

February 2016

Welcome to February'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 January, 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:

- A Department for Education paper on children's social care reforms.
- Reports from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on: creating an anti-poverty childcare system; the impact of flexible hiring on living standards; preparing for later life; and links between poverty and ethnicity in Scotland.
- Resources from the Department of Health to develop social work across the mental health sector and effective ways to reduce missed hospital appointments.
- Reports from the Home Office and HM Government on gang violence.
- Guidance from Public Health England on: end of life care; the Healthy Child Programme; the Making Every Contact Count approach; and alcohol dependence.

Is domestic violence increasing?

A new analysis by a team led by Professor Sylvia Walby suggests that women are bearing the brunt of an invisible rise in violent crime. Violence against women and domestic violence have increased since 2009 which has contributed to a rise in overall levels of violent crime. Walby and her team's analysis questions the official message that violent crime has been falling since the mid-90s.



Using data collected by the Crime Survey for England and Wales, official statisticians have previously capped the number in a series of crimes that a single person can report to the survey at five, to stop outliers skewing the statistics. However, Professor Walby suggests that this approach does not take into account the experiences of “high frequency” victims, particularly victims of domestic violence, who often account for more than 5% of respondents.

In Walby and her colleagues’ recent analysis, to take account of these victims, they instead looked at all reported crimes. They also adjusted the definition of violent crime to include sexual offences such as rape, which are usually given their own category in CSEW figures.

Abandoning the cap and including sex crimes shows the fall in violent crime reached a turning point in 2009, when a rise in domestic violence and violence against women by acquaintances begins. Although violence against women by strangers remains flat, and violence against men continues to fall, the rises are so marked they fuel an overall rise in violent crime.

Our seminar on domestic abuse and violence

If you’d like 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.

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford
Head of Research



Children and young people's services

Reports

Department for Education. Children's social care reform

This report is about what the government is doing to protect vulnerable children and improve the quality of children's social care services. It outlines the government's reform programme for children's social care services in England over the next five years. Over the last six months, the cross-government taskforce on child protection has been working on a comprehensive new reform programme for children's social care, and this document outlines the vision and principles which underpin those reforms.

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

The Behavioural Insights Team. Evaluating Youth Social Action

This report provides evidence that young people who take part in social action initiatives develop skills for employment and adulthood in the process. The report argues that investment in social action in general leads to benefits for young people taking part as well as for the intended beneficiaries. The report finds that some programmes increased students' cooperation, levels of grit, levels of empathy and community involvement. The report contends that these results indicate that investment in youth social action may have lasting effects on engagement with other forms of social action.

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

Ofsted. Joint Targeted Area Inspections

This report summarises the response to the proposals for Joint Targeted Area Inspections of services to evaluate how local agencies work together to protect children. It also outlines the main learning points arising from the pilot inspection undertaken to test these proposals and the next steps the inspectorates plan to take. The report also summarises the response to proposals about whether Ofsted could use a version of the joint framework to undertake targeted inspections of local authorities.

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

NFER. Submission to Government Consultation: Intervening in Failing, Underperforming and Coasting Schools

Between October and December 2015 the Department for Education held a consultation on intervening in failing, underperforming and coasting schools. This document is NFER's response, which addresses the following issues: the principles underlying a definition of 'coasting' and circumstances where this should be applied; the approach and process related to the actions that should be taken in schools that meet the coasting definition; and additional factors that support school improvement that Regional Schools Commissioners may wish to consider in determining the course of action for schools within the coasting definition.

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



Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Creating an anti-poverty childcare system

This report focuses on the impact of high-quality early education and effective early intervention, which can act as protective factors for children against the negative effects of poverty. It also highlights how access to flexible, affordable childcare can reduce pressures on family income and help parents work, train or study. The report finds that the current UK childcare system falls short of fulfilling its potential to help reduce the effects of poverty on children. The report calls for an anti-poverty childcare system which maximises on quality and removes the barriers of affordability and access to parents on low incomes.

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

Welsh Government. National Evaluation of Flying Start - Qualitative Research with Flying Start Families: Wave 1 report

This is the first report from a three-year qualitative research project with Flying Start parents. The aim of the research is to explore experiences and perceived impacts for families throughout their engagement with the programme. Drawing on the first year of fieldwork, this report describes parents' views on their engagement, experiences and perceived impacts of the programme so far.

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

Tools and Guidance

Department of Health. National Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care

This Framework is intended to provide guidance for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) when assessing the needs of children and young people whose complex needs cannot be met by universal or specialist health services. This guidance is about the process which should be followed for the equitable discharge of the CCG responsibility for children and young people with complex needs. In particular, where a child or young person has a special educational need or disability, then CCGs and local authorities should endeavour to coordinate the assessment and agreement of the package of continuing care.

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

Public Health England. Healthy child programme 0 to 19: health visitor and school nurse commissioning

This guidance is for local authorities commissioning 'public health services for children and young people' and in particular delivering the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and 5-19. The Healthy Child Programme provides a framework to support collaborative work and more integrated delivery. It aims to bring together health, education and other main partners to deliver an effective programme for prevention and support.

[To view all documents in this release, please click here](#)



Ofsted. Whistleblowing to Ofsted about children's social care services

This policy outlines what Ofsted will do when it receives concerns about children's social care services from a whistleblower. This policy covers children's social care services because it is these services that Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has identified in legislation as a named person to receive information from whistleblowers. This policy will help to whistleblow and understand the process to follow; this will help ensure that whistleblowers receive the legal protections that are available to them.

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

Statistics

Department for Education. Absence and exclusions additional analysis for pupils with special educational needs (SEN)

This document provides a combination of analysis and links to the key data sources on children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). It covers pupil absence and school exclusions, in addition to providing links to the SEN analysis and summary of data sources and previously published SEN figures. It finds that in 2013/14 boys had higher exclusion rates than girls and that boys with behaviour, emotional and social difficulty have the highest rate of exclusions in 2013/14.

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

Department for Education. Secondary school performance tables in England: 2014-215

These secondary school performance tables show: attainment results for pupils at the end of key stage 4; key stage 2 to key stage 4 progress measures in English and mathematics; how the performance of disadvantaged pupils compares against other pupils in the school; and differences in the performance of low-attaining pupils, high-attaining pupils, pupils performing at expected levels. There are also data about school: income and expenditure; workforce; pupil characteristics; pupil absence; and Ofsted information. Moreover, the tables also report indicators for three separate cohorts: A level; academic; and vocational.

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

[To access the interactive tool, please click here](#)

Social Mobility & Child Poverty Commission. The Social Mobility Index

The Social Mobility Index compares the chances that a child from a disadvantaged background will do well at school and get a good job across each of the 324 local authority district areas of England. It examines a range of measures of the educational outcomes achieved by young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and the local job and housing markets to shed light on which are the best and worst places in England in terms of the opportunities young people from poorer backgrounds have to succeed.

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



Statistics for Wales. Counselling for Children and Young people, 2013/14 (Experimental statistics)

Local authorities in Wales are required to make reasonable provision of independent counselling services for children and young people aged between 11 and 18 and pupils in Year 6 of primary school. This report constitutes the first time data have been presented on counselling services for children and young people in Wales. Key results include: females accounted for 64% or 6,752 of the 10,537 children and young people who received counselling, compared to only 36% of males; and family issues were the most common form of presenting issue (23%) and predominant issue (25%) for children and young people who received counselling.

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

Welsh Government. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

This release contains data on the three key series of data related to young people who are NEET, by age, gender, region and local authority. The key series are: young people who are NEET; estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET; and year 11 school leavers in Wales known to be NEET. Key findings include: 3.1% of year 11 leavers were NEET in November 2014, compared with 3.7% in November 2013; and 20.7% of 19-24 year olds were NEET in 2014, compared with 21.1% in 2013.

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



Criminal Justice

Briefings

Clinks. Inside Out: The role of the voluntary and private sector in providing opportunities for rehabilitation for people on temporary release

This joint briefing by Clinks and the Prison Reform Trust is based on a survey of voluntary and private sector providers of Release On Temporary License (ROTL) placements in the community. It reveals that recent changes to the ROTL policy have had a significantly negative impact on the ability of voluntary and private organisations to provide volunteering and work experience opportunities for people on temporary release. The briefing makes a series of recommendations intended to inform the government's review of ROTL and wider plans for prison reform.

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

Reports

Home Office. Reforming the Powers of Police Staff and Volunteers

The Government consulted in September 2015 on a series of reforms to enhance the powers of designated police staff and, for the first time, enable volunteers to be designated with powers without taking on the office of Special Constable. The Government also proposed that, for the first time, a single piece of legislation should set out the core list of powers available only to those that hold the office of constable. The majority of the responses were supportive of all the proposed reforms. This document sets out the proposals consulted on and the changes that will be made to them, in light of the consultation responses received.

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

Home Office. Social Network Analysis of an Urban Street Gang Using Police Intelligence Data

This research aims to explore the use of social network analysis using police intelligence data, as a tool to more systematically understand gangs and to help direct law enforcement activities. As such, the report serves as one example of how social network analysis can be used. This study demonstrates the potential for using social network analysis in building a nuanced understanding of a local gang problem, for systematically mapping data on individuals who may be involved (including non-crime data), and for targeting police activities.

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

Home Office. Local perspective in Ending Gang and Youth Violence Areas

This study was based on the perceptions of practitioners working on gang-related issues as well as individuals who were current or ex-gang members, or associated with gangs. It investigated the extent to which there were perceived similarities or differences in the nature of street gangs in Ending Gang and Youth Violence areas and whether or not gangs were



thought to have changed in the last two years. It also explored the extent to which there were common or divergent trends in perceptions at national or local levels. It found that there were between and within-area variations in practitioners' perceptions of the extent and nature of gangs and whether they had changed.

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

HM Government. Ending gang violence and exploitation

This document sets out a refreshed approach to tackling gang related violence and exploitation, and the Government's priorities for the future. It is aimed at the Government's local partners, especially in the 52 local areas the Government has worked with on the Home Office funded Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme. This report identifies six priorities to support the refreshed approach: tackle county lines; protect vulnerable locations; reduce violence and knife crime; safeguard gang-associated women and girls; promote early intervention; and promote meaningful alternative to gangs such as education, training and employment.

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

Agenda. Hidden Hurt

Agenda, the alliance for women and girls at risk, commissioned this analysis of the experiences of women who face violence and abuse. It provides insights into the lives and life chances of women and girls who have experienced extensive violence and abuse. The report provides evidence that women who experience the most extensive abuse and violence (both as children and adults) are more likely to face other adverse circumstances in their lives such as poor mental and physical health, disability, and substance misuse, poverty, debt, poor housing, and homelessness. It presents a picture of the scale of violence and abuse these women face, the nature of their experiences, and how their life chances differ from the rest of the population.

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

Statistics

ONS. Crime in England and Wales, year ending September 2015

The Crime Survey for England and Wales shows there were an estimated 6.6 million incidents of crime covered by the survey in the year ending September 2015. This latest estimate was not significantly different compared with the previous year's. Sexual offences recorded by the police continued to rise with the latest figures up 36% on the previous year; equivalent to an additional 26,606 offences. The numbers of rapes (33,431) and other sexual offences (66,178) were at the highest level since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in the year ending March 2003. As well as improvements in recording, ONS contends that this is also thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes.

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



Ministry of Justice. Youth Justice Statistics 2014/15

This publication looks at the English and Welsh Youth Justice System (YJS) in the year ending March 2015 in terms of the number of young people in the system, their offences, outcomes and the trends over time. For the first time, the publication includes statistics on the use of force as recorded under the Minimising and Managing Physical Restraint (MMPR) System, which is used in parts of the youth secure estate. Key findings include: the overall number of young people in the YJS continued to reduce in the year ending March 2015; and the reoffending rate has increased, but there were significant falls in the number of young people in the cohort, the number of reoffenders and the number of reoffences.

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



Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

HM Government. Progress Report on *Think Autism: the updated strategy for adults with autism in England*

This report shows what has been achieved since the publication of 'Think Autism', which updated the cross-government autism strategy in April 2014. It sets 31 new actions to continue to help local areas implement the autism strategy. The report also outlines work to help people with autism live as full and independent lives as possible, including: reforms to the Special Educational Needs and Disability system; support with employment opportunities; better awareness of autism within the criminal justice system; and use of information and data by local authorities and their partners.

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

Department of Health. Social work: improving adult mental health

These documents contains resources to improve, develop and sustain social work across the mental health sector. These three documents are part of the 'Social Work for Better Mental Health' initiative. They will help to improve social work across the mental health sector and to make sure the value of social work in improving mental wellbeing is recognised. The documents include: an overview of the strategy and importance of social work in mental health services; an assessment of social work in a mental health context; and guidance about how to get and use feedback on mental health social work practice from service users, carers and family.

[To access these documents, please click here](#)

Department of Health. A zero cost way to reduce missed hospital appointments

This randomised controlled trial tested the effectiveness of the reminder message sent to outpatients. Results showed that if the message included the specific cost to the NHS of not attending, then the patient was more likely to attend or rearrange their appointment – rather than miss it.

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

Inclusion Health. Education and Training for Health Professionals

The Inclusion Health programme aims to improve the health and well-being of homeless people and other vulnerable groups. This report emphasises the need for a combination of clinical and non-clinical skills and knowledge in working with these groups, and identifies possible opportunities for strengthening education and training of health care professionals. The report reviews: the level of skills, awareness and knowledge of health professionals to support vulnerable groups; the barriers to health and care services faced by these groups; and the commitment of education providers to include Inclusion Health issues in wider training, drawing on the views and experience of health professionals.

[To view all documents in this publication, please click here](#)



Public Health England. Faith at end of life

This resource aims to help frontline professionals and providers working in community settings and commissioners maintain a holistic approach to the people in their care. It provides information to help ensure that delivery of services and practice takes account of spiritual needs and remains appropriate to the community setting in which they work. This resource also provides a number of recommendations for health and care professionals and commissioners, and signposts to a number of available resources to further inform their practice.

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

Crisis. The homelessness monitor: England 2016

The Homelessness Monitor: England 2016 is the fifth annual report of an independent study, funded by Crisis and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, of the homelessness impacts of recent economic and policy developments in England. It considers both the consequences of the post-2007 economic and housing market recession, and the subsequent recovery, and also the impact of policy changes.

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

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. How flexible hiring could improve business performance and living standards

This study investigates the number of 'quality' flexible job vacancies in the UK, and shows how living standards could improve if there were more of these jobs. The report shows that: (a) parents, older people and disabled people need to earn at least £10.63 per hour to meet basic minimum income standards – the target pay threshold for a 'quality' job; (b) 1.9 million people could benefit from a quality flexible job and have the necessary qualifications, of whom 202,300 are in poverty, and; (c) demand for flexible jobs (47% across all salary levels) is far in excess of supply (6.2% of all quality vacancies).

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

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Preparing for later life: working longer and saving more.

This research looks at how barriers to saving and working longer can be overcome and how policies could support low-income households to plan better for later life. It finds that: (a) the cost of living is one of the main barriers cited by participants as a barrier to saving; (b) most participants accepted they would need to work longer to be able to 'afford' to retire, and (c) views varied greatly according to the life stage of the individual, with younger participants prioritising family expenses such as saving for Christmas.

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

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Poverty and ethnicity: key messages for Scotland



This publication looks at the links between poverty and ethnicity with a focus on how this affects Scotland in particular. It examines policy and practice in Scotland and makes recommendations about how to tackle poverty among all ethnic groups. Overall, this report finds that poverty is higher among ethnic minority groups than within the white majority population. John Rowntree Foundation's Poverty and Ethnicity programme, a major research programme which commissioned this publication, seeks to understand why this is, and to suggest solutions.

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

Nuffield Trust. Monitoring change in health care through statistical process control methods

The family of approaches known as statistical process control (SPC) have been widely used for monitoring outcomes in industry and have gained acceptance in many health care settings. This report describes three forms of SPC: Shewhart or Runs charts; variable life-adjusted displays; and cumulative sum charts. The methods described in this research report are relatively uncommon as a means for monitoring change across health systems. The report describes a number of potential barriers in terms of access to the data, skills and a willingness to use analytical methods that are more complex than normal.

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

Ofsted. Joint Targeted Area Inspections

New joint inspections of health, social care and criminal justice services for vulnerable children and young people will launch in February 2016. Under the new system Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) will jointly assess how local authorities, the police, health, probation and youth offending services are working together to identify, support and protect vulnerable children and young people. Inspectors will assess the multi-agency response to all forms of child abuse and neglect at the point of identification or referral, as well as rating the quality and impact of assessments and decisions resulting from referrals.

[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: Interim findings summary

This 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 research will provide recommendations on further research requirements and on how the Welsh Government could improve the quality of domiciliary care through policy that has a positive influence on individuals to become and remain working as domiciliary care workers.

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



Welsh Government. Research to support the Duty to Review the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010

This project will provide qualitative evidence of the views of service users, their carers and practitioners of the implementation of all four parts of the Measure. Five reports present the findings from the qualitative research undertaken. The Summary Report presents the key findings for all parts of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure with separate reports providing the detailed findings and feedback for each part of the Measure.

[To access all reports, please click here](#)

Tools and Guidance

Department for Work & Pensions. See Potential: case studies and guidance for employers

See Potential is a campaign that helps employers realise the business benefits of recruiting people who are either: long-term unemployed; ex-offenders; rehabilitating drug or alcohol addicts; care leavers; homeless; or at risk of homelessness. This campaign contains guidance to employers to support See Potential and get help.

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

Public Health England. Making Every Contact Count (MECC): practical resources

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is an approach to behaviour change that utilises day to day interactions that organisations and individuals have with other people to support them in making positive changes to their physical and mental health and wellbeing. These practical resources will support people and organisations when considering reviewing MECC activity and aid local implementation. They were developed by Public Health England, Health Education England and the national MECC advisory group.

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

Public Health England. Health matters: harmful drinking and alcohol dependence

This resource provides information on the harmful impact of alcohol dependency. It supports the commissioning and delivery of evidence based treatment interventions to address harmful drinking and alcohol dependence in adults. The guidance is for: local authorities; NHS services; the voluntary sector; and public health policymakers.

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

Statistics

ONS. Seven-day services – England, Provisional, July 2014 – June 2015. Experimental statistics



The experimental statistics presented in this report are being published to provide a starting point for discussions on how improvement and variation in care provision across the week can be effectively measured. Statistics about emergency readmissions by day of discharge and length of stay in hospital for emergency admissions by day of admission are included in this publication. Key findings include: the overall rate of emergency readmissions within seven days of discharge from hospital on a weekend was 4.4%, 1.1% higher than the corresponding rate for discharges during the rest of the week; and there is a small amount of variation nationally in the distribution of length of stay by day of admission.

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

HSCIC. Focus on dementia

This publication takes information from a variety of sources to provide a compendium of statistics about dementia in England. It provides both new analysis and previously published statistics. New analysis includes linked mental health and mortality data, and longitudinally linked hospital data. The publication looks at five aspects of dementia care broadly aligned to national strategic aims: preventing well; diagnosing well; supporting well; living well; and mortality.

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

Welsh Government. Health statistics Wales

This statistical release presents data on topics such as preventive medicine, family health services, waiting times, NHS bed use, patient numbers, patient transport, finance and private care.

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