



# CordisPulse

## August 2020

Welcome to August'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 wanted to highlight an important report from the Health Foundation on [Adult social care and COVID-19: Assessing the policy response in England so far](#) which argued that support from central Government came too late. In addition, it suggested Government policies to support social care have faced major and widespread problems, such as issues accessing PPE and insufficient funding for local authorities. It concluded that: *'the social care system that entered the pandemic was underfunded, understaffed, undervalued and at risk of collapse. Any response to COVID-19 – however fast or comprehensive – would have needed to contend with this legacy of political neglect.'* The analysis in the report shares similarities to a blog produced by Cordis Bright's chairman Tom Noon in April which can be accessed [here](#).

Cordis Bright colleagues have also been working with clients to consider the impact of the pandemic on domestic abuse. We have produced a new blog which explores the crisis which the domestic abuse sector is facing, highlighting some key tenets which would ideally underpin the local and national response to domestic abuse. The blog can be accessed [here](#). It is pertinent reading in the month in which the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-2021 begins its passage through the House of Lords.

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**

### **Domestic abuse and Covid-19**

Our new blog explores the crisis which the domestic abuse sector is facing. It draws on Cordis Bright's experience of research, evaluation and consultancy in this sector over the last ten years to highlight the key tenets which would ideally underpin the local and national response. The blog can be accessed [here](#).

### **The PPL First Wave Report on Covid-19**

Our Sonder partners (see [www.sonder.group](http://www.sonder.group)), PPL, have recently published The First Wave report which shares some of PPL, our and other Sonder partners experiences of working through the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report provides a range of interesting and useful perspectives on how the public and voluntary and community sector have responded to the pandemic. The report can be accessed [here](#).



## Adult Social Care and Health

### Reports

#### Department of Health and Social Care. Tackling obesity: Government strategy

This publication outlines actions the Government will take to tackle obesity and help adults and children to live healthier lives. Obesity has, for decades, been known to reduce life expectancy and increase the chances of serious diseases, and in the last few months, has been seen to put [individuals at risk of worse outcomes from COVID-19, as summarised in a new report by Public Health England](#) which presents evidence for use by policymakers and those in health marketing.

The strategy includes: the launch of a new campaign, [Better Health, from PHE](#); the expansion of weight management services; the offer to Primary Care Networks of their staff completing PHE training to become healthy weight coaches; a consultation on the traffic light system for labelling food; legislation for food-serving businesses to include calorie labelling and for consultation on calorie labelling for alcohol; legislating to end the promotion of high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) products by volume (e.g. 'buy one get one free'); and banning HFSS products being shown on television before 9pm.

#### Public Health England. Health and social care costs of a selection of health conditions and multi-morbidities



Intended for use by academic economists and health modellers, this report sets out the estimated health and social care cost per case figures of a selection of common health conditions and multi-morbidities.

The health and social care costs of a selection of health conditions and multi-morbidities

It finds that the average 'cost per case' figures are always higher for individuals with multi-morbidities than those with single conditions, as those with multi-morbidities tend to be older, plus additional conditions incur additional costs. However, in numerous cases multi-morbidity was associated with a reduction of the total individual cost compared to the sum of individual costs of patients.

#### The King's Fund. Workforce race inequalities and inclusion in NHS providers



The NHS has one of the most ethnically diverse workforces in the public sector. However, year after year, ethnic minority staff report worse experiences in terms of their lives and careers, when compared with white staff and people from an ethnic minority background are under-represented in senior positions in the NHS.

Addressing race inequalities in the NHS workforce is critical on multiple levels. Experiences of discrimination can cast a long shadow on ethnic minority NHS staff; the impact on people can be profound. There are also wider implications for the health service: evidence shows that fair treatment of staff is linked to a better experience of care for patients. Moreover, the NHS is in the midst of a workforce crisis and improving its performance on diversity and inclusion will play an important role in the NHS becoming a better place to work and build a career.

#### The King's Fund. Mental health and primary care networks: Understanding the opportunities



The establishment of primary care networks (PCNs) is one of the most important reforms to primary care in England in recent years. This report, published jointly by The King's Fund and the Centre for Mental Health, explores the opportunities the emergence of these new networks creates for improving the support and treatment provided to people with mental health needs in primary care, and describes why such improvement is badly needed.

## Briefings

### **St Mungo's. Policy briefing: Rough sleeping in England – Looking beyond 'Everyone In'**

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government charged local authorities with getting 'everyone in' and supporting everyone sleeping rough to move into self-contained accommodation. The Government's response to rough sleeping during the pandemic has helped save lives, and there is now a unique opportunity to move towards ending rough sleeping for good.

Here, St Mungo's sets out the actions still needed to ensure everyone has somewhere safe to stay and the necessary support to rebuild their lives away from the street. It makes three recommendations: ensure suitable emergency accommodation is offered to everyone who is homeless; suspend the benefit cap and lift local housing allowance (LHA) rates in line with average rents; and suspend 'no recourse' rules. It is interesting to read this briefing alongside [Government's guidance on its new Next Steps Accommodation fund](#), to be used for both short and longer-term accommodation.

### **Care Quality Commission. Covid-19 Insight: Issue 3**

In this month's report, the CQC explore further the need for providers and other organisations to collaborate to tackle COVID-19. They look at what concerns have prompted them to carry out a number of inspections in recent months, and at the challenges that providers have faced in caring for people detained under the Mental Health Act or subject to a deprivation of liberty.

### **The Health Foundation. Adult social care and Covid-19: Assessing the policy response in England so far**

In this analysis of the national Government policy response during the first phase of the pandemic, it is argued that overall, central Government support for social care came too late. In addition, Government policies to support social care have faced major and widespread problems, such as issues accessing PPE and insufficient funding for local authorities. It concludes that 'the social care system that entered the pandemic was underfunded, understaffed, undervalued and at risk of collapse. Any response to COVID-19 – however fast or comprehensive – would have needed to contend with this legacy of political neglect.'

It is interesting to read alongside another [briefing from the Health Foundation, looking at the impact on social care users and staff in England in the first phase of the pandemic](#). It explores the impacts of changes in practice. For example, a reduction in elective admissions from care home residents may have reduced the risk of transmission, but there may have also been an increase in unmet health needs. A shifting of hospital discharge destinations to nursing homes, rather than residential care homes, while borne from difficult decisions made



in an urgent and uncertain context, may have played a role in transferring risk to a poorly supported social care system.

### **Office for National Statistics. Socio-economic inequalities in avoidable mortality, England and Wales: 2001 to 2018**

New statistics from the ONS find that the proportion of total deaths in 2018 that were avoidable in both England and Wales is substantially larger in the most deprived areas compared with the least deprived areas. It is also true of both nations that while avoidable mortality rates are sizeably lower than they were in 2001 across all levels of area deprivation, since 2013 the speed of improvement has reduced substantially, particularly in the most deprived areas.

### **Office for National Statistics. Living longer: trends in subnational ageing across the UK**

This paper summarises current and projected trends in population ageing for local authorities, regions and countries across the UK. Internal migration patterns and economic activity for older people are also compared, and an interactive [subnational ageing tool](#) is also published today, allowing comparison of current and projected indicators of ageing across local authorities, regions and countries in the UK.

### **The British Journal of Social Work. What Do Service Users Want from Mental Health Social Work? A Best–Worst Scaling Analysis**

This study, authored by a mix of academics and service users/carers, reports a Best–Worst Scaling analysis of ten social worker ‘qualities’, representing both those highly specialist to social work and those generic to other mental health professionals. Fieldwork was undertaken during 2018 with 144 working-age service users, living at home, in five regions of England. Person-centred approaches and continuity of care emerged as highly-valued characteristics. The research can assist the profession to promote the added value of their work, focusing on their expertise in person-centred care and the social model of mental health.

### **NHS England. Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR) – Action from learning report**

This report provides examples of the local changes that have been made to services so far and highlights the extensive work which is happening nationally in response to common themes raised through LeDeR reviews across the country.

### **Office for National Statistics. Impact of coronavirus in care homes in England: 26 May to 19 June 2019**

The ONS have published the first results from the Vivaldi study, a large scale survey which looked at coronavirus (COVID-19) infections in 9,081 care homes providing care for dementia patients and the elderly in England. The emerging findings reveal some common factors in care homes with higher levels of infections amongst residents. Further future analysis is planned.



## Local Government Association. Community health and care discharge and crisis care model: an investment in reablement

The LGA discuss the successes and challenges of supporting people at home (the ethos of Home First from hospital) and discharge to assess, approaches promoted through the COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Requirements since March 2020. It is argued that data about capacity are needed for all provision, not just acute healthcare, and that arrangements should be made to ensure that those who are most impacted by Covid-19 are protected and supported.



**Community health and care discharge and crisis care model**  
An investment in reablement



## Tools and Guidance

### Public Health England and UCL Institute of Health Equity. Local action on health inequalities: evidence papers

These papers are intended for use by local authorities, health and wellbeing boards (HWB), and public health teams. They provide practical tips based on evidence and examples of interventions on social issues that lead to poor health, including ways to deal with health inequalities.



**Local action on health inequalities**  
Introduction to a series of evidence papers

### Public Health England. Evaluating digital health products

A set of resources to help those developing or running a digital health product to conduct an evaluation has been updated to include guidance on using behaviour change techniques and economic evaluation as part of these evaluations.



## Children and young people's services

### Reports

#### Association of Directors of Children's Services. Building a country that works for all children post Covid-19

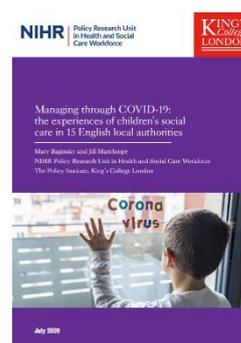
The purpose of this discussion paper is three-fold: to put children, young people and their lived experiences of Covid-19 front and centre in national recovery planning; to articulate what is needed to restore the public support services they rely on; and, to capture the positives and gains made during a very complex national, and indeed, global emergency.

It is clear that the pandemic, ensuing lockdown and enduring social distancing measures have simultaneously exposed and heightened the impact of stark disparities between disadvantaged children and their more affluent peers, from ill-health and poor-quality housing to children's access to technology and therefore opportunities to learn at home. Without urgent action, Covid-19 will cast a long shadow over the children, young people and families who rely on the support of schools, the health and social care system and the voluntary sector for many years to come. As such, ADCS call for a set of actions from the DfE.

#### NIHR. Managing through COVID-19: the experiences of children's social care in 15 English local authorities

As a result of the Covid-19 crisis public services were forced to rethink how they continued to operate and provide services for those most in need. Children's Social Care has introduced interim operating procedures to provide a safe service for all those children and young people identified as at risk and in need.

This research examined the arrangements that have been introduced in 15 English local authorities (such as video calls rather than home visits, and virtual panels), the challenges that they were facing, as well as those that may come with the lifting of the lockdown. It contains reflections on what has been learnt for the future and explores its possible legacy.



#### The Sutton Trust. Covid-19 impacts: Early years

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed enormous challenges to the early years sector, which caters for about 2.1 million children under the age of 5 years and is a crucial stage for social mobility. This report finds that the economic and public health consequences of the crisis are threatening to deepen existing patterns of vulnerability and under-achievement for young children and families, especially those living in poverty and disadvantage.



#### Children's Commissioner. Best beginnings in the early years

This report questions, 'given that there has been more than enough evidence for many years for the need to help children earlier, and what works best in doing so, why has it not been done?' It describes the progress that has been made, and the challenges which remain, in creating change in the system and practice which relate to early years. The report concludes

with a set of recommendations, including new offers of support and a greater focus on the early years from Government.

### **Nasen. Identifying Special Education Needs in the Early Years: Perspectives from Special Educational Needs Coordinators**

The research explored the process of identifying SEN in early years settings, from the perspective of the SENCO including their working relationship with children, parents, staff and other relevant individuals. Whilst over 70% of SENCOs were either extremely confident or very confident in identifying SEN, there was concern that less experienced members of staff were receiving no specific SEN training.



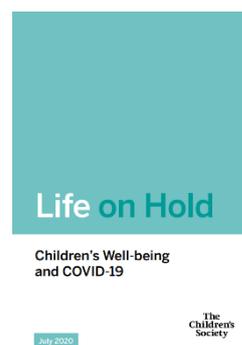
Other concerns for a minority of SENCOs were: a lack of allocated time to their role; difficulty meeting the government's SEND Core of Practice requirements in state maintained settings; and 'missing' children presenting with lower levers of SEN. Recommendations include developing guidance to help determine the time allocated to the early years SENCO role in different settings and a job description, specific for the early years SENCO role.

### **Children's Commissioner. Teenagers falling through the gaps**

Using pre-Covid-19 data, this research explores the number of teenagers who are considered disadvantaged according to a range of indicators such as school exclusions, absences, and SEND or Child in Need (CIN) status. It uses this data to argue that a large number of teenagers are vulnerable to negative impacts of the lockdown triggered by Covid-19, particularly the closures of schools, youth services, summer schemes, parks and leisure activities; reductions in mental health support; and the increased strain on families.

### **The Children's Society. Life on Hold: children's well-being and Covid-19**

As with the Children's Commissioner's report above, this report explores the substantial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown measures on young lives in terms of public freedom and mental health. It is based on a household survey of over 2,000 parents and children, and consultation with over 150 young people. A set of national and local recommendations are made, which focus on adequate support and funding as well as national measurement of children and young people's wellbeing.



It comes alongside [a briefing from The Children's Society which explicitly explores the impact of Covid-19 on adolescents, parenting and neglect](#), and which includes advice for professionals and policymakers for mitigating or preventing neglect.

### **Ofsted. Children's Social care data in England 2020**

Based on inspection outcomes between 2013 and 2020 for local authorities and children's social care providers, Ofsted find that the overall effectiveness profile of local authorities continues to improve; the number of new children's homes of all types in England continues



to rise; the proportion of independent fostering agencies (IFAs) judged good or outstanding has increased; and the number of voluntary adoption agencies (VAAs) decreased this year.

### **Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse. “People don’t talk about it”: Child sexual abuse in ethnic minority communities**

This research, conducted in partnership with the Race Equality Foundation, finds that cultural stereotypes and racism can lead to failures on the part of institutions and professionals to identify and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse, and can also make it more difficult for individuals in ethnic minority communities to disclose and speak up about child sexual abuse. Although improvements have been made, it concludes that there is far more to be done.

### **The Sutton Trust. Getting the balance right**

The introduction of the government’s 30 hours “free childcare” for children of working parents in 2017 was a change of emphasis from previous early education entitlements. While the universal 15 hours for 3- and 4-year-olds and the entitlement for the most disadvantaged 2-year-olds were focused on improving children’s development, the new 30 hours entitlement was intended to facilitate parental employment and ease the financial burden for working parents. This report considers whether the right balance is being achieved between, on the one hand, supporting child development and learning through high quality education provision and, on the other hand, raising parental employment through flexible, affordable childcare.

### **The British Journal of Social Work. Delivering an Integrated Adolescent Multi-Agency Specialist Service to Families with Adolescents at Risk of Care: Outcomes and Learning from the First Ten Years**

This article presents a ten-year service evaluation of the Adolescent Multi-Agency Specialist Service (AMASS), an edge of care service based within Islington Children’s Services. A description of the AMASS model and the social care and mental health outcomes for the cohort of families supported by the service across this period (n = 181) are presented. Improvements in both social care and mental health outcomes were found for a significant proportion of those who completed the intervention. Potential learning arising from the AMASS model, in terms of implications for service design for adolescent edge of care interventions, and the limitations of this service evaluation are discussed.

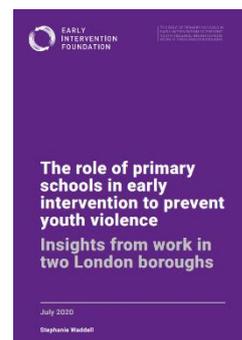
## **Briefings**

### **The Children’s Society. Covid-19 Recovery: Full recommendations**

In partnership with eight other organisations for children and young people, The Children’s Society has set out an approach to delivering a recovery that works for all children. It includes short and longer-term recommendations for a range of areas, such as mental health, early years support, and children in care.

## **Early Intervention Foundation. The role of primary schools in early intervention to prevent youth violence: Insights from work in two London boroughs**

Over the past three years, the EIF have been supported by the Battersea Power Station Foundation to work with the London boroughs of Lambeth and Wandsworth to consider ways to apply the evidence on tackling youth violence and gang involvement, explore the way local systems support or undermine efforts to prevent violence, and build capacity within local services. This paper offers a set of insights from this work which may be helpful for policymakers, local leaders and service managers, commissioners or practitioners. The paper concludes that schools are essential actors and must be recognised as such, and that a whole-system view on the issue is key.



## **Welsh Government. An integrated approach to improving educational outcomes for looked after children**

This review for the Welsh Government focuses on developing an integrated approach to improving educational outcomes for looked after children (LAC). The current situation in Wales is reviewed, following which the issues which could contribute to improving outcomes are explored, such as staff training, data, admissions, measurement of success, access to health services and CAMHS, and avoiding exclusions. Finally, current practice in England, Scotland, and Europe is reviewed to inform the recommendations made for Wales.

## **British Journal of Social Work. Children in Care: Exploitation, Offending and the Denial of Victimhood in a Prosecution-led Culture of Practice**

This research explores the perspectives of 36 professionals from children's social work and youth justice agencies in the north-west of England, on the issues that affect the sexual and criminal exploitation of children in care.

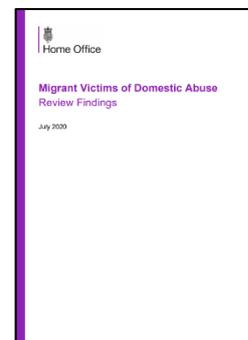
The findings echo previous research by suggesting that for a number of reasons connected to their 'looked-after' status and deficiencies within the care system, children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Although attempts are being made to develop co-ordinated responses to safeguarding, there is still a long way to go in terms of focusing on vulnerability instead of a prosecution-led approach when offending occurs as a result of exploitation. It is argued that further legislation is required in tandem with a greater degree of education surrounding exploitation and the dynamics inherent in these offences.

## Criminal Justice

### Reports

#### Home Office. Migrant victims of domestic abuse

There are new findings from the Home Office review of migrant victims of domestic abuse, which was carried out in response to the [June 2019 report by the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill](#). The report finds that more evidence is needed before making decisions about the support available to migrant victims, and the funding thereof, however a new £1.5m 'Support for Migrant Victims' pilot is intended to support those without access to public funds to access safe accommodation, and to assess gaps in existing provision. Changes to the EU Settlement Scheme rules are also detailed, in which victims of EEA citizens can retain their right of residence where warranted.



This research comes as Women's Aid [have criticised](#) Government's new domestic abuse legislation for a lack of support for migrant women, while welcoming changes such as a recognition of children as victims, and special measures to protect victims in court.

#### Ministry of Justice. Reform prisons pilot: research report on lessons learnt

From July 2016 to December 2017, the reform prison pilot allowed prison governors in six prisons to have more control over key aspects of prison management and service delivery, including prison budgets and contracts, staff recruitment and management, and local partnerships.

This qualitative process evaluation found that contextual challenges in the prisons presented barriers to implementation, and that more time would be needed for larger and more transformational projects to safely develop and deliver. In this case, ultimately the extent to which improvements were thought to be innovative and experimental was questioned.

### Briefings

#### Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. Probation Workforce Strategy

This new strategy sets out MoJ and MHPPS's collective ambition for a more positive, inclusive, and diverse probation workforce, and the steps they plan to take to achieve this from 2020 to 2023. Headline ambitions are to increase recruitment of probation staff this year, and have a minimum of 1,000 new probation officers in training by January 2021.



#### Clinks. Impacts of Covid-19 on the financial sustainability of the voluntary sector working in criminal justice

This paper on the impacts of the pandemic on the sustainability of the voluntary sector working in the criminal justice system was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and HM Prison and Probation Service's (HMPPS) Third Sector Task Force. It explores how long-term trends in funding and commissioning models have impacted on the sustainability of voluntary organisations working in the criminal justice system, and how Covid-19 has both exacerbated existing challenges and brought in new challenges.

## Howard League for Penal Reform. Reset: Rethinking remand for women

The presumption of innocence and the right to liberty are fundamental principles of a fair criminal justice system. Remanding a person to prison runs contrary to these key notions and should be an exceptional measure. The Howard League argues that too often women are inappropriately remanded into custody – almost two-thirds of women remanded to prison by magistrates are either found not guilty or are given a community outcome. The briefing highlights the need for remand decision-making to be rethought and reformed to enable judges and magistrates to take a distinct approach to women.



**Howard League for Penal Reform**  
Key points

- The presumption of innocence and the right to liberty are fundamental principles of a fair criminal justice system.
- The Howard League argues that too often women are inappropriately remanded into custody – almost two-thirds of women remanded to prison by magistrates are either found not guilty or are given a community outcome.
- The briefing highlights the need for remand decision-making to be rethought and reformed to enable judges and magistrates to take a distinct approach to women.
- Under a presumption of innocence, the state must demonstrate the guilt of those charged.
- The court's obligation is to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to justify a custodial sentence, and if so, whether that sentence is justified in the circumstances.
- Remand in custody is a serious measure and should be used only as a last resort.
- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to protect the public or to prevent the commission of further offences.
- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to ensure the effective administration of justice.
- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to protect the interests of the victim.
- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to protect the interests of the community.
- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to protect the interests of the defendant.
- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to protect the interests of the court.
- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to protect the interests of the state.
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- Remand in custody should be used only where necessary to protect the interests of the world.

## Tools and Guidance

### Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. COVID-19 Recovery Plans: guidance for youth offending teams

This guidance supports YOTs as they look to reinstate the activity which worked before COVID-19 as well as incorporating some of the innovative practices developed in response. It comes in the form of a framework for youth offending teams (YOTs) to consider when developing plans for transitioning towards recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

**COVID-19 Recovery Plans: guidance for youth offending teams**

July 2020

Innovation and Engagement Directorate, Youth Justice Board

### Local Government Association. Taking a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime: case studies

In this guide, the LGA have pulled together a series of case studies to highlight some examples of best practice across local government. The case studies highlight how councils have been working in partnership to deliver early interventions which help to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in serious violent crime. Many of the case studies are in the early stages of their work, showing signs of promise, which the LGA hope will be of interest to other councils.

### HMICFRS. National Child Protection Inspection Programme – Child protection inspection guidance

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has published new guidance on the [methodology for inspection](#) of child protection practice; the [assessment criteria](#) for this inspection; and [methodology for post-inspection follow-up activity](#). The assessment lays out what HMICFRS would expect a good police force to be doing at each stage of the child's journey, from first contact to ending involvement with the police service.