



CordisPulse

January 2021

Welcome to January'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. adult social care and health, children and young people's services, and criminal justice.

The start of a new year brings new challenges, more so for this year than many others. We want to wish you a safe and hopeful start to 2021, and hope you are keeping well in this new lockdown period.

Homelessness featured strongly as a research theme in this month's Pulse, with a number of new reports looking into the impact of Covid-19 in this context. Shelter's [research](#) into those who spent the first period of lockdown in temporary accommodation describes the significant and long-lasting ill effects on people's mental wellbeing and feelings of safety. The Health Foundation published a [long read](#) emphasising the links between housing and wellbeing and exploring the impact of inequalities. The LGA published a [report](#) urging us to reconsider homelessness prevention, moving beyond reactive responses to need to a true focus on prevention.

Those facing multiple disadvantage are at greater risk of being unable to access support and housing, and their mental health and wellbeing are likely to be disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This month saw the publication of our mid-year year 4 [report](#) from our national evaluation of the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Approach, a framework to help local areas deliver better coordinated services for people facing multiple disadvantage. Our evaluation findings from year 3 indicated that accommodation was an area of substantial improvement for clients in MEAM areas, but progress related to mental health remained challenging. Our year 4 evaluation approach therefore has a focus on the role of statutory mental health services for those experiencing multiple disadvantage. We value the chance to investigate this area further as we proceed with our evaluation, and look forward to publishing the results of the evaluation in summer 2021.



If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this month's Pulse, please do contact us on 020 7330 9170 or email stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk.

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.

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Cordis Bright News

MEAM Approach evaluation Year 4 mid-year report

In December, we published the year 4 mid-year report for the longitudinal evaluation of the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Approach. The report provides a brief overview of the MEAM Approach network to date and sets out the research planned for year 4. The report does not present findings from the evaluation research. These will be included in the year 4 end-of-year report, due to be published in Summer 2021.

The report is available on our [website](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Shelter. Homeless and Forgotten: Surviving lockdown in temporary accommodation

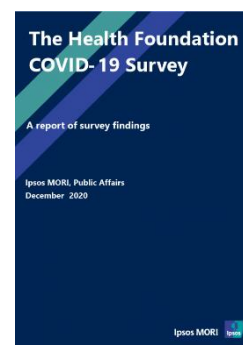
This report investigates the experiences of the quarter of a million people who were homeless and living in temporary accommodation during the first stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The research sets out new findings on the number of people who were living in temporary accommodation during the first stages of the pandemic in 2020. It investigates the experiences of over 20 households who were living in temporary accommodation and looks at the impact of lockdown. Finally, the report sets out the changes required to ensure that when life gets back to normal, everyone has the right to a safe home.

The Health Foundation. Public perceptions of health and social care in light of Covid-19

This report presents the findings of a survey commissioned by the Health Foundation and conducted by Ipsos MORI between 13 and 24 November 2020. This was a follow up survey to two previous rounds of polling: the first carried out in May 2020 and the second in July 2020.

The survey highlights the public's strong support for the £20 a week increase in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit for families during the pandemic (74%), with only one in ten opposing it (9%). The majority of the public support making the increase permanent (59%), with one in five opposing this (20%).



The Health Foundation. Better housing is crucial for our health and the Covid-19 recovery

This long read sets out the links between housing and health, both mental and physical, and explores the inequalities in housing across different groups and types of tenures. It then considers the impact of Covid-19 on housing so far, future risks and possible ways forward.

The Health Foundation. Build Back Fairer: The Covid-19 Marmot Review

This report has been produced by the UCL Institute of Health Equity and commissioned by the Health Foundation as part of its [Covid-19 impact inquiry](#) to investigate how the pandemic has affected health inequalities in England.

The report highlights that:

- Inequalities in social and economic conditions before the pandemic contributed to the high and unequal death toll from Covid-19



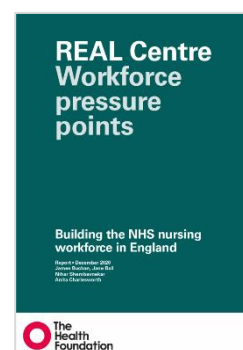
- The nation's health should be the highest priority for government as we rebuild from the pandemic
- The economy and health are strongly linked – managing the pandemic well allows the economy to flourish in the longer term, which is supportive of health
- Reducing health inequalities, including those exacerbated by the pandemic, requires long-term policies with equity at the heart
- To build back fairer from the pandemic, multi-sector action from all levels of government is needed
- Investment in public health needs to be increased to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on health and health inequalities, and on the social determinants of health.

The Health Foundation. Building the NHS nursing workforce in England

The current shortfall of nurses represents a major long-term and growing problem for the NHS. The impact of Covid-19 has brought the urgent need to deal with the identified critical nursing workforce shortages into sharp focus.

The central aim of this report is to examine the supply of nurses to the NHS in England. It covers:

- The scale and nature of the shortfall in nurses
- The sources of nurse supply
- Recent trends and how these compare with the government's pledge for 50,000 extra nurses by the end of the parliament.



The Kings Fund. The next steps towards integrated care

In November 2020, NHS England and NHS Improvement published *Integrating care: next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England*. The publication sets out the next steps towards integrated care, continuing a journey the NHS has been on for many years and most recently articulated in the NHS Long Term Plan. In light of this updated model for the health and care system, it then sets out options for legislative change.

In both cases, NHS England and NHS Improvement looks to build on progress already made by the NHS and its partners in working together to integrate services in the response to Covid-19.

This explainer describes this model, considers cross-cutting themes within it and describes the associated proposals for legislative change. It concludes by identifying some of the remaining questions that will determine how this proposed package will work. The Kings Fund's initial assessment of these changes is set out in an accompanying blog.

Department of Health and Social Care. Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2020: Health trends and variation in England

Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty's first annual report presents an overview of the health of England's population. It highlights the importance of health surveillance in monitoring trends and prioritises areas for action.

After a brief section on the coronavirus pandemic in England, the main report consists of a collection of charts that present a broad and high-level overview of the nation's health across a range of health outcomes and public health indicators. A key theme is the variation in health that exists across different dimensions: over geographies, over time, and between groups of people.

The main report is divided into six chapters:

- Life expectancy and population change
- Mortality and morbidity
- Children and young people
- Wider determinants of health
- Risk factors and health promotion
- Preventative care and healthcare

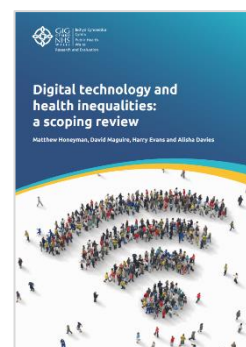
ONS. A "new normal"? How people spent their time after the March 2020 coronavirus lockdown

During the first national coronavirus (Covid-19) lockdown, many people in Great Britain were forced to make changes to their lifestyles. This analysis by the ONS compares data about how people spent their time during the lockdown in March to April 2020, in September to October 2020, and in comparable data from previous years before the pandemic, to capture changes (if any) to people's behaviour.

Public Health Wales. Digital technology and health inequalities: a scoping review

This report published jointly by Public Health Wales and the King's Fund explores how a lack of access, skills and motivation for using digital technologies could contribute to inequalities in health and other outcomes, and explores approaches to reduce widening differences between groups.

The report found no evidence that conclusively establishes that digital exclusion is leading to worsening health inequalities. Although providers are strongly encouraged to design services with users, and take account of how local communities access, use and engage with healthcare. The recommendations include the need for greater user participation in the design of digital health services, and the expansion of research to help build understanding of the issue.



JRF. Destitution in the UK 2020

This is the third study in the Destitution in the UK series. It reveals that even before the Covid-19 outbreak, destitution was rapidly growing in scale and intensity. Since 2017 many more households, including families with children, have been pushed to the brink.



This report examines the scale and nature of destitution in the UK, updating similar studies undertaken in 2015 and 2017. It is based on in-depth case studies on destitution in 18 locations, including a user survey of 113 crisis services and in-depth interviews with 70 destitute respondents. The user survey was conducted in autumn 2019 and captured the scale of destitution in the UK before the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020. Qualitative interviews, undertaken in spring 2020, give in-depth exploration of the experiences of destitute households during the UK lockdown that started in March 2020.

LGA. Re-thinking homelessness prevention

This research commissioned by the LGA sought to understand what central government can do to help councils to effectively prevent homelessness. It found that prevention activity in England is unevenly focused with crisis, targeted, and emergency prevention receiving the most focus at the local level, and universal and recovery prevention the least.

The research also found that councils see central government as fundamentally shaping the landscape and context in which councils are able to engage in homelessness prevention activity, with government policy and funding decisions acting as key drivers for whether councils are able to engage in upstream forms of homelessness prevention.

The report emphasises that the way we talk about homelessness prevention needs to change, recognising the vital importance of upstream cross-service prevention work in local homelessness systems, and the role of councils, their partners and central government policy in delivering this work.

LGA. A glass half-full: 10 years on review

Ten years ago, *A glass half-full* was published by the Local Government Association (LGA), which advocated for an asset-based approach that sees citizens and communities as co-producers of health and wellbeing and empowers them to control their futures. It became one of the most requested and downloaded reports ever produced by the LGA.

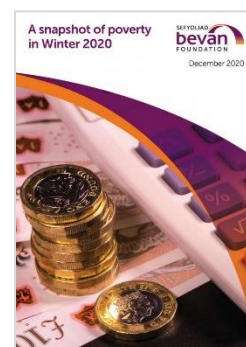
This review considers what has happened in the ten years since *A glass half full* was published, and considers successes and challenges, future developments, and whether the values, principles and themes of asset approaches are still relevant today.

LGA. Covid-19 Adult safeguarding insight project: findings and discussion

The Insight Project was developed to create a national picture regarding safeguarding adults' activity during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was considered important to understand what happened, to learn lessons for future Covid-19 outbreaks, and respond to changing safeguarding needs. This report presents the project findings, and aims to improve understanding of the impact of Covid-19 locally and nationally to help inform preparations and future planning.

Bevan Foundation. A snapshot of poverty in Winter 2020

This report presents data gathered by YouGov through a national online survey in early December 2020, and demonstrates how the economic impact of the pandemic has affected people across Welsh society.



Department of Health and Social Care. Mend the Gap: Independent Review into Gender Pay Gaps in Medicine in England

The Independent Review into Gender Pay Gaps in Medicine in England was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care in 2017. It is the largest review of its kind ever completed in the public sector.

This report presents the findings from the review, looking at the structural and cultural barriers affecting the female medical workforce, and makes recommendations to minimise pay gaps in medicine.

Briefings

Shelter. Homelessness and temporary accommodation

This briefing by Shelter provides information about homelessness and temporary accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic, and calls on the government to lift families out of homelessness. It makes the following recommendations:

- Strengthen the welfare safety net by removing the benefit cap, reversing the freeze to Local Housing Allowance (LHA), and ensuring the rates align with at least the 30th percentile of market rents going forward.
- Bring forward urgent legislation to give private renters more security and ending Section 21 “no fault” evictions, which remains one of the leading causes of homelessness.
- Invest in a new generation of social housing, to provide families with stable, permanent and affordable homes

JRF. The financial impact of Covid-19 on disabled people and their carers

This briefing by the JRF (Joseph Rowntree Foundation) argues that the November 2020 Spending Review was a missed opportunity for the Government to take bold action on the threat of increasing poverty, particularly by staying silent on whether the temporary £20 uplift to Universal Credit would be removed in April.

It recommends that the government keep the £20 uplift in Universal Credit and give the same uplift to people on legacy benefits (Employment and Support Allowance, Jobseeker’s Allowance and Income Support), most of whom are disabled, sick or carers. The briefing explains:

- How disabled people's financial circumstances have become even more precarious during the Covid-19 pandemic
- The rising costs disabled people face
- The reduction in their incomes and the heightened challenges they face in the labour market, and
- The impact that extending the lifeline would have for people on legacy benefits.

Department of Health and Social Care. The Department of Health and Social Care mandate to Health Education England: April 2020 to March 2021

The government's mandate to Health Education England (HEE) is a requirement of the Care Act 2014. The mandate sets out the strategic objectives of the government in the following areas, for which HEE has responsibility:

- Workforce planning
- Education
- Training

This is an interim mandate for 2020 to 2021, which will be updated later in the year once the UK emerges from the Covid-19 crisis. Over the next few months, the first objective on supporting the government to manage Covid-19 will be the main focus. Expectations on the amount of progress to be made in delivering the other objectives during 2020 to 2021 will be adjusted if necessary to take account of this.

Tools and Guidance

LGA. Localising decision making: a guide to support effective working across neighbourhood, place and system

This guide was produced by the LGA and NHS Clinical Commissioners (NHSCC) to provide key prompts and actions for local leaders to promote strong localised decision making across health and local government.

LGA. Loneliness, social isolation and Covid-19

The Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) have jointly produced this practical advice for Directors of Public Health and others leading the local response to the loneliness and social isolation issues arising from the Covid-19 outbreak. It follows on from the LGA's guidance about the public mental health impacts across the life course.

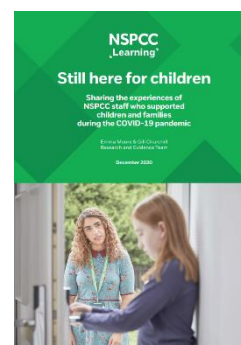


Children and young people's services

Reports

NSPCC. Still here for children: Sharing the experiences of NSPCC staff who supported children and families during the Covid-19 pandemic

During the coronavirus pandemic NSPCC staff and volunteers have continued to support children and families through Childline and helpline services, family support services, and community work. The NSPCC asked fifteen NSPCC staff working in a variety of frontline and strategic roles in their [Together for Childhood](#) sites in Glasgow, Plymouth and Stoke-on-Trent to make a series of reflective diary entries between April and July 2020. In the diaries, staff documented their experiences of supporting children and families during lockdown.



This report provides analysis of their diary entries to identify how NSPCC staff had adapted their ways of working to enable them to continue to support children and families, what they had learnt about the needs of children and families, and how they felt about these new ways of working.

HMIP, HMICFRS, Ofsted, CQC. 'Feeling heard': partner agencies working together to make a difference for children with mental ill health

This report summarises findings from joint targeted area inspections (JTAs), of how multi-agency partnerships identify and respond to children with mental ill health. These inspections took place between September 2019 and February 2020.

It reviews the practices of individual agencies as well as the effectiveness of multi-agency working arrangements, including children's social care, health services, youth offending services, schools and the police. The findings in this report consider the extent to which agencies work collaboratively with partners to identify children experiencing mental ill health, as well as how they intervened early to support these children and get them the help that they need when problems arise. The report shows that when partners work together effectively to understand children's needs and identify and support children living with mental ill health, this improves children's access to support with their mental health.

Home Office. Group based child sexual exploitation characteristics of offending

This policy paper sets out the available evidence on the characteristics of group-based child sexual exploitation. This includes the characteristics of offenders and their networks, how they operate, the context in which these crimes are committed and implications of these findings for local partners and for policy.

It draws on a literature review which examines group-based child sexual exploitation in the community, academic research, official statistics and grey literature. It aims to assess the quality of the evidence and highlight challenges and evidence gaps in this area.

Ofsted. Children's social care questionnaires 2020: what children and young people told Ofsted

This report presents survey findings from the social care questionnaires 2020, which investigate children and young people's experiences of living in children's homes, in boarding schools and with foster carers and adopters.

Department for Education. Evaluation of the early years local government programme

This evaluation report considers the evidence regarding the effectiveness of the early years local government programme in tackling gaps in early language and literacy skills. The evaluation was conducted by Ecorys from May 2019 to March 2020. The programme had two strands:

- Early years social mobility peer review programme
- Early outcomes fund

Both strands aimed to improve disadvantaged young children's outcomes, particularly focussing on early language and communication.

NFER. How prepared were primary teachers and pupils in England for the shift to online learning? Insights from TIMSS 2019

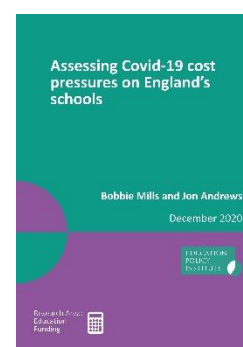
In this report, NFER use data from the 2019 Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), collected before the onset of the pandemic to illustrate global differences in digital familiarity in the classroom and teacher professional development in technology. The influence these factors have on pupil performance in maths or science in normal times is not straightforward. However, they provide an indication of how well countries were positioned to engage with a rapid and unexpected shift to remote learning due to Covid-19.

NFER. The implications of Covid-19 on the school funding landscape

The funding challenges faced by schools were revealed in the NFER surveys of schools' responses to Covid-19 in May and July, which identified that a top priority for senior leaders was for the Government to provide more funding in order to manage the impact of Covid-19. Building on this research, this new report investigates the impact of the pandemic on the funding landscape in mainstream primary and secondary schools in England.

EPI. Assessing Covid-19 cost pressures on England's schools

This report summarises the results of an online survey completed by over 700 primary, secondary and special schools looking into the financial implications for schools of the Covid-19 pandemic. It finds that less than a third (31%) of the additional costs facing schools as a result of the pandemic are covered by the government's support fund.

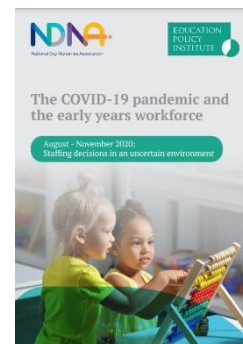


Significantly, these findings indicate that the pressure of this additional expenditure will be felt most in schools with high levels of disadvantage, and that these financial pressures are likely to have long-term consequences for schools.

EPI. The Covid-19 pandemic and the early years workforce: Staffing decisions in an uncertain environment

New research finds that low attendance rates and a fall in families taking up government-funded early years education could lead to a shortfall in qualified staff in settings after the winter period.

The report, published by the Education Policy Institute (EPI) and National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA), shows that the demand for places in settings such as nurseries and pre-schools has still not returned to pre-pandemic levels. This lack of demand continues to cause financial instability for the early years sector, resulting in staff being made redundant, having their pay reduced, or voluntarily leaving settings.



EPI. School attendance and lost schooling across England since full reopening

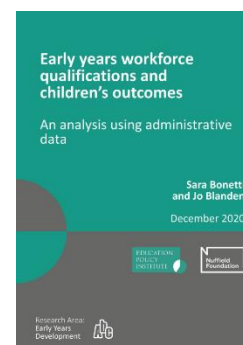
In December, the Department for Education published new data on school attendance across local authorities in England – the first time such data has been published by the UK government since October. EPI (Education Policy Institute) published an analysis paper on this data, as well as data from the Office of the Children’s Commissioner on the number of days of schooling lost by pupils.

The analysis considers how attendance rates and days of lost schooling vary across the country, and how they correlate with levels of disadvantage and prior GCSE results. The paper concludes by considering the implications for pupils’ learning, as well as government policy that seeks to mitigate learning loss

EPI. Early years workforce qualifications and children’s outcomes

This research, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, finds that the presence of a graduate in private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early years settings demonstrates a small but positive association with young children’s educational attainment.

The report also finds that the association between a child attending early years settings with a graduate and improved outcomes is twice as strong for those children who spend more hours in settings. It argues that this strengthens the case for an extension of the government’s 30 hours free childcare offer, so that it is open to all families.



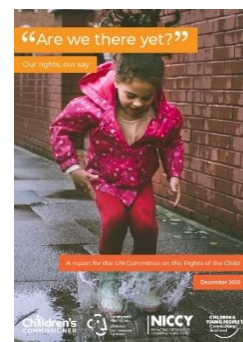
EPI. A systematic review of early years degrees and employment pathways

While degree-qualified staff have been identified as contributing to the quality of early years education, little is known about the content or structure of degrees, or if graduates go on to work in early years education. The report examines the full range of early years degrees in England along with the employment trajectories of early years graduates.

Children's Commissioner. Are we there yet? Our rights, our say

This report is based on engagement with children and young people by Participation staff in four UK Children's Commissioners offices (England, Northern Ireland (NI), Scotland & Wales). It aims to provide the Committee with children and young people's voices about their experiences on the delivery of their rights on a day to day basis.

Its key objective is to influence the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child list of issues prior to the UK's report (LOIPR). The four Commissioners will deliver a separate but supporting report, assessing how the UK Government and devolved administrations have progressed towards giving every child the opportunities and protections enshrined in the UNCRC.



Children's Commissioner. Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

This report from the Children's Commissioners of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) informs the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's development of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting related to the UK's Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The report identifies emerging trends and key issues, some of which draw on previous concluding observations while others reflect worrying trends caused by the UK's departure from the European Union (Brexit) and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children's Commissioner. Access denied: How end-to-end encryption threatens children's safety online

This report aims to understand which apps and sites children and teens are using to communicate, and to find out more about what they are sharing on these platforms. In March 2020, the Children's Commissioner polled 2,003 children aged 8-17 on their use of messaging platforms, in an effort to understand the risks that these services may pose to both children and teenagers. This report sets out the findings.

Briefings

Children's Commissioner. School attendance since September

This report considers the impact of reopening schools in September, after they were closed in March 2020 for nearly all pupils in England. The report finds the reopening of schools to have been highly successful and that, given the increasing prevalence of Covid-19 in the community, schools have done a remarkable job in limiting transmission. It highlights the importance of keeping schools open, and not sacrificing children's learning and wellbeing in order to prioritise other sectors of society.





NSPCC. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on child welfare: schools

The NSPCC use insight from Childline counselling sessions to highlight the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people. This briefing focuses on what children are telling Childline about school. Key themes include:

- Learning during lockdown
- Attending school during lockdown
- Transitioning back to school
- Covid-secure measures in school
- Being sent home to self-isolate
- Bullying
- Support and safety.

NSPCC. Learning from adapting the Baby Steps programme in response to Covid-19

The UK lockdown in March 2020 and other Covid-19 related restrictions prevented many families from accessing the support they needed. During this period, NSPCC implementation managers supported external organisations that were already delivering their [scaled up Baby Steps programme](#) to adapt it for virtual delivery.

The NSPCC Development and Impact team carried out an insights project to capture the learning from the process of adapting Baby Steps, to help inform their ongoing service development.

Tools and Guidance

Home Office. Interim Code of Practice on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

This policy paper from the Home Office provides guidance for companies to help them understand how to mitigate the risks from online terrorist content and activity and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Clinks. The impact of Covid-19 on the voluntary sector in criminal justice

During the pandemic, Clinks has been collecting information about how voluntary organisations working in the criminal justice system in England and Wales have been faring. This report explores how the pandemic has impacted four key areas:

- The services being delivered
- People in the criminal justice system
- Staff and volunteers
- Funding and financial sustainability.

It looks at the way organisations were impacted in the first few months of lockdown, how this has changed as the situation has progressed, how organisations continue to fare and how the impact on them has changed. It also explores how to build a post-pandemic future with a fairer criminal justice system that utilises the expertise of the voluntary sector and treats them as an equal partner.



Prison Reform Trust. No life, no freedom, no future: The experiences of prisoners recalled under the sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection

This research by the Prison Reform Trust explores the experiences of people who, while serving sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPPs), were recalled to prison for breach of their licence conditions – a population which has nearly tripled in the past five years.

The report found that IPP prisoners' life chances and mental health were fundamentally damaged by the sentence. Arrangements for their support in the community after release did not match the depth of the challenge they faced in rebuilding their lives outside prison. Risk management plans drawn up before release often turned out to be unrealistic or inadequately supported after release, leading to recall sometimes within a few weeks of leaving prison, and for some people on multiple occasions. The process of recall also generated strong perceptions of unfairness.

Prison Reform Trust. Who cares? Exploring distress in prison from the perspective of people in prison

This report explores distress in prison from the perspective of those who live there, drawing from a range of secondary sources including documentaries and podcasts, mainstream and prison-specific newspaper articles, Twitter and lived experience blogs, and academic and grey literature.



The report focuses on how aspects of the prison environment can interact with well-known self-harm and suicide risk factors to either reduce or increase risk further.

HMICFRS. Safe to share? Report on Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' super-complaint on policing and immigration status

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), the College of Policing (CoP) and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) published this report in response to the super-complaint submitted by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters about the practice of the police sharing of victims' information with the Home Office, and the treatment of victims of crime and witnesses with insecure immigration status.



A joint investigation found that the current system was causing significant harm to the public interest. As a result, these bodies have made recommendations for the police, the Home Office, the National Police Chiefs' Council, and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure victims of crime are always treated as victims first and foremost, regardless of their immigration status. The report also includes actions for HMICFRS and the College of Policing regarding their own work.

HMICFRS. An inspection of the service provided to victims of crime by Greater Manchester Police

This inspection was carried out to establish the extent to which Greater Manchester Police provides a good service to victims of crime, after concerns were raised in 2016, 2018 and 2019. This report sets out the findings from the inspection, which was completed during September and October 2020.

HMICFRS. 'Feeling heard': Partner agencies working together to make a difference for children with mental ill health

This report draws together findings from six joint targeted area inspections which took place between September 2019 and February 2020, focusing on the multi-agency response to children's mental ill health. The findings in this report considers how local partnerships and services were responding to children and their families when children were living with mental ill health.

The report also looks at how they intervened early to support these children and get them the help that they need when problems arise. The report shows that when partners work together effectively to understand children's needs and identify and support children living with mental ill health, this improves children's access to support with their mental health.

HMICFRS. Pre-charge bail and released under investigation: Striking a balance

This report sets out findings from a joint thematic inspection conducted between October 2019 and February 2020 by HMICFRS and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Inspectorate.

Police powers to release suspects on bail changed with the enactment of the Policing and Crime Act 2017. Before then, there was no limit to the amount of time bail could apply. But in April 2017, the new legislation significantly changed how bail could be used.

The inspection looked at the police and CPS responses to pre-charge bail changes and the use of released under investigation (RUI), i.e. the presumption that the police will release suspects, unless bail can be justified, without obligation to return to police custody. The report makes a series of recommendations aimed at improving police and CPS practice and making victims and communities safer.

HMICFRS. Research into victim and suspect experiences of changes to the Policing and Crime Act 2017

Alongside the inspection of responses to pre-charge bail changes (see previous report), HMICFRS commissioned BritainThinks to conduct research exploring victim and suspect experiences of changes to the way police use pre-charge bail.

The research supported the HMICFRS inspection, and explores:

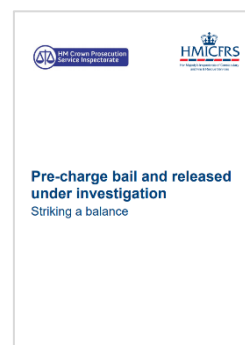
- Knowledge and awareness of the application of pre-charge bail or release under investigation (RUI); and
- The perceived impact of changes to the use of pre-charge bail in the PCA 2017 on victims and suspects.

This research also provides wider insights into victims' experiences of the police and the criminal justice system.

HM Government. Neighbourhood Crime Integrated Offender Management Strategy: A unified approach to offender supervision in the community

In response to a joint report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office have refreshed the strategy for Integrated Offender Management (IOM).

The strategy focuses IOM on reducing neighbourhood crime, including burglary, robbery, theft from the person and vehicle theft.





Briefings

ICPR. Participation in Courts and Tribunals: Concepts, Realities and Aspirations

This briefing presents the findings of a cross-jurisdictional study addressing the questions of what it means to participate in judicial proceedings, why participation matters, and what factors impede and support participation. The study combined a review of national and international policy with empirical research in the form of interviews with justice practitioners and observations of court and tribunal hearings. It examined the meanings and functions of participation in a wide range of contexts: as applied, for example, to defendants in the criminal courts, parties in family proceedings, respondents and claimants in the Employment Tribunal, appellants in immigration and asylum hearings, and witnesses in all such settings.

Home Office. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy 2021-2024: call for evidence

The Home Office is holding a call for evidence to inform the VAWG strategy. Its purpose is to engage with and listen to those with lived experience of or views on violence against women and girls, those with expertise in working with victims / survivors, those involved in preventative activity, in providing services and, more generally, the communities and organisations affected by these crimes. This includes relevant professionals, such as those working in social care, education, law enforcement, local government, public health and healthcare.

The consultation began on 10 December 2020 and ends on 19 February 2021.