CordisPulse

December 2015

Welcome to December'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 November, we were pleased to see a range of interesting reports and developments including:

- Reports delivered by the Early Intervention Foundation in conjunction with the Home Office and Cordis Bright on gangs and serious youth violence.

- A joint report from the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford and the University of Bristol which found that fostered children perform better at school than children who remain living with their parents whilst received social care support, achieving an average of six grades higher at GCSE level.

- The Children's Commissioner's study on the unreported levels of child sexual abuse in England

- The Ministry of Justice published an analysis of re-offending amongst offenders aged 10-17 between 2002 and 2013, finding that whilst the numbers of young offenders have fallen, rates of re-offending have been increasing.

- A report by the think tank ResPublica suggesting that the residential care home sector in England could see large-scale bed closures in the next five years, and estimates that there may be a £1.1 billion shortfall in funding by April 2020.

- Updated guidance from the Department of Health concerning modern slavery.

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Seminar

If you'd like to sign up to receive information about our seminar for commissioners' on domestic abuse and violence against women and girls please contact Stephen Boxford on 020 7330 9170 or by email on: stephenboxford@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.

Seasons greetings and we wish you a prosperous new year.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford
Head of Research

Children and young people's services

Policy

HM Treasury: Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015

November's Spending Review contained a number of announcements relating to children and young people's services. Within the review, the government pledges £300 million to improve funding for early years providers, and £50 million in capital funding to create additional places. In addition, whilst the Department for Education will see its funding rise by £3.4 billion over the next five years, it will need to find savings of 20% to its core administrative budget, and £600 million will be cut from the education services grant (ESG). Changes to the funding system for schools were also announced, amongst a range of other messages.

To view this policy document, please click here

Reports

Action for Children: Beyond the building

This report examines how government and local authorities can deliver the full range of children's centres services. It suggests that they must do more to find innovative ways to deliver these services, better integrating health and early years services with existing children's centre provision. It also warns against the dangers of turning children's centres into just targeted services in the face of government funding cuts, argue that this shift from universal to targeted provision reduces children's centres' impact, risks making them stigmatising and effects their ability to identify problems early.

To view this report, please click here

Centre for Child and Justice Studies: The Troubled Families Programme – the perfect social policy?

This report by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies claims that the government's Troubled Families initiative is working with the wrong families in the wrong way, and as a result is likely to be wasting millions of pounds. It argues that government assertions that the programme as a 99% success rate are unbelievable, pointing to the fact that this reported success is coming at a time when those families targeted by the programme will potentially have suffered as a result of austerity policies, cuts to local authority services and welfare reforms.

To view this report, please click here

Children's Commissioner: Protection children from harm – a critical assessment of child sexual abuse in the family network in England and priorities for action

This study by the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England has found that the vast majority of child sexual abuse goes unreported, and estimated that between 400,000 and 450,000 under-18s were victims of sexual abuse between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2014 in England. The report highlights the problems that schools and children's services face in identifying and tackling the issue, finding that teachers lack understanding of the signs of a child being sexually abused and lack the confidence to discuss the issue without a child disclosing abuse first.

To view this report, please click here

Department for Education: Review of childcare costs – An economic assessment of the early education and childcare market and providers' costs

Published on the same day as the government's Spending Review, this report from the Department for Education presents the findings of its childcare consultation. It shows that some nurseries do not make proper use of the staff-to-child ratios, and are using more staff that government regulations require. It concludes by suggesting that early years providers could address funding problems by becoming more efficient in the number of staff they use.

To view this report, please click here

Department for Education: Second report of the national panel of independent experts on Serious Case Reviews

The second report from the Department for Education's panel on Serious Case Reviews finds that too many reviews are failing to present clear findings, and are being burdened with too much detail that may or may not be relevant. It recommends that less emphasis be put on methodology and more on presenting clear findings.

To view this report, please click here

Department for Education: Supporting the attainment of disadvantaged pupils – articulating success and good practice

This research report investigates the role of school characteristics, strategies and implementation approaches in raising disadvantaged pupils' attainment. It finds that greater success for disadvantaged pupils was associated with schools using fewer strategies and a combination of metacognitive, collaborative and peer learning strategies. It also highlights a number of school characteristics which collative with performance of disadvantaged pupils, and suggests that by focusing on these areas schools can improve outcomes for this group.

To view this report, please click here

Local Government Association: Making Safeguarding Personal – 2014-15 evaluation report

This evaluation examines the impact of using a Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach on outcomes for people using the services, the impact of the approach on ways of working and professional culture in safeguarding, and partnership working and cultural change. It concludes by looking at what further support will be needed to ensure the consistent implementation of the MSP approach, and makes recommendations for future work.

To view this report, please click here

National Foundation for Educational Research: A Review of Technical Education

This report, commissioned by the Associated of Colleges, presents a rapid literature review which identifies the key characteristics and essential elements of teaching and learning in technical and vocational education. It finds that whilst technical education is an under-researched area of educational provision, there is evidence to suggest that the characteristics of good vocational and technical education include those associated with all learning, as well as distinctive characteristics linked to the contextualisation of learning. It concludes by suggesting that by making education relevant to the workplace, technical and vocational education standards can be improved.

To view this report, please click here

Ofsted: Annual parents survey 2015 – Parent's awareness and perceptions of Ofsted

This report presents the findings from an online survey on parent's awareness and perceptions of Ofsted. It finds that awareness of Ofsted was generally high, and that the majority of parents know the rating of their child's school. In addition, the survey finds that the majority of parents feel inspections should take place at least every two years.

To view this report, please click here

Ofsted: Social care questionnaires 2015 – what children, young people and adults told Ofsted

These reports present analysis of Ofsted's annual survey of children's homes and foster care. It finds that care providers need to do more to improve communication with professionals who act on behalf of looked-after children. The survey also finds that the vast majority of young people in children's homes and foster care said that staff look after them well and listen to their views when making decisions about care.

To view this report, please click here

Rees Centre and the University of Bristol: The Educational Progress of Looked After Children in England – Linking Care and Educational Data

This study, led jointly by the Rees Centre for Research in Fostering and Education at the University of Oxford and the University of Bristol, examined the GCSE results of 640,000 young people in England in 2013. It found that children who are fostered do better at school than children who continue to live with their families while receiving social work support, by an average of six grades at GCSE. The study also found that each additional change of care placement after the age of 11 resulted in around one-third of a grade lower at GCSE, and concludes that foster care protects the education of children in care, with other key factors being the number of school absences, the timing and number of care placements or school moves, and the type of school attended.

To view this report, please click here

The Children's Society: Old enough to know better? Why sexually exploited older teenagers are being overlooked

This report by The Children's Society finds that many sex crimes against older teenagers in England and Wales in the past year went unreported and unpunished because victims were afraid they would not be believed by the justice system. It finds that half of those young people who did not report sexual crimes to the police did not do so because they either did not consider it work reporting, feared going to court, or because they did not want the perpetrators punished.

To view this report, please click here

The Sutton Trust: Background to success – differences in A-level entries by ethnicity, neighbourhood and gender

This report, produced by The Sutton Trust and the University of Oxford's Department of Education, investigates patterns of academic attainment for different groups of students whose educational outcomes were studies from age thee to age 18. It finds that boys are significantly less likely to continue in formal education after the age of 16 than girls, and that this is further amplified by increasing levels of disadvantage. In terms of ethnicity, students of white UK heritage, white European heritage or of mixed race were less likely to progress to advanced level courses that students from other ethnic groups. The report makes a series of recommendations for how inequality in A-level entries can be reduced, ranging from continued support for the pupil premium, to guaranteed careers advice and targeted local programmes to improve school standards in disadvantaged areas.

To view this report, please click here

UCL Institute of Education and Centre for Mental Health: Children of the new century – mental health findings from the Millennium Cohort Study

This report looks at the mental health of 11 year old children living across the UK. It finds that children from the lowest income families are four times more likely to have mental health problems than those from the highest earning backgrounds. It also suggests that not living with both natural parents is associated with mental health problems in children, and that geography also has an impact, with children in Scotland having a significantly lover prevalence of hyperactivity and peer problems that those in the rest of the UK.

To view this report, please click here

Statistics

Ofsted: Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2015

This statistical release from Ofsted shows that the number of available early years places has fallen by 11,000 this year, driven by a 3% fall in the numbers of registered childminders and a 2% drop in the numbers of non-domestic childcare providers. The statistics also show a 1% rise in the proportion of providers on the early years register being rated as good or outstanding.

To view this statistical release, please click here

Tools and Guidance

NICE: Children's attachment – attachment in children and young people who are adopted from care, in care or at high risk of going into care

This guidance outlines how to assess a child's attachment needs, and what should be done if issues are found. It states that all children, young people and their parents should get equal access to attachment interventional regardless of there are status, and also sets out specific attachment interventions for children on the edge of care, in care, in special guardianship arrangements and at different ages.

To view this guidance, please click here

Ofsted: Parent View – toolkit for schools

This updated toolkit contains materials that can be adapted and used by schools to raise awareness of Ofsted's Parent View to parents.

To view this toolkit, please click here

Criminal Justice

Reports

Early Intervention Foundation: Preventing Gang and Youth Violence – Spotting Signals of Risk and Supporting Children and Young People

This series of reports have been published by the Early Intervention Foundation, working with the Home Office and Cordis Bright. The first report is a review of risk and protective factors based on academic studies which followed individuals, often from early childhood, and collected data on risk variables at regular intervals to identify which ones correlate most strongly with later outcomes. The second report looks at the features associated with effective and ineffective interventions which have been delivered in the UK and abroad, and examines what the evidence shows about how best to respond to these risks.

To view this report, please click here

Department of Health: Information sharing to tackle violent crime – Audit of progress

This report sets out the findings of an audit of a programme established by the Department of Health which aimed to support A&E departments to share non-confidential information with community safety partnerships locally to help tackle gun, knife and other violent crime. The majority of NHS trusts which participated in the audit were deemed to have successfully implemented the programme, however less than half of community safety partnerships reported receiving any useful data on violent crime from an A&E department.

To view this report, please click here

Ministry of Justice: National analysis of re-offending data, for those aged 10-17

This report presents analysis of statistics on proven re-offending for young people aged 10-17, from 2002 to March 2013. This includes young people who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, or received a reprimand or warning. It finds that there has been an upward trend in the reoffending rate for young offenders, however this is alongside a downward trend in the number of young offenders.

To view this report, please click here

Youth Justice Board: Response to the consultation proposal to reduce the Youth Justice Board's expenditure in 2015/16

This report outlines the response to the YJB's consultation on proposals to find £12 million of in-year savings. Of the 129 responses received, over three quarters disagreed with the YJB's proposed means of reducing its budget, with just 7%

agreeing with the proposals. It outlines how all suggestions received which may result in savings within this financial year are to be considered by the YJB, and summarises how it has come to decide upon a preferred option of reducing the Youth Justice Grant by the minimum necessary amount by identifying other areas for savings.

To view this report, please click here

HM Inspectorate of Prisons: Behaviour management and restraint of children in custody

This report by the Prisons Inspectorate looks into the use of restraint in the youth secure estate. It highlights a number of concerns about the way it is used despite the introduction of the Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) system, which focuses on de-escalation and safer techniques, particularly regarding the use of pain-inducing techniques and restraints which result in the child ending up on the floor.

To view this report, please click here

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Local Government Ombudsman: Review of Adult Social Care Complaints 2014/15

This report shows that more people are complaining to the Local Government Ombudsman about the quality of social care assessment and care planning, with 2014/15 seeing an increase of more than a third on the previous year. The report recognises that complaint numbers are small compared to the overall size of the social care sector, however it also warns that low numbers partly reflect a poor awareness of the complaint system among people using services.

To view this report, please click here

National Audit Office: Stocktake of access to general practice in England

This report from the National Audit Office finds that there is considerable variation in access to general practice between different patient groups, with older patients more likely to report that they were able to access appointments. There are also differences between urban and rural areas, and the report suggests that there are increasing problems with recruiting and retaining GPs.

To view this report, please click here

NHS Benchmarking Network: National Audit of Intermediate Care 2015

This annual report reveals that waiting times for reablement services have doubled over the past two years, at a time when investment and referrals to reablement has fallen. Waiting times also rose for those waiting to receive home-based intermediate care. Overall, the report outlines a pattern of falling staffing levels and contact hours over several years, suggesting that this has led to a concurrent increase in waiting times for intermediate care services.

To view this report, please click here

Respublica: The Care Collapse – The imminent crisis in residential care and its impact on the NHS

This report suggests that the care home sector could see thousands of beds close within five years due to cuts to fees from local authorities and growing staff costs. Alongside increasing demand for services, the report estimates that by April 2020 there will be a £1.1 billion funding shortfall, and warns that the perilous state of the care home industry means that the could not cope with the failure of a major provider.

To view this report, please click here

The King's Fund: Devolution – what it means for health and social care in England

This report looks at the potential implications of the devolution of powers and funds from central to local government. With a particular focus on the Greater Manchester devolution deal, the report looks at the history of devolution, and analyses evidence for its progress in relation to health and social care. It concludes by highlighting a range of key policy and implementation questions that remain unresolved.

To view this report, please click here

The King's Fund: Mental health under pressure

This briefing paper focuses on mental health as a system of care, examining individual pressures within the wider context of provider and commissioner actions. It finds that whilst there is an absence of robust data, which makes it difficult to provide a definitive assessment of the state of mental health services, it is clear that the sector is under huge pressure. It makes a range of recommendations for how the mental health system can be improved, ranging from financial restructuring to a renewed focus on using evidence to improve practice and reduce variations in care.

To view this report, please click here

The King's Fund: Place-based systems of care – a way forward for the NHS in England

This report proposes a new approach to tackling the growing financial and service pressures facing the NHS in England at a time of increasing demand. It argues that NHS organisations need to move away from acting to secure their own individual interests, and instead establish place-based systems of care in which they collaborate with other NHS organisations and services to address the challenges and improve the health of the populations they serve.

To view this report, please click here

Statistics

Department of Health: Deprivation of Libery Safeguards (DoLS) – Monthly Summary Statistics Quarter 2 2015-16

This quarterly statistical release shows that the number of DoLS applications per quarter has dropped from the first time since the landmark Cheshire West ruling in March 2014. Although there has been a 9% fall compared with the previous quarter, this still represents a significant increase on the same period last year.

To view this statistical release, please click here

Tools and guidance

Department of Health: Giving adults voice, choice and control in social care

This document provides guidance on how registered nurses, care and support staff can enable relationship-centred care, and how they can work with other practitioners to achieve personalised care and support.

To view this guidance, please click here

Department of Health: Modern slavery – identifying and supporting victims

This updated guidance sets out actions for healthcare staff who suspect that a patient may be a victim of human trafficking and slavery.

To view this guidance, please click here

NICE: Older people with social care needs and multiple long-term conditions

This guidance covers planning and delivering social care and support for older people who have multiple long-term conditions. It promotes an integrated and person-centred approach to delivering effective health and social care services.

To view this guidance, please click here