



CordisPulse

May 2020

Welcome to May'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 been considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on care homes. Back in early March the Government was clear that even before a decision had been taken to introduce extreme social distancing that it would be necessary to shield vulnerable people and, in particular, older vulnerable people with additional underlying health conditions.

It is clear now that both the planning and execution of this shielding strategy has failed in relation to care homes. Indeed, the latest data would appear to indicate that not only has the strategy failed to protect people in care homes from dying from Covid-19 but that the strategy of shielding may also have contributed to additional early deaths.

There is already research underway looking to see if the discharge of untested patients back into care homes occurred, and looking at the possible spread of the virus via the use of agency staff, the quality of the advice on how to safely isolate and limit transmission of the virus, and the extremely low rates of testing of both staff and residents.

One factor which is not in dispute is access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which appears to have been exceptionally poor in the early part of lockdown when the NHS was struggling to get sufficient equipment. Arguably the NHS need for PPE was pursued at the expense of PPE for social care.

Deaths in care homes are falling and no doubt will return to the expected levels over the next six weeks or so. However, with no vaccine and limited access to a reliable antibody test the need for regular and possibly weekly testing of both staff and residents is pressing. Without a large scale and sustainable testing regime care homes will have to wait probably for nearly a year to return to anything like normal operation.



It is important not to forget that people living in care homes and the staff that support and care for them have paid a heavy price for this failure. It will be many months before the final tally is known but at the time of writing there have been excess deaths of some 21,800 people living in care homes and 131 of the staff that support them.

It is not too early to ask why this has happened, and to try to understand in forensic detail the specifics of what occurred in some homes, and it is certainly not too early for the government to start to account for the decisions and action it has taken.

There will almost certainly be flare ups of infection. If this does happen, nothing can be done for the thousands who have already lost their lives, but there is an opportunity through effective action to ensure this tragedy is not repeated.

As is so often the case, the problem is not about knowing the answer but making sure that it happens. The minimum performance standard for care homes must now be:

- Regular systematic testing of staff and residents
- Secure and reliable supply of PPE
- World class evidence-based advice and training on how to isolate and limit transition of the virus.

Anything less risks further avoidable deaths.

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

Best wishes,

Dr Stephen Boxford

Head of Research

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

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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](#).
- 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](#).

Our team members have also found the following resources useful:

- Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) are producing a series of recordings focused on multiple disadvantage and COVID-19. In these recordings, their staff discuss local responses to the virus with a host of experts and explore ways of reducing the potential negative impact it could have on this group. Find the first nine recordings [here](#).
- The King's Fund have shared a guest blog which outlines what staff working in care homes need to support the health and wellbeing of their residents [here](#).
- Simon Jones, Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Marie Curie UK, shares his thoughts on how we must consider the longer-term impact of Covid-19 on care homes [here](#).
- [This piece by Community Care](#) discusses the recording of care home deaths from Covid-19 and shortages of PPE experienced by care home staff.

We would also welcome hearing from you what resources concerning Covid-19 you have found most useful so that we can share them as part of the Pulse. Please do send these to stephenboxford@cordisbright.co.uk.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Shelter. Caught in the Act: A review of the new homelessness legislation

The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) was introduced across England in April 2018 as a response to persistent and growing homelessness. The Act set out to reform the help provided by councils so that it offers help to more people, is responsive to households' needs, prevents people from losing their home and ultimately, reduces homelessness.

Caught in the Act
A review of the new
homelessness
legislation
April 2020

Let's make a home for everyone
shelter.org.uk

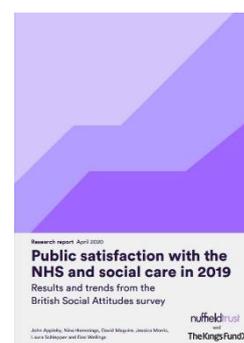
Shelter

This report shares the findings of a six-month multi-method research programme on the operation of the HRA conducted by Shelter. It includes research with Shelter's frontline services, interviews and focus groups with people who have experience of the Act, and analysis of case notes, audit reports and government data.

In the first section of this report it is discussed whether the Act has been able to achieve its desired aims. Shelter then looks at why the outcomes of the Act remain poor for homeless households and identify the barriers that applicants and local authorities face when trying to prevent or relieve homelessness. Finally, Shelter set out their recommendations for change, both in terms of reducing homelessness and improving the implementation of the legislation.

The King's Fund. Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2019: Results and trends from the British Social Attitudes Survey

Since 1983, NatCen Social Research's British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey has asked members of the public in England, Scotland and Wales about their views on health and care services. The latest survey was carried out between July and October 2019 and asked a nationally representative sample of 3,224 people about their satisfaction with the NHS overall, and 1,075 people about their satisfaction with specific NHS and social care services. The 2019 BSA survey questions reported here were jointly sponsored by the Nuffield Trust and The King's Fund.



Key findings include that public satisfaction with the NHS overall rose significantly in 2019; satisfaction was highest among supporters of the Conservative party but there were significant rises in satisfaction across supporters of all main political parties; the top reason people gave for being satisfied with the NHS overall was the quality of NHS care.

Briefings

Office for National Statistics. Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 27 March 2020 to 13 April 2020 on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on disabled people in Great Britain.

Main points include that almost half (45.1%) of disabled adults, compared with around a third (30.2%) of non-disabled adults, reported being very worried about the effect the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is having on their life; disabled adults were significantly more likely than non-disabled adults to report spending too much time alone; almost 8 in 10 (77.7%) disabled adults said they thought people were doing more to help others since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Office for National Statistics. Coronavirus and social relationships and support for vulnerable groups: 2017 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019

A summary of social relationships and social support for vulnerable groups, including older adults and those with a self-defined disability or who are Equality Act Disabled.

Main points include that around one in seven UK parents who belonged to one of the vulnerable groups regularly received cooked meals from an adult child not living with them in the period 2017 to 2018; people who were Equality Act Disabled were most likely to report feeling lonely “often or always” in England in 2018 to 2019 at 14.1%; in 2018 to 2019, those aged 65 years and over in England were most likely to feel “very comfortable” asking a neighbour to collect essentials for them if they were ill (40.4%).

The Health Foundation. Social care for adults aged 18-64 in England

People aged 18–64 with learning disabilities, mental health problems, and other social needs are a core part of the social care system. They make up around a third of care users accessing long-term support in England and over half of local authority spending on social care.

Focusing on social care for younger adults in England, this analysis explores system context, care needs, system performance and outcomes.



St Mungo's. Policy briefing: Rough sleeping and single homelessness during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis

The current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak presents the biggest risk to public health in generations. People who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, are particularly vulnerable.

This briefing provides detail on the efforts taken so far to accommodate people who are sleeping rough, as well as outlining the further Government action that is needed to protect people who are homeless from the coronavirus.

The King's Fund. Integrated care systems explained: making sense of systems, places and neighbourhoods

Integrated care services represent a fundamental shift in the way the health and care system is organised. This briefing looks at how these bodies are structured and the progress made before the COVID-19 outbreak took hold.

The King's Fund. Critical care services in the English NHS

The national focus on critical care services in England is increasing because of Covid-19 (coronavirus). Emerging international and domestic data suggests a significant proportion of hospitalised patients with coronavirus require help with breathing, including mechanical ventilation, and other services critical care staff and units provide.

This briefing brings together information on critical care services in England to highlight the important role these services play.

Crisis. Government response to homelessness and COVID-19

People experiencing homelessness, particularly those who are rough sleeping, are severely vulnerable during the pandemic. They are three times more likely to experience a chronic health condition including respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It is also not possible to self-isolate or follow sanitation guidance if you are sleeping rough or living in shared homelessness accommodation.

This document sets out Crisis' suggested policy changes to provide a comprehensive response to people who are homeless, and those working to support them.

Tools and Guidance

Local Government Association. Protecting vulnerable people during the COVID-19 outbreak

Local Government Association suggest that this guidance will assist the NHS, community and voluntary sector and other partner agencies to understand the role and contribution of local government in supporting vulnerable people.



Protecting vulnerable people during the COVID-19 outbreak
A briefing for councils

Note: This guidance is correct as of 27th March 2020

Vulnerability may present itself in many different ways during the weeks and months of the national emergency response. The Government has produced guidance on the approach agreed to supporting those who are clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19, and Local Government Association have included that work within the scope of this document. However, they have also provided an



overview of the other work that is and will be taking place, led largely by councils and the voluntary and community sector with support from other partners, to protect other vulnerable groups.

Public Health England and Department of Health and Social Care. COVID-19: guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol

This guidance outlines COVID-19 advice for commissioners and service providers involved in assisting people who are dependent on drugs or alcohol or both.

Key points include that drug and alcohol services do not need to close at the current time and are important to keep operating as they protect vulnerable people who are at greater risk from COVID-19 and help reduce the burden on other healthcare services; measures to reduce drug and alcohol-related harm should all be increased where possible; drug and alcohol treatment staff are included in the government's definition of key workers whose children can – if they cannot be kept safe at home – continue to attend school.

Children and young people's services

Briefings

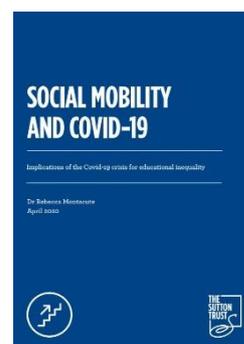
The Sutton Trust. COVID-19 impacts: School shutdown

In the first of a series of in-depth briefings looking at the impact of the coronavirus crisis on social mobility, the Sutton Trust examine the views of both teachers and parents since school closed. This includes looking at the provision so far put in place by schools, the support and resources pupils have access to at home, and the impact this has had on the schoolwork pupils have completed during lockdown.

The brief finishes by looking at possible mitigation strategies open to schools and the government, to try to reduce any impact on the already wide attainment gap between the richest and poorest pupils, and to protect the prospects for long-term social mobility.

The Sutton Trust. Social Mobility and COVID-19: Implications of the COVID-19 crisis for educational inequality

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are far reaching and are likely to impact on practically every area of government policy for a long time to come. This briefing covers the Sutton Trust's immediate concerns, looking at how the ongoing crisis is likely to impact the most disadvantaged young people through their time in education and into the workplace.



As the crisis progresses, the Trust will be releasing research looking at these challenges in greater detail, as well as offering policy recommendations on how best to lessen the impacts of the pandemic on social mobility.

NSPCC. What children are saying to Childline about coronavirus

This briefing provides an overview of the main concerns that children and young people have been talking to Childline counsellors about during the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). NSPCC suggest that gaining an insight into these worries can help adults think about what support needs to be put in place for young people at this time.

Between 21 January 2020 and 8 April 2020, Childline delivered 2,209 counselling sessions to children and young people who expressed concerns about coronavirus. Issues discussed included mental health, family relationships, schoolwork and bullying.

The Children's Commissioner. Tackling the disadvantage gap during the COVID-19 crisis

There is a well-documented attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children. Without intervention, school closures are likely to widen the



disadvantage gap further still. In this briefing, the Children's Commissioner suggests how a widening of this gap can be mitigated – how schools can be supported to adapt to the “new normal” and improve access to meaningful educational opportunities for disadvantaged children in the weeks and months to come.

Tools and Guidance

The Children's Commissioner. We're all in this together? Local area profiles of child vulnerability

The essential public health measures that have been taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 have affected everyone in the country, and many families are struggling with additional financial and social pressures. But there are some children, who before this crisis were already vulnerable or living in precarious situations, who are facing particular hardship.

The Children's Commissioner's local area profiles of child vulnerability provide a way for councils to understand which groups of children are likely to be at risk under lockdown, and how many children in their area fall into those groups. It also provides a framework for central government to target additional resources at the areas most in need.

The Children's Commissioner are publishing this work in order to better identify vulnerable children who need help both during the lockdown and once the crisis has passed.

Criminal Justice

Briefings

Revolving Doors Agency. New Generation: Preventing young adults being caught in the revolving door

This briefing brings together the latest evidence on young adults in the revolving door and makes the case for targeting resources to them. It recommends intervening earlier and stabilising the bridge to adulthood, thus cutting crime and reducing demand on police, the courts, probation, prisons and many other local services.



The Children's Society. Domestic Abuse Bill Second Reading Briefing

The Children's Society report that, as currently drafted, this Bill is an opportunity to improve the criminal justice response to domestic abuse. With amendments, they feel it could provide a supportive safety net to all survivors of domestic abuse regardless of their age, immigration status or where they live. The coronavirus outbreak has brought home the acute vulnerability this group face and has also shined a spotlight on the gaping holes within the statutory support system for these survivors. The Children's Society welcomes the Home Office's new awareness campaign and acknowledge it has sparked a national conversation, and suggest that the domestic abuse bill must now reflect this national conversation and ensure it provides support to all survivors of abuse for years to come.

The Children's Commissioner. Children, domestic abuse and coronavirus

A policy briefing on domestic abuse and its effects on children particularly during the coronavirus pandemic. In this briefing the Children's Commissioner states that they want to see a public campaign that makes clear what Domestic Abuse is, and that it is never acceptable, and the devastating impact it has on children.

National Crime Agency. Annual Plan 2020-2021

The Annual Plan sets out the National Crime Agency (NCA)'s operational priorities for the year ahead and how the NCA will lead a whole-system response to serious and organised crime.

Main points include that serious and organised crime continues to have more impact on UK citizens than any other national security threat and affects all parts of the country; there are 4,772 known Organised Crime Groups operating within the UK, a quarter of which are estimated to be involved in violent criminal activity; advancing technology gives offenders new tools to communicate and to commit and hide their crimes.

Tools and Guidance

Local Government Association. Tackling labour abuse and modern slavery in the hand car wash sector



Tackling labour abuse and modern slavery in the hand car wash sector

It has been said that modern slavery is hidden, but often in plain sight. Hand car washes are a good example of this and have been a particular area of focus. In recent years, the sector has become common in our high streets and communities, but local residents may be unwittingly using victims of labour exploitation or even modern slavery to wash their cars: the industry has been identified by a number of organisations as a high-risk sector for labour abuse.

Council guidance

The Local Government Association has been involved in supporting initiatives aimed both at increasing awareness of the risk of slavery in hand car washes as well as increasing standards within the sector. This guidance is intended to provide an overview of this work, and to bring clarity to the role that councils and other organisations can play within the current regulatory framework, pending any new system of oversight being introduced.