

November 2013

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.

October saw the publication of the first social care annual report from Ofsted, which emphasised the need for strong leadership within local authorities in order to ensure successful safeguarding and child protection. Adult social care and health has seen the publication of several important reviews and survey findings, including the EHRC review of home care, an independent review of NHS complaints and findings from a survey of public perceptions of the NHS and social care.

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 and research

Ofsted annual social care report 2012-13

This is the first social care annual report from Ofsted. It refers to outcomes from inspections of both safeguarding and looked after children's services; and local authority arrangements to protect children. It places the focus on strong leadership and continuity in order to ensure successful safeguarding and child protection.

[Click here to access the report](#)

Care leaver strategy

This cross-departmental strategy document sets out the steps the government is taking - from housing to health services, from the justice system to educational institutions - to support care leavers to live independently once they have left their placement. The new strategy includes a wide range of commitments from government to improve the help and support available to young people leaving care across all areas of life. All young people leaving care will be able to see exactly what support is available to them as they take the first steps into adult life.

[Click here to access the strategy](#)

Proposed improvements to support for young carers

The government has tabled an amendment to the Children and Families Bill, which is currently making its way through Parliament. The amendment aims to improve services for young carers by: extending the right to an assessment of support needs to all young carers under the age of 18, irrespective of who they care for or how often they provide care; supporting local authorities to combine the assessment of a young carer with an assessment of the person they care for; and simplifying the law relating to young carers to make their rights and responsibilities clearer to both young people and professionals.

[Click here to access the written ministerial statement](#)

National statistics on the characteristics of children in need in England 2012-13

This publication contains data on the numbers of children referred to and assessed by children's social services. It includes information on the characteristics of children in need and information on children who were the subject of a child protection plan for year ending March 2013.

[Click here to access the statistics](#)



National statistics on early years foundation stage profile results 2012-13

This statistical first release contains national and local authority level results for the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) assessments in England for 2013. EYFSP is a teacher assessment of children's development at the end of the EYFS (the end of the academic year in which the child turns five). The release includes: the number and percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in all early learning goals within an area of learning; the number and percentage achieving each assessment rating within the 17 early learning goals; and the number and percentage achieving a good level of development.

[Click here to access the statistics](#)

Guidance and tools

Changes through the law on special educational needs: consultation with young people

This consultation seeks young people's views on a proposed new SEN code of practice, and on replacing SEN statements with 0 to 25 education, health and care plans. The consultation is open until 20 December 2013.

[Click here to access the consultation](#)



Criminal Justice

Policy and research

Ofsted highlights poor performance in education and training in prisons

In an annual lecture, Ofsted's Director of Further Education and Skills focused on weaknesses in education and training in prisons. He states that 65% of education and training in prisons is not good enough and outlines the benefits of good education and training provision in, for example, reducing reoffending rates. He then makes a number of recommendations for improving education and training provision in prisons.

[Click here to access the lecture](#)

Guidance and tools

New code of practice for agencies working with victims of crime

The Ministry of Justice has produced a new code of practice for victims of crime, which comes into force in December 2013.

[Click here to access the code of practice](#)



Adult social care and health

Policy and research

Public perceptions of the NHS and social care

These findings from the twelfth wave of a survey into public perceptions of the NHS and Social Care conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Department of Health cover: levels of satisfaction with the NHS; key perceptions of the NHS; changes to the NHS; choice and patient involvement; social care; care for older people; and communication channels and technology.

[Click here to access the survey findings](#)

Equality and Human Rights Commission review of home care

The Equality and Human Rights Commission published a review of home care. In it they suggest that local authorities should change the way they commission home care in order to protect older people's human rights and improve care workers' working conditions. The review considers local authorities' responses to the EHRC formal inquiry into home care in 2011. It finds that, whilst many local authorities had responded to recommendations and taken steps to improve home care, there is scope for significant further improvements.

[Click here to access the review](#)

NHS complaints systems review

This independent review looks at how complaints about care in NHS hospitals made by patients, their carers and representatives are listened to and acted on by hospitals. The review received 2,500 responses and the recommendations cover: improving the quality of care; improving the way complaints are handled; ensuring independence in the complaints procedures; and whistleblowing.

[Click here to access the review](#)

Mental Health Act 2007: government response to Commons Health Select Committee

In this policy paper the Department of Health responds to the 11 Health Select Committee recommendations following the Mental Health Act 2007. The response covers: independent mental health advocate services; supervised community treatment and places of safety; and deprivation of liberty safeguards. The department's response will be of particular interest to mental health and learning disability professionals and to those with a personal or family involvement with mental health services.

[Click here to access the policy paper](#)

Urgent and emergency services: government response to Commons Health Select Committee

This policy paper outlines the Department of Health's response to House of Commons Health Select Committee report into urgent and emergency services, including A&E. It covers topics such as A&E pressures and performance, alternatives to A&E, and ambulance services.

[Click here to access the policy paper](#)



NHS referral to treatment waiting times for Wales

This briefing by the National Assembly for Wales Research Service provides information on the performance of Local Health Boards against the Welsh Government targets for NHS treatment waiting times.

[Click here to access the briefing](#)

New research on links between poverty and ethnicity

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published two new reports as part of their focus on the links between poverty and ethnicity.

[Click here to access their report on poverty, ethnicity and social networks](#). This report examines how social networks help or hinder people in moving out of poverty and looks at whether this varies within and between different ethnic groups living in urban and rural England.

[Click here to access their report on poverty and ethnicity in Wales](#). This qualitative study of poverty and ethnicity in Wales focuses on the experiences of people from five ethnic groups – Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Polish, Somali and white British/Welsh – living in a large city, the north Wales coast, the south Wales valleys or the countryside.

Guidance and tools

Welfare reforms communications toolkit

The Department for Work and Pensions has made substantial changes to sections of its Welfare reform communications toolkit in the light of recent policy implementation and announcements. The toolkit is in 4 parts, ranging from a brief introduction to the welfare reform agenda to a complete briefing pack, so users can select the level of detail they require.

[Click here to access the toolkit](#)