

Our weekly bulletin contains a selection of research reports, journal articles and new books chosen by our research team and added to our database in the last week.

If you have a query about any of these documents, or any other aspect of our service, please contact us on AskTheResearchTeam@idoxgroup.com or 0333 011 1694.

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New Government Publications

This is a list of government guidance, consultation papers, etc, on topics relevant to our members, published in the previous week. They are all on the web and the web addresses were checked on the Wednesday preceding the date of this Bulletin.

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

[Proposals for consumer protections when companies collapse unveiled \(news release\)](#)

[Implementing geological disposal: working with communities - an updated framework for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste](#)

[The future for small-scale low-carbon generation \(consultation\)](#)

Department for Transport

[Grayling slashes rail fares for a generation of rail passengers: new railcard extending child fares for 16 and 17-year olds announced \(news release\)](#)

[Commuting by bike to become easier in new year following funding boost \(news release\)](#)

[Aviation 2050: the future of UK aviation \(consultation\)](#)

[New police powers to tackle illegal use of drones \(news release\)](#)

Home Office

[The UK's future skills-based immigration system](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

[Northern Powerhouse Minister green lights £14 million investment to transform heart of Redcar steel site \(news release\)](#)

[£38 million to boost accommodation for London's homeless \(news release\)](#)

[Out of this world innovations forge ahead in 2018 thanks to Local Growth Fund \(news release\)](#)

[£675 million fund to transform high streets and town centres opens to communities \(news release\)](#)

[Brokenshire introduces tougher regulatory system for building safety \(news release\)](#)

[Continuity of requirements under the Construction Products Regulation when the UK leaves the European Union \(news release\)](#)

[Building a safer future: an implementation plan \(residential high-rise buildings\)](#)

[Good practice on how residents and landlords work together to keep their home and building safe: call for evidence](#)

[Technical review of Approved Document B of the building regulations: a call for evidence](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

[£11.5 million fund to tackle loneliness across England \(news release\)](#)

[Cyber Security Skills Strategy](#)

['Smart homes' to help older and disabled people get digital skills and tackle loneliness in rural areas \(news release\)](#)

[Thousands to benefit from multi-million pound boost to youth organisations \(news release\)](#)

Department for Education

[Activity 'passport' to inspire schoolchildren and boost resilience](#)

[Extra support for disadvantaged children during school holidays \(news release\)](#)

[Schools challenged to go single-use plastic free by 2022 \(news release\)](#)

[Funding announced to train 900 new children's social workers \(news release\)](#)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

[Gove appoints Food Waste Champion \(news release\)](#)

[Consultation on the proposal to extend the Single-use Plastic bag charge to all retailers and to increase the minimum charge to 10p](#)

[Plastic carrier bags: Gove sets out new measures to extend charge \(news release\)](#)

Department for Health and Social Care

[Wide-ranging new maternity plans announced by the government \(news release\)](#)

Scottish Government

[National guidance on bail supervision](#)

[Consultation on Scottish charity law](#)

[£125 million to combat UK austerity \(news release\)](#)

[Social Security Experience Panels: Annual Report 2018](#)

[Social Security Experience Panels: complaints, re-determinations and appeals](#)

[Scottish Government consultation on protective orders for people at risk of domestic abuse](#)

[Consultation on Good Food Nation proposals for legislation](#)

[Progressing the human rights of children in Scotland: an action plan 2018-2021](#)

[Fairer Scotland action plan progress report 2018](#)

[Better mental health in Scotland](#)

[A blueprint for 2020: the expansion of early learning and childcare in Scotland: delivery support plan for early learning and childcare providers](#)

[Children & Young People's Mental Health Task Force: delivery plan](#)

[Consultation: transforming parole in Scotland](#)

Welsh Government

[Welsh Government pitch in with extra £5m for sports facilities \(news release\)](#)

[Funding for projects supporting people out of homelessness \(news release\)](#)

[Over £1.34m to tackle rough sleeping this winter \(news release\)](#)

[£2.4m boost for tackling substance misuse in Wales \(news release\)](#)

[The Welsh Government invests a note-worthy £3m in musical education \(news release\)](#)

[Draft national violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence indicators \(consultation\)](#)

[Draft additional learning needs code \(consultation\)](#)

Northern Ireland Executive

[Alchemy launches second Assured Skills Academy with NWRC \(news release\)](#)

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Government, politics and public administration

Davidson, Jenni

Ref No: [A62923](#)

The politics of poverty (human rights-based approach to addressing poverty in Scotland), IN Holyrood, No 415 17 Dec 2018, pp14-18

Journal article.

2018

Pages: 5

Considers introducing a human rights-based approach to addressing poverty in Scotland. Outlines the adverse findings of a recent visit to the UK by the United Nations special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. Describes current levels of poverty in Scotland and policy measures including the Child Poverty Act and the work of the Poverty and Inequality Commission. Discusses a report by the Scottish Human Rights Commission arguing that the UK has failed to incorporate human rights treaty commitments on social, economic and cultural rights into law, leading to an 'accountability gap'. Outlines discussions about creating a new Scottish human rights Act, including social rights such as protection against poverty and a right to social security, and the creation by the Scottish Government of a taskforce to take this work forward.

Kavetsos, Georgios et al

Ref No: [B52031](#)

The effect of the Brexit referendum result on subjective well-being (Discussion paper no 1586)

Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/Bm9p30mXBzD>)

2018

Pages: 32

Publisher's price: na

Examines the effect of the Brexit referendum result on subjective well-being – 'experienced utility' - in the UK. Draws on: existing research literature; data from the Eurobarometer Survey Series, the European Commission's public opinion survey, (to identify the effects of the referendum on subjective well-being of individuals in the UK compared to those in other European countries not involved in the referendum); feedback on respondents' feelings towards being an EU citizen; and a model to determine the spillover effects of the referendum's result on subjective well-being in other EU countries. Finds that: the referendum outcome led to an overall decrease in subjective well-being in the UK compared to a control group, and suggests that the effect is driven by individuals who hold an overall positive attitude towards the EU with little signs of adaptation; and subjective well-being of those with a very negative attitude towards the EU increases in the short-run but turns negative, possibly due to unmet expectations of a 'hard(er) Brexit'.

Plotnikova, Dr Evgeniya; Bennett, Dr Hayley

Ref No: [B52033](#)

Exploring perceived opportunities and challenges of Participation Requests in Scotland

What Works Scotland

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/Jcwp30n4GQJ>)

2018

Pages: 29

Publisher's price: na

Explores perceptions and use of the Participation Request (PR) community engagement process in Scotland. Outlines the policy context of increasing participation in local democracy, the introduction of the PR mechanism to enable community organisations to engage in decision-making by public sector bodies, and the research aims and methodology. Presents key research findings structured as four themes: current practice in using PRs; perceptions of the PR mechanism; emerging opportunities and challenges; and suggestions for improving the operation of PRs. Identifies a number of questions about the implementation of the PR process, including reducing inequalities of access to PRs across third sector and community groups, and presents overall conclusions from the study.

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Management and organisational development

Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)

Ref No: [B52041](#)

Decline and fall: understanding how and why local government fails, what leads to central government intervention, and what comes after

Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/d4m530n4Dhu>)

2018

Pages: 9

Publisher's price: na

Explores failure among councils and intervention mechanisms. Introduces a 'typology of failure'. Identifies four different types of failure: a failure of culture - failure of managerial and political leadership, breakdown in external and internal communications, evidence of introversion and defensiveness in how the organisation operates; a failure of service - an inability to understand the intersection between statutory and non-statutory services and how risk factors around specific services (e.g. social care, children's services, libraries, waste collection) can have an impact on corporate health; a failure of function - failure to conform to legal and functional requirements in managing business, making decisions and delivering services; and a failure of duty - adherence to the law in respect of the council's formal service delivery requirements. Explores the current national landscape around failure and improvements. Describes different forms of support and intervention including government mechanisms such as the 'best value' intervention and inspection regime. Discusses the intervention regimes in Birmingham (Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel) and Kensington and Chelsea, where the response to the Grenfell fire tragedy led to the establishment of the Grenfell Response Task Force. Examines the sector-led improvement (SLI) and intervention landscape, focusing on the collaborative elements of the SLI approach. Considers how support and intervention might be managed in the future. Highlights the idea of a financial resilience index (proposed by CIPFA), and making corporate peer reviews/challenges compulsory and transparent.

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Equalities and diversity

Major, Lee Elliot; Machin, Steven

Ref No: [A62915](#)

Social mobility and its enemies, IN CentrePiece, Autumn 2018, pp18-20

Journal article.

(Article available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/12z530neDrL>)

2018

Pages: 3

Discusses a new book looking at social mobility in the UK. Considers that people, especially at the top and bottom of the income distribution, are becoming less socially mobile than previously. Suggests that the younger generation face greater income divides, wider gaps in ability to enter the housing market, lower relative wages and shrinking opportunities. Argues that education has failed to become the social leveller it was hoped, with many young people leaving schools with low levels of literacy and numeracy. Discusses the social problems caused by elites becoming more detached from the rest of society with marginalised people more likely to support extreme political parties. Considers that a new model of social mobility is needed which develops all talents, not just academic. Suggests that: employers offer training and skills development which will raise productivity; that more is done to open up access to top employers and universities to all; and that tax loopholes which entrench wealth are closed.

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Business and economy

Anon.

Ref No: [B51976](#)

Made it happen: enterprise and entrepreneurship education in Scottish higher education

Universities Scotland

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/LNqG30mVMRB>)

2018

Pages: 34

Publisher's price: na

Presents a follow-up report to 'Making it Happen' (2015) in which the 19 higher education institutions in Scotland committed to supporting enterprise and entrepreneurship. Assesses the progress the universities have made towards the eight goals set in the initial report. Reports that student start-up numbers have grown by over 50% since 2015, 83% of universities have an on-site incubator for graduate and staff start-ups and all universities organise work-placements for their students. Presents case studies on successful initiatives in the universities including: the development of a module on scientific enterprise for first year Life Science students at Dundee University; the creation of an accelerator space for students at Glasgow Caledonian University; and using alumni to support student entrepreneurship at Edinburgh University. Reports on the achievements of the 17 entrepreneurial students featured in the 2015 report, profiling some of them in more depth.

London First

Ref No: [B51991](#)

Business Brexit survey: hoping for the best, preparing for the worst

London First

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/wy1530mZiPt>)

2018

Pages: 6

Publisher's price: na

Reports on the results of a survey of businesses regarding Brexit. Uses a survey of 869 senior decision makers from British businesses. Looks at businesses preparedness for Brexit. Finds that less than half think that they are well prepared. Discusses how businesses feel government has supported them with Brexit preparations. Suggests that the majority of businesses are unhappy with how government is helping businesses prepare for Brexit. Examines businesses contingency planning, and establishes that 41% have already implemented, or intend to implement their contingency plans by 29 March 2019. Assesses the impact of uncertainty on business activity, and argues that uncertainty is having a negative impact on business activity. Explores businesses' opinions on a future EU-UK trade deal. Concludes that business wants a comprehensive and robust trading relationship between the UK and the EU after the end of the transition period.

High Streets Expert Panel

Ref No: [B52023](#)

The high street report

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/nbjE30n3SIL>)

2018

Pages: 22

Publisher's price: na

Examines the issues facing high streets and town centres, and recommends practical measures the government could take to deal with the problems. Draws on evidence from: workshops held in Holmfirth, Shrewsbury, Bristol, Aldershot and Altrincham to learn from their experiences; interviews with the co-founder and young stallholders at the Teenage Market in Bolton; a representative survey, asking people what they wanted from their high streets and town centres of the future; and the Panels experiences and existing evidence. Recommends that the High Streets Task Force: should be a single voice for town centres; provide places with access to the data to help them improve their town centres; facilitate cross-sector networking and skills building; share information and best practice; provide access to expert help and support; help to enable local champions; and help to streamline the planning process. Suggests that the Future High Streets Fund should: co-fund with other sectors; fund places with community involvement in town centres; fund towns that demonstrate cross-sector leadership or intent to develop this; and show a commitment to collaboration and partnership working. Proposes that: towns should hold a National High Street Perfect Day; local authorities should encourage landlords and tenants to think innovatively about how to use empty properties; and places should ensure that their parking restrictions and charges are not driving people out of their town centres.

Growing the UK's creative industries: what creative enterprises need to thrive and grow

Creative Industries Federation

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/IULh30n4CD4>)

2018

Pages: 44

Publisher's price: na

Explores the key issues affecting growth by creative industries in the UK, drawing on the results of a survey of creative enterprises. Outlines the key features of the UK's creative industries, highlighting 12 sub-sectors and a total Gross Value Added of £101.5 billion. Explains that the analysis of survey responses is presented in two ways: by sets of key characteristics for the creative industries as a whole; and by the 12 sub-sectors. Looks at the different types of creative enterprises across the UK and where they are located. Considers what 'growth' means for creative enterprises and the sector's growth ambitions. Looks at the key challenges creative enterprises face in pursuing growth including lack of time and finance, and considers the types of business support needed. Provides recommendations aimed at ensuring that creative industries can continue to flourish and outlines the methodology used in the study.

Rydge, James et al

Ref No: [B52039](#)

Sustainable growth in the UK: seizing opportunities from technological change and the transition to a low-carbon economy

Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/zqAI30mXE64>)

2018

Pages: 78

Publisher's price: NA

Explores the ways in which environmental sustainability and the transition to a low carbon economy can be placed at the heart of sustainable growth in the UK, focusing on innovation, infrastructure, skills and cities. Outlines the importance of promoting strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and the challenges faced by UK policy makers. Examines institutional and policy priorities and makes recommendations in four key policy areas: innovation, including bringing together existing growth and green innovation strategies; infrastructure, including developing a pipeline of clean and sustainable infrastructure investments; skills, including devising targeted employment transition policies in areas at high risk of disruption from change; and cities, including devolving greater policy and fiscal autonomy to cities and regions.

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Employment, jobs and careers

Huddleston, Prue; Rehill, Jordan (eds.)

Ref No: [B51981](#)

Research for practice: papers from our 5th International Conference on Employer Engagement in Education and Training

Education and Employers Research

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/xFXF30mXJib>)

2018

Pages: 31

Publisher's price: na

Presents summaries of eight papers, from the 5th International Conference on Employer Engagement, which reflect on research studies and their implications for practice. Includes papers on: skills transfer between educational settings and the workplace context and the need for greater help for young people in making this transition; the need for the opening up of young people's perceptions of STEM subjects and of employment opportunities within the sector; the role of school leaders in increasing engineer employer engagement among teachers; the role of engineers in developing and supporting project-based learning; the purpose, take-up and outcomes of technical qualifications at the Key Stage 5 level; engaging employers in school-based careers activities; helping vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in vocational training; and measuring the well-being of apprentices in Scotland.

Work on demand: recurrence, effects and challenges

Eurofound

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/e1Gs30mYeeR>)

2018

Pages: 54

Publisher's price: na

Explores the concept of 'work on demand' in 11 EU member states and Norway. Explains that this type of work, which has become increasingly popular, aims to provide flexibility and adaptability for both the employer and employee, but that this may not always be the case. Outlines the existence and regulation of work on demand across the countries studied. Analyses the type of people engaging in this type of work, and the businesses using it. Finds that most workers in on-demand work would not choose to do it, but that employers used it to address workforce shortages and activity peaks and to lower labour costs. Looks at how working conditions are impacted, finding that there is low pay, job insecurity and lack of worker representation. Discusses stakeholders' views and outlines policy developments. Presents case studies including new Swedish regulations on fixed-term contracts and a 2017 Employment Bill in Ireland proposing changes to zero-hour contracts. Considers that work on demand should be carefully monitored as part of the various forms of precarious work.

Office for National Statistics

Ref No: [B52006](#)

Living longer: fitting it all in – working, caring and health in later life

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/yVy530n1MFT>)

2018

Pages: 8

Publisher's price: na

Presents an overview of two barriers to working at older ages - health and caring. Uses demographic and economic data from a variety of sources. Considers why it is important that people extend their working lives. Looks at how health affects employment for those in their 50s and early- to mid-60s. Examines how caring affects employment for those in their 50s and early- to mid-60s. Finds that, as the prevalence of health problems increases over this age range it impacts on the likelihood of being in paid work. Determines that a higher percentage of women aged 52 to 64 years provide care than men while at the same time the percentage of women in their 50s and 60s in work has been rising over recent decades and is now higher than ever before. Notes that informal care giving can negatively affect a person's overall health and in turn, their ability to work. Concludes that flexible working hours and part time options are most likely to encourage people in their 50s to continue working for longer.

Brown, Phillip; Lloyd, Caroline; Souto-Otero, Manuel

Ref No: [B51984](#)

The prospects for skills and employment in an age of digital disruption: a cautionary note (SKOPE research paper no 127)

SKOPE

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/Cy0t30mXK79>)

2018

Pages: 47

Publisher's price: na

Reviews research evidence on the prospects for skills and employment, in particular potential job losses, in the UK as a consequence of digital disruption. Explores competing claims on the relationship between automation, skills and the future of work. Explores different interpretations of the research evidence on the scale of job losses anticipated as a consequence of digital disruption. Discusses evidence of the negative relationship between automation and employment, alternative views on the impact of automation on jobs. Looks at the skills implications of the digital economy. Outlines three scenarios (labour scarcity, job scarcity and the end of work approach) of the impact of digital disruption on future skill requirements. Considers how evidence on automation and digital disruption is used to influence and inform UK government policy interventions on skills, employment and labour markets. Highlights attempts by the robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) academic community, and the social partners to influence government policy in this area. Recommends caution in interpreting existing evidence, highlighting the need to avoid policy by technological determinism, and offers suggestions for further research.

Wage and task profiles of employment in Europe in 2030

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/MOMf30n2VWQV>)

2018

Pages: 14

Publisher's price: na

ISBN: 9789289718011

Examines the projected structural change for the wage and task structure of employment in EU Member States up to 2030, using the framework developed in Eurofound's European Jobs Monitor (EJM). Sets out the EJM framework and how it has been operationalised in terms of the wage and tasks structure of jobs in Europe. Includes a classification of tasks (physical, intellectual, social task) according to their content and methods. Presents the results of using this methodology to describe the implications of projected structural change for the wage and task structure of employment in Europe up to 2030. Looks at the projected job wage quintile growth by qualifications, occupations and economic sector at EU aggregate level. Summarises the main results of the job wage quintile analysis, highlighting: the projection of a more polarised labour market in the EU, driven mainly by the growth of jobs at the very bottom of the wage distribution; and that net change in industrial jobs is concentrated in the top three job wage quintiles, with no net change in the bottom two. Projects a decline in physical tasks, and an increase in intellectual and social tasks, in particular the following types of tasks: business literacy, selling/persuading and serving/attending.

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Education and skills

Sicurella, Agathina; Delhaxhe, Ariette

Ref No: [B51975](#)

Home education policies in Europe

Publications Office of the European Union

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/3Dyn30mXjLv>)

2018

Pages: 34

Publisher's price: na

Looks at home education provision for mainstream primary and lower secondary age children in 38 countries across Europe participating in the Eurydice network. Provides a comparative review of the countries looking at: the authorisation needed for home education; qualifications of educators; monitoring of progress; and examinations to pass. Finds that home education at the request of families is possible in a majority of countries with only a few (such as Germany, Spain and Croatia) allowing it only in exceptional circumstances. Reports that the minimum education level of the educator is defined in only half the countries and all countries, with the exception of the UK and the Netherlands, monitor and assess students' progress. Presents short national descriptions of the home education systems for all the Eurydice countries.

Anon.

Ref No: [B51982](#)

Skills shortages in the UK economy: Edge bulletin 3

Edge Foundation

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/ly7m30mXJ8d>)

2018

Pages: 20

Publisher's price: na

Presents information on skills shortages in the UK, drawing on data from surveys including the Department of Education's Employer Skills Survey and the CBI/Pearson Education and Skills Annual Report. Reports on skills shortages by region and sector. Finds that the number of skills shortage vacancies has more than doubled since 2011 to 266,000 and is particularly bad in the construction, utilities and transport sectors. Outlines the types of skills which are in short supply and the impact of the shortages. Discusses employers' concerns that they will not be able to recruit enough high-skilled staff in the future. Finds that young people consider that they are not getting enough opportunities to develop their skills and that this might limit their future employment prospects. Looks at the creative sector in the UK reporting that this is expected to grow at more than double the average rate over the next six years. Suggests that the government's focus on academic subjects is preventing young people from preparing for these types of job. Presents a case study from the screen industry looking at a forecasting service that will help anticipate and address skills needs in the sector.

Chain effects 2018: the impact of academy chains on low-income pupils

Sutton Trust

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/K1s530n3Tap>)

2018

Pages: 48

Publisher's price: na

Looks at the effectiveness of academy chains in supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Outlines the origins and aims of the academies programme and explains that a chain of academies means a group of at least three academies with the same sponsor. Reviews chain characteristics that may impact on attainment outcomes. Analyses Key Stage 4 exam results and pupil performance in 2017 and reviews findings over the last five years. Reviews Attainment 8 and Progress 8 figures, passes in English and maths, and English Baccalaureate (EBacc) achievements. Considers how chains have performed over the period from 2013-2017. Finds that: there continues to be very significant variation in outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, both between and within chains; there has been only limited change in the overall ranking of the chains in the analysis over the five years; those chains that were most successful with disadvantaged pupils also tended to be successful with their more affluent pupils, while less successful chains tended to have poor results for both groups; and in comparison to the national pattern, the overall performance of disadvantaged pupils in sponsored academies in the analysis worsened slightly from 2013 to 2016, but is now recovering. Recommends that the government, along with the National and Regional Schools Commissioners should do more to create mechanisms to ensure the spread of good practice from the best academy chains to the rest.

Goddard, John et al

Ref No: [B52036](#)

Maximising universities' civic contribution: a policy paper

Wales Centre for Public Policy

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/h6RT30n4GKd>)

2018

Pages: 44

Publisher's price: na

Explores ways of increasing civic engagement and the contribution to local communities/economy by universities in Wales. Outlines the debate about the civic mission of universities including the changing policy landscape and universities' role in regional development and as place-based anchor institutions. Discusses international policy trends and developments and highlights six countries with similarities to Wales. Considers the UK and Welsh policy contexts including the impact of civic engagement, devolution, industrial policy, austerity, the higher education market and higher education policy. Provides policy recommendations including to develop a strategic vision for the post-compulsory education and training system and to use institutional compacts as a vehicle to promote civic engagement by universities.

Engeli, Dr Andrew et al

Ref No: [B52038](#)

Skills Priority Programme Review: final report (Welsh Government social research no 64/2018)

Welsh Government

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/s8AJ30n4HuE>)

2018

Pages: 43

Publisher's price: na

Provides the results of an independent evaluation of a programme to enable the further education sector to address job-specific, higher-level skills gaps in Wales. Outlines the background and policy context for the development of the Skills Priority Programme (SPP), the way the programme is delivered, and the research aims and methodology. Presents findings on implementation of the SPP including activities delivered, financial performance, provider perceptions, timescales, the consortia delivery model, engagement with business, role of intermediaries, employer perceptions and programme outcomes. Provides overall conclusions and makes recommendations to the Welsh Government relating to future SPP development.

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Housing

Greer, Gillian

Ref No: [B51985](#)

Welfare reform in Northern Ireland: a scoping report

Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/hfGA30mXhIM>)

2018

Pages: 69

Publisher's price: na

Summarises the context of Welfare Reform in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, sets out the various welfare changes and considers the potential impacts of each benefit change on tenants and landlords. Draws on the existing body of research and statistics from Great Britain and some high-level figures from Northern Ireland to help identify how the changes are likely to impact Northern Ireland from a housing perspective. Notes that the roll-out of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland is behind that in the UK. Discusses the introduction of Universal Credit and its impact in the UK. Outlines the 'Social Size Sector Criteria' (the 'Bedroom Tax'), the Benefit Cap and benefit changes for those with an illness or disability. Assesses the potential cross-tenure impacts of the reforms on Northern Ireland. Considers that Northern Ireland-specific mitigations have temporarily eased the impact of some elements of Welfare Reform and that the impact for social tenants and landlords is unlikely to be fully understood until mitigation ends in 2020.

Bramley, Glen

Ref No: [B52004](#)

Housing supply requirements across Great Britain: for low-income households and homeless people

Crisis

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/BW7D30n0MVK>)

2018

Pages: 56

Publisher's price: na

ISBN: 9781785190582

Presents the findings of a study to estimate the scale of current and future housing need and associated housing requirements, with a specific focus on low-income households and people experiencing homelessness. Estimates the scale of that need and associated housing requirements at national level for England, Scotland and Wales, and at regional level for England; derives house building estimates driven by the government's household projections and adjusted to account for affordability, and offers an analysis of requirements shaped by desirable housing outcomes. Examines housing need and supply in Great Britain, estimating the overall backlog of need. Assesses the level of new housing supply needed through a static assessment. Assesses the level of new housing supply needed through a dynamic outcomes-based assessment to 2031. Makes a regional analysis for England by building up analysis from a local authority and housing market area level. Concludes that the study confirms the widespread perception that housing needs have increased, and current levels of housing supply are inadequate in scale and scope.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ref No: [B52022](#)

Independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce: third report

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/jdPB30n3TJU>)

2018

Pages: 23

Publisher's price: na

Looks into how the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) is handling the recovery following the Grenfell Tower fire. Draws on evidence from residents, the local community and the voluntary sector. Assesses the RBKC's work to date, against previous recommendations and highlights some of the challenges going forward. Looks at progress in the following areas: the development of the Grenfell Recovery Strategy; rehousing those made homeless by the fire; governance arrangements, organisational change and a change in culture in the RBKC; and community engagement/community relationships. Highlights concerns about the pace of progress and delays in the development of the Recovery Strategy. Notes that the Recovery Strategy is now due for completion in January 2019. Highlights evidence of progress including the induction and development programme for new councillors, and attempts by the council to initiate co-design of some services with local people. Highlights areas where more action is needed and recommends that RBKC: makes sure that the Recovery Strategy incorporates greater detail on support for local businesses, improving skills and creating employment opportunities; remains focused on prioritising rehousing; and concludes the communications review as a matter of urgency.

Accommodating a crisis (temporary homelessness accommodation), IN Holyrood, No 415 17 Dec 2018, pp26-28*Journal article.*

2018

Pages: 3

Looks at the inappropriate use of temporary accommodation to house homeless families in Scotland. Outlines the nature and extent of the use of hostel and B&B accommodation to house homeless families on a temporary basis. Suggests that the legal requirement for homeless families not to be housed in such temporary accommodation for more than a week is being flouted more and more frequently. Discusses the housing pressures on local authorities and their efforts to provide better alternatives for homeless people against a background of a shortage in housing supply across Scotland. Outlines the Scottish Government's new homelessness strategy and action plan, based on local and national government collaboration with third sector organisations focused on preventing homelessness.

Starting to bite: how Universal Credit is making people homeless, IN Inside Housing, IN Vol 35 No 48 14 Dec 2018, pp26-28*Journal article.*

2018

Pages: 3

Looks at the impact of the introduction of Universal Credit on homelessness in the UK, drawing on analysis of data obtained from local authorities. Suggests that the introduction of Universal Credit is leading to more benefits claimants becoming homeless and an increase in rent arrears and tenant evictions. Discusses the reasons why Universal Credit is causing these problems, highlighting the impact of payment in arrears, the wait to receive the first payment and monthly payments on financially vulnerable clients. Considers the difficulties Universal Credit is causing for private landlords and tenants, and highlights potential future impacts on council and social housing tenants.

The housing crisis generation: how many children are homeless in Britain*Shelter**(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/6e6C30n4waG>)*

2018

Pages: 23

Publisher's price: na

Examines the impact of living in temporary accommodation (TA) such as bed and breakfast hotels or hostels, or sofa-surfing, on families and children. Draws on government statistics which show how many children are homeless and living in TA for each local authority area. Calculates the rates of children who are homeless and living in TA. Finds that: around 131,000 children will be homeless in Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) at Christmas - 3% higher than last year (over 3,000 more children); five English regions have seen a greater percentage increase in homeless children than London (up 49%), over the last five years – East of England (up 177%), the North West (up 175%), West Midlands (up 142%), East Midlands (up 131%) and the South East (up 108%); the rate of homeless children in Great Britain is 1 child in every 103 (England 1 in 96, Scotland 1 in 156, Wales 1 in 412); the highest local rates in England are mainly found in London (Westminster 1 in 11); and the indicative rate per school for England is 5 homeless children. Discusses the impact of homelessness and associated insecurity on children and young people, in particular on mental health and emotional wellbeing, and education. Presents the national and local results and lists the top 50 local authorities in England by rate of children that are homeless and living in temporary accommodation.

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Planning, development and property

Millington, Steve et al

Ref No: [B52021](#)

High street 2030: achieving change

Institute of Place Management, Manchester Metropolitan University

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/WYpV30n3Suw>)

2018

Pages: 49

Publisher's price: na

Presents the findings of an investigation into the development of high streets and town centre policy commissioned by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Draws on evidence from workshops in communities/locations that had actually achieved change in their town centres (Holmfirth, Aldershot, Altrincham, Bristol, Shrewsbury), and from young people at a Teenage Market in Bolton. Describes the characteristics of the individual towns, revitalisation processes, potential improvements, barriers to change and plans for the future. Finds that the young people involved in the Teenage Market valued feelings of community and belonging, a lively atmosphere (entertainment, music, and active encounters between traders and potential customers) and craft-based and handmade items. Describes the Teenage Market model in place in Bolton, and considers how it might be replicated elsewhere to engage young people with their high streets. Draws together findings and suggests that successful places need: leadership, partnerships and a collaborative approach; to blend local and expert knowledge; good knowledge of local data and performance, and working with experts to make decisions about the future; communication - sharing information, knowledge, ideas, data, plans, achievements and problems; input from young people; and place professionals input from architects, engineers and planners. Summarises trends in retail expenditure, online growth, store closures, footfall changes, mobility changes, technology changes, retail changes (personalisation, pop-ups) and demographic changes.

Whitehead, Mark

Ref No: [A62927](#)

Putting people at the heart of asset management plans, IN MJ, (Public Property, Dec 2018 Supplement), pp12-13

Journal article.

2018

Pages: 2

Looks at the key issues and challenges facing the asset and estate management sector, drawing on the proceedings of a conference of facilities management professionals. Outlines the challenges facing the UK's public property portfolio and the progress being made by a unified management programme to deliver savings and public benefits. Considers the role of local authorities investing in commercial property, highlighting good practice guidance, and looks at progress with the review of NHS property and estates. Discusses the increasingly strategic role of facilities management, and considers ways in which more effective workplace management can improve business productivity and provide resource and cost efficiencies.

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Environment

Brandmayr, Caterina; Benton, Dustin; Coats, Emily

Ref No: [B52003](#)

City consumption: the new opportunity for climate action

Green Alliance

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/sCQZ30n0Qa0>)

2018

Pages: 87

Publisher's price: na

ISBN: 9781912393114

Looks at the impact of city policy on consumption, and therefore on emissions and climate change. Uses data on consumption-based GHG emissions and city powers of cities in the C40 network of global megacities. Suggests that cities have the ability to address these emissions; their powers in local economic development, urban planning, regulation, procurement and transport, amongst other areas, could be used to lower emissions beyond city boundaries. Argues that cities working together to lower emissions in global supply chains can be much more effective than acting alone: cities can act together to influence national policies, while also working across borders to decarbonise global supply chains. Notes that, as cities become wealthier, their emissions rise, but contends that collaboration could help developing cities to grow their GDP while locking in low carbon consumption and supply chains. Explores the examples of London, Copenhagen and Toronto. Concludes that action by cities will be a major part of the solution to climate change.

Snell, Carolyn et al

Ref No: [B52007](#)

Policy pathways to justice in energy efficiency

UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/V6C130n0Pkg>)

2018

Pages: 101

Publisher's price: na

Considers how households vulnerable to fuel poverty engage with energy efficiency measures, the factors that enable and prevent retrofits from being undertaken, and the particular needs households have during the installation process. Uses an energy justice framework, and draws on policy reviews and qualitative interviews. Looks at the design and implementation of energy efficiency policy across the UK in the context of issues of procedural and recognition justice. Assesses what the energy needs of low-income families and disabled people are, and how the households engage with information, advice and support around energy efficiency. Reflects on the impact of energy efficiency policies, especially amongst low-income families and disabled people, and discusses issues of recognition justice, considering how the energy needs of low-income families and disabled people might be better understood and addressed in policy making and implementation. Highlights where policy and practice address the needs of disabled people and households with children on low incomes. Concludes that, in addition to supporting the eradication of fuel poverty, energy efficiency policies can lead to improvements of health and well-being, and also support economic growth in the energy efficiency sector and potentially reduce carbon emissions. Sets out possible directions for future policy, under the headings of recognition, procedural and distributive justice.

Black, Carolyn; Martin, Chris; Warren, Rachel

Ref No: [B52012](#)

Survey of the economic conditions of crofting 2015-2018

Scottish Government

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/tJfC30n20TM>)

2018

Pages: 49

Publisher's price: na

ISBN: 9781787814455

Provides a detailed outline of the uses and financial situation of crofts in the years between 2015 and 2018, building on previous publications, in 2010 and 2014. Uses a self-completion postal survey sent to 4000 crofts in Scotland. Looks at the demographic composition of crofting households. Examines the activities on crofts. Considers the employment status of crofters. Explores the investments made in, and the income from crofts. Reflects on the outlook of crofting households. Discusses crofters' views of support and information sources available to the crofting community, and the future of crofting more broadly. Concludes that crofters see the need for improvements to secure the future of crofting, regarding a perceived lack of support and funding available to crofters, support from government, and representation from crofting authorities.

Brexit and the environment: what next?, IN Scottish Planning and Environmental Law, No 190 Dec 2018, pp128-129*Journal article.*

2018

Pages: 2

Looks at possible impact of Brexit on environmental law and policy across the UK. Focuses on four, currently unresolved, issues: where decision-making powers currently exercised in Brussels will be held once Brexit occurs (including powers reserved to the UK and devolved powers); the role and nature of common frameworks; the role of environmental principles in shaping future environmental law and policy - both the Continuity Bill from Holyrood and the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 from Westminster provide for legal recognition of such principles – but with some differences (the Continuity Bill lists four environmental principles – precautionary, preventive, rectification at source and polluter pays – plus a fifth principle of recognising animal sentience, and the Withdrawal Act lists sustainable development, integration and the ‘Aarhus elements’ of public access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice); and environmental governance and ensuring compliance with environmental laws. Discusses the environmental dimensions of the Withdrawal Agreement and the environmental provisions contained in the ‘Backstop’ (Part 2 of Annex 4 to the Protocol). Highlights uncertainties over the future of environmental regulation.

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Transport, infrastructure and communications

*Anon.*Ref No: [B51978](#)**Paths for everyone: Sustrans' review of the National Cycle Network 2018***Sustrans**(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/eeEB30mC2aw>)*

2018

*Pages: 52**Publisher's price: na*

Presents a report on the current state of the Sustrans National Cycle Network and what its future could be. Explains that the network consists of over 16,000 miles of routes covering the length and breadth of the UK which is used by a mix of people including cyclists, walkers and horse-riders. Presents evidence on the physical state of the network and the people who use it. Reports that 42% of the network is in poor condition presenting barriers to its use especially by disabled people. Highlights the importance of traffic-free paths to users. Sets out a new plan for the governance and improvement of the Network. Suggests that this will cost £2.8 bn over 22 years, but that the economic benefits will be huge. Makes recommendations for improvements to the Network including that: existing on-road sections are replaced with new traffic-free paths or quiet sections of road; safety at road and rail crossings is improved; signage is enhanced; and the Network is promoted to new users.

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Arts, culture and leisure

*McKnight, Martina; Schubotz, Dirk*Ref No: [B52040](#)**Volunteering matters: young people's perspectives***ARK**(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/poPy30n4D4t>)*

2018

*Pages: 4**Publisher's price: na*

Explores attitudes towards and involvement in volunteering by 16 year olds living in Northern Ireland, drawing on analysis of surveys of young people. Explains that individuals volunteer for a range of varied and complex reasons and that understanding the motivations of 16 year olds is particularly interesting. Presents and discusses findings highlighting: females and those from well-off backgrounds were more likely to volunteer; the most common time commitment by

volunteers was 1-5 hours every four weeks; career/skills development and a desire to help others provided the main motivations to volunteer; high levels of school work and too many other commitments were the main prohibitive factors; and that two-thirds of 16 year olds in Northern Ireland have volunteering experience.

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Health and social care

Durcan, Graham

Ref No: [B52008](#)

Restoring something lost: the mental health impact of therapy dogs in prisons

Centre for Mental Health

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/FGEi30n2zu5>)

2018

Pages: 23

Publisher's price: na

Presents the evaluation findings of a pilot scheme funded by the Ministry of Justice, targeting people with histories of self-harm in three prisons in England's North East; the pilot scheme involved the introduction of two therapy dogs. Uses a mixed method evaluation methodology to understand the impact of the therapy dog scheme. Discusses the evidence regarding therapy dog and other animal assisted therapies. Finds that the therapy dogs had brought about considerable, measurable, and statistically significant benefit to the schemes participants, at least during the period of time the scheme operated. Determines that the therapy dogs had a calming influence, helped increase coping skills and strategies, supported engagement, and provided a safe space to explore other ways of expressing and processing emotions. Suggests that the weight of evidence indicates that the scheme was very beneficial and should be introduced more widely. Concludes that the therapy dog intervention has a great deal to offer many high-risk individuals in prisons and makes recommendations regarding its use.

Jarrett, Tim

Ref No: [B52009](#)

Social care: forthcoming Green Paper (England) (House of Commons Library briefing paper no 8002)

House of Commons Library

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/zpCv30n0JJk>)

2018

Pages: 36

Publisher's price: na

Looks at the forthcoming Green Paper on social care for adults. Sets out a timeline of key announcements. Discusses the background to the Green Paper and its announcement. Explains the focus of the Green Paper as one for all adults rather than one focused on older people. Reflects on the seven principles guiding the government's thinking. Outlines the confirmed contents of the Green Paper for older people so far. Looks at the collaboration in developing the Green Paper, encompassing cross-departmental involvement, input from independent experts, and consultation with stakeholders and users. Addresses the delays in publishing the Green Paper, the potential implementation date, and the changes of lead department for the paper. Summarises commentary on the proposed Green Paper.

Ross, Sue

Ref No: [A62931](#)

Meeting the needs of asylum-seeking children, IN MJ, 13 Dec 2018, pp14-15

Journal article.

2018

Pages: 2

Looks at the ways in which Bournemouth Borough Council is caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Outlines the concerns local authorities have about providing services for UASC under the voluntary national transfer scheme. Describes the key features of Bournemouth and indicates that more than 30 UASC have been supported by the council. Outlines the development of a specialist team within the council, partnership with a local care charity and a supported lodging scheme. Describes the range of community projects developed using a Home Office grant including a peer mentoring scheme, cultural activities and a UASC app. Indicates that the major support requirements for UASC are around developing language skills rather than finding foster families.

Income-based policies in Scotland: how would they affect health and health inequalities?

Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/i5Hm30mVqbl>)

2018

Pages: 16

Publisher's price: na

Examines the impact of income-based policies on health and health inequalities in Scotland, drawing on data analysis and modelling of policy impacts. Outlines 'take-home messages', key assumptions and suggested actions at local and national level. Describes the background to the study including health inequalities, the income-based policies considered and the methods used in the research. Presents findings relating to: effect on household incomes; effect on health and health inequalities; and which policies are most cost-effective. Suggests that selected income-based policies such as increasing means-tested benefits and introducing the 'real' living wage could improve health and narrow health inequalities in Scotland. Describes the strengths of the research and the key assumptions and limitations.

Hayes, David

Ref No: [B52037](#)

Relationships matter: an analysis of complaints about social workers to the Northern Ireland Social Care Council and Patient and Client Council

Queen's University Belfast

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/3o1Q30n4vj4>)

2018

Pages: 84

Publisher's price: na

Examines formal complaints made about social workers by service users and carers in Northern Ireland between 2006 and 2015. Outlines the context for the study, aims and objectives and the importance of good relationships in social work practice. Describes the methodology employed in order to review records held by the NI Social Care Council and Patient and Client Council. Considers the characteristics of the samples analysed in terms of both social workers and service users/carers and the outcomes of cases. Presents findings in relation to the nature of the complaints made and identifies underlying themes relating to the context in which complaints were made. Provides conclusions highlighting the support, skills and qualities needed for social workers to develop effective working relationships with service users and carers.

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Crime, justice and rights

Colquhoun-Flannery, Claire; Powis, Beverly; Randhawa, Kiran

Ref No: [B51990](#)

Examining the efficacy of the Building Skills for Recovery (BSR) programme for substance-misusing offenders in custody in England and Wales

HM Prison and Probation Service

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/S15F30mZd3E>)

2018

Pages: 7

Publisher's price: na

Presents the results of research into the efficacy of the Building Skills for Recovery (BSR) programme, a substance misuse intervention that has been designed to reduce offending behaviour and dependent substance misuse with an eventual goal of recovery. Draws on a study of over 1,700 BSR participants in custody in England and Wales between 2010 and 2012. Explains that the programme was delivered over a four-week period to people with a history of substance misuse-related offending. Finds that when self-reported pre and post treatment scores for impulsivity, locus of control and problem-solving abilities were examined at the group level significant improvements were observed for each target outcome. Reports that between 5% and 25% of participants demonstrated improvement at a clinically significant level after they had completed the programme. Considers that more research is needed to measure whether the improvements were maintained over time or whether they translated into lower rates of recidivism.

Higton, John et al.

Ref No: [B51987](#)

Prevent and counter-extremism in general further education colleges

Department for Education (DfE)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/xS9S30mZcld>)

2018

Pages: 112

Publisher's price: na

Reports on the findings of a study, undertaken by CFE Research, into how general further education (GFE) colleges have approached and responded to their Prevent duty (ie to help stop their students being drawn into terrorism). Uses interviews and focus groups with staff at 20 GFE colleges in England to inform the study. Looks at: perceptions of the Prevent duty among GFE college leaders, teachers, support staff and learners; understanding of how Prevent is implemented and embedded in GFE colleges; and perceptions of the impact of the policy on learners. Finds that the implementation of the Prevent duty in GFE colleges has resulted in extra measures being enforced to ensure learners are kept safe within and outside of colleges. Suggests that some barriers exist in implementing the duty effectively such as lack of confidence, low learner engagement and managing training of agency staff, but that staff take their safeguarding role seriously.

Abelvik-Lawson, Helle; Bermingham, Rowena

Ref No: [B52010](#)

Stalking and harassment (POSTnote no 592)

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

(Report available on the internet at: <http://ow.ly/F36B30n1O6c>)

2018

Pages: 6

Publisher's price: na

Describes the crimes of stalking and harassment, and presents evidence on the effectiveness of approaches to identifying, preventing and prosecuting stalking and harassment. Explains that stalking and harassment both involve repeated behaviours, such as unwanted contact online or in person, that can cause alarm, distress or fear of violence in a victim. Notes that these crimes are not clearly differentiated in UK law, which has led to police and victims misidentifying stalking as harassment. States that harassment can include verbal abuse, online bullying and unwanted phone calls, while stalking is characterised by a perpetrator's fixation or obsession and may escalate to other crimes, such as assault or murder. Argues that civil or criminal proceedings can be brought against perpetrators, however, stalking may not be stopped using these means alone. Concludes that interventions involving multiple agencies, including police, social care services and mental health services are currently being trialled in three UK police force areas.

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