

### **Adult social care**

The Care Quality Commission has published *Market profile, quality of provision and commissioning of adult social care services*, which provides an overview of, and commentary on, trends in adult social care over recent years.

[www.cqc.org.uk/db/documents/Adult\\_social\\_care\\_market\\_BRIEFING.pdf](http://www.cqc.org.uk/db/documents/Adult_social_care_market_BRIEFING.pdf)

The Department of Health has launched a *Consultation on transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care*, to support *A Vision for adult social care: capable communities and active citizens*. The framework places outcomes at the heart of social care, to improve quality of services and empower citizens to hold councils to account for the services they provide. The deadline for comments is 9 February 2011.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_121509](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121509)

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_121508](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_121508)

The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation has published *Befriending works: building resilience in local communities - a report into an intervention that can help improve health and wellbeing at all levels of need*, which concludes that the early use of such schemes builds resilience for vulnerable people with a wide range of health and social care needs and can reduce future dependency on health and social care services.

[www.mandbf.org.uk/fileadmin/filemounts/general/Publications/Befriending\\_works\\_-\\_building\\_resilience\\_in\\_local\\_communities.pdf](http://www.mandbf.org.uk/fileadmin/filemounts/general/Publications/Befriending_works_-_building_resilience_in_local_communities.pdf)

### **Arts**

The Arts Council has announced its future funding portfolio *Achieving great art for everyone*, which will replace their current system from April 2012. The changes include an open application process for all organisations, funds awarded for a fixed term (usually 3 years), based on clear criteria and shared goals and with funding agreements setting out 'strategic' or 'programme' relationships.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/achieving\\_great\\_art\\_for\\_everyone.pdf](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/achieving_great_art_for_everyone.pdf)

### **Big Society**

The New Economics Foundation has published *Cutting it: the Big Society and the new austerity*, which examines the effects of spending cuts on the way the Big Society is realised.

[www.neweconomics.org/sites/neweconomics.org/files/Cutting\\_it.pdf](http://www.neweconomics.org/sites/neweconomics.org/files/Cutting_it.pdf)

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Sustainable Communities Act: an invitation to inspire the Big Society*, asking councils to consult with their communities on how they would like to improve their local area and take appropriate action.

[www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1798995](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1798995)

### **Business and the Big Society**

Business in the Community has published the results of their consultation on *Transforming Business, Transforming Communities*, which found that 77% of respondents believed that business could do more to increase strategic support for communities but faces barriers including a lack of recognition and awareness of the activities already undertaken in local business-community engagement.

[www.bitc.org.uk/business\\_and\\_the\\_big\\_society/consultation](http://www.bitc.org.uk/business_and_the_big_society/consultation)

### **Carers**

The Department of Health has published *Carers and Personalisation: improving outcomes*, which explores personalisation with regard to carers and provides good practice examples of how personalisation can be used to support carers, through involvement, choice and a whole family approach.

[www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_122107.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122107.pdf)

The Department of Health has published *Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the carers' strategy*, which outlines the actions the Government will take over the next four years and sets out four priorities: to improve support for carers; to identify and recognise carers; to realise and release their potential; and to promote a life outside of caring and to support carers to stay healthy.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_122077](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122077)

### **Childcare**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published *Working better: childcare matters – improving chances for parents and children*, which shows the impact that high quality and flexible early years education and childcare can have on a child's outcomes, life chances and social mobility.

[www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/research/working\\_better\\_childcare\\_matters.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/working_better_childcare_matters.pdf)

### **Child poverty**

The Department for Education has published *Tackling child poverty and improving life chances: consultation on a new approach*, which is seeking views on developing a long-term strategy to improve intergenerational disadvantage as well as measures to deal with the causes of disadvantage. The deadline for responses is 15 February 2011.

[www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1737&external=no&menu=1](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1737&external=no&menu=1)

Unicef has published *Report Card Nine: children left behind*, which explores the impact of in-work poverty on families. The report suggests that income poverty has the greatest impact on child inequality in the UK.

[www.unicef.org/Latest/News/Report-Card-9](http://www.unicef.org/Latest/News/Report-Card-9)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Monitoring poverty and social exclusion*, which finds that the number of children living in poverty fell to 3.7 million with the number in workless households falling to 1.6 million, while children living in poverty in working households increased to 2.1 million. This group now accounts for 58% of the total.

[www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-social-exclusion-2010-full.pdf](http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-social-exclusion-2010-full.pdf)

### **Child protection**

The NSPCC has launched *Connect, share and learn: evaluating the outcomes of inter-agency training to safeguard children*, which is a child protection toolkit to help Local Safeguarding Children Boards to improve their training across health, the police, social care and education.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/piat/resources/piat\\_toolkit\\_connect\\_share\\_learn\\_wda79888.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/piat/resources/piat_toolkit_connect_share_learn_wda79888.html)

### **Children and young people**

Ofsted has published *Improving outcomes for children and young people through partnership in children's trusts*, which evaluates outcomes in six local authorities and identifies good practice.

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Improving-outcomes-for-children-and-young-people-through-partnership-in-Children-s-Trusts](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Improving-outcomes-for-children-and-young-people-through-partnership-in-Children-s-Trusts)

### **Children and young people's participation**

Participation Works has published *Children and young people's involvement in formal meetings: an extended practical guide*, aimed at those responsible for organising and/or administering formal decision-making meetings to ensure that children and young people are effectively involved in these meetings, that their contribution is valued and that they genuinely inform the plans and actions which emerge.

[www.participationworks.org.uk/files/webfm/files/resources/k-items/participationworks/formalmeetings/Extended%20version%20web%20low%20res.pdf](http://www.participationworks.org.uk/files/webfm/files/resources/k-items/participationworks/formalmeetings/Extended%20version%20web%20low%20res.pdf)

### **Collaborative working**

The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) has published *Getting round the table – a guide to realising new opportunities and finding local solutions by brokering relationships with commissioners in order to ensure the delivery of public services by the third sector*, which explores how voluntary organisations can engage with commissioners around shaping and delivering public services.

[www.improvingsupport.org/resources/view/1902-getting-round-the-table](http://www.improvingsupport.org/resources/view/1902-getting-round-the-table)

### **Commissioning**

The Cabinet Office has published *Modernising commissioning*, which calls for views on the government's current plans in relation to commissioning, including payment by results, setting targets for service delivery by independent providers, streamlining the procurement process and giving voluntary organisations the 'right to challenge' local authorities when they think they can provide better services.

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/commissioning-green-paper.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/commissioning-green-paper.pdf)

### **Community assets**

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment has published *Community-led spaces – a guide for local authorities and community groups*, which gives guidance on the issues involved in transferring the ownership and management of public spaces from local authorities to communities. [www.cabe.org.uk/publications/community-led-spaces](http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/community-led-spaces)

### **Community development**

The Community Development Foundation has published *Report on the Survey of Community Development Practitioners and Managers*, highlighting the wide range of people involved in community development work and exploring the opportunities and challenges they face, the key policy areas in which they are involved, who employs them, the activities they undertake and how they are monitored and evaluated.

[www.cdf.org.uk/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=de048626-344c-4a9c-8e90-8249c97df0cb&groupId=10128](http://www.cdf.org.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=de048626-344c-4a9c-8e90-8249c97df0cb&groupId=10128)

The New Economics Foundation and the Community Development Foundation have published *Catalyst for community action and investment*, which provides an analysis using a Social Return on Investment approach to community development work based on a common outcomes framework. The report shows that an investment of £233,655 in community development activity across four authorities produced a social return of £3.5 million.

[www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/publication?id=32954](http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/publication?id=32954)

### **Community finance**

The Community Development Finance Association has published *Inside out: the state of Community Development Finance*, which sets out the findings from the annual survey of CD FA members. Overall lending was higher than the previous year and although direct lending to the third sector was only 3% of the total, this included organisations such as Charity Bank, Bridges, Big Issue Invest and Triodos Bank who mainly lend to the third sector.

[www.cdfa.org.uk/about-cdfis/state-of-cdfis-research](http://www.cdfa.org.uk/about-cdfis/state-of-cdfis-research)

### **Compact**

Compact Voice and the Office for Civil Society have published *The Compact: the Coalition Government and civil society organisations working effectively in partnership for the benefit of communities and citizens in England*, which is a shorter and more focused version than its predecessor and is supported by *The Compact – Accountability and Transparency Guide*. [www.compactvoice.org.uk/news/2010/12/14/renewed-compact-published-ocs-and-compact-voice](http://www.compactvoice.org.uk/news/2010/12/14/renewed-compact-published-ocs-and-compact-voice)

### **Deaf children and young people**

The National Deaf Children's Society has launched *The Buzz* website for children and young people which aims to reduce social isolation, promote emotional wellbeing and provide inspirational stories about deaf young people as well as providing advice on a range of issues including bullying and sexual health. [www.ndcsbuzz.org.uk](http://www.ndcsbuzz.org.uk)

### **Disabled children**

Every Disabled Child Matters has published *Calling for clarity: Eligibility criteria for short breaks*, which explores the issues around different interpretations of eligibility criteria for disabled children accessing short breaks. [www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/ECreport.pdf](http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/ECreport.pdf)

### **Domestic violence**

The Home Office has announced £28 million until 2015 for specialist services to support the *Call to end violence against women and girls strategy*. The proposals in the strategy include educating children and young people on respectful relationships, training professionals and frontline staff in detecting the risk of domestic or sexual violence and child sexual abuse and providing victim support. [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-paper?view=Binary](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-paper?view=Binary)

The Department of Health has published *Improving services for women and child victims of violence: the Department of Health Action Plan*, which sets out how the Department is taking action in partnership with other agencies by Spring 2011 around awareness raising, workforce education and training, improving quality of services and developing evidence and information.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_122003](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122003)

### **Evaluation**

The Charities Evaluation Services has published *Making a difference together? A guide to planning, monitoring and evaluating voluntary and community sector collaborative working*, which provides guidance on what steps and issues need to be considered when developing an effective evaluation framework for such collaborations. [www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=726&dm\\_i=6FP,AXH4,24YDAI,UAAY,1](http://www.ces-vol.org.uk/index.cfm?pg=726&dm_i=6FP,AXH4,24YDAI,UAAY,1)

### **Health**

The Department of Health has published *Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps*, setting out the Government's response to the feedback from the consultation on the white paper published in July 2010. The document sets out further policy development and reaffirms their strong commitment to the reforms.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_122661](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122661)

### **Local Enterprise Partnerships and the voluntary sector**

Capacitybuilders has published *Local Enterprise Partnerships and civil society infrastructure*, which shows that only a minority of local support providers are currently involved in developing Local Enterprise Partnerships and suggests that it is up to the voluntary sector

infrastructure organisations to take the initiative to get involved.

[www.improvingsupport.org/resources/1291644134\\_LEP\\_Research\\_Report\\_.pdf](http://www.improvingsupport.org/resources/1291644134_LEP_Research_Report_.pdf)

### **Localism**

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Decentralisation and the Localism Bill: an essential guide*, which makes the case for a radical shift of power from central government to local communities, focusing on six key actions: lifting the burden of bureaucracy, empowering communities to do things their way, increasing local control of public finance, diversifying the supply of public services, opening up government to public scrutiny and strengthening accountability to local people.

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/decentralisationguide](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/decentralisationguide)

The Department for Communities and Local Government has launched a new website called *Barrier Busting*, which is aimed at helping local communities to break down the barriers of red tape and rules and regulations that stop people turning good ideas into action.

<http://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk>

### **Mental health and wellbeing**

Local Government Improvement and Development and the National Mental Health Development Unit, have jointly commissioned a study by the New Economics Foundation, on *The role of local government in promoting wellbeing*, which examines how local government can support a better life for its citizens to help build resilient communities.

[www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=23692693](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=23692693)

### **Neighbourhoods**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Neighbourhood, community and housing in Bradford*, which explores the potential for residents to arrive at common understandings about local problems, needs and solutions.

[www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/Bradford-communities-neighbourhoods-summary.pdf](http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/Bradford-communities-neighbourhoods-summary.pdf)

### **Older people**

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *Local delivery of joined-up services for older people*, exploring the lessons learned from the LinkAge pilots which trialled different ways of approaching the development of multi-agency, holistic services for older people.

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5rports2009-2010/rrep713.pdf>

### **Outcomes**

The Big Lottery Fund has revised its guidance on outcomes. *Getting funding and planning successful projects* is available on their resources website.

[www.biglearningzone.org.uk](http://www.biglearningzone.org.uk)

### **Poverty**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *The low-pay, no-pay cycle: understanding recurrent poverty*, which investigates how and why people become trapped in a long-term cycle of low paid jobs and unemployment.

[www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/unemployment-pay-poverty-summary.pdf](http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/unemployment-pay-poverty-summary.pdf)

The Independent Review on poverty and life chances has published *The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults*, which is intended to generate a broader debate about the nature and state of poverty in the UK and to make recommendations about potential action by government and other institutions to improve the situation.

<http://povertyreview.independent.gov.uk/media/20254/poverty-report.pdf>

### Public health

The Department of Health has published *Healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England*, which outlines proposals to move £4 billion of public health funding to local authorities and establish Public Health England as part of the Department of Health. [www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_122252.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_122252.pdf)

The Department of Health has published *Healthy lives, healthy people: consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health*, which seeks views on a new public health service including how services will be commissioned and how much money will be allocated to local authorities. The deadline for responses is 31 March 2011.

[Ww.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_123001.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_123001.pdf)

The Department of Health has published *Healthy lives, healthy people: transparency in outcomes – proposals for a public health outcomes framework*, which is seeking views on outcomes under five main domains: health protection and resilience, tackling the wider determinants of health, promoting healthy choice and healthy lifestyles, preventing ill health and focusing on premature mortality and the health of the most vulnerable. The framework is not intended to be a performance management tool but a consistent means of presenting relevant available data on public health for national and local use. The deadline for responses is 31 March 2011.

[www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_123113.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_123113.pdf)

### Regeneration

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Valuing the benefits of regeneration – Economics paper 7: volume 1 – final report*, which examines how the benefits of regeneration might be valued in order to establish a robust evidence base, identifying the potential challenges and providing suggestions as to how they could be overcome. [www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/valuingbenefitsregen](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/valuingbenefitsregen)

### Rough sleepers

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Providing personalised support to rough sleepers*, which evaluates a pilot project carried out in the City of London in which 15 rough sleepers who had been on the streets for between four and forty-five years were given a personalised budget. The project found that of 13 people who engaged with the scheme, 11 no longer lived on the streets. [www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/supporting-rough-sleepers-full.pdf](http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/supporting-rough-sleepers-full.pdf)

### Safeguarding

The Department of Health has published *Practical approaches to safeguarding and personalisation*, which offers best practice guidance on how safeguarding issues and risk management need to be included when re-designing personalised services.

[www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/PPF/NCAS/Practical\\_approaches\\_to\\_safeguarding\\_and\\_personalisation\\_12th\\_Nov\\_2010\\_v3\\_ACC.pdf](http://www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/PPF/NCAS/Practical_approaches_to_safeguarding_and_personalisation_12th_Nov_2010_v3_ACC.pdf)

### Social enterprise

The Cabinet Office has announced a £10 million fund to support the creation of 'mutuals' by public sector employees who want to operate public services more cost effectively.

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/big-society-plans-better-public-services](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/big-society-plans-better-public-services)

Capacitybuilders has published *The Social Enterprise Programme – regional and national evaluation reports*, which provide interim findings from the national programme and regional

activities to support social enterprise. The final report is due in February 2011.  
[www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/node/517](http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk/node/517)

### **Social return on investment**

Local Government Improvement and Development has published *Social return on investment to evaluate community empowerment*, an approach which can help build a 'bottom up' evidence base, identify and understand the perspectives of different stakeholders and build a business case for change.  
[www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=23716031](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=23716031)

### **Spending cuts**

The National Association of Voluntary and Community Action has published *Better together: preparing for local spending cuts to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector*, which gives examples of best practice for local authorities on how they can work with civil society to minimise the impact of any spending cuts. [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/better-together-preparing-local-spending-cuts-voluntary-community-and-social-enterp](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/better-together-preparing-local-spending-cuts-voluntary-community-and-social-enterp)

The Office for Civil Society has announced that the Transition Fund is now open for applications, managed by the Big Lottery Fund. The fund offers grants of between £12,500 and £500,000 to help voluntary organisations with a turnover of between £50,000 and £2 million to deal with cuts in public spending. [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

### **Substance misuse**

The Royal Society of Arts has published *Whole person recovery: a user-centred systems approach to problem drug use*, which concludes that the involvement of drug users in the design and development of drug services can lead to better outcomes. The research was based on a study of more than 200 people in West Sussex.  
[www.thersa.org/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/362099/RSA-Whole-Person-Recovery-report.pdf](http://www.thersa.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/362099/RSA-Whole-Person-Recovery-report.pdf)

The Home Office has published the 2010 Drug Strategy, *Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug-free life*, which sets out a fundamentally different approach to tackling drugs and a new ambition to reduce drug use and dependence, including alcohol. [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010)

### **Voluntary sector funding**

NCVO's Funding Commission has published *Funding the Future*, which sets out proposals for funding for the voluntary sector over the next ten years. The report explores the changing funding environment and includes a range of recommendations from improving grant funding to developing financial capability and increasing income from trading.  
[www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/A4\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/A4_Summary.pdf)

### **Welfare benefit reform**

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *Universal Credit: welfare that works*, which makes the case for benefit reform and sets out government plans for a new universal credit to replace existing benefits. A Welfare Reform Bill will be introduced in January 2011 and the changes will be phased in from 2013. [www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/universal-credit-full-document.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/universal-credit-full-document.pdf)

### **Worklessness**

The London Development Agency has published *Behaviour matters: applying behavioural economics to tackle worklessness*, which explores the use of behavioural economics (linking psychology and economics) and how it can be applied to policy initiatives to tackle

worklessness more realistically.

[www.lda.gov.uk/Documents/Behaviour\\_Matters\\_Applying\\_Behavioural\\_Economics\\_to\\_Tackle\\_Worklessness\\_10157.pdf](http://www.lda.gov.uk/Documents/Behaviour_Matters_Applying_Behavioural_Economics_to_Tackle_Worklessness_10157.pdf)

**Youth justice**

The Prison Reform Trust and the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers have published *Seen and Heard: supporting vulnerable children in the youth justice system*, which finds that 33% of young offenders have very low IQ's, 25% have Special Educational Needs, youth justice agencies are failing in their legal duty to prevent discrimination and more needs to be done to identify and support children with learning and other disabilities.

[www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/uploads/documents/SeenandHeardFINAL.pdf](http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/uploads/documents/SeenandHeardFINAL.pdf)