



CordisPulse

May 2021

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

Over the last 12 months we've been working hard on the real-time evaluation of the Department for Education funded, Barnardo's led, See, Hear, Respond programme. This was an England-wide programme implemented by over 85 Voluntary and Community Sector partners which has supported thousands of children and families adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The evaluation outlines key findings around how this innovative programme was implemented including lessons for similar programmes as well as the impact it had on the children and families it supported. The evaluation report and executive summary are published [here](#).

As well as the evaluation report, we worked closely with Barnardo's on developing three good practice briefs which can be accessed [here](#). These focused on: reintegrating children with SEND into education; supporting young carers experiencing isolation and loneliness; and supporting children from BAMER groups with mental health and wellbeing needs. We also produced an evidence review of how the children's sector workforce has experienced and adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic which can be read [here](#). We were pleased to be involved in supporting and evaluating such an impressive and far-reaching programme.

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
Director and 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

Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond evaluation

Cordis Bright recently completed an evaluation of the Department for Education funded programme See, Hear, Respond (SHR). This programme was set up to support children and young people adversely affected by COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown. It was led by Barnardo's and brought together a consortium of national and community-based charities and other partners to offer a range of online, face-to-face, group and detached youth work, including support to help children reintegrate back into education.



The full evaluation and executive summary can be viewed [here](#).

Cordis Bright also produced three thematic practice briefs about supporting different groups of young people during COVID-19. They are based on data gathered by practitioners who worked with children and families as part of SHR. The three thematic briefs focus on working with:

- Children and young people with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) to reintegrate into education. (Read the brief [here](#).)
- Young carers with isolation and loneliness. (Read the brief [here](#).)
- Children and young people from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic or Refugee (BAMER) backgrounds with mental health and wellbeing. (Read the brief [here](#).)

We're carbon neutral

Cordis Bright has revamped its Environment Policy and Action Plan. As part of this, we are committed to minimising our environmental impact and where we cannot do this to purchase carbon offsets. Taken in combination, we self-certify that we are now a carbon neutral research and consultancy company.

Some of the steps include:

- Continuing to use renewable energy to power our office.
- Minimising travel by encouraging the use of online engagement.
- All Cordis Bright catered events to be vegetarian.
- Committing to buy refurbished or pre-loved equipment where possible.
- Buying Gold Standard carbon offsetting.

If you would like to see a full copy of our Environment Policy and Action Plan then please drop us a line.



Cordis Briefing Excerpts: April 2021

On 22nd April 2021 Cordis Bright held our quarterly briefing for independent sector providers of adult social care and supported housing. This briefing:

- Provides succinct analysis of key policy developments within social care services for adults and their implications for providers.
- Pairs it with guidance and practical advice about positioning your organisation to respond effectively.
- Gives insight into the intentions of commissioners and policymakers and looks at how your organisation could maximise the impact of its response.
- Explores strategic and operational implications.

Topics covered this time included results of the annual Cordis Viewfinder survey; the Council Tax and the Social Care Precept; and the NHS White Paper.

Excerpts from the full set of slides are available [here](#), and a video of the Briefing is available on [YouTube](#).

A full set of slides is available for subscribers to the Cordis Briefing: please click [here](#) for more information.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

NICE strategy 2021 to 2026: Dynamic, Collaborative, Excellent

NICE have published their new 5-year strategy. This aims to anticipate, recognise and respond to future changes and challenges, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the UK's health and care landscape. The core purpose of NICE is not changing, however they anticipate and outline changes to key elements of their approach in order to realise this vision.

The strategy is based around 4 core pillars:

1. **Rapid, robust and responsive technology evaluation:** Providing independent, world-leading assessments of new treatments at pace, quickening access for patients, and increasing uptake.
2. **Dynamic, living guideline recommendations:** Creating and maintaining up-to-date guidance that integrates the latest evidence, practice and technologies in a useful and useable format.
3. **Effective guidance uptake to maximise their impact:** Working with their strategic partners to increase the use of their guidance, monitor adoption and measure impact on health outcomes and inequalities.
4. **Leadership in data, research and science:** Driving the research agenda, using real world data to resolve gaps in knowledge and drive forward access to innovations for patients.

The Kings' Fund. Developing place-based partnerships: The foundation of effective integrated care systems

Integrated care systems (ICSs) now cover all areas of the country and will soon be established as statutory bodies with major responsibilities for NHS planning and funding. The King's Fund reviewed existing evidence and experience on place-based working, explored the development of place-based partnerships within three systems and undertook targeted engagement with local leaders from ICSs, local authorities and voluntary and community sector organisations. This research highlights the potential role of place-based partnerships in improving health and wellbeing and illustrates how these opportunities can be realised.

The authors concluded that successful development of place-based partnerships will largely rest on local implementation. The report sets out a series of principles to help guide local health and care leaders in these efforts.



The King's Fund. Shaping the future of digital technology in health and social care

This report, commissioned by the Health Foundation, provides a summary of evidence for how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, smartphones, wearable devices and the internet of things are being used within care settings around the world.



The authors analysed the available evidence around the use of these technologies to support leaders in health and care to engage in long-term thinking about the role of digital technology. The report looks back at recent developments in digital technology in the health and care system before the Covid-19 pandemic, supplemented by the Fund's evidence-gathering on how digital technologies have been used during the pandemic, in England in particular. It also considers a set of potential futures to distil factors driving change and what this means for leaders now.

NHS. National Quality Board: Shared Commitment to Quality

The National Quality Board (NQB) has refreshed its Shared Commitment to Quality to support those working in health and care systems. The publication provides a nationally-agreed definition of quality and a vision for how quality can be effectively delivered through ICSSs. The refresh has been developed in collaboration with systems and people with lived experience and aims to have a stronger focus on population health and health inequalities.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. How social security can deliver for disabled people in Scotland

This research looks at how disability assistance could reduce poverty in Scotland. In particular, it looks at how the Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland can look to maximise the power of social security to improve living standards, and loosen poverty's grip on disabled people. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation concluded that while the Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland's approach, which is rightly based on dignity, is a welcome change, there are concerns that this will not be reflected in practice.

ONS. Mapping loneliness during the coronavirus pandemic

This article explores how loneliness is associated with individual characteristics, household circumstances and aspects of the local authority where people live. After a year of lockdowns, social distancing, and restrictions on travel and gatherings, some groups of people have reported high rates of loneliness and poorer well-being in recent months.

Areas with a higher concentration of younger people and areas with higher rates of unemployment tended to have higher rates of loneliness during the study period. Other findings included that areas with a lower crime rate had lower levels of lockdown loneliness.

National Data Guardian. Putting Good into Practice: A public dialogue on making public benefit assessments when using health and care data

This report is the first outcome of the Putting Good into Practice project, which is co-funded by the National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care, Understanding Patient Data and UK Research and Innovation's Sciencewise programme. It details the findings of a dialogue with more than 100 members of the public about how to make sure that health and care data is used in ways that benefit people and society. An accompanying video was created which shares the views of the participants.



Public Health England. COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing surveillance: Spotlights

Spotlight reports are part of the COVID-19: mental health and wellbeing surveillance report. They describe variation among the population. In April, a new spotlight report was released focused on parents and carers.

Findings included that during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- on average, adults living with children reported a rise in symptoms of anxiety, psychological distress and stress in April 2020, which then subsided over the summer, but appears to have increased again over the winter and into 2021.
- financial and food insecurity, loneliness and increased time spent on childcare and home schooling have been associated with worsening mental health and wellbeing among parents.
- adults living with children have consistently reported higher levels of anxiety symptoms and finance related stress, but better life satisfaction than adults living alone.

UK National Screening Committee. Screening in the UK: making effective recommendations 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

The latest national screening report was published, covering 2019/20. This report summarises the work of the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) to review screening recommendations. Their work in 2019/20 included the rollout in England of 2 major programme modifications:

- human papillomavirus (HPV) testing becoming the primary screening test in the cervical programme
- faecal immunochemical test (FIT) becoming the primary screening test in the bowel cancer programme

Department of Health (Northern Ireland). Health Inequalities Annual Report 2021

This annual publication presents a comprehensive analysis of health inequality gaps between the most and least deprived areas of Northern Ireland, and within health and social care trust and local government district areas. The report is accompanied by downloadable data tables which contain all figures including district electoral areas as well as urban and rural breakdowns.



ONS. Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain: February 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey on the social impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on disabled people in Great Britain were published. Findings included that a larger proportion of disabled people (78%) than non-disabled people (69%), said they were worried (very or somewhat) about the effect that the coronavirus (COVID-19) was having on their life; for disabled people this proportion was lower than in September 2020 (83%).

Briefings

Shelter. Accommodating street homeless people during the COVID-19 pandemic

On 11 March 2021, the High Court ruled in the case of *Ncube v Brighton and Hove City Council* that councils can lawfully provide accommodation to street homeless people during the pandemic, even when they are not eligible for homelessness assistance under [Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996](#).

This is a landmark ruling with major and immediate implications for councils during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It is Shelter's view that this judgment is applicable for the duration of the pandemic, as determined by the World Health Organisation.

This briefing makes the following recommendations:

- Local authorities should use their legal powers to provide emergency accommodation and support to all street homeless people, or those at imminent risk of the street (including those not eligible for the Part 7 homelessness assistance).
- Housing and homelessness officers should receive training about the *Ncube v Brighton and Hove City Council* case.
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government should urgently issue explicit guidance to councils confirming these powers can and should be used to accommodate all those at risk of the street for the duration of the pandemic.

National Data Guardian. Listening and building trust: starting as I mean to go on

The new National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care in England, Dr Nicola Byrne, released her first blog outlining her motivations for taking on the role and her intended approach.

Tools and Guidance

The Health Foundation. Quality improvement made simple: What everyone should know about health care quality improvement

This guide offers an explanation of some popular quality improvement approaches and methods currently used in health care and their underlying principles. It also describes the factors that can help to make sure these approaches and methods improve quality of care processes, pathways and services. It is aimed primarily at people either working in or receiving health care, but is also relevant to social care and other public and third sector services, such as housing and education.

The King's Fund. Assessing England's response to Covid-19: A framework

This framework aims to aid assessment of England's response to COVID-19 by untangling the complicated interactions between different elements of the response.

The framework is broken down into five key inter-related elements:

- The intrinsic risk to England, including its population demographics, health status, openness to international travel and social structure.
- The public health response, including rules over international travel, the timing and extent of lockdowns, and the measures put in place to support and enable compliance with these measures.
- The health care system response, the clinical quality of care, services for non-Covid-19 patients and the vaccination programme.
- The adult social care response, including support to social care providers and users.
- Measures in the wider economy and society to manage the impact of the measures taken to combat Covid-19, including macro-economic and tax measures, education and employment.

TheKingsFund

Assessing England's
response to Covid-19
A framework

Sally Mann
Richard Murray
April 2021



NHS. National Quality Board Position Statement on Quality in Integrated Care Systems

The National Quality Board (NQB) has issued a Position Statement for those working in health and care systems. Endorsed by Lord Darzi, the Position Statement emphasises the



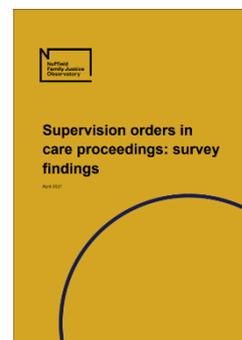
importance of prioritising the delivery of high-quality care at this crucial time of transition and sets out some core principles and consistent operational requirements for quality oversight in systems.

Children and Young People's Services

Reports

Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. Supervision orders in care proceedings: survey findings

This report explores the findings from a survey into the use of supervision orders in care proceedings. The focus of the survey was on standalone supervision orders made in relation to children who had returned home at the end of care proceedings or who had stayed at home or been returned during proceedings. The survey ran for three weeks from 15 February to 8 March 2021. Responses to the survey came from a range of legal and children's social care professionals, as well as parents.



Findings included that the majority of professional respondents (90%) thought that supervision orders should be retained, with a key reason for this being that there was a need for a proportionate order that was between a care order and no order when children were returning home at the end of proceedings in which the threshold for a care or supervision order had been established.

The Sutton Trust. School funding and pupil premium 2021

In April the Sutton Trust published their annual polling of teachers in England on funding and pupil premiums. This survey of 1,528 teachers was conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) for the Trust as part of their Teacher Voice Omnibus Survey. Key findings included that:

- 28% of secondary heads, and 35% of primary heads report that pupil premium funding is being used to plug budget gaps elsewhere. This is up from 27% and 22% respectively pre-pandemic in 2019.
- Four out of five senior leaders consider research evidence to inform spending.
- 33% of secondary heads and 47% of primary heads report cutting teaching assistants for financial reasons this year. 33% also report cutting teaching staff and support staff at secondary schools. This however is significantly lower than the 72% (support staff), 70% (teaching assistants) and 69% (teaching staff) reported at secondary schools in 2019.

Early Intervention Foundation. Improving services for children affected by domestic abuse

With Covid-19 increasing pressure on domestic abuse support services and new legislation making its way through parliament, the EIF put forward this report with the aim of driving home the need to address critical gaps in evidence and evaluation of what works to support children who have experienced, or who are at risk of experiencing domestic abuse that they have identified. It calls on government to establish a long-term, cross-departmental fund to facilitate robust



programme evaluation to ensure children, young people and adult survivors of domestic abuse get the help and support they need.

Education Policy Institute. A comparison of school institutions and policies across the UK

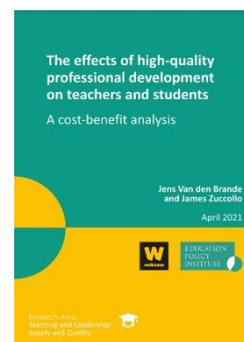
This new report by the Education Policy Institute (EPI), funded by the Nuffield Foundation, concludes that the four UK nations have begun to adopt increasingly different approaches to education policy after twenty years of devolution.

Findings include that:

- Scotland is spending significantly more per pupil than the rest of the UK, and has also increased school spending the most over the course of the last decade.
- England appears to be targeting more resources towards disadvantaged pupils, committing the highest level of funding for poorer pupils through the Pupil Premium.
- Schools in deprived areas in Wales are most likely to report problems with their resources, such as education materials and school buildings.

Education Policy Institute. The effects of high-quality professional development on teachers and students: A cost-benefit analysis

The government is currently exploring plans for improving the CPD offer for teachers as part of its long-term plan to tackle learning loss experienced by pupils as a result of the pandemic. The EPI were commissioned by Wellcome to evaluate the costs and benefits of entitling all teachers to 35 hours of high-quality, continuing professional development (CPD) every year. The EPI also conducted analyses to find which factors are likely to be essential for securing the success of the policy. The core problem this policy proposal aimed to address is that teachers in England do less CPD than their international peers, and what they do is reported as not appearing to meet the Department for Education's standards.



DWP. Reducing Parental Conflict programme evaluation: report on early implementation

This report summarises emerging findings from the first 9 months of the evaluation of the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme (RPC). The RPC programme aims to help avoid the damage that parental conflict causes to children through the provision of evidence-based parental conflict support, training for practitioners working with families and enhancing local authority and partner services. The programme seeks to address conflict below the threshold of domestic abuse.

These early findings indicate that the majority (76%) of practitioners believe that they will be able to make use of what they have learnt through the training in their day-to-day roles, and that anticipated longer term impacts of the practitioner training were improved recognition of parental conflict as a concept, early intervention in cases of parental conflict and increased confidence among practitioners in addressing parental conflict.



Briefings

Early Intervention Foundation. Adolescent mental health evidence brief 2: The relationship between emotional and behavioural problems in adolescence and adult outcomes

The EIF have published their second evidence briefing on adolescent mental health. This brief concluded that national and international research provides consistent evidence that persistent emotional and behavioural problems during adolescence are associated with an increased risk of adverse adult outcomes across mental health and education and employment outcomes. Behavioural problems are also associated with a range of negative physical and social outcomes in adulthood. Young people with persistent, high-level symptoms appear to be most at risk.

This evidence brief did not examine how problems during adolescence impact adult outcomes such as education and criminality. It therefore highlights that part of designing effective interventions will be a greater understanding of these mechanisms.

Tools and Guidance

DfE. Guidance: Changes to the early years foundation stage (EYFS) framework

The Department for Education have released guidance on the changes to the EYFS framework and what needs to happen before they come into effect in September 2021.

The changes are being made with the aim to:

- improve outcomes at age 5, particularly in early language and literacy and especially for disadvantaged children.
- reduce workload and unnecessary paperwork so staff can spend more time with the children in their care.

Criminal Justice

Reports

HMICFRS. Policing in the pandemic - The police response to the coronavirus pandemic during 2020

In July, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) announced their intention to inspect the police response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This inspection took a snapshot of policing and assessed what happened from March to November 2020.

The evidence gathered will inform the HMICFRS' continuous assessment of the 43 police forces in England and Wales and their other inspection work, including their thematic reports.



They will also review force management statements to see how forces are planning to use resources differently.

The report concludes that overall the police reacted well to the difficult circumstances presented by the pandemic. Recommendations made include that forces must immediately make sure that officers understand and correctly implement the guidance for managing registered sex offenders during the pandemic, and that the NPCC should work with government departments to make sure that effective structures and processes are in place for consultation and timely communication on those responses to the pandemic that affect operational policing.

Briefings

Home Office. Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent

On the 29th April, the Domestic Abuse Bill passed both Houses of Parliament and has been signed into law. The Domestic Abuse Act aims to provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse and strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.

For the first time in history there will be a wide-ranging legal definition of domestic abuse which incorporates a range of abuses beyond physical violence, including emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour, and economic abuse.

The Howard League. Arresting the entry of women into the criminal justice system – Briefing Three

This is the third briefing to emerge from an inquiry by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System (APPG) launched in May 2019 to investigate what could be done to reduce arrests of women in England and Wales and stem the flow of women into the criminal justice system. The APPG has examined anonymised arrest data from five police forces in England and Wales. This briefing states that the records, which provide detailed information on more than 640 arrests, reveal how police resources are drained as women are arrested inappropriately, held in custody and released without charge.

MHCLG. More support for domestic abuse victims and their children as Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent

Victims of domestic abuse and their children will be guaranteed support from their council, as the government's landmark Domestic Abuse Bill received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. Under the new Act, councils across England will have a legal duty to provide life-saving support such as therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation, including refuges. The Act will also give those who are homeless as a result of domestic abuse priority need for accommodation secured by the council.

The government has given councils their share of £125 million to fund the new duty, including commissioning additional vital support services for victims and improving links between existing local services. This is on top of a further £6 million given to councils last year to prepare for the duty to come into effect.



Tools and Guidance

HMIP. HM Inspectorate of Prisons Business Plan 2021-22

The HMIP have released their business plan for the following year. This business plan provides a framework for the delivery of their work. It outlines assumptions about the operating context, learning from our experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resources available to HMI Prisons, and the main high-level risks associated with our work.

HMPPS. Homelessness Reduction Act: Duty to refer policy framework

This policy framework sets out duties, rules and general guidance for prisons and probation staff for meeting their statutory duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to support those individuals who are at risk of homelessness in England.

Since 1 October 2018, prison and probation staff have had a statutory responsibility to refer homeless individuals (or those at risk of homeless within the next 56 days) to a Local Authority. This is under [Section 10 of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#). This policy framework replaces the previous internal operational guidance that was issued.

