher among community services and mental health. In [Amending the 2012 Act: can it be done?](#) the King's Fund explores the concerns around the Act and whether and how it could be amended.

Tools and Guidance

The King's Fund. Approaches to better value: improving quality and cost

This report uses knowledge and insight from three NHS hospital trusts to offer guidance on how the value of services can be increased to deliver better outcomes for patients at lower costs. The trusts included in the report have each implemented organisation-wide strategies covering a variety of approaches, from top-down programmes to transformations which begin with just a few individual services and grow outwards. Across these strategies, commonalities exist including commitment to a defined vision and strategy, recognition that

change takes time and resources, and new leadership approaches involving continuous engagement with staff.

Public Health England. Everybody active, every day. An evidence-based approach to physical activity

This framework from Public Health England outlines national and local actions to address the problem of physical inactivity, which is damaging the health of one in two women and a third of men in England. The report recognises that ensuring that everybody is able to engage in physical activity involves tackling a range of economic, geographic and cultural barriers. Delivering the vision of a more active nation requires action across society, professionals, environments and scaling up interventions.



Children and young people's services

Reports

National Foundation for Educational Research. Implementation of Opportunity Areas: An independent evaluation

This independent evaluation of the Opportunity Area (OA) programme conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) focuses on the process of implementation of the first six OAs. The three-year £72m OA programme forms part of the government's approach to increasing social mobility by providing support to 12 local authorities facing challenges in this area as measured by the 2016 Social Mobility Index and Achieving Excellence Areas Index. OAs work in partnership with local stakeholders, such as nurseries, schools and charities, to overcome barriers to the social mobility of children and young people. The evaluation finds that local stakeholders show strong engagement with and commitment to OAs and local delivery plans clearly outline needs and how to address them. Suggestions for improvement include extending the duration of the programme to allow better measurement of social mobility and strengthening engagement with communities, families and children and young people.

Department for Education. Investigative research into alternative provision

This investigative study explores current practice in alternative provision (AP) and the extent to which, if at all, schools and AP settings take pupil characteristics into account. AP is education for pupils who would not otherwise receive suitable education due to illness, exclusion or other reasons. Using a rapid evidence assessment, in-depth telephone interviews with schools and AP providers and in-depth case studies with a selection of APs, the study assessed how schools support children at risk of exclusion, how schools use AP and how AP providers support children placed in their settings. The study found a gap in formal evaluations of the impact of strategies to support both prevention and reintegration, issues around teacher recruitment and barriers to finding mainstream schools willing or able to take on pupils from AP.

National Foundation for Educational Research. Evaluation of the implementation of the Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant

NFER conducted this evaluation of the Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant (EYPDG) for the Welsh Government. The grant, introduced in 2015/16, aims to improve outcomes for learners from low income families receiving Foundation Phase early years education for ten hours or more per week by providing education providers with £300 per eligible earner. Through an online survey, interviews and case studies, the evaluation found that the grant generally enables support to children from low income families to begin sooner than it might otherwise but argues that the current value of £300 per eligible learner is too small and that future planning by settings is being challenged by uncertainty around the grant's future.

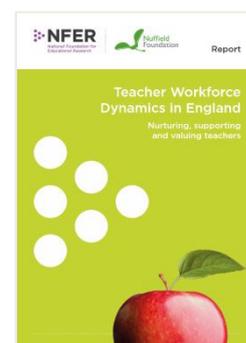


Education Policy Institute. Access to children and young people's mental health services – 2018

As policy attention increasingly turns to the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, this report by the Education Policy Institute (EPI) considers whether this is adequately reflected in the provision of services. Based on freedom of information requests to providers of child and adult mental health services and local authorities in England, EPI found that referrals to specialist children's mental health services have increased by 26% over the last five years and that high numbers of children are rejected from services or not accepted on to treatment. The majority of rejections are the result of the child's mental health condition not being considered serious enough to meet the eligibility criteria for treatment and where rejections take place there may be a lack of appropriate alternative services in place. Waiting times, which are worst for children in London, can range from 1 day to 188 days but are on average longer than the government's target of 4 weeks as set out in the recent green paper on mental health for children and young people.

National Foundation for Educational Research. Teacher Workforce Dynamics in England

Teacher retention is vital given rising numbers of pupils, shortfalls in the number of trainee teachers and an increasing number of working-age teachers leaving the profession. This [report](#) and [research overview](#) by NFER looks at the influences on teacher retention and how policy makers and school leaders can respond to the challenge. The report finds that the rate of teachers both leaving the profession and moving schools has increased since 2010, with lack of job satisfaction the key reason for teachers leaving. Teachers are also dissatisfied with the lack of leisure time and very long working hours during term time (around 50 hours per week). NFER argues that increasing the provision of part-time and flexible working opportunities is one of the key ways to tackle the challenge of teacher retention.



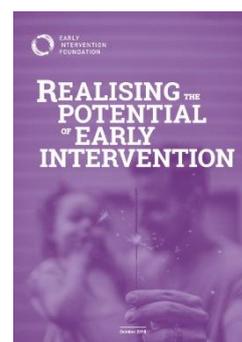
Education Policy Institute. UTCs: are they delivering for young people and the economy?

This report from the Education Policy Institute (EPI) analyses how Universal Technical Colleges (UTCs) are performing and the provision of skills they offer to the economy. UTCs

were introduced in 2010 to offer education to 14-19 year olds with a focus on technical education. There are currently 50 open across England while 10 have closed, are due to close, or have been converted for different use. The report finds that many colleges are struggling to recruit and retain students and that the progress and outcomes of students as measured by grades in certain A-level and GCSE subjects are lower than in state-funded schools. However, the report also finds that a higher than average number of students from UTCs go on to do apprenticeships and that students in UTCs are more likely to choose to take STEM subjects, resulting in students who are well-placed to work in industries in which employment growth is projected.

Early Intervention Foundation. Realising the potential of early intervention

In this report, the Early Intervention Foundation offers a new plan of action for early intervention particularly given that councils are struggling to maintain early help and prevention services as a result of funding cuts. The report explores the evidence which shows that early intervention can reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in a child's life. However, building a system that supports intervening early is challenged by a lack of funding; the short-term nature of policy agendas; fragmented policy responsibility for children across Whitehall; a lack of evidence-based programmes; and an immature evidence base. The report suggests a range of national and local actions to overcome these barriers including specific investment funds, expert panels, taskforces and more clarity around the vision for early intervention guided by evidence.



Briefings

Department for Education. Mental health and wellbeing provision in schools: Review of published policies and information

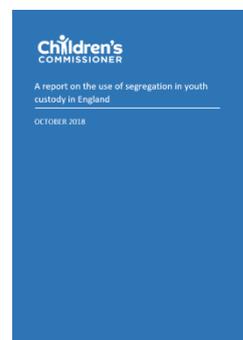
In response to the government's Green Paper, 'Transforming children and young people's mental health provision', this review explores the extent to which schools demonstrate understanding and promotion of their statutory duties in relation to mental health and wellbeing and developing respectful school communities and how they can be supported to strengthen this. The review assessed this through an analysis of policies and other relevant information published on the websites of 100 schools, including 45 primary schools, 45 secondary schools and 10 special schools. The analysis shows a significantly lower proportion of schools had published online policies relating to mental health than other areas of wellbeing.



Criminal Justice

Reports

Children's Commissioner. A report on the use of segregation in youth custody in England



This report from the Children's Commissioner finds that despite an overall fall in the number of child detainees in England and Wales over the past 4 years, youth segregation in youth custody has increased and the average length of periods of segregation has doubled from 8 to 16 days. Segregation has also increased in Secure Training Centres and was 33 times higher in 2018 compared to 2014. Anecdotal evidence suggests increased segregation could be due to gang involvement, staffing levels and shortages of NHS mental health beds. The report expresses concern about the damage that segregation can do to vulnerable children and young people and the current lack of transparency and accountability around the use of youth segregation.

Care Quality Commission and HM Inspectorate of Prisons. Social care in prisons in England and Wales

The Care Quality Commission and HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) here review the provision of social care in prisons. This follows the introduction of new social care services for prisoners. The report finds some good developments within prisons, such as good working arrangements with local authorities and well-trained and able peer support workers. However, these developments are not universal and wide variations exist. In particular, there is no comprehensive national strategy for social care in prisons, screening of prisoner needs is often poor and gaps exist in the provision of support for prisoners whose needs do not meet the eligibility threshold for social care, making full rehabilitation of these prisoners challenging. The report also identifies that the current provision of social care in prisons responds mainly to existing needs, rather than planning for how needs could change in the future.

Briefings

HM Prison and Probation Service. The separated location of prisoners with sexual convictions: Research on the benefits and risks



This is a summary of a research project funded by HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to explore the benefits and drawbacks of separating prisoners convicted of a sexual offence, often to be held in Vulnerable Prisoner Units (VPUs). The research is based on interviews with 27 prisoners with a sexual conviction. It found that separation can create a more relaxed environment, enhance feelings of safety and increase access to peer support. However, it may also result in prisoners being labelled as sexual offenders, limit opportunities for change and can create a hierarchy of sexual offences in VPUs. Integration with prisoners without sexual offences also presents challenges including impacting on feelings of safety, but may help in reducing stigmatisation and preparing for reintegration back into the community following release.



Ministry of Justice. A Review of Self-inflicted Deaths in Prison Custody in 2016

This review presents the results of an investigation by the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS into self-inflicted deaths in prison custody in 2016. The review particularly focuses on how mental health concerns were identified, assessed and managed in these cases and whether the results indicate a need for policy change relating to mental health assessments in prisons. The report finds that in 2016 self-inflicted deaths rose by 36% from the previous year despite no increase in the overall prison population. Recommendations include closer collaboration between prison and health and social care services and improving prison staff capability, such as through suicide and self-harm prevention training.