CordisPulse

October 2019

Welcome to October'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.

Rough sleeping is a primary focus of a number of this month's resources. For example, Public Health England's Health Matters explores the scale, causes and consequences of rough sleeping. It cites 2018 Rough Sleeping Statistics from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), indicating that official estimates via street counts of the number of people rough sleeping on a single night in England fell by 2% between 2017 and 2018. MHCLG's impact evaluation of the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 2018 suggests that this reduction might be connected to RSI funding; an analysis comparing changes in street count numbers in the 83 areas which received RSI funding to 83 areas which did not suggests the RSI led to a significant reduction in the overall number of people sleeping rough between 2017 and 2018.

A process evaluation of the RSI is due to be published in the coming months and we await its findings with interest. This will help to shed light on how the RSI has achieved or contributed to reductions in rough sleeping in areas which received funding. It also has the potential to identify learning for policies, strategies and programmes aiming to reduce rough sleeping or improve outcomes for people who experience it.

We would expect findings from the RSI process evaluation to resonate with existing research on support for people who are homeless and/or experiencing multiple disadvantage, including findings from our independent evaluations of Making Every Adult Matter and Blackpool Fulfilling Lives. For instance, existing research highlights the importance of accessible, flexible, integrated and person-centred support based on trusting relationships in engaging and supporting individuals. Crucially, the evidence to-date suggests that for reduced rough sleeping and improved outcomes to be sustained, individuals need support on a medium to long-term basis. This improved support to individuals must also be

accompanied by system-level changes in areas such as strategic planning, commissioning, support pathways and workforce development. Therefore, the RSI and similar initiatives are likely to contribute to sustained reductions in rough sleeping only if they are able to facilitate the development and implementation of sustainable interventions and systems change.

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

Cordis Bright News

MEAM Approach Evaluation: Year 2 Report

This month we released the year 2 report for the longitudinal evaluation of the MEAM Approach, which is a non-prescriptive framework to help local areas design and deliver better coordinated services for people facing multiple disadvantage. The MEAM Approach is currently being used by cross-sector partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in 27 local areas across England. Our evaluation takes a mixed methods approach, in which we are collaborating with an expert research group of eight people who have lived experience of multiple disadvantage. The report presents nine early findings on the impact of the MEAM Approach on individual wellbeing for clients, on the use of resources in local areas and on local services and systems.

The MEAM Approach has been developed by the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition, which is formed of the national charities Clinks, Homeless Link, Mind and associate member, Collective Voice.

Blog: Interventions designed to reduce and manage demand

We have recently completed a number of evaluations concerning interventions which aim to reduce or manage demand for mainstream services. These innovations are increasingly common as health and social care services look for ways to reduce the strain they are experiencing. Having delivered a number of evaluations now, we thought it would be interesting to look across a selection of them to see if we can spot any emerging themes. In particular, we wondered:

- Are there key factors which contribute to the success of these approaches?

- How useful is the policy of investing in interventions designed to reduce or manage demand for mainstream services
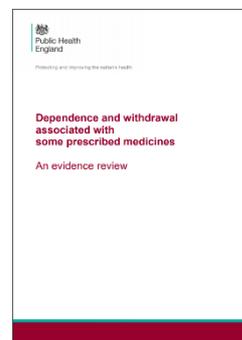
Download our blog to find out more.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Public Health England (PHE). Report of the review of the evidence for dependence on, and withdrawal from, prescribed medicines

PHE has completed a public health evidence review of available data and published evidence on the problems of dependence and withdrawal associated with some prescribed medicines.
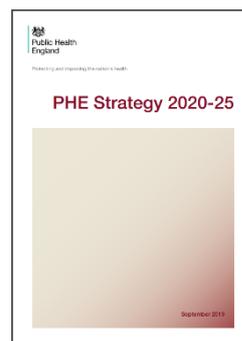
The review concludes with several recommendations, including: increasing the availability and use of data on the prescribing of medicines that can cause dependence or withdrawal; increasing informed choice and shared decision-making between clinicians and patients; and improving the support available from the healthcare system for patients experiencing dependence on, or withdrawal from, prescribed medicines.

PHE. PHE Strategy 2020 to 2025

The PHE Strategy 2020 to 2025 sets out how Public Health England will work to protect and improve the public's health and reduce health inequalities over the next 5 years.

It outlines PHE's role within the public health system, 10 priorities where PHE will focus particular effort and the areas where PHE will build capability within the organisation to support delivery of its strategic objectives and wider activities.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Rough Sleeping Initiative 2018: Impact Evaluation

The Rough Sleeping Initiative was launched in March 2018 and was targeted at local authorities with the highest numbers of people sleeping rough, based on the 2017 rough sleeping snapshot. The initiative seeks to support people sleeping rough off the streets and develop their wellbeing and stability, helping to reduce the number of people sleeping rough in both the short and longer term.

This evaluation report outlines the impact of the Rough Sleeping Initiative on the change in the numbers of people sleeping rough on a single night between 2017 and 2018, as recorded by the official annual rough sleeping snapshot statistics. The analysis also specifically looked at whether areas changing their approach for measuring rough sleeping had any impact, as well as a range of other factors,

including previous levels of homelessness and rough sleeping, local housing and labour market conditions and the weather.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). NICEimpact: Maternity and Neonatal Care

NICEimpact reports review how NICE recommendations for evidence-based and cost-effective care are being used in priority areas of the health and care system, helping to improve outcomes where this is needed most.

NICE routinely collects data which provide information about the uptake of its guidance. To produce this report, NICE have worked with national partners to select those data which tell them about how NICE guidance might be making a difference in priority areas of maternity and neonatal care. They also highlight areas where there is still room for improvement.
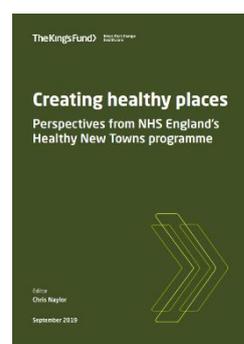
The King's Fund. Creating healthy places: perspectives from NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme

Our health and wellbeing are shaped by much more than just our health care. The places we live in affect our health in countless ways, including through the way a neighbourhood is designed, access to green spaces and the provision of good public transport. The social environment plays a key role too: strong social relationships or, conversely, stressful living conditions, can impact on our mental and physical health, and there is evidence that good urban design and planning can help to encourage positive social interactions and improve health.

Despite this awareness of the wider determinants of health, the joined-up thinking needed to create places that support and promote health can be challenging to bring about as a result of conflicting priorities and pressures. NHS England's Healthy New Towns programme has sought to overcome this by bringing together the health sector, housing developers, local authority planning teams and local residents to design and build healthier communities.

This report provides personal insights from those involved in the programme, illustrating how powerful a coherent local approach to improving population health can be. It concludes by highlighting that there is significant potential to improve population health through place-making and community development. It also stresses the need for the NHS to be closely involved in major housing developments and regeneration programmes in order to improve health and care outcomes.
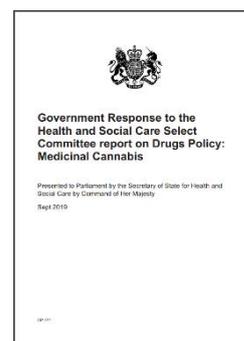
Briefings

The King's Fund. Five numbers to sum up the Spending Round for health and social care

Siva Anandaciva, Chief Analyst in The King's Fund Policy team, looks at some of the key numbers that were mentioned in the 4 September Spending Round. He does so alongside some equally important numbers that were not explicitly mentioned in the Spending Round, but which are still helpful for understanding what lies ahead for health and social care spending in 2020/21.

Health and Social Care Committee. Government Response to the Health and Social Care Select Committee report on Drugs Policy: Medicinal Cannabis

In July 2019, the House of Commons published a Health and Social Care Select Committee report on drugs policy relating to medicinal cannabis. This command paper sets out the government's response to the recommendations made in the report.
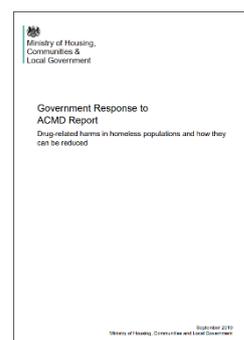
Shelter. Backbench Business Debate on the British Housebuilding Industry

Shelter is campaigning for 3 million new social homes to be delivered over the next 20 years. In this briefing, they suggest that to achieve this goal we must rediscover the purpose of social housing as a foundation of community, safety and stability, increase the levels of grant funding made available for social housing providers, and reform England's land market.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Government Response to ACMD Report: Drug-related harms in homeless populations and how they can be reduced

In June 2019 the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) published a report on reducing drug related harms in homeless populations (see Cordis Pulse July 2019). This policy paper outlines the government response to the recommendations presented in ACMD's report.

PHE. Health Matters: Rough Sleeping

Homelessness can be seen as a measure of our collective success in reducing health inequalities, with rough sleeping the most extreme and damaging to health. Reducing homelessness will contribute to a reduction in health inequalities and improvements in a wide range of health outcomes.

This edition of Health Matters focuses on the scale of rough sleeping in England, the causes and consequences of rough sleeping (including the links with poor physical

and mental health, prevention and effective interventions) and relevant calls to action.

NICE. Three areas where NICE's collaboration with CMAC can make a difference

Heidi Livingstone, Senior Public Involvement Adviser within NICE's Public Involvement Programme, reflects on the organisation's partnership with Charity Medicines Access Coalition (CMAC) during the last 12 months.

NHS Digital. Hospital Accident and Emergency Activity 2018-19

This is a publication on Accident and Emergency (A&E) activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS-commissioned activity in the independent sector. This annual publication covers the financial year ending March 2019. It contains final data and replaces the provisional data that are published each month. This is a joint publication between NHS Digital and NHS England.

Notably, this publication reports that there were more than twice as many attendances to A&E departments in England for the 10% of the population living in the most deprived areas (3.1 million), compared with the least deprived 10% (1.5 million) in 2018-19.

NHS Digital and PHE. Childhood Vaccination Coverage Statistics – England 2018-19

This annual statistical report provides childhood vaccination coverage statistics for England in 2018-19. Data relates to the routine vaccinations offered to all children up to the age of five years, derived from the Cover of Vaccination Evaluated Rapidly (COVER). Additional information on children aged 2 and 3 vaccinated against seasonal flu are collected from GPs through PHE's ImmForm system.

The report indicates that coverage of all routine vaccinations has declined compared to 2017-18, and coverage of the DTaP/IPV/Hib or '5-in-one' vaccine at 12 months is at its lowest since 2008-09 (92.1%).

Office for National Statistics (ONS). Suicides in the UK: 2018 registrations

Annual bulletin of registered deaths in the UK from suicide analysed by sex, age, area of usual residence of the deceased and suicide method.

The bulletin reports several main findings, including that the UK male suicide rate represents a significant increase from the rate in 2017, while the UK female suicide rate is consistent with the rates over the past 10 years. It also reports that Scotland had the highest suicide rate in Great Britain while England the lowest (figures for Northern Ireland will be published later this year by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency).
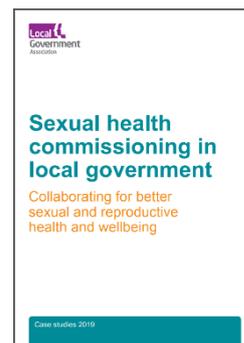
Tools and Guidance

Department of Health and Social Care. How healthcare providers can prepare for Brexit

Guidance on what providers and commissioners of healthcare services can do to manage the risks of a no-deal Brexit.

Local Government Association. Sexual Health Commissioning in Local Government

The case studies in this report provide examples from around the country of councils collaborating, both among themselves and with CCGs and NHS England, to commission integrated services and improve the sexual health and wellbeing of their local populations.

They showcase joint commissioning in urban and rural areas, by councils with widely varying population profiles and facing differing sexual health challenges, and are written to a level of detail intended to enable others to imitate their approach.

NICE. NICE Guideline: Abortion Care

This guideline covers care for women of any age (including girls and young women under 18) who request an abortion. It aims to improve the organisation of services and make them easier for women to access. Detailed recommendations on conducting abortions at different gestational stages are also included, to ensure that women get the safest and most effective care possible.

NICE. NICE Quality Standard: Suicide Prevention

This quality standard covers ways to reduce suicide and help people bereaved or affected by suicide. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement.

It does not cover national strategies (including internet safety), general mental wellbeing, or areas such as the treatment and management of self-harm or mental health conditions.
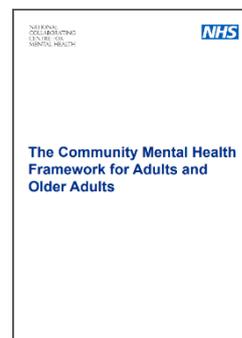
NHS Digital. Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities Standardised Mortality Ratio Indicator

This is a three-year rolling mortality indicator presented as a standardised mortality ratio. It is aimed at measuring the national and local standardised mortality ratio of the learning disabilities population compared to the general population. People with learning disabilities often have a shorter life expectancy than that of the general population. Some of the causes of mortality amongst this population are thought to be premature and preventable. This indicator therefore presents a useful contribution to monitoring improvements in the rates of mortality in the learning disabilities population.

The indicator finds that for 2014-17, given uncertainty, people identified with a learning disability aged 0 to 74 years were between 4 and 4.3 times more likely to die in the period than would be expected for people with broadly the same characteristics in the general population.

NHSE. The Community Mental Health Framework for Adults and Older Adults

The Community Mental Health Framework describes how the NHS Long Term Plan's vision for a place-based community mental health model can be realised, and how community services should modernise to offer whole-person, whole-population health approaches, aligned with the new Primary Care Networks.

NHSE. Using Online Consultations in Primary Care: Implementation Toolkit

This online consultation toolkit is an interactive document that provides a range of ideas and options for different professionals, including clinicians, at different points in their implementation journey.

The toolkit aims to support those individuals implementing online consultations as part of their role - in practices, within PCNs, CCGs or other organisations, with the successful adoption and seamless integration of online consultations alongside face to face and other services. The first half of the toolkit is for practices and the second half is aimed at commissioners.

NHSE. Social Prescribing Link Worker Welcome Pack

The welcome pack includes useful information to help link workers in primary care networks find out more about their role and what support is available.
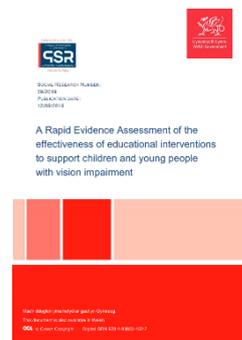
Children and young people's services

Reports

Welsh Government. A Rapid Evidence Assessment of the effectiveness of educational interventions to support children and young people with vision impairment

The report examines the evidence base regarding effectiveness of educational interventions aimed at supporting children and young people with visual impairment, in school settings.

The report identifies two implications for Wales. First, more research is required to produce evidence on effectiveness of interventions. Secondly, practitioners must design broad interventions based on the

evidence and practice available and then use assessment of progress to amend interventions. However, the educational practice examined here does show the general value of many of the interventions.

Welsh Government. A Rapid Evidence Assessment of the effectiveness of educational interventions to support children and young people with hearing impairment

The report examines the effectiveness of educational interventions aimed at supporting children and young people with hearing impairment, in school settings.

The report identifies two implications for Wales which match those of the Rapid Evidence Assessment of the effectiveness of educational interventions to support children and young people with vision impairment, outlined above.

Department for Education. Exploring teaching assistants' appetite to become teachers

This report explores teaching assistants' views in order to understand their perceptions and intentions of teaching as a career and gather insight on the barriers for teaching assistants who want to become teachers.

National Audit Office. Support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities in England

This report assesses how well pupils with SEND are being supported. They examined the system for supporting pupils with SEND and the outcomes it is achieving; funding, spending and financial sustainability; and the quality of support and experiences of pupils and parents.

They conclude that how well pupils with SEND are supported affects their well-being, educational attainment and long-term life prospects. Some pupils with SEND are receiving high-quality support that meets their needs, whether they attend mainstream schools or special schools. However, the significant concerns that they have identified indicate that many other pupils are not being supported effectively, and that pupils with SEND who do not have EHC plans are particularly exposed.
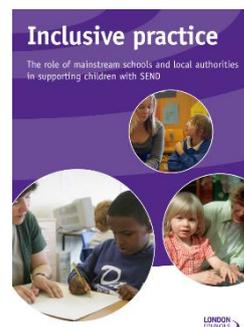
Buttle UK. The experiences of education for children and young people in poverty in the UK in 2019

Buttle UK's unique study of frontline child support workers shows how children of less well-off families face multiple issues in fully accessing the state education that is available to them and are being further disadvantaged at the very start of life.

London Councils. Inclusive practice: The role of mainstream schools and local authorities in supporting children with SEND

London Councils conducted qualitative research into inclusive practice in mainstream schools to explore concerns about the disparity in levels of inclusion across schools in London.

The research highlights some of the excellent work in London's schools and local authorities delivering on their legal duty to ensure education is inclusive and enabling a significant number of children with SEND to benefit from a mainstream education. However, we cannot yet guarantee that all schools in London are inclusive by default. The research also found examples of unfair admissions practice, off-rolling and inappropriate exclusions.
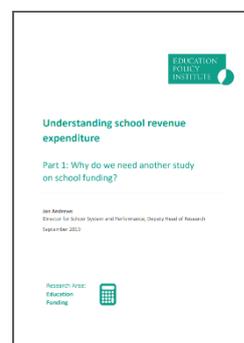
Education Policy Institute. Understanding school revenue expenditure (Part 1: Why do we need another study on school funding?)

The Education Policy Institute has launched a new series of research papers examining school expenditure, and how it has evolved over the last two decades.

The new series of analyses aims to develop a greater understanding of school spending patterns, by examining the nature of school income and expenditure, and how it is changing at both a system level and for individual schools.

This introductory paper outlines the evolution of expenditure since 2002-2003, and considers how much schools have spent on teachers, other school staff, and non-staffing costs.

Children's Commissioner. A Manifesto for Children

The manifesto, published ahead of any upcoming General Election, calls on Britain's political parties to include a six-point plan in their election manifestos to transform the life chances for disadvantaged children and to help all of England's 12 million children to thrive.

The manifesto sets out some of the key issues that children have told the Children's Commissioner's Office are affecting their lives, and reflects many of the subjects the Children's Commissioner has been shining a light on in recent years – children growing up in chaotic families, inadequate children's mental health services, children's safety and children living in poor quality housing such as B&Bs, converted office blocks or shipping containers.

The Children's Commissioner's manifesto focuses on six key themes: supporting stronger families, providing decent places for children to live, helping children to have healthy minds, keeping children active, providing SEND support for those who need

it, and creating safer streets and play areas. It also sets out some of the likely costs involved alongside the policy proposals, including the Children's Commissioner's argument that existing statutory services must be put on a sustainable financial footing.

The Children's Society. Impact Report 2019

The Children's Society Impact Report for 2018-19 highlights the organisation's work across the country to change things for the young people with whom they work. Their impact is the sustainable change that young people see as a result of their work. This means change in themselves, in their families and their communities, and in the systems with which they interact. Ultimately, the impact The Children's Society seeks is that young people have safe, stable, healthy, and positive lives, where they have less exposure to harmful risk, are resilient, and have the resources they need to thrive.

To capture impact, they use a range of measurement and evaluation approaches, both quantitative and qualitative, which are supported by their in-house Evidence and Impact team. Their Impact Report for 2018-19 showcases a range of their projects and services and outlines the impact they have had.

Briefings

National Assembly for Wales. Early Childhood Education and Care: Policy Development

This briefing is the third in a series providing a quick guide to early childhood education and care (ECEC). It looks at the key policy questions around ECEC including who it is really for, how available and accessible it is, and how it is funded.

Children's Commissioner. The children leaving school with nothing

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, has published research looking at the number of children who leave the education system at 18 without reaching Level 2 attainment (five GCSEs grade A* to C, or equivalent technical qualifications). These are children who will have spent 14 years in compulsory education, often having more than £100,000 of public money spent on their education, and yet are leaving the education system without basic benchmark qualifications. This hampers their chances of finding apprenticeships or good jobs.

The Children's Commissioner's analysis reveals that in 2018, 98,799 children in England (18% of all school leavers) left education at 18 without reaching Level 2 attainment. This rate is now rising after it fell continuously between 2005 and 2015. The Commissioner's research shows this rise is being driven by a sharp increase in

the proportion of pupils receiving Free School Meals (FSM) failing to achieve these targets. Since 2015, the number of children receiving FSM who have left education without proper qualifications has increased to 28,225 – up from 28% to 37% of all education leavers in England.

NSPCC Learning. Voluntary agencies: learning from case reviews

This briefing focuses on learning from published case reviews that specifically relates to voluntary and community sector organisations.

It highlights the need for organisations to have clear child protection policies and procedures and be clear about their roles and responsibilities around child protection and safeguarding.

Tools and Guidance

Department for Education. School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool

This tool helps assure governing bodies and trust boards that they are meeting the right standards to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management.
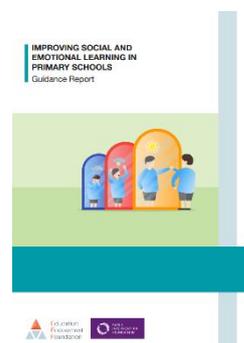
It can be used to identify areas for change to make sure resources are used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

The tool consists of a checklist and a dashboard: the checklist asks questions of governing bodies and trust boards in 6 areas of resource management; the dashboard shows how a school's data compares to thresholds on a range of statistics that have been identified by the Department for Education as indicators of good resource management and outcomes.

Early Intervention Foundation (EIF). Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools: Guidance Report

This guide has been produced through a partnership between EIF and the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

It sets out six sets of recommendations, aiming to support primary schools to teach SEL skills explicitly; integrate and model SEL skills through everyday teaching; plan carefully for adopting a SEL programme; use a SAFE curriculum: sequential, active, focused and explicit; reinforce SEL skills through a whole-school ethos and activities; and plan, support and monitor SEL implementation.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). PEEL spotlight report: Emerging themes from the second group of 2018/19 PEEL inspections

This report gives an overview of the emerging themes from the second group of 2018/19 PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) inspections. These themes are based on findings from 15 force reports: the 14 forces HMICFRS inspected in the second group of inspections and Cleveland Police, which they inspected in the third group.

It follows the first 2018/19 PEEL Spotlight report which was published in May 2019.

Tools and Guidance

Howard League for Penal Reform. Representing looked-after children at the police station: A step-by-step guide for lawyers

Looked-after children, and particularly those living in residential care, are disproportionately criminalised, compared to other children. They are less likely to receive support from family members or another trusted adult at the police station, and they should be entitled to additional protections set out in law, policy and guidance.

The Howard League for Penal Reform and the Youth Justice Legal Centre at Just for Kids Law have worked together to produce this document, which offers guidance on practical steps that lawyers should take to ensure that looked-after children receive the support and assistance they need and are entitled to.

Local Government Association. Tackling modern slavery: council case studies

In 2017, the LGA published the first guidance for councils on the various roles they can play in tackling the scourge of modern slavery.

This follow up document comprises a set of case studies from councils up and down the country, highlighting some of the good work already taking place to tackle modern slavery. It has been published alongside a guide for councillors setting out the individual role they can play on this issue.