

September 2013

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 that further information has been released concerning how CCGs and Local Authorities will be able to access the full integration transformation fund (ITF) concerning health and social care budgets. We were also interested in developments from Ofsted, the Department for Education and the Treasury concerning childcare.

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.



Children and young people's services

Policy and research

Ofsted: 'Good' to be minimum expected standard for pre-schools and nurseries as part of tougher early years inspections

Ofsted has announced a toughening up of early years inspections, making it clear that only provision that is 'good' or better is good enough for very young children. From 4 November 2013, a judgement of 'requires improvement' will replace the current 'satisfactory' judgement for all early years providers – as it has already for schools and colleges.

Publishing the outcomes of the 'Good early years provision for all' consultation, which sets out Ofsted's proposals for early years providers, Sir Michael Wilshaw, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, announced that 'good' will be the minimum standard expected.

[The consultation and announcement can be accessed here.](#)

DfE: National minimum standards for residential holiday schemes for disabled children published

The Department for Education has published the national minimum standards for residential holiday schemes for disabled children. These, together with the regulations such as the residential holiday schemes for disabled children (England) regulations 2013, form the basis of the regulatory framework under the Care Standards Act 2000 (CSA) for the conduct of holiday schemes for disabled children providers. The standards are designed to be applicable to different holiday schemes for disabled children, and aim to enable, rather than prevent, individual providers to develop their own particular ethos and approach based on evidence that this is the most appropriate way to meet the child's needs.

[The standards can be viewed here.](#)

HM Treasury: Tax-free childcare design and operation consultation opened

In the 2013 Budget the government announced that it will introduce a new Tax-Free Childcare scheme for working families. This would provide 20 per cent of working families' childcare costs, up to £1,200 for each child. They have opened a consultation for interested parties to comment on the detailed design and operation of Tax-Free Childcare. The consultation sets out the eligibility criteria, the approach to managing voucher accounts for each child, the role of the market, and the key information and validation processes. It also discusses the design of different aspects of these policies, and poses questions in those areas where stakeholders are likely to have knowledge or insight.

[The consultation can be viewed here.](#)

DfE: £16 million funding to attract more adopters

In August the Department for Education announced that £16 million of funding – available from later this year until 2016 – is being committed to help new and existing voluntary adoption agencies (VAAs) to develop new and creative ways to recruit more adopters. The funding will provide a boost to the recruitment of adopters by VAAs, and could see the VAA sector recruit as many as 2,000 prospective adopters a year by March 2016.



The money will see £15 million over the next 2 years in expansion grants for new and existing VAAs to increase the recruitment of adopters and to create innovative ways of working; and new business support for adoption agencies, providing advice, coaching, and guidance to expand their organisations

[To view the announcement, please click here.](#)

Guidance and tools

PHE: New National Child Measurement Programme guidance for 2013 to 2014

Public Health England (PHE) published new guidance on the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) for implementation in the 2013 to 2014 school year. The guidance is to support local authorities to meet their new statutory duty to deliver the NCMP, which measures the height and weight of children in reception and Year 6 annually.

Until March 2013, PCTs were responsible for delivering the programme, but on 1 April 2013 local authorities became responsible for NCMP. PHE is working with LAs to support them in delivering the programme. The guidance details changes to the programme resulting from the new public health landscape, and the new IT system that will be available from September. This guidance also includes good practice tips on how to encourage parents of overweight or obese parents engage with their children's weight management and receive the support available to them.

[The guidance can be viewed here.](#)

Home Office: Guidance for child first responders to national referral mechanism published

Guidance published in August outlines the role of a first responder, the use of children's services and when and how to refer the child to the national referral mechanism (NRM). It also provides information on the steps after referral, including reasonable grounds tests, decisions and reviews.

[The guidance can be viewed here.](#)

PHE: Guidance and research on the impact of sedentary lifestyle and screen usage on children's physical health, health behaviours and resilience published

Research and guidance published by Public Health England in August showed that screen time amongst children was linked to lower levels of wellbeing. It found that: higher levels of TV viewing are having a negative effect on children's wellbeing, including lower self-worth, lower self-esteem and lower levels of self-reported happiness; and that children who spend more time on computers, watching TV and playing video games tend to experience higher levels of emotional distress, anxiety and depression.

The document presents research comparing key indicators in the UK with those of other nations, as well as secondary analysis of existing datasets and a literature review on the subject. It highlights the implications for practitioners and parents, and re-emphasises the need for local authorities to provide healthy environments and interventions in the widest sense.

[The publication can be read here.](#)



Criminal Justice

Guidance and tools

Home Office: Advice for leaders, their senior teams and staff in schools or colleges affected by gang or youth violence published

The Home Office has published advice for leaders, their senior teams and staff that are in schools or colleges affected by gang or youth violence. When developing an individual approach, it is recommended that schools and colleges discuss ways to address youth violence with local police and community safety partners, as well as other local educational institutions.

[To read this advice, please click here.](#)



Adult social care and health

Policy and research

Resolution Foundation: Some home care workers paid under minimum wage in practice

A report by the think tank Resolution Foundation has found that some home care workers are paid as little as £5 per hour once you factor in the non-payment of travel time between visits. Researchers looking at the diaries and payslips of home care workers found that, while their headline pay rates were set at or above the national minimum wage, in practice many lost at least £1 per hour because they were not paid for the time spent travelling between appointments. In some cases, home care workers were further penalised because they stayed at a service user's home for a longer period of time than was allocated by the employer for that visit - sometimes as little as 15 minutes - in order to provide decent levels of care.

The Resolution Foundation called for a large, co-ordinated effort to stamp out this practice in social care. Recommendations included phasing out 15 minute care slots and ending work schedules that over-cram appointments, amongst many other measures.

[Community Care reporting of this report can be read here.](#)

[The Resolution Foundation report can be found here.](#)

CQC: No registered manager in several Winterbourne-style services

Community Care reported that the CQC had released information showing that 11 of the 60 independent healthcare providers of “hospital services for people with mental health needs, learning disabilities and problems with substance misuse”, which are similar to those of Winterbourne View, did not have registered managers in place across a total of 18 such services. Of the 18, 10 had not had a registered manager in place for more than six months.

[Read Community Care's commentary on this issue here.](#)

LGA and NHS England: Further information about plans for use of £3.8bn health and social care Integration Transformation Funding revealed

In August LGA and NHS England unveiled new plans on the use of the £3.8bn funding for health and social care funding outlined in the 2013 Spending Round towards a pooled budget across health and social care services. The plans give initial details on how councils and CCGs would be able access the full integration transformation fund (ITF), access to which will have to be approved by ministers.

It was announced that £1.9bn of the funding would be drawn from spending already planned for 2014-15 across health and social care, including the annual transfer of resource from the NHS to councils to spend on adult care services that promote integration, worth £1.1bn in 2014-15. The remaining £1.9bn is from funds that would otherwise have been paid to clinical commissioning groups for health spending, but will be reallocated by ministers to the pooled budget.

The LGA and NHS England said that to access the ITF, councils and CCGs would have to draw up joint plans by March 2014 for using the integrated care funding in both 2014-15 and 2015-16.

[The plans can be accessed here.](#)



Laing and Buisson: League table of top home care providers according to CQC compliance published

Laing and Buisson published a 'league table' of home care providers in England, based on compliance with Care Quality Commission standard. The analysis shows that a US based company Home Instead Senior Care was the top performer, with 97.8% of its 109 branches being fully compliant with core standards covering care, safeguarding, staffing, management and respect for service users. The charity Mencap followed, with, 93.4% of their branches being fully compliant.

Laing & Buisson also revealed those councils where all inspected home care branches were compliant with standards. They were Bolton, Bedford, Bury, Hammersmith and Fulham, Knowsley, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and Redcar and Cleveland.

The market analysts' care compliance monitor for home care will be updated every quarter, based on CQC inspection results across the approximately 8,000 home care branches in England.

[Community Care's report on the publication can be read here.](#)

House of Commons Health Committee: Post-legislative Scrutiny of Mental Health Act 2007 highlights bed shortage in psychiatric units amongst other issues

The Commons Health Committee published a report in August that highlighted the fact that many people are 'being sectioned unnecessarily' by approved mental health practitioners and clinicians as a means of securing treatment because a shortage of bed places means psychiatric units are increasingly refusing to accept patients under voluntary admission. The health committee chair Stephen Dorrell called on ministers to urgently investigate the scale of the issue, which he said represented a "serious violation" of patient rights. The report also highlighted other issues, including an urgent need for a review of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, amid evidence showing that their implementation was "woefully inadequate".

[This report can be found here.](#)

[Reporting on the publication in Community Care magazine can be read here.](#)

National Assembly for Wales: Research published on referral to treatment times in Wales

A research note published in August by the Welsh National Assembly matched performance against waiting time targets for June 2013. It showed that on an All Wales basis neither the target of 26 nor 36 weeks maximum waiting time between referral to treatment was met. It showed that whilst Powys Teaching Health Board achieved the targets in June, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board was the worst performing local health board.

[The research note can be accessed here.](#)



Guidance and tools

Community Care: Useful reading list to understanding the Care Bill published by Adult Care Blog

In August a useful reading list and overview of the Care Bill was published on Community Care's Adult Care Blog. The reading list gives an overview and direction to reading relating to key issues including why the bill is important for social workers; changes from the draft Care and Support Bill; the impact of the bill; expert debate about the bill; funding reform in the bill; assessment and eligibility in the bill; and safeguarding in the bill.

[The resource can be accessed here.](#)