



# CordisPulse

## June 2020

Welcome to June'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.

This month we have continued to work with clients to support them with the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of this we have worked with the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition to rapidly identify and document the adaptations and flexibilities that have been put in place to support people facing multiple disadvantage during the pandemic. Part of this work focussed on how local areas may be able to sustain these changes as the Government moves to the next stage of the Covid-19 response. This report can be seen [here](#).

We have also been working with clients on the integration of health and social care and have produced a set of slides concerning real-time evaluation approaches. We believe these approaches can be used to support systems and organisations make evidence-led decisions and support the sustainability of innovation as we collectively move into the recovery phase of the pandemic.

The slides outline five system behaviours in response to the pandemic, many of which can manifest simultaneously: Revert, Status Quo, System improvements, Rapid adoption and Innovation and transformation. We would welcome the opportunity to hear your thoughts on these approaches. Our slides can be accessed [here](#).

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](mailto:stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk) or 020 7330 9170.

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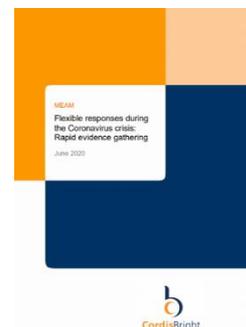
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## Cordis Bright News

### Making Every Adult Matter. Flexible responses during the Coronavirus crisis: Rapid evidence gathering

The MEAM coalition has recently published new research undertaken by Cordis Bright, examining the flexibilities that homelessness, substance misuse, mental health and criminal justice services have put in place to support people during the Covid-19 crisis, and how some of the positive aspects of these changes might be maintained in the future.



The report concludes that as local areas move to the next stage of transition out of the crisis, they should reflect closely on learnings from the crisis period, utilize cross-sector leadership and planning to ensure that positive flexibilities and changes can be maintained, and ensure that people with lived experience are at the centre of the conversations regarding the next stage of response.

The full report is available [here](#).

### ADASS. ADASS Coronavirus Survey

ADASS have published results from their coronavirus survey which was completed by Directors of Adult Social Services. Cordis Bright provided analytical support and helped to identify key findings, which include:

- Overall, the onset of the pandemic has led to an increase in the number of people presenting adult social care needs to local authorities and unmet need.
- Directors see that coronavirus has made extremely fragile care markets even more susceptible to market failure at the detriment to those people accessing care and support services.
- Local authorities have been proactive in engaging with and taken a range of measures to support providers.
- The focus on rapid discharge from hospital without taking account of the needs of the whole health and care system has had tragic consequences.



You can download a full copy of the report [here](#). Further information is also available on the [ADASS website](#).



## **Covid-19 Pandemic Resources**

This section provides resources that our team have found most useful during the pandemic.

- All up-to-date guidance from the government about coronavirus is available [here](#).
- The government's action plan for how it will support the adult social care sector in England is available [here](#); more guidance for the adult social care sector on responding to the coronavirus pandemic is available [here](#).
- NHS England and Improvement are compiling advice and guidance [here](#).
- Specific guidance for local authorities is available [here](#) and the LGA are also assembling useful materials [here](#).
- NICE are compiling guidance [here](#).
- Useful advice for those working in social care is being collated by SCIE [here](#).
- Coronavirus case tracker data is available [here](#).

## Adult Social Care and Health

### Reports

#### The King's Fund. Social care 360

This Social care 360 review for the year 2018/19 outlines the state of the sector before the Covid-19 pandemic struck. The review outlines and analyses 20 key trends in adult social care in England. It draws on data that is publicly available, published at least annually comprehensive (or, at the very least, a representative sample) and from a reliable source. It takes a broad perspective – a '360 degree' – view of the sector. The data shows us that the social care sector had been fragile for several years and that the unprecedented challenges for the sector in responding to Covid-19 started from this unsteady foundation.



#### Institute for Fiscal Studies and Nuffield Foundation. Are some ethnic groups more vulnerable to Covid-19 than others?

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected some sections of the population more than others, and there are growing concerns that the UK's minority ethnic groups are being disproportionately affected. Following evidence that minority groups are over-represented in hospitalisations and deaths from the virus, Public Health England has launched an inquiry into the issue of disparities in the risk and outcomes of Covid-19 (published in June 2020).

This report brings together evidence on the unequal health and economic impacts of Covid-19 on the UK's minority ethnic groups, presenting information on risk factors for each of the largest minority groups in England and Wales: white other, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, black African and black Caribbean. For the most part, the report focuses on these six groups (and the white British majority) for which there is reliable information across different data sources. The analysis focuses on a limited but crucial set of risk factors in terms of both infection risk and economic vulnerability in the short term.

#### Local Government Association. Public health transformation seven years on: Prevention in neighbourhood, place and system

The LGA's 2020 public health annual report showcases examples from 10 areas that demonstrate what can be achieved by public health operating across local government and working closely with the NHS and a wide range of local and system partners. The examples are from councils across England covering both rural and urban environments and with varying degrees of deprivation and affluence. The report identifies the main themes in public health in 2019/20 based on information from the case studies and other case study-based reports undertaken by



the LGA on the topics of health and wellbeing, particularly [What a difference a place makes](#) which includes 22 snapshots of health and wellbeing boards (HWBs).

### **Bevan Foundation. Solving poverty: Reforming help with housing costs**

Both the Welsh Government and Welsh local authorities have developed support schemes to assist households who are struggling with housing related costs, designed to supplement the assistance provided through the UK's social security system and provide vital support for thousands of households across Wales. As part of a larger project on the help that is provided to low-income families in Wales, the Bevan Foundation have reviewed the effectiveness of the schemes in supporting households that are trapped in poverty across Wales. Whilst the report found that many people valued the support on offer, it also indicates that there are a number of shortcomings with the current system.



## **Briefings**

### **Local Government Association. Towards a healthy weight: How local councils are supporting adults to lose weight**

This briefing from the Local Government Association consists of 14 case studies where local councils have commissioned tier two weight management services. These are targeted programmes free-at-the-point-of-access for people who are overweight or obese. Ambitious targets have been set for them, with services expected to achieve 5 per cent weight loss in 30 per cent of cases – however, many council-commissioned services are achieving this and more. As the case studies in this report show, many programmes are seeing significant weight loss, in excess of 3.4kg, being recorded in the national NHS diabetes prevention programme. It concludes that councils are achieving these results by taking innovative approaches and working closely with their districts, local services and voluntary sector staff.



**Towards a healthy weight**  
How local councils are supporting adults to lose weight



### **Office for National Statistics. Deaths within the care sector involving Covid-19, England and Wales**

This dataset outlines the number of deaths within the care sector registered year to date in England and Wales, including deaths involving the coronavirus (Covid-19), by age, sex and region. Comparisons with other data sources of deaths involving Covid-19 within care homes are reported.

## Tools and Guidance

### Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Public Health. Loneliness, social isolation and Covid-19: practical advice



Loneliness,  
social isolation  
and COVID-19  
Practical advice

The LGA and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) have jointly produced this practical advice for Directors of Public Health and others leading the response to the loneliness and social isolation issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Intervening early to tackle loneliness and social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond will help to prevent more costly health and care needs from developing, as well as aiding community resilience and recovery. The guidance advises that this can only be done at the local level through partnerships between the council, voluntary and community sector, councillors, primary care networks and relevant others. The guidance concludes that there is also an opportunity to harness and develop the positive changes that are being seen, such as greater awareness about the impact of personal behaviours on mental wellbeing.



### Local Government Association. Infection Control Fund grant conditions

This briefing from the Local Government Association aims to assist councils with understanding the new Infection Control Grant and its requirements. The short briefing does not attempt to summarise the Grant Circular, but instead aims to address three major concerns which have caused significant debate amongst some authorities already since the Grant's announcement; its scope, the reporting requirements and the issues related to state aid.

### Department of Health and Social Care. Coronavirus (Covid-19): Health and wellbeing of the adult social care workforce

This guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care includes tips, advice and toolkits that employers and managers can use to help build the resilience of their team and address any concerns their staff may have. There is also a section that provides guidance on how all those working in social care can manage their personal mental health in the current circumstances.

### Department of Health and Social Care. Coronavirus (Covid-19): Care home support package

This guidance focuses on how to prevent and control Covid-19 in all registered care homes, building on the publication of the adult social care action plan. This document sets out the steps that must now be taken to keep people in care homes safe, and the support that will be brought together across national and local government to help care providers put this into practice. Topics covered within this guidance include



training in infection control, the stepping up of NHS Clinical Support, testing, funding, and the sharing of good practice across the sector.

## Children and young people's services

### Reports

#### Office for Civil Society. Youth Engagement Fund Evaluation - Final Report

The Office for Civil Society commissioned Ecorys to undertake an evaluation of the Youth Engagement Fund (YEF). YEF is a £16m outcomes fund that aimed to help disadvantaged young people aged 14 to 17 to participate and succeed in education or training in England. The process evaluation was based on case studies of the four YEF projects and qualitative research with central government stakeholders.

The report concludes that, for the most part, the YEF aims were achieved, namely; educational, employability and health services supported by YEF were effective and attractive for disadvantaged young people, YEF enabled a broad range of educational institutions to use their resources more effectively to reduce the number of young people who become NEET, and YEF helped develop the capacity of the social sector organisations concerned to deliver future government contracts. The report also provides recommendations to government for how to further develop their approach to help young people.

#### The Children's Society. A Lifeline for All: Children and Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

In this report, The Children's Society focuses on the experiences of families who have NRPF conditions attached to their leave to remain in the UK and makes a series of recommendations for policy, practice and further research. Among these are an urgent call on government to suspend NRPF conditions, immigration fees and Immigration Health Surcharge so families can access the lifeline of benefits if they need it and can prioritise any savings they have on protecting their children during the Covid-19 outbreak, instead of spending it on Home Office fees. The report concludes that the government should also automatically extend all leave to remain, including for those on the ten-year route to settlement whose home is here. While suspending NRPF is not the only change that is needed, The Children's Society notes that it is an important way to provide some much-needed safety and security to children and parents in very desperate circumstances, including many of those who are key workers.



#### Barnardo's, Action for Children, The Children's Society, National Children's Bureau and the NSPCC. Under Pressure: children's and young people's services 2010/11 to 2018/19

Barnardo's, Action for Children, The Children's Society, National Children's Bureau and the NSPCC jointly published two reports: *Children's and young people's services: funding and spending 2010/11 to 2018/19* and *Pressures on children's and*

*young people's services: a deep dive*. They bring together a wide range of supporting evidence to demonstrate the urgent need for a sustainable, long-term investment in children's services.

*Children's and young people's services: funding and spending 2010/11 to 2018/19* provides an updated analysis of the most recently available funding and spending trends within children's services across England. *Pressures on children's and young people's services: a deep dive* presents findings from more than 20 research interviews with three local authorities across England, drawing upon the experiences and perceptions of staff working on the frontline of funding cuts. A summary presents the key findings from both reports and sets out a series of recommendations for Government.

### **The Children's Society. Missing the mark: Why young people experiencing teenage relationship abuse are being left without the support that they need**

**This short report aims to gain a better understanding of the strategic and service response from local authorities in England to young people, both 16 and 17 year olds and those under** the age of 16, who experience teenage relationship abuse. The Children's Society sent Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to all local authorities in England (excluding City of London and the Isles of Scilly), and the report also includes data from a survey conducted by VotesforSchools as part of their regular surveys within schools and colleges, asking children and young people attending secondary schools in England if they thought young people could recognise the signs of an abusive relationship. The report concludes that national and local policies and procedures are failing to make the distinction between sexual violence and harassment and teenage relationship abuse, and that young people must be provided with robust and long lasting education about domestic abuse, including recognising that it can occur online, and be given practical tools to aid with conflict resolution.

### **Institute for Fiscal Studies. Learning during the lockdown: real-time data on children's experiences during home learning**

In this report, the Institute for Fiscal Studies presents initial evidence on how children are spending their time during the lockdown, with a focus on home learning activities and the home learning resources available in different families. This evidence is based on a new survey, specially designed by researchers at IFS and the Institute of Education, completed online by over 4,000 parents of children aged 4–15. The key findings include: primary and secondary students are each spending about 5 hours a day on average on home learning; higher-income parents are much more likely than the less well-off to report that their child's school provides online classes and access to online videoconferencing with teachers; and school closures are almost certain to increase educational inequalities.



## **The Children's Society. Leave no family behind: Strengthening assistance during Covid-19**

Using data from freedom of information requests, The Children's Society's report highlights how spend on local welfare provision has continued to fall across the country, with fewer applications and awards being made to Local Welfare Assistance Schemes (LWAS). The report also shares examples of how councils, along with voluntary and community sector organisations are working to meet increased demand for local welfare provision in response to Covid-19. While these agencies are working to ensure that families are supported at times of financial crisis, it is likely that demand will increase further as resources are stretched to their limits in the coming months. The Children's Society are urging the government to ensure that local authorities have the funding and resources to effectively deliver LWAS in partnership with voluntary, community and faith organisations to ensure that no family is left behind in the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Briefings**

#### **Department for Education. Education, health and care plans**

From 7 May 2020, the Department for Education has begun publishing 'Statements of SEN and EHC Plans: England' on a new statistics dissemination platform, Explore Education Statistics (EES). This publication provides data on the number of children and young people with a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or education, health and care (EHC) plan in England. The publication also provides data on the administration of statements of SEN and EHC plans. Data is presented for both the caseload as at January 2020, for example number of EHC plans, and for activity during the 2019 calendar year, for example number of new EHC plans in the calendar year.

#### **Department for Work & Pensions. Workless households and educational attainment statutory indicators**

This report contains data on children living in workless households and long-term workless households in England; the educational attainment of children in England at the end of Key Stage 4; and the educational attainment of disadvantaged children in England at the end of Key Stage 4. 9% of all children in England (around 900,000 children) were living in workless households in the fourth quarter of 2019, with 8% of all children (around 850,000 children) in long-term workless households. These measures have seen a continued annual decrease since 2010. At KS4, the gap between disadvantaged pupils and all other pupils (using the disadvantage gap index to measure attainment) has remained broadly stable between 2018 and 2019 (increasing by 0.02 percentage points, from 3.68 to 3.70). Since 2011 the gap has narrowed by 9.1%.



Workless households and educational attainment statutory indicators

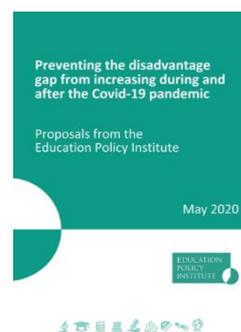
## The Bevan Foundation. State of Wales Briefing: Free School Meals and Coronavirus

This briefing aims to help individuals and organisations across Wales better understand the scale of the challenge facing many families and some of the options that are being pursued to provide solutions, following thousands of children having lost access to Free School Meals across Wales due to school closures. It sets out why the Bevan Foundation believes that providing cash in lieu of Free School Meals is the most effective answer to this problem. Key findings of the briefing include: the closure of schools in Wales due to the outbreak of coronavirus saw over 60,000 children lose access to Free School Meals overnight; all bar 5 local authorities in Wales are either already or are intending to provide families with the option of receiving cash in lieu of Free School Meals whilst schools remain closed due to coronavirus; and providing cash in lieu of Free School Meals is the most effective way of assisting families whilst schools are shut, and social distancing measures remain in place.

## Education Policy Institute. Preventing the disadvantage gap from increasing during and after the Covid-19 pandemic

This EPI policy paper contains an assessment of the likely impact of Covid-19 on the outcomes of children and young people, particularly the most disadvantaged. EPI research finds that disadvantaged pupils are over 18 months behind their more affluent peers in attainment by age 16. In recent years, this gap has stopped closing and, even before the pandemic, there was a real risk that the gap would start to widen. The impact of the pandemic will almost certainly increase that risk.

**Research on attainment of children who have missed significant periods of schooling due to authorised absences suggest a large overall impact on attainment in addition to widening of the disadvantage gap that is expected based on studies of summer learning loss. In order to minimise the impact of Covid-19, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils, this briefing makes a series of recommendations for government.**



## Tools and Guidance

### The Children's Society. Looked After Children and the EU Settlement Scheme: A guide for local authorities

This briefing acknowledges the challenges facing local authorities, and seeks to provide constructive guidance to ensure swift action on their part to prioritise EUSS applications for looked after children in their areas. It is designed to inform elected members of local authorities (such as lead members for children, Children's Services Scrutiny Committees and Corporate Parenting Panels) on what they can do to support looked after children in their area





whose immigration status has been made uncertain by Brexit. This guide applies throughout the UK, as although care law can vary across the nations, requirements for local authorities around the EUSS are roughly the same.

**Ofsted. Registering children's homes in an emergency as a direct result of COVID-19 pandemic: fast-track applications**

This is a guide for local authorities and existing registered providers on fast-tracking their application to register children's homes services.

## Criminal Justice

### Reports

#### HM Prison & Probation Service. Evaluating 'Rehabilitative Adjudications' in four English prisons



Evaluating 'Rehabilitative Adjudications' in four English prisons

Flora Fitzalan Howard and Helen Wakefield  
Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service

Ministry of Justice Analytical Series  
2021

Proceeding with care by changing time



This report is an evaluation of a rehabilitative approach to disciplinary adjudications on outcomes for prisoners, and the experience of adjudicators delivering this approach. The research piloted 'rehabilitative adjudications' in 4 English prisons. Rehabilitative adjudications explicitly integrate rehabilitative skills and procedural justice principles into disciplinary hearings. The impact of this approach on prisoner perceptions of procedural justice (PJ), intention to comply with rules and cooperate with staff, self-reported learning, and their subsequent conduct in prison was tested. Additionally, the experience of staff delivering rehabilitative adjudications was investigated.

Findings suggest that improvements in PJ perceptions and intent to comply with rules and regulations associated with rehabilitative adjudications is reason to continue with this approach. The evaluators recommend including greater focus on the use and value of rehabilitative skills and PJ principles in training and policy for disciplinary adjudications.

### Briefings

#### Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research and Centre for Justice Innovation. Young people's voices on youth court

This briefing paper highlights young people's experiences of Youth Court in three areas of England. Interviews were conducted with 25 young people who had recently attended court as a defendant. Interview findings were supplemented by observations of youth court hearings conducted by the research team.

The briefing outlines how young people often spoke of their difficulties in understanding what was happening in court, and of feeling unable to speak, either through nervousness or fear or a perceived lack of opportunity to have any voice in court proceedings. However, they also noted aspects of professional practice that made them feel more at ease. Efforts made by court staff and judiciary to engage with the young person, for example, asking what name they preferred to be called by or apologising for any delays, were appreciated and contributed positively to their feelings about fair and respectful treatment by the court.



## Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice. Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System 2018/19



Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System 2018/19

England and Wales

Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice  
Experimental Statistics bulletin

Published 28 May 2020

The needs of children supported by YOTs are regularly assessed by practitioners using AssetPlus, an assessment and planning framework, to support the planning of suitable interventions both in the community and in custody. This publication focuses on a small subset of AssetPlus data which includes 19 assessed concern types, eight care status types as well as the four ratings for both Safety and Wellbeing and Risk of Serious Harm. These are based on assessments of children who received a Referral Order, Reparation Order, Youth Rehabilitation Order or custodial sentence between 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

The statistics in this publication suggest that a large proportion of children who are supervised by YOTs exhibit a range of important, interdependent and interrelated needs which are captured as concerns within AssetPlus. The type and prevalence of these different needs may represent complex operational challenges around the delivery and provision of appropriate services to ensure best outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

## Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies. How an exit strategy might affect crime and policing - working paper

This is a rapid response paper by the Security and Policing sub-group of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Behaviours (SPI-B). The working paper is designed to help facilitate understanding of how an exit strategy might affect crime and policing and is structured in response to five questions raised by the Home Office, related to criminal behaviours, risk, the relaxation of social restrictions and geographical differences. The paper concludes that future mitigation of social disruption will require clear and effective communication, locally focussed; the promotion of adherence in groups less receptive to messages of collectivism (e.g. youth) through engagement with local community influencers; a focus on messages likely to be more important to such groups, e.g. appeals by frontline health-workers; and a focus on co-production of adherence and messages attempting to manage interaction between the public and police.

## Howard League for Penal Reform. Children in prison during the Covid-19 pandemic

This briefing from the Howard League for Penal Reform provides an insight into the difficulties children in custody face. Evidence from a host of independent sources shows that custody can be harmful and difficult for children in ordinary times, with many children in prison reporting that they do not feel safe. Around half of all children in prison come from Black, Asian and Minority



Howard League for Penal Reform

### Key points

- The Howard League's rapid work with the Home Office to secure a written agreement to allow a pilot for legal services for young people aged 17 and over in custody.
- Evidence from a range of independent sources shows that custody can be harmful and difficult for children in ordinary times, with many children in prison reporting that they do not feel safe. Around half of all children in prison come from Black, Asian and Minority groups.
- The evidence on the welfare impact on children of Covid-19 in custody is limited and unclear.
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- The evidence on the welfare impact on children of Covid-19 in custody is limited and unclear.

Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. Between a third and half of children in custody report having been in the care of their local authority.

**The Howard League’s legal work and contact with children during the Covid-19 pandemic** shows that this is a particularly difficult time for children in custody. In response to Covid-19, the regime in prisons has been severely restricted, with most children being placed in prolonged solitary confinement. There are no face-to-face visits, no face-to-face education in the majority of establishments and no therapy. The briefing outlines how children are experiencing difficulties in accessing the support they need to plan for release, and that the usual safeguards that exist, including on-site advocacy services, are no longer present.

## Tools and Guidance

### Ministry of Justice. COVID-19 funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence support services

MOJ has secured £25 million as part of a £76 million government package of support to charities supporting vulnerable people including victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. The extraordinary COVID-19 funding will be distributed through two separate funds, one through Police and Crime Commissioners and one through the national Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Fund. These prospectuses provide charities with information about the two different MOJ funds and how the assessment processes will work for each one during the coronavirus pandemic.

### Local Government Association. Tackling domestic abuse during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Resource for councils

This document aims to provide a range of resources which offer help, guidance and support to tackle domestic abuse. The Local Government Association have provided a brief overview of domestic abuse and how councils can provide help and support to domestic abuse victims during the COVID-19 pandemic, and tackle perpetrators’ abusive behaviour.

