

December 2016

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.

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This month's Pulse includes a range of interesting reports and developments that took place during November including, for example:

- A study of the relationship between internet and social media usage and radicalisation in young people, produced by ESRC.
- A proposal by the ONS about how to report crime statistics taking account of the severity of the crime.
- A report into the ways Sustainability and Transformation Plans are being developed around the country, produced by the King's Fund.

This month we are also looking back at research highlights from 2016 and profiling the most viewed articles of the year from each of the sectors we work on. They include reports about the impact of Brexit in adult social care, the Government's vision for reforming children's social care and an evaluation of what works in managing young people who offend.

"There's a close connection between the 'top reads' for 2016 and the focus of Cordis Bright projects in 2016. We've supported clients on responding to the government's social care reform agenda; on ensuring that service improvement is closely connected to robust evidence of what works; and on assessing the potential impact of Brexit on provision for the most vulnerable in our society – especially in terms of the availability of public funding and (for adult social care and older people's services) the availability of a skilled workforce. We predict 'top reads' for 2017 to be along similar lines with additions of responding to the needs of those with complex needs in impactful



and cost effective ways, and on transforming the links between the NHS and social care.”

Colin Horswell, Managing Director, Cordis Bright

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse please do contact us on 020 7330 9170.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford

Head of Research

If you would prefer not to receive future editions of the CordisPulse, please click 'unsubscribe' at the very end of this email. If you would like to discuss anything that arises from the Pulse (or if there are others who you think would like to receive copies) then please contact Dr Stephen Boxford on stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk or 020 7330 9170.

Cordis Bright News: CordisPulse most read 2016

The following are the three most viewed articles by Pulse readers in 2016. This is measured by the number of times articles are viewed via clicks on the links (you can access the article by clicking on the title).

Department for Education. *Children's social care reform*

This report, from February's edition of CordisPulse, outlined what the Government planned to do about protecting vulnerable children and improving the quality of children's social care services. It was the culmination of six months of work by the cross-government taskforce on child protection and set out the vision and principles for future reforms.

Ministry of Justice. *What works in managing young people who offend?*

This review, commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, was featured in March's edition of CordisPulse. It considered international literature concerning the management of young people who have offended. It focused on the impact and delivery of youth justice supervision, programmes and interventions within the community, secure settings, and transitions into adult justice settings or into mainstream society.

The King's Fund. *Five big issues for health and social care after the Brexit vote*

July's edition featured this briefing document from the King's Fund, assessing what the issues for health and social care would be after Brexit. It forecasted that the UK's vote to

leave the EU could have major implications for health and social care, not least because it has ushered in a period of significant economic and political uncertainty at a time when the health and care system is facing huge operational and financial pressures.

Children and young people's services

Reports

Department for Education. *Supporting long-term foster care placements in the independent sector*

This research sought to establish whether it is beneficial to delegate provision of some statutory duties from local authorities to independent fostering providers. The study found that this approach showed some evidence of greater flexibility and potentially quicker access for young people and carers to bespoke services. The research did highlight that future pilots of this design would need to pay careful attention to the issue of service overlaps.

ESRC. *Social Media and Political Attitudes*

This study of the impact of internet use on political attitudes has suggested that links between social media and political radicalism have been overstated. The report also claimed that correlations between radical political or religious views and internet usage did not vary strongly between different ethnic or religious groups. This report argues that Government counter-extremism policy, which assumes that young people are radicalised online, may be based on a false premise.

Department for Education. *North London Children's Efficiency Programme (NLCEP) residential innovation project: partnership evaluation*

This report evaluates how well the North London Children's Efficiency Programme (NLCEP) functioned. The programme aimed to provide residential support for children in, or on the edge of, care and their families, and was delivered by five north London boroughs. The DfE found that while the London boroughs had a strong shared purpose, the good functioning of the programme was hampered by a lack of commitment by two of the partners. It suggests that future partnerships would be improved through the consistent involvement of the most appropriate staff from each partner organisation.

Department for Education. *The evaluation of the Mockingbird Family Model*

This evaluation report aimed to present the impacts of the Mockingbird Family Model (MFM) on foster carers, and the children and young people they support. The MFM brings together a cluster of foster homes to form a "constellation" which seeks to replicate the support network of an extended family. The evaluation found that MFM enabled fostered children to develop supportive peer relationships. It also provided responsive and flexible support for foster carers. The report highlighted that good Hub Carers, who supported each constellation, were critical to the success of the overall programme.

NSPCC. *Online Child Sexual Abuse Images: Doing more to tackle demand and supply*

In this report the NSPCC evaluates a range of evidence to establish how great the issue of child sexual abuse images is. It also aims to assess a number of potential solutions to reduce both the supply and demand for images. It concludes that policy makers should seek to establish a stronger set of minimum standards that industry must comply with, to replace the current regime of voluntary self-regulation.

The Children's Society. *Understanding Adolescent Neglect: Troubled Teens*

This report aims to define adolescent neglect, explore the extent of the problem and investigate the impact it has on victims. The report found that 15 per cent of 14-15 year olds who responded to a national online survey had suffered at least one form of neglectful parenting. The study suggested that there is a correlation between experiences of neglect and negative outcomes for young people's well-being, and that young people who suffered multiple forms of neglect had significantly worse levels of well-being.

Early Intervention Foundation. *The cost of late intervention: EIF Analysis 2016*

This report explores the cost of late intervention for children and young people to the public sector in England and Wales. The report estimates that the total cost is nearly £17 billion per year. Although the total figure is consistent with previous estimates, the report suggests that spending on late intervention relating to education and training has fallen, while expenditure on intervention due to domestic abuse and violence has increased.

Briefings

Action for Children. *Speak, Play, Count: Tracking progress on children development in the early years*

This briefing outlines the opportunities for improving the process of tracking children's development in the early years. Action for Children argue for the retention of mandatory universal assessments for children at age two-and-a-half and at age five. It suggests that an assessment based on an observational approach would be the most appropriate method.



Criminal Justice

Reports

HMIC. National Child Protection Inspections: The Metropolitan Police Service

This report evaluates the quality of the child protection services in the Metropolitan Police Services (MPS). The evaluation considers the effectiveness of the MPS from initial contact with the child or young person, through to the investigation of offences committed against them. The report, which combined an audit of case files, a review of force self-assessments, and interviews, complimented staff on their dedication and commitment. However in almost three-quarters of the child protection cases audited it was judged that policing practice was either inadequate or needed improvement.

Home Office. Ending Gang and Youth Violence Programme 2012-2015: Assessment

This report examines the impact of the Ending Gang and Youth Violence (EGYV) programme in 20 participating areas across the country. The study suggests that EGYV areas demonstrated improvements in the identification of gang members and those at risk of gang involvement, and demonstrated good practice at facilitating the most appropriate interventions. The assessment did highlight that a number of EGYV areas did still need to make further progress with regards to community relations.

HMIP. Unintended consequences: Finding a way forward for prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment for public protection

This report reviews the evidence regarding the challenges of managing and progressing prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP). Although the IPP sentence was abolished in 2012, the report highlights that almost half of those sentenced to an IPP are still in custody, and the vast majority have exceeded their tariff expiry date. The report suggests that many of those still in custody had not received sufficient support to reduce their level of risk or were ready for release but delayed due to inefficiencies in the parole process. HMIP recommend that the Government should take action to ensure adequate resources and support are made available to help the IPP prisoners to reduce their risk of harm to others.

Tools and Guidance

ONS. Developing a Crime Severity Score for England and Wales using data on crimes recorded by the police

This study has developed a weighted measure of the severity of crimes recorded by the police to ensure that crime statistics reflect the harm of an offence to society and the likely demands on the police. Traditionally offences have been split into broad categories of offence, but the severity score uses sentencing information to calculate severity. The review suggests that the severity score could be particularly useful at local level for distinguishing the crime profile of an area.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

The King's Fund. *Sustainability and Transformation Plans in the NHS*

The aim of this study was to assess how Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) have been developed in different parts of the country. Using evidence from interviews with STP leaders the report suggests that the aims of STPs have shifted from improving care quality and efficiency towards helping reduce costs for the NHS. The report also highlights STP leaders' concerns that STPs had been developed before meaningful stakeholder consultation was completed. The report concludes that STPs require more co-ordinated leadership at a national level to succeed, however the principle of place-based working was still the correct one.



Local Government Association. *Transforming social care through the use of information and technology*

Faced with rising costs as well as increasingly complex customer needs, this report asks how local authorities can meet mounting pressure on social care services. The report outlines five areas where technology is already helping to transform services. These include integration of information for children, families and adults; engaging customers through digital channels; promoting independence and wellbeing through digital services; integrating commissioning; and, enabling care professionals to work from any base at any time. The report makes a number of suggestions about how best to design and implement digital solutions.

Care Quality Commission. *Monitoring the Mental Health Act in 2015/16*

This is an annual review of the use of the Mental Health Act. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has highlighted that the number of patients detained under the MHA continued to rise in 2015/16. The report suggests that good practice is not demonstrated consistently across the country. For example, in almost one third of records examined by the study there was no evidence of patient involvement in care planning. The report recommends that: providers focus on improving safeguards for patients; commissioners monitor patient views and experiences routinely; and national agencies should focus on early intervention to reduce the rates of detention.

The Health Foundation and NESTA. *What the system can do*

This report reviews the mechanisms available to national bodies to achieve their policy goals for health and social care, with a focus on how they can remove impediments to person- and community-centred approaches. It recommends that national bodies can support initiatives best by providing time and flexibility for programmes to develop, capture and share learning about good practice, and avoid the temptation to overload projects with objectives or specific activities.

ONS. *Changes in the value and division of unpaid care work in the UK: 2000 to 2015*

This report highlights changes in the nature and distribution of unpaid care between 2000 and 2015. The ONS estimate that in 2015 the value of unpaid childcare was £132.4 billion,

with 69 per cent of that value accounted for by females. By comparison the value of unpaid adult care in 2015 was £7.97 billion, with 59 per cent accounted for by females.

Briefings

Nuffield Trust, The Health Foundation, and The King's Fund. *The Autumn Statement: Joint statement on health and social care*

This joint briefing provides an updated assessment of the funding position of health and social care services, and highlights the significant challenges still to be resolved. While the report does highlight that the overall quality of service delivered by most NHS care providers is still good, it also stresses that performance has deteriorated against key indicators. The briefing also argues that planned increases to the Department of Health's budget will be inadequate to meet rising demand from patients and deliver necessary reforms to services.

Bevan Foundation. *The Future of Attendance Allowance*

It has been suggested by the UK Government that the Attendance Allowance (AA) may be devolved to Wales. It is currently claimed by over 100,000 people in Wales and costs approximately £400 million a year. This report argues that there are a number of challenges to devolving AA, including achieving an adequate funding settlement and preventing complex social care funding arrangements from emerging. Despite the Welsh Government's opposition to devolving AA, the report encourages it to consider what principles would underpin a devolved Welsh social security system in the event devolution goes ahead.



Local Government Association. *Adult social care funding: 2016 state of the nation report*

This overview of the state of social care funding in 2016 brings together a wide range of expert perspectives, including those of elected members, service providers, regulators and carers. The report finds that there is a strong consensus that adult social care is currently underfunded and that this impacts the quality of services. Several contributors highlight the belief that social care will not receive the funding it requires until the issue of social care achieves greater public attention.

Tools and Guidance

Local Government Association. *Stepping up to the place: Integration self-assessment tool*

This report builds on the LGA's *Stepping up to the Place* report, which described how a fully integrated health and care service could take shape. This report provides a structured guide for local health and care leaders to critically evaluate their aims and capabilities to deliver improved services through greater integration. The guidance emphasises the necessity of a shared vision, shared commitment and leadership and shared accountability to make integration a success.



Nuffield Trust. *Using data to identify good-quality care for older people*

This study aimed to demonstrate how more sophisticated analytical methods could be used to identify improvements in care quality. It asserts that many of the organisations responsible for improving care currently rely on anecdotal evidence when assessing their own effectiveness and struggle to differentiate between the impacts of multiple programmes running concurrently. It found that time series were useful at identifying where service improvement may have taken place, however there continued to be difficulty attributing cause and effect to specific service changes.