



# CordisPulse

## October 2017

Welcome to October'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.

This month we're pleased to include details of the research that we undertook in partnership with the London Borough of Newham about supporting looked after children closer to home. The research reinforces some of the key messages that feature in the LGA's report *Bright Futures: getting the best for children, young people and families* about a focus on outcomes, implementing a culture of continuous improvement, and providing the right support at the right time. We are keen to expand the research to include a larger number of case study areas. As a result, if you have embedded or emerging effective practice in this field and would like to share your experiences and learning so far then please contact Yvette King, Head of Safeguarding on [yvetteking@cordisbright.co.uk](mailto:yvetteking@cordisbright.co.uk).

In addition, this month's issue includes details of the early findings of our research with ADAAS regarding how councils can maintain an adequate supply of good quality home care. As two of the reports summarised in this issue: the Care Quality Commission's *State of Care Report* and the LGA's report *Adult Social Care Funding: state of the nation 2017* emphasise, councils face significant challenges in the delivery of good quality home care. In the face of these challenges, our research finds several examples of good practice including: actively encouraging smaller home care businesses through more stable contracting and payment arrangements, developing outcome-based home care specifications, working with selected providers to design a service that meets the council's needs, and proactively supporting the development of local trade bodies and resourcing them to provide training to frontline care staff. We look forward to sharing additional findings as our research progresses.



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](mailto:stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk) or 020 7330 9170.

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## Cordis Bright News

### National Children and Adult Services Conference

This month, Cordis Bright attended the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Bournemouth. Tom Noon presented the early findings of a research project co-produced between Cordis Bright and ADASS about how councils can maintain an adequate supply of good quality home care. This is a particular challenge given reducing council budgets, the national minimum wage, workforce supply, increasingly complex care needs and the financial sustainability of independent providers. You can access a copy of the presentation [here](#).



### Supporting Children Closer to Home

Cordis Bright recently partnered with the London Borough of Newham to explore strategies and tactics that can address the significant challenge of ensuring that looked after children are supported in their 'home' area. Whilst there are no silver bullets, Cordis Bright found that authorities are trialling a range of options, some of which have potential to make quite significant differences in the longer term.

This research focused on 13 local authorities, predominantly in London. We would welcome the chance to expand the research to include a wider group of local areas. If you have embedded or emerging effective practice in this field and would like to share your experiences and learning so far then please contact Yvette King, Head of Safeguarding on [yvetteking@cordisbright.co.uk](mailto:yvetteking@cordisbright.co.uk). You can view a copy of the report [here](#).

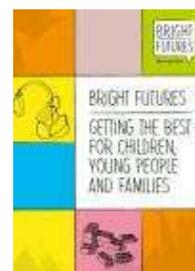
## Children and young people's services

To access each document, please click the title

### Reports

#### ***Local Government Association [Bright futures: getting the best for children, young people and families](#)***

This paper sets out seven clear priorities for coordinated action across the public, community and voluntary sectors, which the Local Government Association believes will help drive the improvement necessary to consistently offer the brightest future for children and families. These priorities are: a stronger focus on outcomes for children, consistently strong local leadership, a culture of continuous improvement, the right support for children at the right time, sustainable funding to help children thrive, a better understanding of what works for children and strengthened moral and support for social workers.



#### ***Stonewall School report 2017: the experiences of lesbian, gay, bi and trans pupils in Britain's schools***

Stonewall's report highlights the ongoing challenges faced by LGBT youth in the school system. While the number of LGBT pupils being bullied for being LGBT has fallen by 10% since 2012, 45% of LGBT pupils still experience bullying. Experiences of bullying are also most prevalent among trans pupils. Ongoing challenges also exist around the provision of LGBT-specific sex education, with just one in five LGBT pupils reporting that they had been taught about safe sex in relation to same-sex relationships.

#### ***Barnardo's [Neglected minds: a report on mental health support for young people leaving care](#)***

Drawing on quantitative and qualitative research conducted within Barnardo's services, the report finds that 46% of Barnardo's care leaver cases reviewed had mental health needs, and 1 in 4 had faced a mental health crisis since leaving care. 65% of these individuals with an identified mental health need were not currently receiving support from statutory services. As a result, Barnardo's is calling for extra resources committed by the government to mental health support to be specifically targeted to supporting care leavers. Barnardo's suggests embedding mental health workers within leaving care teams and upskilling leaving care services.

### Briefings

#### ***Children's Commissioner [Children's mental healthcare in England](#)***

According to the Children's Commissioner's report on children's mental healthcare in England, despite the fact that early interventions are cheaper to deliver, and highly cost-effective in preventing conditions from escalating, the majority of NHS spending on children's mental health goes towards those with the most severe needs. Additionally, the briefing finds that the current system for providing children's mental health care is neither transparent, nor accountable, with most local services failing to meet NHS benchmarks for improving services



and providing crisis care. The briefing recommends that the forthcoming green paper on the issue should advocate for an evidence-based system that is tailored to support children in the right place at the right time.

## **Tools and Guidance**

### ***The Children's Society Trauma and young people: a guide for parents, carers and professionals***

This guide provides parents, carers, and professionals supporting young people affected by trauma with advice on how to identify symptoms of trauma, practical advice and resources for engaging children in talking about their feelings, and information on how to access further support.

## **Criminal Justice**

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### **Reports**

#### **Crown Prosecution Service *Violence against women and girls report 10th edition 2016-17***

The CPS's Violence against women and girls (VAWG) report provides an analysis of the key prosecution areas relating to VAWG. It finds that over the last decade, conviction volumes relating to VAWG have risen by 63%. However, key trends for 2016-17 demonstrate a fall in CPS activity relating to VAWG. For example, the report finds that in 2016-17 the volumes of VAWG referrals from the police fell by 5.8%, the volume of VAWG crime prosecutions completed fell by 5.8%, and the volume of convictions fell by 3.1%, although the conviction rate did see a small increase.

#### **HM Government *2017 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery***

This report provides an overview of modern slavery in the UK and explains how the UK has responded to this threat over the last 12 months. From March 2016 to March 2017, police in England and Wales recorded 2,255 modern slavery offences, a 159% increase on the previous year. During 2017, the UK government has focused on developing a typology of modern slavery offences, and has launched a 'Business Against Slavery' forum, bringing together leading businesses to accelerate progress in tackling modern slavery in supply chains. 2017 also saw the UK government commit to the full national roll-out of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) across England and Wales.

#### **Barnardo's *Journey to justice: prioritising the wellbeing of children involved in criminal justice processes relating to sexual exploitation and abuse***

This research explores how voluntary sector child-focused specialist workers can support the needs of young victims and witnesses involved in criminal justice processes relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse. The report finds that specialist workers play a central role in limiting the re-traumatization of young people in the course of police investigations and trials, safeguarding young people in relation to ongoing risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, and raising the needs of young people with other agencies.



#### **Ministry of Justice *An analysis of trends in first time entrants to the youth justice system***

This report uses a combination of administrative data held on the Police National Computer, arrest data, and sentencing data to explore reasons for the fall in first time entrants to the youth justice system between 2007 and 2015. The report finds that the fall is predominantly attributable to revisions to police 'offences brought to justice' targets to focus on more serious crimes.

#### **HM Inspectorate of Prisons *Life in prison: living conditions - a findings paper***

This report from HM Inspectorate of Prisons provides the results of a survey of living conditions in adult prisons and young offenders institutions in England and Wales. The report highlights several issues including significant numbers of prisoners (~30%) locked up for at least 22 hours per day, resulting in a lack of access to education and training, overcrowding and lack of hygiene. HMIP recommends that HMPPS conducts a review of all current cells to minimise overcrowding and ensure that cells are in a good physical condition. The report also recommends that prisoners spend at least 10 hours out of their cells per day.

## Briefings

### **Centre for Crime and Justice Studies *Rough sleeping: enforcement and austerity***

The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies' briefing calls for local councils and police forces to move away from the use of anti-social behaviour legislation against rough sleepers, as such interventions do little to engage rough sleepers with outreach services. As an alternative, the briefing proposes that local authorities use *The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017* as an opportunity to establish and fund a coherent policy for social housing and supported housing for vulnerable individuals.

## Tools and Guidance

### **Prison Reform Trust *Resolving enquiries about rules in prison: a peer-led information service tool kit***

The Prison Reform Trust has developed a step by step toolkit for setting up a peer-led information service in a prison. The toolkit includes examples of best practice, in addition to guidance on addressing potential challenges such as risk management, prisoner turnover, and maintaining confidentiality. The toolkit has been made available to prison staff through the HMPPS intranet and has also been sent to individual prisons.

## Adult social care and health

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## Reports

### **Care Quality Commission *State of care report 2016/17***

The Care Quality Commission's annual assessment of health and social care in England finds that quality of care has been maintained in most services despite a difficult climate, in which the complexity of demand continues to rise. The report describes health and adult social care as being at 'full stretch', and calls for an increase in local collaboration and joined up care.



### **Cabinet Office *Race and disparity audit: summary findings from the ethnicity facts and figures website***

The audit considers how people of differing ethnic backgrounds are treated across public services in the UK, drawing on central government data that permits analysis by ethnicity. The audit finds disparities between ethnic groups in all areas of life affected by public organisations. Headline findings include: although 21% of people in adult custody in 2016, and 39% of people in juvenile custody, were non-white, 94% of prison officers, and 94% of police officers who disclosed their ethnicity were white. Additionally, while white adults were more likely to receive treatment for a mental health condition, black adults were more likely to have experienced common mental health disorders, and were more likely to have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Non-white individuals were also more likely to be poor or live in persistent poverty than white individuals.

### **Local Government Association *Adult social care funding: state of the nation 2017***

This publication from the Local Government Association provides a response to the mounting financial pressures on adult social care. The LGA estimates that local government will face a funding gap of £5.8 billion by 2020. £1 billion of this is attributable to adult social care and includes only the unavoidable cost of demography, inflation and the National Living Wage. The report also argues that in addition to the £5.8 billion gap by the end of the decade, a bare minimum of £1.3 billion is required immediately, and in future years, to stabilise the adult social care provider market.

### **Care Quality Commission *The state of hospice services in England 2014 to 2017***

The Care Quality Commission's report provides an overview of its inspections of hospice services in England between October 2014 and January 2017. Key findings include: hospice care across England has the highest percentage of health and social care services rated outstanding (25%) or rated good (a further 70%). However, the report also finds that there is more to be done to make sure that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, can access high-quality end of life care.

### **Solace Women's Aid and AVA *An evaluation of the 'Refuge Access for All Project': creating a psychologically informed environment in Solace Women's Aid services across five London boroughs***

This report is an evaluation of the 'Refuge Access for All' project, which aimed to create a psychologically informed environment in Solace's refuges. The evaluation found that the project led to a significant increase in staff understanding and confidence in addressing mental ill health and substance use. The report also found that refuge residents reported measurable improvements on a trauma informed practice scale over 6 months. The project was limited in its impact on developing joint protocols and pathways with local mental health and substance use services due to lack of resources in those services. The report concludes that psychologically informed environments can have a positive impact in domestic violence refuge settings.



### **The Kings Fund and The Health Foundation *NHS hospital bed numbers: past, present, future***



This report finds that the total number of NHS hospital beds in England has more than halved over the past 30 years, while the number of patients treated has increased significantly. While most other comparable health care systems have also reduced bed numbers, the UK has fewer acute beds relative to its population than almost any other comparable health system. The report finds that there are promising signs that some initiatives have been successful in preventing avoidable admissions and improving discharge, however, the shortage of beds continues to grow and research shows that initiatives to moderate demand for hospital care often struggle to succeed.

### ***Association for Young People's Health Key data on young people 2017***

This report provides a comprehensive data review, focusing on the health of 10-24-year olds in the UK. The report covers 7 key topic areas: living circumstances, education, and employment; health behaviours and lifestyle; sexual health and identity; physical health, long-term conditions, disability and mortality; wellbeing and mental health; health promotion and use of health services; and inequalities in health outcomes.

## **Briefings**

### ***Shelter End the freeze on Local Housing Allowance***

Shelter's briefing calls for an end to the freeze on Local Housing Allowance (LHA) that has been in place since 2016. Shelter emphasises that, as a result of the freeze, low-income families are increasingly seeing a shortfall between their eligible LHA rate and local rents, putting them at higher risk of debt and homelessness. Shelter is calling for a re-alignment of LHA rates to match the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of the local market in order to enable low income households to access private tenancies.

## **Tools**

### ***Public Health England Public Health Dashboard***

This tool allows users to compare one local authority's performance in areas including child obesity, tobacco control, drug and alcohol treatment and sexual and reproductive health, with the performance of other local authorities. The purpose of the dashboard is to support local decision-making by bringing existing comparative data into one place and making it accessible and meaningful to a wide audience.