

Welcome to April'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 March, we were pleased to see a range of interesting reports and developments. The following gives a flavour of what is included in this month's Pulse:

- Three new government strategies: (1) Education strategy 2015-2020: world-class education and care, (2) Modern crime prevention strategy, and (3) Ending Violence against Women and Girls strategy.
- Cordis Bright's final evaluation of the Gwent Missing Children Project delivered on behalf of the Welsh Government.
- A report from Barnardo's on how perceptions of sexual exploitation can affect the identification and response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- An evidence review by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect.
- A review of UK Justice Policy by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies.
- Assessments by the Home Office of national roll-outs of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and Domestic Violence Protection Orders.
- A report by The King's Fund which makes the case for integrating physical and mental health.

## Lessons Learned: effective commissioning for domestic abuse services seminar



There are still places remaining for our seminar **Lessons Learned: effective commissioning for domestic abuse services on Thursday 12th May**. It would be great to see you there.

This seminar will be jointly delivered by Cordis Bright, Hestia, Standing Together and Professor Darrick Jolliffe from the University of Greenwich and is specifically designed for those involved in commissioning domestic abuse and related services.



The seminar will present new research on key emerging themes that provide lessons for the effective commissioning of domestic abuse and related services. **This will help to inform future direction in light of the publication of the new Ending Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.**

The **agenda** will include presentations on:

- From victim to survivor: a study of the barriers facing over 200 women who have experienced domestic abuse (Hestia)
- Domestic Homicide Reviews: lessons learned from 45 independent reviews (Standing Together)
- A review of interventions for domestic abuse offenders (Professor Darrick Jolliffe, Centre for Criminology, University of Greenwich)
- What works in developing domestic abuse commissioning strategies and in conducting local and regional needs assessments (Cordis Bright)

**Venue details are:**

- **Time:** 9.30-13.30
- **Date:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May
- **Venue:** Elvin Hall, Institute of Education, University College London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL
- **Cost:** £50 per place including lunch

To book your place please click [here](#) or contact Mark Norton at [marknorton@cordisbright.co.uk](mailto:marknorton@cordisbright.co.uk) .

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



## Children and young people's services

### Briefings

#### **Ofsted. Ofsted to directly manage early years inspections**

Ofsted's early years inspections and regulatory work will be managed directly from April 2017, when the current contracts end. At present two companies, Tribal and Prospects, undertake early years inspections on Ofsted's behalf. These contracts run until 31 March 2017. Bringing early years inspection under direct management means that Ofsted will have full control over the selection, training and management of inspectors, and complete oversight of the quality of inspection.

[To view this briefing, please click here](#)

### Policy and strategy

#### **Department for Education. Department for Education strategy 2015-2020: world-class education and care**

This document outlines the Department for Education strategic plan across early years, children's services, schools and 16-to-19 education over this Parliament. The vision is to provide world-class education and care that allows every child and young person to reach his or her potential, regardless of background.

[To view this strategy, please click here](#)

### Reports

#### **ADCS. Pillars & Foundations: Next practice in children's services**

This report describes the pillars of service re-design and foundations that can enable positive changes and provides examples of local innovative practice. The report argues that the reductions in public finances will inevitably increase demand from families, but austerity can also drive innovation and positive change in services. The report takes the view that this is an exciting as well as challenging time to be working for children and families.

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

#### **Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect: an evidence review**

This report identifies and discusses evidence about the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect. It explores the economic costs of child abuse and neglect and outlines broad policy implications, with a particular focus on the UK.

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

#### **Department for Education. Adoption: a vision for change**

This paper sets out: progress since 2010; current challenges; and the Department for Education's (DfE) vision for the adoption system in 2020 and how it will be achieved. This paper details what the DfE plan to do over the next four years to address these challenges and to secure change that will last. The DfE's commitments include: legislative changes; supporting the implementation of Regional Adoption Agencies; increasing the Adoption Support Fund; and developing best practice to increase the use of early placements.



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

### **NSPCC. Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) evaluation report**

This report is an evaluation of the Domestic Abuse, Recovering Together (DART) group work programme for mothers and children who have experienced domestic abuse. It provides evidence about what helps to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on the relationships between mothers and children. The evaluation highlights that after the programme, mothers had significantly greater self-esteem, more confidence in their parenting abilities and more control over their child's behaviour. Similarly, the outcomes for children on the DART programme were compared with those for children involved in an alternative service for mothers and children affected by domestic abuse. The children from DART had substantially greater reductions overall in their emotional and behavioural difficulties than a comparison group.

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

### **Welsh Government. Evaluation of the Gwent Missing Children Hub. Final Evaluation Report.**

This report by Cordis Bright presents the findings and recommendations of the final evaluation of the innovative Gwent Missing Children Hub. The Hub is an innovative project providing a unique service in relation to children who go, or are at risk of going, missing in the Gwent region. There is evidence that key areas of the Hub's work are being implemented appropriately and largely in line with the theory of change and good practice for multi-agency working. There is also emerging evidence that in some cases the Hub is resulting in its intended impacts and outcomes for children and young people who go missing.

However, as highlighted throughout this report and in the formative report, strategic planning, monitoring and performance management remain key ways in which the Hub's work could be further developed. This will enable the Hub to consistently demonstrate its value and the extent to which it is realising its intended outcomes.

[To view this report please click here](#)

### **NSPCC. Caring Dads: Safer Children evaluation report**

This report is an evaluation of the Caring Dads: Safer Children (CDSC) group work programme to help improve the parenting behaviour of fathers whose children have experienced living with domestic abuse. The evaluation found that fathers and partners reported fewer incidents of domestic abuse post-programme and that potential risks to children appeared to reduce as fathers generally found being a parent less stressful and interacted better with their children after they had attended the programme.

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

### **Barnardo's. It's Not on the Radar report on Child Sexual Exploitation**

This report brings together discussions from four roundtables and existing literature and explores how perceptions of sexual exploitation can affect the identification and response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The report shows that CSE can affect all children, including those with disabilities, regardless of their gender identity, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or economic background. In particular, the report highlights the importance of recognising the hidden diversity of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation in England in order to avoid dismissing the possibility of risk because the child does not fit a pre-conceived stereotype of a 'victim'.

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



### **Department for Work and Pensions. What works to enhance inter-parental relationships and improve outcomes for children**

The review summarises the main research evidence on the importance of the relationship between parents to improve outcomes for children. It also reviews evaluation evidence of international interventions designed to improve relationships between parents and provides an assessment of the evidence for UK based programmes. It concludes that there are strong theoretical and empirical foundations underpinning the core hypothesis that the couple relationship matters considerably for child outcomes. At the same time much more needs to be done to test and learn about what works, for whom, and in what circumstances, and about how to implement effective interventions, ensuring quality of practice, appropriate supervision and impact.

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

### **Welsh Government. The attitudes of parents towards managing young children's behaviour**

The report presents findings from research with parents of children aged six or under about their attitudes towards managing young children's behaviour. The fieldwork took place in early November 2015 and involved telephone surveys with 387 parents (or guardians) of young children who had previously taken part in the 2014-15 National Survey for Wales. Parents were asked about their attitudes on parenting and the physical punishment of children. The survey also asked parents about accessing parenting advice.

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

### **Social mobility and child poverty commission. Parents' experiences of services and information in the early years**

This report is a survey of 1,000 parents who reported as the main carer of 0- to 3-year-olds in England. It discusses research revealing low awareness of the government's flagship childcare policies among mothers with young children. It finds that parents from different socio-economic groups behave differently and have different experiences of some key aspects of early parenthood, which in turn, have implications for social mobility. Middle class parents are accessing more services antenatally and in the first year of their child's life, and are also more informed about financial support with childcare costs and school options. The report concludes that there is a particular need to ensure that information, support and activities are accessible to parents from the lowest socio-economic groups.

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

### **Department for Education. Social work qualification routes: comparing the costs**

This report is a research into the cost to government and the economy of a student qualifying as a social worker. The study compares traditional and accelerated qualification routes. It finds that the unit costs to government are lower for the traditional routes (university courses) and higher for accelerated routes (e.g. Frontline). On the other hand, on a wider cost calculation, accelerated routes generate the lowest unit costs to the economy.

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



### **Department for Education. Independent evaluation of the Frontline pilot**

This report is an independent evaluation of the Frontline pilot, a fast-track training scheme for social workers in child protection. It discusses research into the effectiveness of the Frontline pilot in attracting high-quality graduates to social work. It concludes that the initial evidence is mostly positive and it suggests that a new cohort of highly skilled practitioners is joining the workforce.

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

### **Ofsted. Moving forward? How well the further education and skills sector is preparing young people with high needs for adult life**

This publication looks at how well further education and skills provision meet the needs and interests of young people aged between 16 and 25 with high levels of need. The survey finds that: impartial careers guidance to learners with high needs was generally weak; provision was not focused sufficiently well on preparing learners with high needs for adult life; too much provision lacked meaningful work experience; and learners from different local authorities often experienced wide variations in the range and quality of provision offered.

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

## **Statistics**

### **Department for Education. Children looked after in England including adoption: 2014 to 2015**

This statistical first release (SFR) provides information about looked-after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2015. It finds that the number of looked after children has increased steadily over the past seven years and that the majority of children looked after are placed with foster carers.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)

### **Department for Education. Outcomes for children looked after by Local Authorities: 31 March 2015**

This statistical release includes the following outcome measures: educational attainment at key stages 1, 2 and 4; special educational needs; exclusions from school; and absence from school. It finds that attainment for looked after children at key stage 2 continues to improve with increases seen in all subjects. The proportion of looked after children achieving 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs or equivalent increased to 14% (compared to last year's 12%). The rate of permanent exclusions for looked after children is around twice as high as the rate for all children, but continues to be less than the rate for all children in need.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)

### **Department for Education. Characteristics of children in need: 2014 to 2015**

This statistical release includes information on: children in need of social services; children referred to social services; assessments of children in need; section 47 enquiries; and children who were the subject of a child protection plan. It shows that the number of children in need at 31 March decreased slightly in 2015, but the longer term trend remains relatively stable. The number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March continues to follow the upward trend of recent years.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)



### **Department for Education. Childcare and early years survey of parents in England, 2014 to 2015**

This publication provides information on a survey of parents with children aged 0 to 14. It covers parents' use of childcare and early years provision, and their views and experiences, including: what childcare is used by different types of families; changes in take-up over the years; parents' reasons for using or not using childcare and for choosing particular providers; parents' views on the providers they used and on childcare provision in their local area in general; and the influence of childcare arrangements on mothers' decisions about whether to go out to work. It finds that overall childcare usage remains unchanged since the 2012-13 survey; that the proportion of parents who rate the quality and availability of local childcare as good has risen; and the ease of meeting costs of childcare has improved.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)

## **Criminal Justice**

### **Policy and strategy**

#### **HM Government. Ending Violence against Women and Girls**

This document provides an overview of the wide range of actions the government will be taking towards its strategy of ending violence against women and girls between 2016 and 2020. It also details how the government intends to build on the previous action plan to end violence against women and girls.

[To view this strategy, please click here](#)

#### **Home Office. Modern Crime Prevention Strategy**

The Home Office has published the modern crime prevention strategy which aims to build on new research, techniques and technology to update the way we think about crime prevention. In particular, the strategy addresses what the evidence suggests as the six key drivers of crime – opportunity, character, the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System, profit, drugs and alcohol - and a wide variety of crime types. It sets out proposals to make crime harder to commit, less appealing for criminals, and more unlikely in certain communities, situations or in relation to certain products.

[To view this strategy, please click here](#)

## **Reports**

#### **Ministry of Justice. Efficiency in the criminal justice system**

This report examines what the opportunities are to improve the efficiency of proceedings in the criminal justice system in England and Wales. The report considers the extent and impact of inefficiencies in the system, including cost, time and the quality of the justice system, and victims and witnesses' experience. It concludes that large parts of the system are paper-based and parties are not always doing what they are supposed to do in a timely manner. The system is not currently delivering value for money. The report finally makes recommendations to the Criminal Justice Board with the aim to create a shared understanding of effectiveness and improve cross-system working.

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



### **Restorative Justice Council. Making restorative justice work for women who have offended**

The RJC has published a new research report that sets out a series of recommendations for practitioners and policy makers on how to improve female offenders' access to and experiences of restorative justice. The report recommends that all female offenders should be offered a chance to take part in restorative justice, calls for partnerships to be developed between women's centres and restorative justice services to ensure that women taking part in restorative justice can access appropriate support, and highlights the need for restorative justice practitioners to be aware of the particular needs of women who have offended.

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

### **Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. UK Justice Policy Review 5**

This report is the fifth in an annual series by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, supported by The Hadley Trust, assessing year-on-year developments in criminal justice and social welfare across the UK. It combines analysis of the main developments with key data on issues such as spending, staffing and the numbers going through the criminal justice system. This edition highlights two key threats facing the delivery of justice across the UK, which are a rising prison population – set to top 100,000 by 2020 – and inadequate legal aid funding.

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

### **Home Office. Do initiatives involving substantial increases in stop and search reduce crime? Assessing the impact of Operation BLUNT 2**

This study assesses the impact on crime of the Metropolitan Police's Operation BLUNT 2, which ran from May 2008 to April 2011. The analysis compares changes in crime in those boroughs with comparison boroughs, to establish whether there was a crime-reducing effect from the surge in stop and search. No statistically significant effects on crime were found at the borough level. However, the study could not assess whether stop and search in itself works. It is possible a base level of stop and search is effective at reducing crime, or works in highly focused locations.

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

### **Home Office. Domestic Violence Protection Orders: Home Office assessment of national roll-out**

Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) were rolled out across all 43 police forces in England and Wales from 8 March 2014. This document gives an assessment of how the scheme has been working since the national roll-out. It also gives information on: the aims and approach of DVPOs; examples of good practice; policy considerations; and next steps.

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

### **Home Office. Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme: Home Office assessment of national roll-out**

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) was rolled out across all 43 police forces in England and Wales from 8 March 2014. This document gives an assessment of how the scheme has been working since the national roll-out. It also gives information on: the policy background; numbers of DVDS applications and disclosures made; and next steps.

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



### **Ministry of Justice. Review of the Youth Justice System: An interim report of emerging findings**

The review is examining evidence on what works to prevent youth crime and rehabilitate young offenders, and how this is applied in practice; how the youth justice system can most effectively interact with wider services for children and young people; and whether the current delivery models and governance arrangements remain fit for purpose and achieve value for money. This interim report sets out the initial findings of the review. The final report will be published in July 2016.

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

## **Tools and guidance**

### **Clinks. Guide to service user involvement and co-production**

This guide is designed to give the practical tools needed to develop an involvement programme and approach which places service users at the heart of an organisation. It provides a structured and accessible introduction to involving people with lived experience of criminal justice in professionals' work, including examples of good practice, checklists, top tips and signposting to further information and support.

[To view this guidance, please click here](#)

### **Clinks. Directory of Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs)**

Clinks has published contact information for the voluntary sector to engage with the Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) responsible for the management of low to medium risk offenders in the 21 Contract Package Areas across England and Wales. The information was provided by the Ministry of Justice, and lists the owner of each CRC, named contacts, and known contact information.

[To view this directory, please click here](#)

## **Adult Social Care and Health**

### **Briefings**

#### **NICE. Putting patients, excellence and experience at the heart of care**

NICE has updated its guidelines pages to explain how they should be used in offering patients and service users the best care. The new wording explains that guidelines should be taken fully into account but that the patient, or person receiving care, should be at the heart of decision-making. It also emphasises the importance of a clinician's expertise and judgement.

[To view this briefing, please click here](#)

### **Reports**

#### **Department for Work and Pensions. Work experience: a quantitative impact assessment**

This research explores how taking part in work experience affects the time people spend on benefit and in work afterwards. The findings suggest that in the two years following a work experience start, work experience participants spend on average 10 days less on benefit and 47 days longer in employment as a result of participation. Under the baseline assumptions from the DWP Social Cost-Benefit Analysis Framework, the work experience programme is estimated to result in: a net benefit to participants of approximately £1,950 per participant; a neutral impact on employers; a net benefit to



the Exchequer of approximately £150 per participant; and a net benefit to society of approximately £2,050 per participant.

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

### **The King's Fund. Bringing together physical and mental health**

This report makes a compelling case for integrating physical and mental health. It gives service users' perspectives on what integrated care would look like and highlights 10 areas that offer some of the biggest opportunities for improving quality and controlling costs. The report argues that the integration needs to be supported by wider changes such as development and evaluation of new service models, changes to professional education and increased use of new payment systems and contracting models. The report outlines a number of policy implications for NHS England, local authorities, royal colleges, commissioners and mental health trusts.

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

### **The Health Foundation. Making the Change: Behavioural factors in person- and community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing**

This report draws on robust studies of what influences behaviour and sets out a number of factors that can lead to greater involvement in self-care. It also provides a framework for understanding the drivers of behaviour and includes examples and case studies to illustrate how the theories work in practice. The report highlights that a multi-faceted approach is needed to enable effective self-care. It identifies five enabling factors which are: a) growth mindset, self-efficacy and 'grit'; b) removing friction costs (i.e. removing increases in effort required to perform a behaviour); c) social connections; d) intrinsic motivation, and e) goal setting and feedback.

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

### **Welsh Government. Factors that affect the recruitment and retention of domiciliary care workers and the extent to which these factors impact upon the quality of domiciliary care**

The research is being undertaken to explore the factors which affect the recruitment and retention of domiciliary care workers and the extent to which these factors impact upon the quality of domiciliary care. The report finds that a well-trained, well-paid and secure workforce with appropriate working patterns is required to recruit and retain care workers and to deliver high quality care. The research findings suggest these are not conditions widely experienced outside of local authority employment in the domiciliary care workforce. Changes to current commissioning processes and higher levels of funding are required and positioning of domiciliary care jobs as good quality is essential. Regulation of employment terms and conditions is likely to be necessary to achieve the required changes.

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

### **The Health Foundation. Fit for purpose? Workforce policy in the English NHS**

This report gives an overview of the components of workforce policy in the English NHS and the bodies which shape it. The report proposes ways in which workforce policy could be strengthened to improve the quality and productivity of care.

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

### **The Health Foundation. Hospital finances and productivity: in a critical condition?**

This report examines the financial performance of the NHS in England. The main focus is on the finances of NHS providers and the financial position of the commissioners of care (NHS England and



clinical commissioning groups). The report examines commissioners' budgets and how spending has changed by type of provider, as well as the specific issues facing NHS providers. It also includes the findings of a statistical analysis that set out to identify factors that are most strongly associated with an acute or specialist provider's deficit. The analysis finds that organisations with a high proportion of their pay bill going on agency staff coupled with more of their income being paid through the PbR tariff rather than negotiated prices are associated with being in deficit. It also finds that poor quality ratings either from CQC or the hospital's own staff are associated with poor finances.

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

## **Tools and guidance**

### **NHS England. New Improvement and Assessment Framework for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)**

NHS England has launched a new Improvement and Assessment Framework for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which will include ratings published online to show patients how their local health service is performing in six important areas. From June, an initial assessment of CCG performance will be available online that will cover six crucial areas including: cancer, dementia, diabetes, mental health, learning disabilities and maternity care. Each will be based on metrics in the framework that will be verified by independent panels chaired by experts in each field. This will be followed by an annual assessment in June 2017 which will incorporate additional information from the local Sustainability and Transformation Plans and other relevant data.

[To view this framework, please click here](#)

### **Social Care Institute for Excellence. Delayed Transfers of Care Signposting resource**

The Better Care Fund (BCF) framework and guidance now includes a new national condition which requires local areas to: a) fund NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, and b) develop a clear, focused action plan for managing delayed transfers of care, including locally agreed targets. The new resource signposts BCF leads to useful resources to support the development of the delayed transfers of care plans within the BCF plans for 2016/17.

[To view this guidance, please click here](#)