

## January 2016

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

During December, 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:

- The NSPCC's Annual Review of ChildLine
- A Department for Education review of Special Guardianship Orders
- Reports from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on: monitoring poverty and social exclusion, and dementia friendly communities
- A report by the Prison Reform Trust on improving the sentencing process and outcomes for women with dependent children
- A new tool by the Office for National Statistics to measure children's mental-ill health as part of the assessment of their wellbeing
- Guidance on shared planning by NHS England
- Home Office briefings on serious organised crime and crime and policing

### **A focus on Domestic Abuse**

In December, the government announced a package of measures designed to protect victims of stalking, domestic abuse and violence.



The Home Office set out proposals on a new stalking protection order which aims to deter perpetrators before they become fixated with their victim, and to prevent them from moving on to further victims.

A new domestic abuse offence which is intended to protect victims of coercive or controlling behaviour came into force in December 2015 alongside statutory guidance for professionals on controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship. The aim of the offence is to enable victims who experience coercive and controlling behaviour that stops short of serious physical violence, but amounts to extreme psychological and emotional abuse, to bring their perpetrators to justice.

In addition, the government is in the process of developing a new phase of the campaign dealing with abuse within teenage relationships. The 'This is Abuse' campaign, aims to encourage teenagers to rethink their views of violence, controlling behaviour and what consent means within their relationships, in an attempt to change attitudes which can underpin violence against women and girls.

### **Our seminar on domestic abuse and violence**

If you'd like to consider signing 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](mailto: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. Bullying: Evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England 2, Wave 2**

This longitudinal research was designed to examine trends in bullying by analysing interviews with 11,166 young people in school year 10 in 2014, compared to their responses from the previous year when they were in year 9, and with those of an earlier cohort of young people who were in year 10 in 2005. The report highlights bullying as an important issue for schools, both because most types of bullying take place at least partly within school and because there is a link between truancy and bullying. Schools and educational policy therefore have a key role to play in tackling and preventing all forms of bullying.

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

#### **Emergency Medicine Journal. A Profile of Suspected Child Abuse as a Subgroup of Major Trauma Patients**

Researchers from the University of Leicester, the University of Sheffield and hospitals in Leicester and Sheffield analysed returns submitted to the Trauma Audit Research Network (TARN) between 2004 and 2013. TARN is a database which collects information on patients treated for injuries that warrant hospital treatment for at least three days. Non-Accidental Injury (NAI) in children is an important cause of major injury. TARN recently analysed data on the demographics of paediatric trauma and highlighted NAI as a major cause of death and severe injury in children.

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

#### **NSPCC. "Always there when I need you": ChildLine annual review 2014-15**

This report reveals that ChildLine provided almost 300,000 counselling sessions to children and young people in 2014-15, at all times of day and night by phone, email and 1-2-1 online chat. The annual review looks at what children talk about when they contact ChildLine and it includes a breakdown of statistics by age, gender and for each UK nation. It focuses on some of the biggest and emerging issues of the last year: mental health, sexual abuse and partner abuse.

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

#### **Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion 2015: Our annual report revealing the definitive picture of poverty in the UK**

This report is a regular, independent assessment of progress in tackling poverty and other types of disadvantage across the United Kingdom. The report, written by the New Policy Institute, uses official data from a range of sources to look at trends and



patterns, allowing us to get a better understanding of the contemporary nature of poverty and exclusion.

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

### **Department for Education. Special guardianship review: report on findings. Government consultation response**

Ten years on from the introduction of Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs), the Government has undertaken a review to consider whether the use of SGOs is improving children's lives and their chances of good outcomes in life. The aim of the review is to protect and enhance special guardianships where they provide the right permanent solution for children and young people, and to identify and remove problems and poor practice in the system. The government is to amend regulations and statutory guidance for local authority court reports on special guardianship orders after a review identified major problems with the assessment process. The report highlights that the Department for Education will strengthen SGO assessments in England to ensure that they are "more robust and consistent for all children", and that they are "based on the fundamental principle that the person being assessed is capable of caring for the child for the whole of that child's life to adulthood".

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

### **British Journal of Social Work. Connecting Events in Time to Identify a Hidden Population: Birth Mothers and Their Children in Recurrent Care Proceedings in England**

This article reports the findings from a population profiling study that provides the first picture of the scale of women's repeat involvement in public law proceedings in England. Based on national records from the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) two subsets of mother, child and legal proceedings data were created. The aims of the study were to: (i) produce a descriptive profile of recurrent cases, (ii) estimate the probability and timing of recurrence and (iii) examine the relationship between maternal age and recurrence. Findings indicate that the family justice system recycles a sizeable percentage of women (24 per cent) through repeat episodes of care proceedings, with young women aged sixteen to nineteen years most at risk of recurrence. Implications for social workers and the family courts are outlined with reference to new innovations in England.

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

## **Tools and Guidance**

### **Office for National Statistics. Insights into children's mental health and well-being**

The Office for National Statistics has introduced a measurement of mental ill-health into its most recent annual examination of children's wellbeing. The new measure uses the total difficulties score from the child self-completion aspect of the Strengths



and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) from the UK Household Longitudinal Survey (Understanding Society).

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

## **Statistics**

### **Ofsted. Fostering in England 2014-15**

This statistical release from Ofsted reveals the numbers and profile of foster carers and foster places and placements, in both local authority (LA) and independent fostering agencies (IFA) along with data relating to types of foster care, registrations, de-registrations and a range of other subjects between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. A key finding from the report is that the number of times children were recorded as going missing from foster care rose by almost a third compared to the previous year.

[To view these statistics, please click here](#)



## **Criminal Justice**

### **Briefings**

#### **Home Office. Serious and organised crime local partnerships bulletin. December 2015**

This is the second edition of the quarterly serious and organised crime (SOC) local partnerships bulletin for December 2015.

The December 2015 edition includes: (a) the work of the government agency intelligence network; (b) practical tools to disrupt and reduce a community's vulnerability to SOC; (c) case studies of successful local approaches in Durham and Sussex; (d) planned guidance to improve the response to intimidation connected to SOC; and (e) a survey on this bulletin.

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

#### **Home Office. Crime and policing news update: December 2015**

December's update on the latest news and information on police and crime issues includes: (a) new measures to protect victims of stalking, domestic abuse and violence; (b) proposals to change the way non-serious complaints against police and crime commissioners are managed; (c) consultation on the governance of the Independent Police Complaints Commission; (d) announcement of provisional police settlement 2016 to 2017; (e) review of local targets in policing; (f) report of body-worn video trial; (g) new agreement between police and the NHS to improve mental health crisis care; (h) new allocation guidance issued by the sentencing council; and (i) surveillance Camera Commissioner annual report.

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

### **Reports**

#### **Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. Supporting young people with neurodevelopmental impairment**

This report discusses the over-representation of young people with clinical disorders in the youth justice system. Drawing on a range of research, it explores the factors contributing to the criminalisation of young people with neurodevelopmental impairments. Prisons, in particular, are found to be inappropriate institutions to work with clinical issues of this nature: they offer a punishment response to a health issue. The key recommendation of the report is that preventive practice in educational and family settings should be prioritised to prevent youth justice interventions.

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



### **Prison Reform Trust. Deep Custody: Segregation Units and Close Supervision Centres in England and Wales**

This report found that people held in segregation in prisons experience impoverished regimes with poor levels of purposeful activity, with more than half suffering from three or more mental health problems. The report finds that segregation units and close supervision centres (CSCs) entail social isolation, inactivity, and increased control of prisoners—a combination proven to harm mental health and wellbeing.

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

### **Prison Reform Trust. Sentencing of mothers: Improving the sentencing process and outcomes for women with dependent children**

The aim of the discussion paper is to promote a constructive dialogue about sentencing principles and options with the judiciary, the Judicial College, the Sentencing Council, government, policy makers and others. The report found that over 9,000 women were received into prison last year, most of them for non-violent offences, many of them leaving dependent children behind. An estimated 17,240 children, including many under 5 years old, are separated from their mothers by imprisonment. The impact on children can be profound and long-lasting – including increased risks of mental illness and anti-social behaviour. Only 5% of children with a mother in prison are able to stay in the family home – and only 9% are cared for by their fathers. By contrast, most children with an imprisoned father remain with their mother.

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

## **Tools and Guidance**

### **Barnardo's. i-HOP Quality Assessment Toolkit and Guidebook for research and evidence concerning the Children of Offenders**

The University of Huddersfield in partnership with i-HOP have developed a Quality Assessment Tool (QAT) and accompanying Guidebook which enables anyone to review research and evidence concerning children and families of offenders. Items can be assessed in four key quality areas including Methodological Quality, Child-Centredness, Relevance to Policy and Strategy and Relevance to Practice with children of offenders. Items are then awarded a standard icon, an icon+ (for items which score particularly highly) or no icon depending on how they score in each key area.

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

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



## **Statistics**

### **Ministry of Justice. National Offender Management Service Offender Equalities Annual Report**

This publication documents offender equalities statistics.

[To view these statistics, please click here](#)



## **Adult Social Care and Health**

### **Briefings**

#### **Nuffield Trust, The Health Foundation, The King's Fund. The Spending Review: what does it mean for health and social care?**

This briefing provides an independent assessment of where the Spending Review leaves the NHS and social care. The three organisations have come together to publish an analysis of the funding position and its implications for health and social care services.

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

### **Reports**

#### **Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Dementia Friendly Communities: Supported Learning and Outreach with the Deaf Community**

This report highlights that there is strong evidence of a link between hearing loss and dementia. People with mild hearing loss have nearly twice the chance of going on to develop dementia as people without any hearing loss. The risk increases threefold for those with moderate hearing loss and fivefold for those with severe hearing loss (Lin et al., 2011). Research from the Deaf with Dementia project suggests that awareness of dementia in the Deaf community is low, as is the uptake of dementia support. There are barriers to accessing traditional means of information and support, and currently there is no dementia-specific support for the Deaf community. The report details findings and recommendations from the new joint Alzheimer's Society/British Deaf Association initiative which aimed to provide a hard to reach group with vital information about dementia, helping to break down barriers that are preventing people from the Deaf community, and those with hearing loss, to access the support they need to improve their quality of life.

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

#### **NHS England. Independent review of deaths of people with a Learning Disability or Mental Health problem in contact with Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust April 2011 to March 2015**

This report looked at more than 10,000 deaths over four years at Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust. The report found that too few deaths had been investigated, with just one percent of deaths investigated in the case of learning disabilities.

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

#### **Crisis. Benefit sanctions forcing people to sleep rough and go hungry**

This report warns that the system of benefits sanctions is hitting vulnerable people hardest – including those who are already homeless, care leavers and those



suffering from mental ill health – despite the fact that the vast majority do want to work and agree that benefits should come with conditions. Drawing on a survey of more than 1,000 people from homeless hostels and day centres in 21 cities and 42 in-depth interviews, the report, conducted for Crisis by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University, shows that where people had been sanctioned in the past year:

- 21% reported becoming homeless as a result;
- 16% said they had been forced to sleep rough as a result;
- 77% had gone hungry or skipped meals;
- 75% said it negatively affected their mental health;
- 64% had gone without heating;
- 60% found it harder to look for work

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

## **Tools and Guidance**

### **The Health Foundation. A practical guide to self-management support: key components for successful implementation**

This guide provides an overview of self-management support and the key components for effective implementation. It is for people with a role where they can implement self-management support, such as commissioners, health care professionals, service managers, people in voluntary or community groups and patient leaders.

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

### **NHS England. Shared planning guidance**

The leading national health and care bodies in England have come together to publish '*Delivering the Forward View: NHS Shared Planning Guidance 2016/17 – 2020/21*', setting out the steps with the aim of helping local organisations deliver a sustainable, transformed health service and improve the quality of care, wellbeing and NHS finances. It is published by NHS England, NHS Improvement (the new body which will bring together Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority), the Care Quality Commission, Public Health England, Health Education England and NICE – the bodies which developed the Five Year Forward View in October 2014.

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

### **Health and Social Care Information Centre. CCG Outcomes Indicator Set - December 2015**



Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) indicators form part of the CCG Outcomes Indicator Set (CCG OIS) that is an integral part of NHS England's systematic approach to quality improvement. The indicators aim to provide clear, comparative information for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) about the quality of health services commissioned by CCGs and, as far as possible, the associated health outcomes.

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