

September 2015

Welcome to September'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.

During August, we were pleased to see a range of interesting reports and developments including:

Children and young people's services. The Children's Society published its annual Good Childhood Report, which showed that the wellbeing of children in England is falling behind that of children elsewhere. The Welsh Government published a review, conducted by Cordis Bright, of the implementation of the Child Practice Review framework. This review provided an in-depth assessment of the effectiveness of the new framework and made a series of recommendations for future practice.

Criminal Justice. The Youth Justice Board outlined how it proposes to achieve the government's stipulated target of 5% budget cuts. Ofsted also published guidance to inform providers of learning and skills training for people in custody about the new inspection framework.

Adult Social Care and Health. The Welsh Government announced that the budget for mental health services will continue to be ring-fenced, and both the Local Government Association and the National Audit Office have published reports examining the first months of the Care Act, which provide a number of key lessons for local authorities.

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



Children and young people's services

Reports

Access All Areas: Messages from care leavers to a new Government

This report from Access All Areas, a youth charity coalition made up of Barnardo's, The Care Leavers' Association, The Prince's Trust and The Who Cares? Trust, finds that care leavers in England want government to extend the support it provides to them up to the age of 25. It highlights better housing, employment training and financial support as the most important areas of support, and also calls for increased provision to CAMHS services for care leavers over the age of 18.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Cabinet Office: Trends in risk behaviours and negative outcomes amongst children and young people

This report by the government's Horizon Scanning Team finds that traditional 'risky behaviours' amongst young people, such as drinking, smoking, taking drugs and criminal behaviour, are on the decrease. However, it also identifies self-harm, social isolation, loneliness, anxiety and body appearance issues as growing negative outcomes amongst children and young people.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Ofsted: The quality of assessment for children in need of help

This report from Ofsted is based on a thematic review of 123 assessments of vulnerable children's needs from across 10 local authorities. It finds that nearly two thirds of assessments are carried out promptly, meeting the child's needs and leading to children receiving the right support in a timely manner.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health: Rota vacancies and compliance survey December 2014 – April 2015

This report outlines the findings of the RCPCH's annual workforce survey of staff from 157 children's wards. It finds that 77% of staff believe workforce problems are currently unsustainable, highlighting a particularly issue surrounding the shortage of trainee paediatricians. In response to this, the report make three main recommendations, from improving GP services to keep children out of hospital, to expanding the workforce and improving regional collaboration to reduce staff pressures.

[To view this report, please click here](#)



The Children's Society: Not just a temporary fix – the search for durable solutions for separated migrant children

This report by The Children's Society outlines a number of ways in which migrant children entering the UK on their own are not receiving the long-term support they require. The report highlights a lack of support from local authorities, issues surrounding legal appeals processes, and failings surrounding children leaving the care system at 18 years old as areas of particular concern, and calls for more to be done to ensure migrant children have the stability necessary to develop and integrate into the UK.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

The Children's Society: The Good Childhood Report 2015

This report, the fourth in a series of annual reports, examines how children in the UK feel about their lives compared with 14 other countries. It finds that children in England are unhappier with their school lives than their peers in other countries due to issues such as bullying.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Welsh Government: Review of the implementation of the Child Practice Review Framework

This report, produced by Cordis Bright on behalf of the Welsh Government, assesses the extent to which the intended improvements on the precious system of completing Serious Case Reviews can be seen two years after the implementation of Child Practice Reviews. Drawing upon data from a range of sources, including Welsh Government monitoring data and in-depth interviews with a number of key stakeholders, the report concludes with a series of recommendations for future practice.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

YMCA: Uncertain Futures – a report examining the impact of removing automatic entitlement to Housing Benefit for 18 to 21 year olds

This report by the YMCA follows government plans to remove automatic entitlement to housing benefit for 18 to 21 year olds claiming universal credit from April 2017. The report finds that the move could leave a number of vulnerable groups of young people at risk of becoming homeless.

[To view this report, please click here](#)



Statistics

Department for Education: Adoption Leadership Board headline measures and business intelligence 2014 to 2015 update

This statistical release from the Adoption Leadership Board shows that between January and March this year, 11.5% fewer adoption placement orders were granted than in the previous three months, and that between 2012/13 and 2014/15 there has been a fall of 36%.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)

Ofsted: Children's social care in England 2015

These statistics cover children's social care data in England, including inspection outcomes for local authority children's services, and information about the providers of children's social care. They show that only a quarter of council children's social care services were rated Good.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)

Welsh Government: Absenteeism from secondary schools

This annual statistical report gives data on authorised and unauthorised absenteeism by pupils of compulsory school age, including information on school type, gender, free school meal eligibility and length of absence. The figures show that secondary school attendance has continued to rise and absenteeism is at its lowest ever recorded level.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)



Criminal Justice

Policy

Youth Justice Board: Proposal to reduce the Youth Justice Board's expenditure in 2015/16

This consultation document outlines the areas in which the proposed £13.5 million savings needed can best be made. It is open to consultation responses until 16th September 2015.

[To view this consultation document, please click here](#)

Reports

National Crime Agency: County Lines, Gangs, and Safeguarding – NCA Intelligence Assessment

This report presents and baseline national assessment of the 'County Lines' criminal business model. It outlines the ways in which criminal gangs are developing, intending to raise awareness of the issue to front line practitioners.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Tools and Guidance

Centre for Justice Innovation: Valuing Youth Diversion toolkit

This toolkit uses basic information about early intervention diversion schemes to estimate potential cost avoidance savings, primarily for police and the court system. These estimates are intended to be used for supporting youth offending teams (YOTs) and other organisations to attract funding for early intervention work to steer young people away from crime.

[To access this toolkit, please click here](#)

Ofsted: Inspecting learning and skills training for people in custody

This guidance is for providers of learning and skills training and work activities for young adults and adults in custody. It outlines the requirements of the inspections which apply from September 2015.

[To view this guidance, please click here](#)



Adult Social Care and Health

Policy

Welsh Government: Mental health budget ring-fence in Wales to continue

It was announced that the mental health budget in Wales will continue to be protected by a ring-fence following a Welsh Government-commissioned review into the effectiveness of the existing ring-fence. The budget for mental health services across Wales in 2015-16 had been ring-fenced at £587 million.

[To read more about this announcement, please click here](#)

Reports

Law Commission: Mental Capacity and Detention Impact Assessment

This impact assessment, published by the Law Commission in collaboration with the Department of Health, finds that proper implementation of the existing legal system for authorising deprivation of liberty assessments would cost £1.6 billion per year – more than 13 times the estimated £118 million current practice is costing.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Local Government Association: Care Act Implementation – Results of Local Authority Stocktake 4

This report, the first to be published since the Care Act legislation took effect in April 2015, finds that 68% of councils have contingency plans in place to manage the collapse of a major care provider, and more than half of councils reported a 'robust and comprehensive' understanding of the fair costs of care in their area. However, it also finds that 68% of councils reported 'the impact on the local provider market' as one of the main risks they faced in delivering the Care Act reforms.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

National Audit Office: Care Act first-phase reforms – local experience of implementation

This report highlights the key issues identified by local authorities in carrying out the Care Act reforms. It illustrates how local authorities are addressing the areas of biggest risk around uncertainty in demand from carers and self-funders, and shows how new initiatives are being developed to help achieve the objectives of the Care Act.

[To view this report, please click here](#)



Professional Standards Authority: Rethinking regulation

This report explains why current regulation for social care is not fit for purpose, and argues that major reform is needed so that it better supports professionals. It argues that regulation of professionals cannot be changed in isolation, but rather must take account of the places in which they work. The report calls for deregulation, less regulation and better regulation, making a series of recommendations as to how regulation can be reshaped so that it is able to support professionals and prevent them from being overburdened with rules and governance.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

The Centre for Welfare Reform: People, Places, Possibilities – Progress on Local Area Coordination in England and Wales

This report argues that the local area coordination model should be rolled out across England and Wales, based on research which finds that using community workers to help people build resilience and get more involved in their localities would ease the pressure on adult social care and delivery savings. The report draws upon data about how the model has benefited Derby City Council, which saw estimated savings of £800,000 over a 10 month period.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

The Clore Social Leadership Programme: Going round the houses – How can health and social housing sector professionals forge better links and what might the benefits be?

This report highlights five key emerging trends that are impacting on both social housing and health professionals, from a shift from health care provision in the hospital setting to the home setting, to a rise of long-term complex physical and mental health issues and widespread funding cuts. It argues that in light of these shared challenges, more should be done to forge better links between the two professions, outlining a number of ways in which this could be achieved.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

The King's Fund: Inequalities in life expectancy – Changes over time and implications for policy

This report assesses how life expectancy is linked to social inequalities, and how this has changed over time. It finds that between 1999-2003 and 2006-2010, income-related inequalities in life expectancy have improved. It also identifies areas that have persistently high or low life expectancy over time, and assesses which factors, such as unemployment and housing deprivation, may contribute to this.

[To view this report, please click here](#)



Welsh Government: Together for Health – Annual Report for the Critically Ill 2015

This report, the second annual report on crucial care services in Wales, shows that survival rates for people receiving treatment in critical care units in Wales are increasing. It also highlights data which shows that re-admissions to critical care are very low, arguing that ward-based care and the discharge process can be said to be performing effectively.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Welsh Government: Together for Health – Heart Disease Delivery Plan, Annual Report 2015

This report includes a series of key findings relating to efforts to improve treatment of heart disease in Wales. It shows that disease detection has improved, as have survival rates following heart attacks. However, it also notes that the number of patients with high blood pressure, which can increase the risk of developing cardiovascular conditions, continues to rise.

[To view this report, please click here](#)

Statistics

HSCIC: Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Statistics

This statistical release shows that DoLS case numbers reached record levels from April to June 2015. The figures also illustrate the extent to which councils are breaching legal timescales for completing DoLS cases.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)

HSCIC: Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Statistics

This statistical release presents a wide range of information about care delivered to users of NHS funded secondary mental health and learning disability services in England. Of particular interest are statistics showing that 15% of mental health inpatients are in 'out of area' beds, defined as a bed in a hospital that is not the patient's usual provider.

[To view this statistical release, please click here](#)



Tools and guidance

Local Government Association: Dementia friendly communities: Guidance for councils

This guidance, produced by the Local Government Association in collaboration with the community interest company Innovation in Dementia, outlines the important role of councils in supporting people with dementia by creating local dementia friendly communities, and demonstrates how councils are making this happen through a range of case study examples.

[To view this guidance, please click here](#)

Local Government Association: Mental Capacity Act including the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards improvement tool

This improvement tool has been developed with funding from the Department of Health and support from the Association of Directors of Social Services. It can be used across a range of organisations to assess a service, to identify and promote good practice, and to highlight areas for further development.

[To access this tool, please click here](#)