



ISSUE 4: Recent activities within the BPS Policy Team

The APPG Psychology panel discussion event on mental health in the criminal justice system

This was held on Wednesday 18th July at the House of Commons.

The discussion focussed on managing youth to adult transitions in the criminal justice system, exploring the notion that young adults should have a distinct, focused and flexible approach at every stage in the criminal justice process if we are to reduce reoffending and improve social outcomes for them and their families.

Speakers explored: prevention and early intervention strategies for children and young people; psychological wellbeing in prisons and what interventions can be effective; and the impact of working in the criminal justice system on civilian staff and how psychological approaches can help tackle this.

The event brought the APPG, the British Psychological Society (BPS) and other experts together alongside parliamentarians interested in improving mental health for people in the criminal justice system. For further information contact: appgsecretariat@bps.org.uk

A full summary of this event will be included in the next Policy Update on **Monday 6th August**.

BPS welcomes new vision for Scotland's diet

The Scottish Government has set out a new vision to improve Scotland's diet and weight.

Two thirds (65%) of adults in Scotland are currently overweight, with dietary risk factors being the second biggest contributory factor death and disability in Scotland after smoking.

The BPS Scottish Branch Chair, Beth Hannah commented. The statement can be found [Here](#).

Contribute to our response to the Government's consultation on relationships, sex, and health education

The Department for Education has launched a new consultation on proposals that schools are required to teach relationships education at primary school, relationships and sex education at secondary school and health education at all state-funded schools.

Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard, the Society's Lead Policy Advisor, is leading our response, commented. The statement can be found [Here](#).

More information on contributing to the Society's response can be found [Here](#). The deadline is **Friday 19th October**.

Declaration Concerning Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2005)

The British Psychological Society regrettably notes that the existence of state-sponsored torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment has been documented in many nations around the world.

We further condemn the misuse of psychological knowledge and techniques in the design and enactment of torture.

More information can be found [Here](#)

Monday 23rd July – Latest Policy Headlines Relevant to Psychology

<p>21 JULY</p>	<p>Children affected by domestic abuse to benefit from £8 million fund (Home Office) Today the Home Office has announced a new £8 million fund to support children who have been affected by domestic abuse. The fund gives charities, local authorities and other organisations the chance to bid for money for projects designed to intervene early to help children who have been directly or indirectly affected by domestic abuse. More information can be found Here.</p>
<p>20 JULY</p>	<p>Matt Hancock: “My priorities for the health and social care system” (Department of Health and Social Care) The Health and Social Care Secretary spoke to hospital staff about his priorities: the workforce, technology and prevention. More information Here.</p>
<p>19 JULY</p>	<p>New relationships and health education in schools (Department for Education) All schools will teach children about good physical and mental health, how to stay safe on and offline, and the importance of healthy relationships under bold new plans published today by Education Secretary Damian Hinds. More information Here.</p>
<p>18 JULY</p>	<p>Research finds that end of life care across England is not being prioritised, despite aging population (King's College London) The research, published today in the journal <i>Palliative Medicine</i>, is based on an analysis of the Health and Wellbeing Strategies of 150 local authorities across England, which found that only 4 per cent cited end of life care as a priority. More information Here.</p>
<p>17 JULY</p>	<p>Older workers failed by weak enforcement of age discrimination (Commons Women and Equality Committee) The talents of more than a million people aged over 50 who want to work are being wasted because of discrimination, bias and outdated employment practices. More information and the report can be downloaded from Here.</p>
<p>11 JULY</p>	<p>Social innovators receive £360,000 of government funding to tackle the UK’s biggest challenges (Cabinet Office) 18 small social innovators will receive government funding and professional support to tackle three major issues: financial capability, mental health at work and helping young people into employment. More information can be found Here.</p>
<p>11 JULY</p>	<p>Dementia: policy, services and statistics overview (House of Commons Library) This briefing examines policies in England to improve dementia diagnosis, care, support and research. Health is a devolved matter, and the note also briefly outlines dementia strategies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It also provides statistics on rates of dementia, including data for each English Parliamentary constituency. More information and the report can be downloaded from Here.</p>
<p>11 JULY</p>	<p>Books prescribed to help tackle dementia (NHS Wales) A new chapter in the fight against dementia in Wales has begun, with the launch of Reading Well Books on Prescription for dementia providing a unique range of books via public libraries, aimed at fostering a better understanding of the disease. More information Here.</p>
<p>09 JULY</p>	<p>Professional Standards Authority publishes its Annual Report (Professional Standards Authority) The Authority has today published its annual report. In the report, we take the opportunity to look back, charting key moments in the development of the regulatory framework underlining why reform is necessary and what has been achieved in Professional Health Regulation to date. More information and the report can be downloaded from Here.</p>
<p>05 JULY</p>	<p>Muir writes to Health Minister asking for ban on controversial therapy to be extended to NI (Alliance Party) Alliance Councillor Andrew Muir has written to Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt to urge the Health Minister to extend a ban to Northern Ireland targeting so-called gay conversion therapy. More information can be found Here.</p>

Upcoming Parliamentary Enquiries

This section summarises the most recent enquires and activities that may be of interest to Psychologists

Education Committee	Nursing apprenticeships inquiry The Committee will focus on how nursing degree apprenticeships are currently working as well as reasons behind the low level of take up since the scheme was announced in 2016. Oral Evidence is currently ongoing. More information can be found Here .
Education Committee	Life chances inquiry The Committee's inquiry aims to understand the impact that early years education and social policy have on determining children's life chances. The Committee will examine the Government's current policies in these areas and make recommendations to promote social justice. The inquiry will focus on early years educational settings but will also consider the role of other services, including health services and services provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. The report is currently in preparation. More information can be found Here .
Home Affairs Committee	Modern slavery inquiry The Home Affairs Committee has agreed to undertake an inquiry looking at what progress has been made in the three years since the Modern Slavery Act came into force and what more remains to be done. Currently accepting written submissions; deadline Friday 7th September 2018 . More information can be found Here .
Northern Ireland Affairs Committee	Funding priorities in the 2018-19 Budget: Health inquiry The Committee will look into whether funding allocated to the Department of Health is sufficient to meet the growing pressures on health and social care provision in Northern Ireland and how these funds could be used to improve service levels across the Health and Social Care (HSC) service. Currently accepting written submissions; deadline Friday 24th August 2018 . More information can be found Here .
Welsh Affairs Committee	Responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Wales inquiry The Committee questions the Secretary of State for Wales on a wide range of issues affecting Wales. There are currently no public meetings scheduled. More information can be found Here .
Work and Pensions Committee	Disability employment inquiry The Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into disability employment recently concluded. More information can be found Here .

Around the UK Parliaments and Assemblies

Welsh Public Affairs Committee

The Welsh Affairs Committee is one of the departmental Select Committees of the House of Commons. Its terms of reference are to examine matters within the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Wales (including relations with the National Assembly for Wales). In practice, the Committee examines policies of the UK Government which have an impact in Wales (for example strategic transport, welfare and defence).

[Click Here](#)

Scottish Public Affairs Committee

The Scottish Affairs Committee was appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Scotland Office and its associated public bodies. They work principally by undertaking inquiries. They choose their own subjects of inquiry and seek evidence from a wide range of groups and individuals with relevant interests and experience. They produce reports setting out their findings and make recommendations to the Government. The Government has to respond to these recommendations within two months.

[Click Here](#)

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

The Committee was appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the [Northern Ireland Office](#) and its associated public bodies. The Committee also looks at the administration and expenditure (but not the policy) of the Crown Solicitor's Office (except for individual cases and advice given by the Crown Solicitor.)

[Click Here](#)

Useful Links

- [Click here to see the BPS' Latest Policy Activity Headlines](#)
- [Click here for list of recently published BPS documents and guidelines](#)
- [Click here to see a list of our recently responded to consultations](#)