



CordisPulse

November 2020

Welcome to November'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.

We were pleased to see the publication of Department for Education Round 2 Social Innovation programme evaluation reports. These can be seen [here](#). They contain a wealth of evidence concerning innovation across children's social care.

Cordis Bright delivered four evaluation reports as part of Round 2 of the programme including evaluations of three projects focusing on improving outcomes for children, young people and their families affected by domestic abuse and violence. These were the evaluations of Doncaster Growing Futures, Slough Children's Services Trust Innovation Fund programme and Newham NewDAY. In addition, we delivered the evaluation of the Ealing Building My Future programme which supports young people with SEND to achieve improved outcomes.

Across the evaluations we produced there were some key ingredients which may help the success or otherwise of future programmes. These included: programmes having strong, visible leadership with practitioner and staff buy-in; robust, evidence-informed theories of change/logic models; robust training needs assessments and strategies that can cope with high staff turnover; clear communication across the system including about programme progress; an understanding that some times costly interventions are the right thing to do but may not achieve substantial cost savings in the short or even intermediate term but may do so in the long-term; the importance of developing innovation in relatively stable contexts and systems. This list is by no mean exhaustive. More information about our reports is contained in the Cordis Bright News section below.

If you would like to discuss the learning from the above reports or 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

Department for Education Social Innovation Programme Evaluation Reports

In early November the Department for Education published four Social Innovation Fund programme evaluation reports that were produced by Cordis Bright. These included:

- **The evaluation of Doncaster Children’s Services Trust Growing Futures programme.** This longitudinal follow-up evaluation explored the impact and legacy of a programme which aimed to improve outcomes for children and young people affected by domestic violence and abuse through transforming the services that work with them. The full report is available [here](#).
- **The evaluation of Slough Children’s Services Trust Innovation programme.** This focussed on evaluating two specific workstreams funded by the DfE innovation programme: the Domestic Abuse, Assessment, Response and Recovery workstream and the Innovation Hub. Both workstreams aimed to improve outcomes for children and young people affected by domestic abuse and violence. The full report is available [here](#).
- **The evaluation of the Newham NewDAy programme.** This report presents the findings from the summative evaluation of the Newham NewDAy programme. NewDAy is a whole-family domestic abuse programme which is a non-statutory service which takes a non-judgemental, consent-based approach to working with families experiencing domestic abuse. It is offered to couples who have experienced situational violence not connected to controlling behaviour. Situational violence is defined as violence that occurs because the couple has conflict which turns into arguments that can escalate to emotional and possibly physical violence. This is different to controlling behaviour, where one partner uses a variety of violent and non-violent tactics to try to control the other. Given the focus of NewDAy – and its commitment to working with parents together – it is aimed at a particular subgroup of families experiencing domestic abuse where it is deemed safe to work in this way. The full report is available [here](#).
- **The evaluation of Ealing Building my Future.** Building My Future was developed by Ealing Council and its partners in recognition of the need to provide support to young people with additional needs (i.e. learning difficulties, autism, and/or Asperger syndrome) at an earlier stage. The aim was to improve outcomes in relation to wellbeing, education and participation, and to prevent the use of expensive, and potentially unsuitable, special school provision. The highly-skilled, multidisciplinary, multi-agency BMF team was greater than the sum of its parts. By removing the need to refer young people to different services, the BMF team was able to provide more tailored, holistic and responsive support than would have been the case if services were only





working in partnership. Qualitative evidence shows that BMF brought about improvements in:

- Young people's personal wellbeing, participation in mainstream education, and preparedness for adult life.
- Parents' and carers' relationships with their child and with their child's school/college. They also developed new skills/approaches to support their child.
- The capacity of schools/colleges to provide support to young people with additional needs. Some school/college staff also developed new skills/approaches.

The full report is available [here](#).

Department for Education. Research on fees paid by local authorities for children's homes in England

Cordis Bright worked with the Department for Education and local authorities to establish a robust understanding of the fees being paid for residential care placements and to explore which factors contribute to these fees.

The research examined weekly fees paid by local authorities for looked after children accommodated in open registered children's homes. The study excluded secure and unregulated provision. The research examined whether correlations exist between fees paid and characteristics of: (a) the child; (b) the children's home provider; and (c) the commissioner.

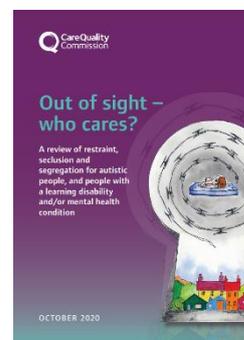
A summary of the findings is available [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Care Quality Commission. Out of sight – who cares?

This report looks at the use of restraint, seclusion and segregation in care services for people with a mental health condition, a learning disability or autistic people. Based on the findings of the report the CQC wants to see tangible progress across four key areas (full recommendations are detailed in the report):



- People with a learning disability and or autistic people who may also have a mental health condition should be supported to live in their communities. This means prompt diagnosis, local support services and effective crisis intervention.
- People who are being cared for in hospital in the meantime must receive high-quality, person-centred, specialised care in small units. This means the right staff who are trained to support their needs supporting them along a journey to leave hospital.
- There must be renewed attempts to reduce restrictive practice by all health and social care providers, commissioners, and others. We have seen too many examples of inappropriate restrictions that could have been avoided. We know in absolute emergencies this may be necessary, but we want to be clear – it should not be seen as a way to care for someone.
- There must be increased oversight and accountability for people with a learning disability, and or autistic people who may also have a mental health problem. There must be a single point of accountability to oversee progress in this policy area.

Care Quality Commission. Assessment of mental health services in acute trusts programme.

This report reviews the findings from over 100 acute hospital inspections. CQC looked at how well the mental health care needs of patients were met and where trusts, and the wider system, need to improve. In the report the CQC outline the steps that they recommend providers, clinical commissioning groups and local authorities take to improve the quality of care for people with mental health needs. These include:

- System-wide changes to improve the planning and commissioning of services, and ensure that patients have access to the physical and mental health care they need, when they need it.

- Trust-level changes to improve care for patients with mental health needs while in acute hospitals. For example, ensuring there is better provision and governance of mental health care within trusts.
- Support for staff. This includes training for staff that gives them the skills and confidence to meet people's mental health needs, as well as support for staff wellbeing.

Bevan Foundation. Transforming Wales: how Welsh public services and benefits can reduce poverty and inequality.

This paper brings together the findings from the Bevan Foundation's work over the last five years and sets out a comprehensive agenda to reduce social inequalities in Wales. It focuses on practical and deliverable changes in key public services, including reforms in health care, social care, education, housing and transport.

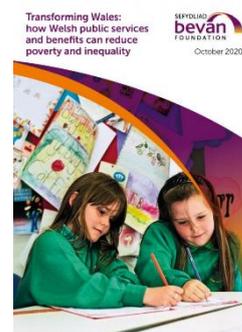
Key recommendations are:

- construction of 20,000 affordable homes in 5 years
- a cap on increases in social rents
- reform of help with Council Tax
- free universal child care
- introduction of a new 'School Start' scheme
- action to close the attainment gap
- investment in further education
- a new Learning Allowance for low income learners
- creation of a Welsh Emergency Fund
- more public and community wifi.

Bevan Foundation. Lessons from lockdown: the experience of shielding.

The Bevan Foundation explored the impact of shielding and carried out interviews with people who were shielding, and charities who support them. They identified a number of actions that the Welsh Government could make to help support people.

The report found that more support is required to manage the lasting impact of lockdown on their health and well-being. Looking



ahead, action is also needed to manage the on-going risks, particularly given the rise in infection rates.

Some of the key actions call on the Welsh Government to:

- Restore health services.
- Evaluate the impact of delays and cancellations and determine where additional resources are most needed.
- Improve communication about medical treatment.
- Adopt measures which help people feel safe when attending appointments.
- Continue to make welfare calls to people who have been shielding.

The Health Foundation. The bigger picture: Learning from two decades of changing NHS care in England.

In this report the Health Foundation's REAL Centre look back at the care and treatment provided by the NHS in England over the past two decades – as measured by health care activity. They make the following key points:

- Between 2000/01 and 2017/18, the amount of NHS-funded care in England more than doubled – increasing by 114%, an annual average of 4.6% a year.
- Our analysis suggests that the amount of care would have needed to grow by less than 1% a year to meet the demand pressures arising from demographic changes. This means that more than three quarters of the growth in NHS care since 2000/01 is the result of other factors relating to demand, supply, political priorities and health care policies.
- While overall health care activity has grown substantially, this growth has not been shared equally between services. Consultations in general practice have grown just 0.7% per year, while planned procedures increased 9.6%. This has produced a major shift in the composition of spend towards hospital-based care and away from other areas.
- Across the past two decades, much of the policy narrative was about shifting the focus of care away from acute services towards community and primary care to prevent avoidable admissions and manage care more proactively. There is little sign of this policy goal being achieved.

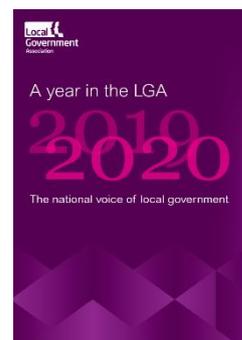


Local Government Association. A year in the LGA 2019-2020.

This report sets out the work that was delivered by the LGA over the last 12 months.

Briefings

The King's Fund. Access to new medicines in the English NHS.



This briefing describes the processes that decide whether NHS services in England will pay for patients to receive new, patented drugs, from the initial development and testing of drugs, to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's (NICE's) appraisal of their effectiveness and negotiations between the NHS and pharmaceutical companies to agree prices.

The King's Fund. Submission to the Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into workforce burnout and resilience in the NHS and social care.

This briefing provides an overview of the resilience of the NHS and social care workforce, including the impact of Covid-19. The evidence also considers what is known about the causes of burnout in the NHS and social care workforce, what can help reduce it, and the implications for national policy.

Tools and Guidance

Local Government Association. Meeting the home adaptation needs of older people.



The Local Government Association (LGA), the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), Care & Repair England and Age UK have produced this guide for councillors and health and wellbeing board members to highlight important aspects of home adaptations and provide links to information about local innovation and good practice. Although this guide focuses on the context of an ageing population, it is important to note that the growing number of working age adults and children with a disability is also increasing demand for adaptations.

Meeting the home adaptation needs of older people

Is your council actively addressing residents' need for help with home adaptations?



Local Government Association. Learning for Life: the role of adult community education in developing thriving local communities – A handbook for councillors.

This handbook for councillors focuses on the direct and indirect impact of adult community education (ACE). It aims to help councillors effectively plan, promote and scrutinise their local ACE service so that it is relevant, robust, efficient, responsive and ambitious. Councillors have a critical role to play in planning and promoting ACE;



in support, oversight and challenge; and in ensuring that provision is joined up and responds to the needs of local communities. Their input, scrutiny and leadership are essential in realising the rich potential of adult community education.

This handbook sets out the importance of ACE in place shaping: how it brings economic and social benefits to local communities, enhancing the lives of residents and contributing to the culture and cohesion of the places in which they live and work. It encourages planners and policy-makers to work in a way that acknowledges and makes use of the special role played by adult education in connecting and adding value to other council services.

Department for Work & Pensions. Supported housing: national statement of expectations.

Good quality supported housing is vital: providing a safe, stable and supportive place to live can be the key to unlocking better outcomes for vulnerable people, from tackling poverty and disadvantage to managing crises, rehabilitation or maintaining people's independence.

This National Statement of Expectations (NSE) has been developed in collaboration between the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) with input from local councils and the supported housing sector.

Children and young people's services

Reports

Local Government Association. Re-thinking youth participation for the present and next generation: education to employment.

Councils and combined authorities as democratically elected leaders of place play a key role in stimulating local economies and want to ensure that employers have a supply of skilled workforce to meet the current and future business demands in local areas. Young people's engagement in education, employment, or training (EET) as the next generation workforce is vital for local areas and the economy.

While it will be some time before official statistics start to reflect the real impact of the pandemic on the labour market and young people, it is understood that the crisis has worsened the situation for the entire generation. Many experts, including the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) indicate that we are facing the worst jobs crisis in a generation – with young people (18–24) set to be hit particularly hard. Most young people will be disproportionately impacted - those in schools and colleges, on apprenticeships or in sectors mostly bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis. What started as a health crisis will now become equally an economic and employment crisis as well unless bold action is taken to avert this catastrophe.

In this report, LGA outlines the challenges of the system, alongside the key recommendations for improving youth participation in EET, and our asks of Government.

Action for Children. Giving care leavers the chance to stay.

Action for Children's report explores how we can make sure all young people leaving foster care can keep living with their carers once they turn 18, if that is what they want. The report makes a series of recommendations where Action for Children call on the Government to:

- Commit to providing adequate funding to local authorities to deliver Staying Put for 2021/22 as soon as possible.
- Carefully consider each of the options Action for Children has set out, and develop a long-term funding model for Staying Put as part of the upcoming Care Review. This should be based on the option that has a high likelihood of affordability for carers, covering both fee payments and allowances.
- Set minimum allowances for Staying Put carers supporting young people aged 18, 19, and 20, as they do for foster carers looking after children aged up to 17.
- Update the guidance around Staying Put.



- Explore the implementation of Staying Put, and the different experiences of young care leavers, as part of its upcoming Care Review.

Action for Children. Childhood during coronavirus: protection children from the effects of poverty.

This report presents findings from an analysis of applications submitted to the Emergency Fund and a survey of Action for Children frontline staff. This report makes recommendations to the UK and devolved governments, on the steps needed to support families to recover from the financial effects of the pandemic, and to reduce child poverty rates.



Coram Voice and The Rees Centre. What makes life good? Care leavers' views on their well-being.

Coram Voice and the Rees Centre co-delivered this report which analysed the views and experiences of over 1,800 care leavers in England and has identified 10 key issues that lead to high wellbeing, as well as recommendations for improvements.



The research highlights the importance of understanding how care leavers feel about their lives, their hopes and feelings, in order to deliver high quality services and support. While government statistics focus on objective measures and professional assessments such as education and employment, this gives only a partial picture of care leavers lives. This study is the first of its kind in examining the subjective wellbeing of a large sample of care leavers by including their voice in the conversation.

The report found that that high wellbeing in care leavers is associated with feeling less lonely and stressed, happier with how they look, feeling settled, positive about the future and experiencing positive feelings and emotions. Having people in their lives providing emotional support, as well as feeling that they were treated the same or better than other young people and were feeling safe where they were living were also identified as indicators of high wellbeing.

Key recommendations for local authorities, guided by factors that care leavers themselves have identified, include:

- Improving connections and trusting relationships and addressing loneliness.
- Providing emotional and mental health support to address stress, negativity and help care leavers feel good about their future.
- Providing money management and financial support to help care leavers cope financially.



- Improving accommodation support to help care leavers feel safe and settled in their homes.

Education Policy Institute. Education policy responses across the UK to the pandemic.

A new report by the Education Policy Institute (EPI), funded by the Nuffield Foundation, examines the education policy responses of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland during the height of the pandemic. This is the first detailed analysis comparing how the governments of each of the UK nations supported pupils' education during the period of closures to schools this year. The study considers how all four nations approached school closures, the delivery of free school meals, the provision of digital learning at home, and support for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

The report provides new insights into the role of devolution in the UK and the impact of the divergent policy paths pursued by the four nations. It also provides important lessons for UK policymakers on how they can learn from both the mistakes and successes during the lockdown this year, as they continue to respond to the pandemic.

Department for Education. Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers and Covid-19.

The Department for Education commissioned NatCen Social Research and Frontier Economics to conduct an online survey with childcare providers entitled the Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers and COVID-19 (SCEYP COVID). The purpose of this study was to understand how childcare providers have responded to the pandemic, the status of childcare provision and any potential longer-term consequences for the childcare market.



Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers and COVID-19

Research report

October 2020

Laura Hunnikin, Jonathon Blackburn

Department for Education



Department for Education. How early years providers support disadvantaged children, children with SEND, the home learning environment and healthy eating.

This report uses survey data to understand how early years providers can provide support for children with SEND, the home learning environment and healthy eating. The Department for Education commissioned NatCen Social Research to conduct a follow-up to the 2019 Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers (SCEYP) to collect additional data on providers' experience of initiatives which focus on supporting children with SEND, the home learning environment and healthy eating.

Department for Education. Evaluation of the Mental Health Services and School Link Expanded Programme.

This final report presents the summative findings from the independent evaluation of the Expanded Mental Health Services and Schools Link Programme. The evaluation concludes that the programme has a continuing role to play in the expanding



landscape for Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) provision within schools and localities.

Department for Education. State of the nation 2020: children and young people's wellbeing.

This report collates published evidence on the wellbeing of children and young people over the period of March to August 2020. The data indicates a surprisingly positive picture of the wellbeing and experiences of the majority of children and young people as there are signs that children and young people's wellbeing, on the whole, has been quite resilient to some of the challenges that 2020 have brought.

Briefings

Early Intervention Foundation. Adolescent mental health evidence brief 1.

This briefing provides data on the prevalence of mental disorders among adolescents, aged 11–19 years, in England, including data gathered during the Covid-19 national lockdown.

- More than one in seven young people (15.3%) aged 11–19 in England had at least one mental disorder in 2017.
- A follow-up survey carried out during the Covid-19 lockdown (July 2020) indicates that one in six young people (17.6%) aged 11–16 years were identified as having a probable mental disorder. This figure increases to one in five (20.0%) among young adults aged 17–22.
- Emotional disorders such as anxiety and depression are the most common mental disorders experienced by young people.
- The rate of mental disorders among 11–15-year-olds in England seems to be increasing, having risen from 11.4% in 1999 to 13.6% in 2017. The latest data from 2020 suggest that young people's mental health has further deteriorated.
- In younger adolescents (aged 11–16), the prevalence of mental disorders is similar among boys and girls. However, among older adolescents (17–19), mental disorders are more common in girls, with almost one in four girls (23.9%) experiencing a mental disorder, compared with one in 10 boys (10.3%).
- Self-harm and attempted suicide are around six times more common among adolescents (aged 11–19) with a mental disorder (32.8%) than those without (5.1%). Similar to mental disorders, rates of self-harm and attempted suicide among the adolescent population are increasing, with reported self-harm having increased from 5.3% in 2000 to 13.7% in 2014 (11–16-year-olds).
- While these increases over the last two decades may reflect more accurate reporting – potentially due to increased awareness and help-seeking

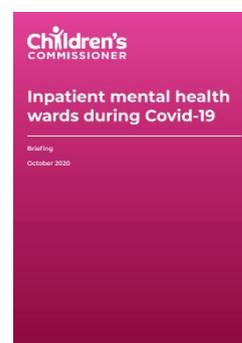
behaviours, reduced stigma and improved screening – they may also represent an increase in prevalence rates. Further research is required to understand these trends.

- The increasing concern around young people’s mental health, particularly in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, highlight the need for immediate action to support young people most at risk. It is essential that this action is underpinned by a strong evidence base.
- Early intervention, including promotion and prevention strategies, has the potential to produce the greatest impact on young people’s mental health and wellbeing by taking action before mental health problems worsen and preventing the onset of mental disorders.

Children’s Commissioner. Inpatient mental health wards during Covid-19.

Covid-19 and the lockdown period have taken a toll on all children, forcing them to miss out on school, time with friends and other restrictions in their lives. But there are some children who have faced particular challenges during this period.

This briefing focuses on the experiences of children living in mental health wards and shows how Covid-19 and lockdown has affected their hospital experience.



The children on these wards are living with severe mental health disorders, like eating disorders or severe depression and are in hospital because they need more intensive level of care than is possible in the community – often to keep them physically safe from harming themselves. Nevertheless, being in hospital away from home, friends and family and with other children in distress can be traumatic for children. Moreover, this research has found that too many children are spending months or even years in these settings when they do not need to be, often because there is nowhere for them to move on to. There have also been serious concerns raised about the quality of care in some of these institutions.

Education Policy Institute. Analysis: School attendance rates across the UK since full reopening.

Pupils across the UK have now returned to school on a full-time basis for about two months. Getting as many pupils back to school full-time is crucial to allow them to catch-up with any losses in learning over the period of lockdown. However, there are numerous challenges and barriers to getting attendance rates back to normal. This includes rising infection rates since early September, parental confidence in safety measures and the very difficult decisions facing pupils with health conditions that make them more vulnerable to the virus.

This article shows how school attendance rates have varied over time since full reopening across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It also analyses



the extent to which attendance varies across local areas and different groups of pupils (where data allows), before then detailing the implications for policy and the support needed by different groups of pupils.

Tools and Guidance

Department for Education. Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak.

This guidance is for local authorities and all early year's providers in England.

Department for Education. Joint housing protocols for care leavers: good practice advice.

This good practice advice document has been produced by the Homelessness Advice and Support Team (HAST) within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and with the Department for Education (DfE), to support the development of joint protocols that can help local authorities to meet the accommodation needs of care leavers.

Welsh Government. Celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion.

This report is in response to a request by the Welsh Government for advice on effective support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) learners, as well as those who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity. This study concludes that in schools and colleges with a strong culture of inclusion, LGBT learners thrive as they feel confident to express their feelings and beliefs.

Key recommendations for local authorities to support LGBT learners include:

- Local authorities and consortia should work with external partners to deliver relevant professional learning opportunities for staff in schools across primary and secondary sectors.
- Local authorities and consortia should work with primary and secondary schools to ensure progression in relationships and sexuality education between sectors.

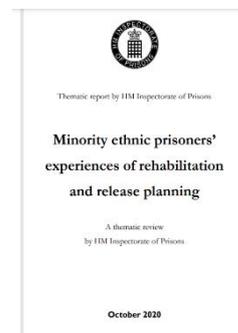


Criminal Justice

Reports

HM Inspectorate of Prisons. Minority ethnic prisoners' experiences of rehabilitation and release planning.

This review provides insights into Black and Minority Ethnic, and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, prisoners' experiences of rehabilitation and release planning in this changing environment. It seeks to expand the very limited current evidence on their experiences of rehabilitation and release planning, largely using prisoner surveys and verbal accounts from prisoners and key staff. It explores the extent to which the distinct needs of BME and GRT prisoners are being identified and met; responsive services which reflect individual needs are essential to building a criminal justice system in which Black and Minority Ethnic communities can have greater confidence.



HM Inspectorate of Prisons. Annual Report 2019-20.

The purpose of this report is to ensure independent inspection of places of detention, report on conditions and treatment, and promote positive outcomes for those detained and the public.



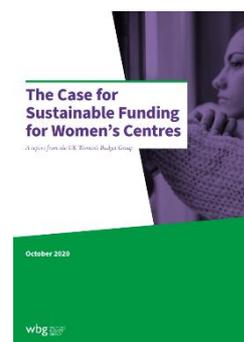
Revolving Doors. Flipped, turned upside down.

The National Expert Citizen's Group found that certain services had become more accessible for people experiencing Severe disadvantage, and in doing so, they had innovated in ways that were previously thought impossible or at least unlikely. This report outlines how Covid-19 improved services for people experiencing multiple disadvantages.



Women in Prison. The case for sustainable funding for women's centres.

This report highlights the benefits of a 'Women's Centre model' and explores evidence of the costs and benefits of this model. The report draws on evidence from the range of cost structures currently in use to outline the challenges of current funding arrangements and the risks of services becoming unsustainable. Finally, it shows how a new approach to commissioning of these important services could be developed, leading to a more sustainable model of provision in the future. This has the potential to reduce the costs incurred by the state across a broad range of public services and to ensure that women achieve their full potential, creating positive change for children, families and communities.



Briefings

Clinks. Submission to the Joint Human Rights Committee inquiry on black people, racism and human rights.

Clinks has provided a response to the Joint Human Rights Committee inquiry on black people, racism and human rights. The response focuses on the institutional racism faced by black people in contact with the CHS, the impact this has on their treatment and experiences in the CJS and the discriminatory outcomes that result.

Clinks. A bolder cost-benefit approach to capture the contribution of the voluntary sector in criminal justice.

This review provides an in-depth look at the rationale and uses of cost benefit analysis. It examines the use of this analysis in a number of different contexts, all of them particularly relevant to voluntary sector organisations working in the criminal justice system.

Tools and Guidance

HM Prison & Probation Service. Employing prisoners and ex-offenders.

A third of businesses state that they are unable to address skills gaps in their workforce, according to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). Thinking outside the box about recruitment and exploring new talent pools can help overcome such challenges. This report provides evidence to the range of benefits of working with prisoners and ex-offenders and provides guidance to help organisations with recruitment and employment.

