



CordisPulse

October 2020

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.

There were a number of publications that came out this month that focused on children's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic and on keeping children safe. For example, the Children's Commissioner published research into [stress among children during lockdown](#), while the NSPCC published their [How safe are our children?](#) report which looks at abuse perpetrated against adolescents.

One of the challenges in the work we are supporting clients with is domestic abuse, with the pandemic making it a more challenging situation both for adults and for children and young people. This situation is likely to be further exacerbated as the pandemic surges and associated lockdowns are tightened.

One intervention that we've recently evaluated is Operation Encompass (see Cordis Bright News below). This initiative, which aimed to educate children and young people about healthy relationships and domestic abuse and provide enhanced support for victims/survivors, has evidence to show that it improves outcomes for people affected by domestic abuse and for children and young people in schools. It is a timely evaluation report as the Government has just introduced from the start of this academic year compulsory teaching on relationships and sex education, including teaching on healthy relationships and domestic abuse (the new statutory guidance can be found [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 or 020 7330 9170.

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Cordis Bright News

Operation Encompass: the Next Steps

Cordis Bright worked with colleagues at Psychology Associates to deliver an independent process and impact evaluation of Operation Encompass: the Next Steps. This was a timely initiative developed in partnership between Northumbria Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Northumbria Police, Barnardo's, and Operation Encompass. The project provided short-term input from a team of police-employed school safeguarding liaison officers to introduce teaching materials on domestic abuse and healthy relationships into schools in the Northumbria police force area. Since our evaluation report was produced this has become a compulsory part of the curriculum as of September 2020. The full evaluation report can be accessed [here](#).

Co-production during COVID-19

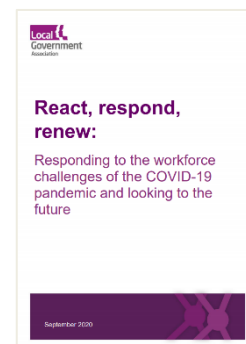
Cordis Bright has co-produced research and evaluation with people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage both prior to and since the introduction of lockdown measures in the UK. In this new [blog](#), we reflect on what we have learnt about this process since lockdown.

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

LGA. React, Respond, Renew – Workforce COVID-19 response

This paper provides a summary of how COVID-19 initially affected local government from a workforce perspective. React, Respond, Renew sets the scene for the workforce having to respond, within an extremely short timescale, to a completely new way of working. It provides a narrative to the shared experience of working through the pandemic in 2020.

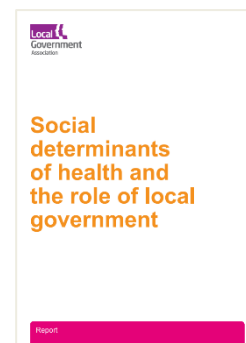


UK Government. COVID-19: mental health and wellbeing surveillance report

This report presents close to real time intelligence on the mental health and wellbeing of the population in England during the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes up-to-date information to inform policy, planning and commissioning in health and social care. It compiles routinely updated indicators from multiple sources and summarises important recent findings from a pre-defined set of studies. The report aims to inform policy, planning and commissioning in health and social care and is designed to assist stakeholders at both national and local level.

LGA. Social determinants of health and the role of local government

This report considers the role of local government in public health, emphasising that it can have an even greater potential to influence health improvement than the NHS. It has been seven years since the transfer of public health responsibilities to local government in 2013, and ten years since the landmark publication of the Marmot report, 'Fair Society Healthy Lives'. It has also been ten years since the LGA last produced a report on the social determinants of health. The report therefore considers what innovation and activity has been undertaken in that time, and what local government can do to improve health especially by tackling social determinants.



LGA. Digital innovation in adult social care: how we've been supporting communities during COVID-19

The LGA and ADASS commissioned the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University to work with councils in capturing examples of social care digital innovation across local government. The report considers what has been done to support the use of technology for connection, wellbeing and bringing communities together; what has been learnt about factors which lead to successful digital innovation in adult social care; and what should be done next to sustain momentum in new learning, approaches and ways of working.



Bevan Foundation. Reducing the impact of Coronavirus on Poverty in Wales

The Bevan Foundation has set out to provide a snapshot of the impact of Covid-19 on poverty up to the end of August, by combining official data published by the Welsh and UK Governments, alongside quantitative and qualitative data gathered from stakeholders working with people in poverty. The report also considers what are likely to be the greatest challenges facing people in poverty or at risk of poverty over the next six months, highlights some of the risk factors around work, social security and living costs, and recommends actions that the Welsh Government and local authorities should take to help lift people out of poverty.



St Mungo's. Tackling transient work and homelessness

This research report illustrates the key findings from a qualitative peer research project examining the relationship between transient work and homelessness. It considers evidence about the challenges, barriers and risks transient workers face and the impact this has on their housing security, focusing on four key themes: insecure housing, work and the benefits system; travel costs as a barrier to work; specific challenges for migrant workers; and in-work homelessness. This 15-month project was conducted by St Mungo's clients and the research team as part of a course at St Mungo's Recovery College in Southwark.



The Health Foundation. The long-term impacts of new care models on hospital use

This report presents the findings of an evaluation of the long-term impacts of the Mid-Nottinghamshire's Better Together Integrated Care Transformation Programme, looking at hospital use. It covers a 6-year period from the start of the initiatives in April 2013. The research found evidence that integrated care programmes have the potential to reduce hospital utilisation and that the best results are delivered when new ways of working start to become embedded.

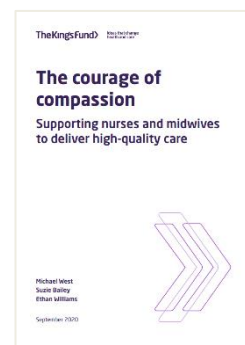
The Commission on Alcohol Harm. It's everywhere – Alcohol's public face and private harm

This report from a Commission on Alcohol Harm undertaken by the Alcohol Health Alliance calls on the UK Government for a new comprehensive alcohol strategy. It considers the harms that alcohol causes in the UK, including consultation from more than 140 people with academic, professional or personal experience. Key themes include harm to others, society and individuals. The report also makes a series of recommendations to the UK government.



The King's Fund. The courage of compassion – Supporting nurses and midwives to deliver high-quality care

Commissioned by the RCN Foundation, this review investigates how to transform nurses' and midwives' workplaces so they can thrive and are better able to provide compassionate, high-quality care. Nurses and midwives have three core work needs that must be met to ensure wellbeing and motivation and to minimise workplace stress: autonomy, belonging and contribution. The report sets out eight key recommendations, alongside an accompanying set of practical recommendations. They are addressed to all leaders who influence the workplace experience of nursing and midwifery staff.

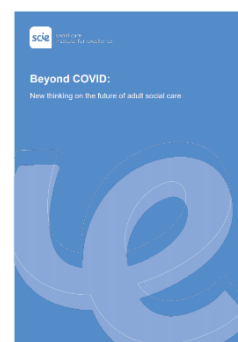


Welsh Government. Review of Evidence of Variation in Terms and Conditions for Social Care Employment Contracts in Wales

This is a small scale exploratory study which aims to review disparities in pay and conditions across the social care workforce in Wales and assess the extent to which this may have influenced recruitment and retention of care workers. The primary focus was 'the lowest paid/entry-level' care workers who deliver care and support. For example, domiciliary care workers, care support workers, housing support workers (supported living), health care assistants/ health care support workers and residential care workers. The review included health care support workers undertaking similar roles in the NHS employed on Agenda for Change pay scales.

SCIE. Beyond COVID: New thinking on the future of adult social care

At the start of the pandemic, SCIE started a programme of engagement with the sector with the aim of exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the social care sector, examining what is needed to improve social care in the future, and produce recommendations for the future of social care after the crisis. This position paper sets out the findings of the programme. It identifies three shifts that are needed to build a system that is financially sustainable and fair to access, and sets out recommendations for the government and other organisations.



Briefings

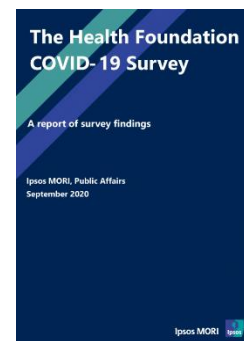
The Health Foundation. Level or not? Comparing general practice in areas of high and low socioeconomic deprivation in England

This briefing uses publicly available data to explore the current relationship between population need and supply in general practice, seeking to answer the question: how does general practice compare in areas of higher and lower socioeconomic deprivation in England? This analysis contributes to an understanding of the extent to which the inverse care law persists in general practice today. The briefing considers areas including: the variation in funding between different providers; the number and skills mix of the staff employed in a practice, the infrastructure and equipment available, and information systems

used; the number and type of appointments that can be offered, and the staff that provide them; the quality of services provided, as well as the practice's ability to coordinate care.

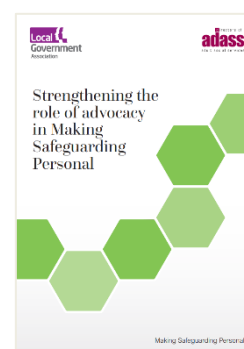
The Health Foundation. Public perceptions of health and social care in light of COVID-19 (July 2020)

This report presents the findings of an Ipsos MORI survey commissioned by the Health Foundation and conducted between 17 and 29 July 2020. This was a follow up survey to the first round of polling carried out in May 2020. This new polling data looks at the public's attitudes towards the Government's handling of COVID-19 and the measures it has taken to tackle the outbreak so far. The data shows a significant change in the public's perceptions on these issues since May this year.



LGA. Strengthening the role of advocacy in Making Safeguarding Personal

This briefing offers support to those who have duties to commission and arrange advocacy services and to the advocacy sector, including in defining both advocacy and Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP). It builds on an earlier publication (LGA/ADASS, December 2017) which aimed to help shape the role of advocacy in MSP and clarify the strong connection between the responsibilities and core principles of advocacy and of MSP and the potential contribution of both to effective safeguarding.



Tools and Guidance

UK Government. Coronavirus (COVID-19): changes to the Care Act 2014

Changes to the Care Act 2014 to help local authorities prioritise care and support during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

UK Government. Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for people receiving direct payments

Advice for people who buy care and support through a direct payment, as well as local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and those who provide care and support.

UK Government. COVID-19: providing unpaid care to adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults

Guidance for people who are providing unpaid care to adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

NHS England. Dementia wellbeing in the COVID-19 pandemic

This resource is primarily for clinicians working with people with dementia, but can also be used by carers and people with dementia. This document takes the wellbeing pathway and



sets out the adjustments and amendments needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights key priorities and actions for each step in the pathway.

Children and young people's services

Reports

LGA. A child-centred recovery

This document outlines the LGA's ambitions for a child-centred recovery, drawing together every aspect of policy and service delivery to create the places people want to live in and plan for the future. The publication is in three parts, first looking at the immediate challenges as a result of the pandemic and what must be done to tackle them. Second, the report considers how councils and the Government can implement more child-centred approaches to policy and decision-making. Third, it looks at challenges we face in the longer-term.

Women's Aid. Nowhere to turn for children and young people – Documenting the journeys of children and young people into refuges

This report is an exploration of how experiencing and fleeing domestic abuse affects the lives of children and young people. It brings together original research findings on the specific needs that children and young people have when fleeing domestic abuse during their family's search for a safe space to live. It is part of the Nowhere to Turn series, which is linked to Women's Aid's No Woman Turned Away project. This report focuses on children and young people fleeing domestic abuse with their mother, rather than those experiencing domestic abuse in their own romantic relationships.



Welsh Government. Review of the impact of mass disruption on the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people

This literature review was conducted as a rapid evidence assessment that aimed to explore the impact of disasters that have caused mass disruption (including school closure) on the wellbeing and mental health of school-aged children and young people (aged 3 to 18 years). Risk and protective factors for children and young people's mental health are explored, and the effectiveness of post-disaster interventions are highlighted. The purpose was to provide evidence to inform policy decisions about support for school-aged children following the COVID-19 pandemic.



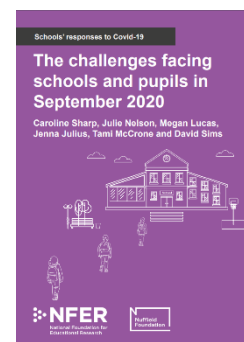
NFER. The Impact of Covid-19 on Initial Teacher Training – Implications for Teacher Supply in England

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, England's school system was facing an increasingly severe challenge of recruiting enough trainees to initial teacher training (ITT) to meet growing teacher demand. The pandemic has had a number of impacts on the ITT sector and on teacher supply more broadly. This report highlights some of the main opportunities and challenges brought by Covid-19, drawing on applications data from the Universities and

Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and nationally-representative surveys of teachers and senior leaders.

NFER. Schools' responses to Covid-19 – The challenges facing schools and pupils in September 2020

This research investigates the impact of Covid-19 on mainstream primary and secondary schools in England. It follows an earlier NFER survey of schools' responses to Covid-19 in May (see Nelson and Sharp, 2020) and focuses on the challenges schools will face from September. It considers the extent to which pupils are behind in their curriculum learning in relation to teachers' normal expectations for the end of the school year; the impact of Covid-19 on the 'disadvantage gap'; the need for catch-up support from September; and the logistical issues and resource implications of opening schools fully while taking measures to reduce the risk of infection. It also considers schools' experiences of offering remote learning from March, and blended learning (remotely and in-school) from June, in order to inform decisions about the support and resources that schools will need in the event of future lockdowns.



NDNA. The COVID-19 pandemic and the early years workforce – Staffing decisions in an uncertain environment

This is the first in a series of four short reports summarising the findings of four quarterly surveys of early education and childcare providers in Great Britain. The NDNA is seeking to understand the impact that the current COVID-19 pandemic is having on the staffing decisions of early years providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. Early years providers face a variety of challenges, which look set to change considerably over the next year, from changes in the demand for childcare among parents to changes to the schemes of government support available such as through the government's furlough scheme.

NSPCC. How safe are our children? 2020

This report gives an overview of data on abuse of adolescents. Since 2013, the NSPCC's annual 'How safe are our children?' report has compiled and analysed data from across the UK to show the current child protection landscape. In 2020, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) took on this task for the first time. The NSPCC therefore refocused their annual report, this year looking in more detail at statistics relating to abuse perpetrated against adolescents. The report also includes an overview of emerging data on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the safety of children and young people in the UK.

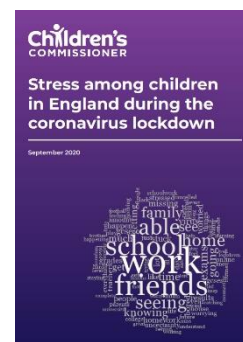


Children's Commissioner. Childhood in the time of Covid

This report aims to set out the key ways in which children's lives have been impacted as a result of the Covid-19 crisis and to provide a roadmap for what must be done to enable children to recover from their experiences, and how their needs should be put first in the event of further lockdowns.

Children's Commissioner. Stress among children in England during the coronavirus lockdown

This report considers what children were worrying about both before and during lockdown. This is based on two surveys on stress conducted among children and young people aged 8-17 in England. The surveys were run in March 2020 (coinciding with the closure of schools and the beginning of lockdown in England) and June 2020, to explore how children's experiences of stress had changed.



Children's Commissioner. Unregulated – Children in care living in semi-independent accommodation

Department for Education research found that the number of children living in unregulated accommodation has increased since 2015, with local authorities using unregulated accommodation as a positive choice to support young people to become independent, or being forced to use unregulated accommodation, of highly variable quality, when no other option was available. This report aims to build on this research by focusing on the experiences of children themselves who are placed in unregulated accommodation. It uses analysis of the Looked After Children census, visits and interviews with children and young people across England, and visits and interviews with service providers to shine light on the situation and to make recommendations for how this system can be effectively reformed.



Public Health England. Barriers and facilitators to supporting families with children most at risk of developing excess weight – A scoping review of qualitative evidence from the UK and Europe

The review presents evidence from the UK and Europe in considering the practice implications for the development and delivery of weight management services (prevention and treatment). It looks specifically at the qualitative evidence relating to families with children: from certain minority ethnic groups, from low socio-economic communities, living with intellectual and/or physical disabilities.

Briefings

Nuffield Family Justice Observatory. Contact between children in care or adopted and their families: six key messages from research

This briefing paper distils and reflects on the key points from three evidence reviews looking at, respectively: the effects of digital contact on children's wellbeing; contact following placement in care, adoption or special guardianship; and contact during lockdown. The briefing also raises points for reflection and discussion about potential areas for change and improvement.

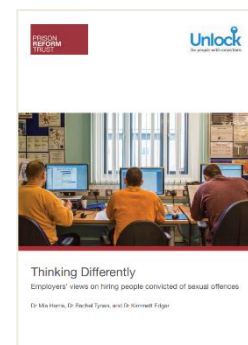


Criminal Justice

Reports

Prison Reform Trust. Thinking Differently – Employers' views on hiring people convicted of sexual offences

Report by the Prison Reform Trust and the charity Unlock into the attitudes of employers towards hiring people convicted of sexual offences. Thinking Differently explores employers' attitudes towards hiring people convicted of sexual offences. Its findings are based on a survey of employers and interviews with prison resettlement officers, employers, charities and other professionals.



Clinks. Trauma-informed work with people in contact with the criminal justice system

Evidence review of trauma-informed practice with people in contact with the criminal justice system in England and Wales. This evidence review explores the impact of trauma in the context of the criminal justice system, explains the core values behind trauma-informed services and defines the three stages to becoming trauma-informed in your practice. It then examines the emerging evidence of the impact of trauma-informed care with people in contact with the criminal justice system in the UK.

Clinks. Community empowerment approaches – The key to overcoming institutionalised racism in work with black, Asian and minority ethnic people in contact with the criminal justice system

This evidence review provides an in-depth look at growing rates of racial disparity in our criminal justice system and highlights key principles for effective interventions with people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds in contact with the system.



Briefings

Howard League. Arresting the entry of women into the criminal justice system

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in the Penal System received original evidence from five police forces in England and Wales providing anonymised data on arrests of women. The figures suggest that thousands of women each year are arrested, held in custody and then released without charge, which is an unnecessary and wasteful use of police resources.