

1. EIF - Cost of late intervention

January 2017

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) has published a report on the costs of providing services for children and young people experiencing significant difficulties, many of which might have been prevented through early intervention. Findings include: nearly £17 billion per year is spent by the state in England and Wales on the cost of late intervention; of this £5.3 billion is spent on children in care and £5.2 billion is associated with cases of domestic violence; the amount spent on late intervention varies significantly across England: average spend per person is £298 but this can be as low as £164 or as high as £531 in some areas.

Link: <http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/the-cost-of-late-intervention-eif-analysis-2016/>

2. EIF - Transforming child and adolescent mental health

The Education Policy Institute's Independent Commission on Children and Young People's Mental Health has published a report on transforming child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) in England. It proposes that the Prime Minister should announce a national challenge on children's mental health, including: the establishment of a mental health research institute; a strategy to empower young people to live safe digital lives; nationally kite marked, easy to access services in every area; a stronger focus on mental health and wellbeing within schools.

Link: <http://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/time-to-deliver-web.pdf>

3. Trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care

ECPAT UK and Missing People have published a report on the number of trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care. Key findings from data collected from 217 local authorities across the UK includes: of the 590 children suspected or identified as trafficked, 28% (167) went missing at least once, from 39 UK local authorities; of the 4,744 unaccompanied children, 13% (593) went missing at least once, from 74 local authorities. Recommendations for improving support for unaccompanied and trafficked children and preventing them from going missing include: build a culture of trust by ensuring all their encounters with agencies and services are supportive, providing peer support and explaining next steps clearly.

Link: <http://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/time-to-deliver-web.pdf>

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4. Outcomes of child and adolescent mental health services

The Child Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC) has published a report on the outcomes and experiences of children and parents who used child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) in 2011-2015. Findings include: of the young people who saw a CAMHS specialist between 2011 and 2015 for whom we have data, approximately 1 in 3 self-reported “recovery”, 1 in 2 reported reliable improvement and 1 in 10 deteriorated; according to the evidence collected from parents, around 1 in 5 cases were reported as “recovered”, 2 in 5 reported reliable improvement and 1 in 10 reported deterioration.

Link: <http://www.corc.uk.net/corc-report-outcomes-experience-child-young-peoples-mental-health-services/>

5. Talking to children about terrorism

The devastating attacks in Paris, Brussels, Orlando, Nice, and Munich this year have triggered a higher volume of counselling sessions at Childline. With many children and young people mentioning panic attacks, anxiety, insomnia, and nightmares.

This is the first year that Childline has specifically recorded concerns about terrorism after the Paris attacks last year prompted a surge in contacts.

Between November 2015 and November 2016 Childline provided 660 counselling sessions about terrorism¹. Our figures show that:

1 in 5 counselling sessions at Childline about terrorism were from young people aged 11 or younger²

Social media and the news make it easy for children and young people to become fearful of potential attacks. And many don't know where to turn to talk to about their feelings, and families don't often know how to discuss the topic

Talking about terrorism can be tricky. Let children and young people know that they can always talk to you about anything, and that they're safe and loved

You know your child best, so take the approach that works for you both. Our Childline counsellors suggest you could:

listen and ask them what they know and how they feel about it

reassure them that adults are doing everything they can to keep them safe

avoid complicated explanations that could leave a child confused and frightened

let them know they can always talk to you

Watch our video to see how 3 parents answer their children's questions based on footage from Paris. You can find more advice on The Times.

Link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/increase-calls-childline-paris-attacks/>