



CordisPulse

September 2020

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.

In this month's Pulse a number of publications highlight the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people. One of the ways that the government is responding is by funding the [See Hear Respond](#) programme which brings together a consortium of national and community-based charities led by Barnardo's to work together to provide assistance to vulnerable children, young people and their families, who have been adversely and disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown measures that have been implemented in response to the crisis.

Cordis Bright has recently been appointed as the independent evaluation partner for the programme and we look forward to helping Barnardo's and partners understand the early impact of the programme and what works to help protect or improve outcomes. For more information please see [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

Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond

Barnardo's has appointed Cordis Bright to be the evaluation partner for See, Hear, Respond, a £7.25m programme funded by the Department for Education to support children and young people adversely affected by COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown. The full story can be found [here](#).

MEAM Approach Year 3 evaluation

We are the national evaluators of the MEAM Approach, 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 31 local areas across England. Our evaluation is covering five years, and 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 can be accessed [here](#).

Adult Social Care and Health

Reports

Office for National Statistics. **Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain: June 2020**

This article looks at depressive symptoms in adults in Great Britain before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (July 2019 to March 2020) and during the pandemic (June 2020). It looks at the same group of adults over a 12-month period, providing a unique perspective of how depression has changed over time.

This article builds on research that suggests there has been an increase in levels of mental distress in adults during the coronavirus pandemic, compared with before the pandemic. The analysis is based on data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN), a nationally representative survey of adults in Great Britain.

Office for National Statistics. **Living longer: implications of childlessness among tomorrow's older population**

Our population is ageing because of declining fertility and an increase in life expectancy. It is important to investigate the characteristics of current and future older populations to understand and plan for the implications of an older population on society. It is particularly important to be able to estimate the level of demand for social care, especially for those at the oldest ages who are more likely to require it.

In this article ONS compares childbearing patterns, focusing on women completing childbearing years without children for the three largest cohorts (all the people born in a particular period or year) born in the last 100 years. They then explore the potential implications of childlessness among these cohorts for future social care demand and provision.

Local Government Association. **Social care and obesity**

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown into sharp relief the urgent need for long-term reform and sustainable funding for adult social care. All areas of adult social care and its interdependence with health care, need to be considered in the round in a comprehensive action plan. One area which places high demands on social care and exerts significant pressures on costs and resources is obesity; yet it is often overlooked. Focus to date has centred on obesity-related costs and pressures on the NHS, rather than on social care.





The King's Fund. Technology and innovation for long-term health conditions

Since Covid-19 hit the UK in early 2020, health care organisations in England have moved services online at a dramatic pace. When the crisis is over, health care providers will need to assess the full impact of these changes for staff and service users. A number of questions will need to be answered: for example, was the technology deployed in the most effective way; were downsides addressed; what further changes are needed to achieve full benefits; and how do providers protect the interests of particular groups? This paper, commissioned by the Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) in England, considers four innovations from the United Kingdom (UK) and the Nordic countries that use digital technology to deliver a step change in treatment.

The King's Fund | Ideas that change health and care

Technology and innovation for long-term health conditions

Author
Ben Collins

August 2020



Public Health Wales. International Horizon Scanning and Learning to Inform Wales' COVID-19 Public Health Response and Recovery

The International Horizon Scanning and Learning work stream was initiated following and informing the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) public health response and recovery plans in Wales. It focuses on COVID-19 international evidence, experience, measures, transition, and recovery approaches, to understand and explore solutions for addressing the on-going and emerging health, wellbeing, social and economic impacts (potential harms and benefits).

Tools and Guidance

UK Government. Overview of adult social care guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19)

This document provides information for adult social care providers about COVID-19 guidance and support.

NHS England. Support for Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) colleagues

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of making sure proactive support is available for those working within healthcare services, especially those identified as more at risk of COVID-19, such as colleagues from BAME communities, those in additional at-risk groups or other vulnerable individuals working across the system.

Children and young people's services

Reports

Welsh Government. Exploratory analysis of education outcomes of children and young people living in homeless households

The First Minister has stated the intention to end youth homelessness within a decade in Wales. To achieve this collective understanding of both the causes and impacts of youth homelessness must improve.

Schools provide an environment where children, young people and their families can be supported, and homelessness could potentially be prevented. So, a primary area of interest lies in the relationship between education and homelessness. However, the information that exists on links between education and homelessness is based on small, qualitative studies and convenience sample surveys which do not quantify the impacts of homelessness on education.

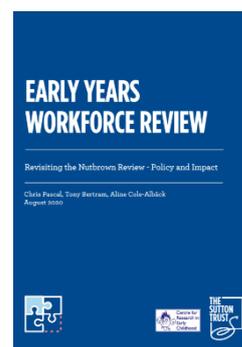
This analysis relates to children and young people in homeless households, rather than children/young people who have made a homeless application themselves.

Department for Education. Vulnerable Children and Young People Survey

The Department for Education (DfE) established a survey of local authorities in England to help understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on Children's Social Care. This report provides analysis of waves 1-4 of the survey.

Sutton Trust. Early Years Workforce Review

The Sutton Trust commissioned this review, as a contribution to the work of the Early Years Workforce Commission (EYWC), by looking at progress of the sector since the Nutbrown Review was published in 2012 and examining the current landscape in comparison. The Nutbrown Review was a landmark paper which examined the status of early education and childcare qualifications and made practical recommendations to support and strengthen qualifications and career pathways in the early years and childcare sector.



The Commission has been established to undertake a review of the challenges facing the sector and develop comprehensive and workable solutions to address these collaboratively.

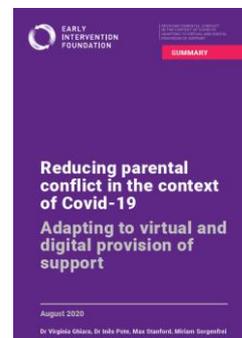


Early Intervention Foundation. Reducing parental conflict in the context of Covid-19

This report focuses on how Covid-19 and the lockdown have impacted on issues relating to parental conflict, and how those seeking to reduce parental conflict can adapt to the current situation using virtual and digital methods.

It builds on two previous reports published by EIF in response to the Covid-19 pandemic – one which set out the challenges and risks relating to virtual and digital delivery, and the other which highlighted the impact of the pandemic on early help services.

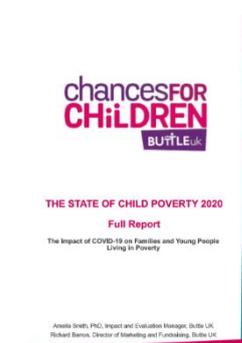
In this report, they present findings from an EIF survey, conducted in June and July, which 42 local authorities and 13 intervention developers and providers used to describe how Covid-19 has impacted upon their ability to support families. EIF also provide a summary of 12 virtual and digital interventions available to support interparental relationships and offer practical guidance on how to assess the impact of such interventions and how to appropriately engage parents remotely.



Buttle UK. The State of Child Poverty 2020

This report provides a unique insight into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic inside the homes of some of the most vulnerable families in the UK. This qualitative study of nearly 1000 nationwide frontline workers was carried out at the point lockdown restrictions started being lifted in June 2020 and is based on a survey of support workers who have been interacting daily with families throughout the crisis.

Clearly, the pandemic has changed everything. All our lives are different as a result, but these were families that were struggling anyway. Not all families were equal going into the crisis and they are certainly not equal coming out. The issues discussed in this report provide one of the most graphic examples of what the real impact of the crisis has been and indicates what is to come unless we act.



Health Foundation. Generation Covid-19 Building the case to protect young people's future health

The COVID-19 lockdown has required many people to come to terms with a vastly different way of life, while also grappling with the suffering created by the pandemic and its subsequent economic crisis. As a result of necessary measures to protect health in the short term, young people in particular are now experiencing ongoing economic and social challenges that threaten their long-term health and wellbeing.

The Health Foundation's young people's future health inquiry, found the age between 12 and 24 years to be a crucial time for young people as they build the foundations for a healthy adulthood. Making a successful transition to adulthood depends in large part on access to good-quality work, housing and strong relationships. However, to secure these, young people need financial, practical and emotional support, along with skills and the right connections. Research has also shown that experiencing social and economic disadvantage at this age has biological consequences, which can lead to poorer health outcomes in the long run.

As policymakers look towards a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, young people's long-term health needs to be at the heart of their decision making. It is essential that the government prioritises policies that take account of the complex and intersecting nature of the issues facing young people, many of which pre-date the pandemic and have been brought into sharp focus by the crisis.

Briefings

Children's Commissioner. No way out. Children stuck in B&Bs during lockdown

The Children's Commissioner's Office issued a data request to the 15 local authorities with the highest numbers of children in B&Bs before the pandemic struck, according to the most recent national data which was available at the time of the data request. These 15 local authorities together accounted for 63% of all families housed in B&Bs in England at that time.

This briefing sets out the findings and outlines what needs to be done to protect homeless children as the country enters a "new normal".



Education Policy Institute. Analysis: A level results 2020

Every A-level results day is a major event in the life of the young people who have been anxiously awaiting their grades. However, the circumstances leading up to this year's A-levels results day are entirely unprecedented, and anxiety levels will have been especially high. Young people have largely been out of school or college since March, and many will have lost considerable learning and academic support during this time. And this is before we even begin to consider the wider impact of the pandemic on these young people, many of whom will have had missed contact with their friends, experienced disrupted home environments, and seen their parents' jobs jeopardised. Some will sadly have lost family members to the pandemic.

This briefing presents an analysis of the A-level results 2020 and assesses the impact that Covid-19 has had on results.



Children's Commissioner. Putting Children First in Future Lockdowns

Given the risks of a second wave of Covid-19 infections leading to the need for further local lockdowns, or even a full national lockdown, this paper sets out the key actions needed to ensure that children's interests are at the heart of planning for future lockdowns.

Criminal Justice

Reports

Home Office. Process evaluation of the Violence Reduction Units

In the summer of 2019, the Home Office announced that 18 police force areas would receive funding to establish (or build upon existing) Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). The areas were selected to reflect those with the highest levels of serious violence. The VRUs' core aim was to provide leadership and the strategic coordination of all relevant agencies, to support a 'public health' approach to tackle serious violence and its root causes. The same 18 police force areas also received separate funding to reduce violence through law enforcement. The Home Office commissioned an independent evaluation of VRUs to investigate the early implementation of the VRUs through a process evaluation (led by Ipsos MORI).

Prison Reform Trust. Transforming Lives Programme

The Prison Reform Trust (PRT) commissioned this qualitative research to build on the evaluation of the Transforming Lives (TL) programme carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) from 2016 to 2018 and focus specifically on a key aspect of their advocacy approach. As such, this smaller-scale study examines how women with lived experience of the criminal justice system (CJS) were involved in the TL programme, and the impact of their voices on its activities and outcomes. Through in-depth interviews with women and programme intermediaries who had been involved in three events in 2019, the research explored what meaningful engagement looked and felt like to women, as well as their and their audiences' perceptions of the effects of their involvement.



The findings presented in this report will inform PRT's ongoing work to improve outcomes for women in the CJS. They should also be of use to other agencies increasingly seeking to involve service users in their work, particularly where this involves collecting and sharing evidence about individuals' lived experiences for advocacy campaigns and research, as well as involving them in service design.

NatCen. Understanding organised criminal's behaviours and perceptions of risk and profit

This study was commissioned to understand how individuals became involved in organised crime and their perceptions of risk and profit, and to provide insight on the most effective deterrents to organised crime. The research aimed to help HMRC tailor activities and associated sanctions more effectively to maximise their deterrent effect.

Women's Aid. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on domestic abuse survivors and the services supporting them

Women's Aid state that Covid-19 does not cause domestic abuse, only abusers are responsible for their actions. However, the pandemic does threaten to escalate abuse and close down routes to safety for women to escape. It has put the spotlight on an existing crisis, which can no longer be ignored. Since the start of the pandemic Women's Aid has assessed and monitored the impact of Covid-19 on survivors and the domestic abuse services supporting them. This report builds on existing briefings Women's Aid have published (Women's Aid 2020A, Women's Aid 2020B and Women's Aid 2020C) and represents the results of this body of work up to the start of August 2020.



Briefings

Clinks. Women and Equalities Committee sub-inquiry: Unequal impact? Coronavirus and BAME people

Clinks is the national infrastructure charity for voluntary organisations working in criminal justice in England and Wales, supporting the voluntary sector's largest providers and its smallest. This briefing provides evidence to the Committee's sub-inquiry into the unequal impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people. Clinks previously submitted evidence to the Committee's inquiry on the unequal impact of Covid-19 on people with protected characteristics.

Youth Justice Board. Exploring racial disparity

This briefing explores racial disparity and summarises how it affects children in their early years and within the youth justice system.