

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 175
9th November 2010**

More freedom and flexibility - a new approach for Children's Trust Boards, children and young people's plans, and the 'duty to cooperate' (03/11/10)

All evidence and experience suggests stronger partnerships, greater integration of services and a shared purpose lead to better services for children, young people and families – especially the most vulnerable. The core principle of a shared commitment to improve the lives of children, young people and families – enshrined in the 'duty to cooperate' on local strategic bodies – remains as important as it ever was.

But the Government is determined to reduce central prescription and let professionals come together to best fit local circumstances and needs.

As of 31st October 2010:

- Statutory children's trust guidance is withdrawn.
- Children & Young People's plan regulations are revoked. CTBs will not be required to produce a C&YPP.
- The Education Bill will (subject to parliamentary approval) remove the duty on schools, non-maintained special schools, academies and FE colleges to cooperate through CTs.
- The Government intends (subject to parliamentary approval) to remove the requirement for local areas to have a CTB and for Job Centre Plus to be a 'relevant partner' under a formal 'duty to cooperate'.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0066362/more-freedom-and-flexibility-a-new-approach-for-childrens-trust-boards-children-and-young-peoples-plans-and-the-duty-to-cooperate>

Improving outcomes for children and young people through partnership in Children's Trusts (03/11/10)

Strong partnership working across agencies, led by highly effective leaders with commitment and drive, can bring real change and improvement for children and young people in their area, finds Ofsted in this report.

The aim of this survey was to evaluate the impact of CTs in 6 LAs on improving the lives of children and young people, particularly those whose circumstances made them potentially vulnerable. This survey identifies best practice and case studies illustrate the links between partnerships through the strategic work of the CTs and effective practice with individual children and young people.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Highly-effective-leaders-with-true-commitment-to-partnership-working-lead-to-better-outcomes-for-children-and-young-people>
<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>

Child Safeguarding (02/11/10)

The minutes of oral evidence taken before the House of Commons Education Committee on 15th September 2010

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmeduc/465i/10091501.htm>

Better beginnings for young parents and their babies

These free training seminars are aimed at all health professionals working with young parents before and after the birth of their baby. They will provide:

- an understanding of infant death and the increased risk to babies of younger parents – parents aged 19 years or younger are at a 4 times greater risk of cot death than older parents
- updates of the latest advice in safe infant care practices
- examples of the free tools available to get infant care messages to young parents
- free resources for professionals to take away from the seminar
- free resources for young parents. Each attendee will get ten of each to use with young parents they are working with

For dates and locations see website <http://fsid.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=687>

Child poverty needs assessment toolkit (02/11/10)

Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. The child poverty needs assessment is the chance to highlight what this means locally and how LAs can respond.

This resource is for individuals and groups who will lead on understanding family poverty locally. It will help in providing the underpinning information and insights to develop strategies that can reduce and mitigate against child poverty. <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=22025996>

Before Care (02/11/10)

This report by the Children's Rights Director for England reveals experiences of children placed into care, including many not knowing that they are going into care until it actually happens and then having no choice about where they are going to live. Of 28 children who did not know they were going into care, 18 were emergency admissions. This small survey raises concerns about how ill informed and unprepared some children are when they come into care.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Children-going-into-care>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11669/136685/file/Before%20care.pdf>

Serious case review evaluations: April 2007 onwards (04/11/10)

SCRs are local enquiries into the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor.

Ofsted is responsible for evaluating SCRs, carried out by LSCBs. This is not an evaluation of the quality of professional practice or service delivery, in relation to the incident under review, or about allocating blame. It is an evaluation of the degree to which the SCR has succeeded in identifying lessons to be learned from the events and the analysis, and the action needed to improve the protection of children in the future.

The evaluation list shows the SCRs that Ofsted has evaluated.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Other-statistics/Serious-case-review-evaluations-April-2007-onwards>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11681/136805/file/Serious%20case%20review%20evaluations%201%20April%202007%20-%2030%20September%202010.pdf>

Families in trouble: action learning set

Intensive work with families can improve the most chaotic lives and enable families to help themselves to improve life chances and standard of living. The LGiU's CSN will run an Action Learning Set on family intervention between November 2010 and April 2011 for LAs, voluntary sector organisations and the private sector.

It will explore how local government and its partners can provide targeted and holistic support for families through seeking out the best practice and innovative funding models for the delivery of early intervention and prevention for families in trouble.

This is an excellent opportunity to work with other professionals from different sectors to investigate, design and test new approaches for the successful support of families with multiple problems.

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/csn/projects/Pages/familiesintrouble.aspx>

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/csn/projects/Documents/Families%20in%20trouble.pdf>


Protection for vulnerable groups (Scotland) (03/11/10)

The introduction of a new scheme to improve the protection of vulnerable groups has been postponed until February to ensure the system which supports it is as robust as it can be. It was due to go live on 30/11/10.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/03112745>

<http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

New all-age careers service (04/11/10)

Skills minister John Hayes has set out his vision for the first all-age careers service in England. Both young people (13-19) and adults will be able to begin accessing new arrangements for careers guidance from September 2011. 

The service will be fully operational by April 2012. It will build on the best of Next Step and Connexions and provide a fully joined up service for all age groups.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=416365&NewsAreaID=2>

CEOP 2009-2010 Strategic Overview (05/11/10)

CEOP has received 6,291 reports in the last year, an increase of 880. While around 40% come from the public, the overall increase is due to a rise in industry reporting – from online moderators, website hosts and mobile phone companies, among others.

CEOP also announced that a number of prominent children's sites have committed to working with it and signalled their intention to adopt the ClickCEOP button.

The document highlights an increasing trend of explicit 'self-taken' images by C&YP, indicating that many are prepared to take risks in making online contact with strangers. CEOP has launched a 2 week advertising campaign in Facebook, in order to raise awareness of the dangers of uploading indecent or uninhibited images online.

Other trends include a rise in the number of investigations referred to CEOP relating to female abusers and an indication that Vietnamese children now make up the largest group of children being trafficked into the UK, primarily for exploitation in the cultivation of cannabis.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2010/Key-childrens-sites-adopt-ClickCEOP-button-as-UKs-Centre-for-child-protection-receives-over-6000-reports-in-a-year/>

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Publications/>

Children miss out on adoption because of 'myths and legends' (01/11/10)

New UK-wide research, commissioned by BAAF, reveals alarming public misconceptions around adoption, on issues including obesity, smoking and gay and lesbian adoption. The myths and legends around adoption could cause children to miss out on permanent families, warns a national charity.

Key findings include:

- 32% believed anyone over 40 was ruled out of adoption
- 29% thought single men couldn't adopt
- 11% said gay/lesbian people couldn't adopt
- 36% thought you couldn't adopt if you smoke
- 29% thought being obese excluded you from adoption

David Holmes, Chief Executive of BAAF, said:

"It is worrying how many myths have come to dominate in adoption. It concerns us that people may disqualify themselves needlessly, which could mean a child misses out on a family.

"The key message is anyone over 21 can apply to adopt. However there is no right to adopt and everyone whose application is taken forward will be subject to a very thorough assessment. Every case is treated individually.

"The good news is that 94% of people who make it to an adoption panel get approved. So we strongly urge anyone interested in adoption to make an enquiry. Don't rule yourself out without at least finding out the facts."

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/2955>

Adoptions - Number decrease by over 5% (04/11/10)

There were 4,655 children entered into the Adopted Children Register following court orders made in 2009 (5.7% (283) less than 2008):

- Almost 60% were aged between 1 and 4 (39% in 1999)
- 2% were aged under 1 (4% in 1999).
- 24% were aged between 5 and 9 (34% in 1999)
- the proportion aged 10 and over fell to 15% (17% in 2008).
80% were born outside of marriage (79% in 2008 and 66% in 1999).

On 30/12/05, the Adoption and Children Act 2002 was fully implemented. It replaced the Adoption Act 1976 and modernised the legal framework for adoption in England and Wales. The Act provides for an adoption order to be made in favour of single people, married couples and, for the first time, civil partners, same-sex couples and unmarried couples. The Act also introduced Special Guardianship to provide permanence for children who cannot return to their birth families, but for whom adoption is not the most suitable option.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=592>

Get ready for Anti-Bullying Week 2010

This year's Anti-Bullying Week takes place on 15th -19th November and is all about Taking Action Together.

Free online resources are now available to support anti-bullying activities in schools, colleges and youth work, and the Anti-Bullying Week shop is still open for business!

<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

Strategic Alliance (03/11/10)

The NCB and NCVYS have announced a strategic alliance in which they will remain as separate organisations, but explore ways to work more closely together to increase efficiency and effectiveness and maximise the impact of their work to benefit C&YP.
http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media_news/2010/jul_to_dec/ncb_and_ncvys_announce_strateg.aspx

London CP Procedures - update

The London Board will publish The 4th edition of the London Child Protection Procedures online on 09/12/10. These will be updated in line with changes to statutory guidance, followed by a fuller revision after the Munro Review of CP is published.
<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>
<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/>

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Commencement No. 6) (Wales) Order 2010 SI 2543 (W.212) (C.122) (04/11/10)

This Order brings Ss 88 to 99, 102, 108 and 167 into force on 31 October 2010.

- Ss 88 - 96 relate to school discipline, behaviour and exclusion.
- Ss 97 - 99 extend the availability of parenting contracts and parenting orders in respect of misbehaviour at school.
- S102 allows for regulations that may require headteachers to arrange reintegration interviews for excluded pupils.
- S108 extends police powers to remove truants from public places during school hours to excluded pupils.
- S167 amends S176 Education Act 2002 so that the requirement to consult pupils imposed on LAs and governing bodies applies in relation to pupils receiving nursery education.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi_2010/wsi_20102543_en_1

The Child Minding and Day Care (Inspection and Information for Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2010 SI 2575 (W.215) (04/11/10)

These Regulations set out both the arrangements for inspections of those providing child minding and day care and also the information which the Welsh Ministers must provide to a LA when certain steps are taken.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi_2010/wsi_20102575_en_2

Valuing Youth Work (05/11/10)

This report from the NYA and LGA shows how organisations and councils can effectively work together to provide services covering health, citizenship, participation, and training and education, and the impact it has on young people's lives.

<http://www.nya.org.uk/news/new-report-highlights-value-of-youth-work>
<http://www.nya.org.uk/policy>
[http://nya.org.uk/dynamic_files/policy/Valuing%20Youth%20Work%20lo%20res\[1\].pdf](http://nya.org.uk/dynamic_files/policy/Valuing%20Youth%20Work%20lo%20res[1].pdf)

Assessment of councils' performance to change (03/11/10)

Minister of State for Care Services Paul Burstow announced at the National Children and Adult Services Conference that the CQC will no longer conduct an annual performance assessment of councils under the existing framework.

This new approach will see a shift towards more sector-led assessment, with councils holding greater responsibility for driving improvement. CQC will still have an important role to play, which will be defined over coming months. We will share our plans as they develop.

http://www.cqc.org.uk/newsandevents/news_stories.cfm?cit_id=36842&FAArea1=customWidgets.content_view_1&usecache=false

Alcohol consumption and family life

(02/11/10)

This study examined how parents teach young children (aged 5 to 12) about alcohol. It explored parental attitudes towards alcohol, and family drinking practices, using a national survey and in-depth case studies.

The study found that:

- Parents are the most important influence on young children's attitudes to alcohol;
- Parents are largely successful at conveying the social pleasures and risks of drinking at home and the message that alcohol should be consumed in moderation;
- There are gaps in what children learn from home such as the health consequences of drinking and the potential risks of drinking outside the home.

http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/alcohol-consumption-family-life?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Emailmarketingsoftware&utm_content=551374350&utm_campaign=NewJRFpublications2November2010&utm_term=Alcoholconsumptionandfamilylife
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/alcohol-family-life-summary.pdf>
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/alcohol-family-life-full.pdf>

Pre-teens learning about alcohol: drinking and family contexts

(02/11/10)

Childhood experiences are crucial to forming future drinking habits. Much emphasis has been placed on understanding the impact of problem drinking within the family, yet much less is known about how children learn about alcohol in so-called 'ordinary families'.

This study found that:

- Children in the 7-12 age bracket have a fairly sophisticated knowledge of alcohol and its effects;



- The home is an important source of learning about alcohol and young children anticipate modelling their future behaviour on parents' drinking styles; and
- Parents often have limited belief in their ability to teach children to drink responsibly, in the face of external pressures.

http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/pre-teens-alcohol-learning?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Emailmarketingsoftware&utm_content=551374350&utm_campaign=NewJRFpublications2November2010&utm_term=Pre-teenslearningaboutalcoholdrinkingandfamilycontexts
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/pre-teens-and-alcohol-summary.pdf>
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/pre-teens-and-alcohol-full.pdf>

(from www.jrf.org.uk and reproduced by permission of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

Update on products free of colours associated with hyperactivity

(01/11/10)

The FSA has updated its list of product ranges that do not contain the 6 food colours associated with possible hyperactivity in young children. The list includes companies whose product ranges have never contained the six colours and companies whose product ranges have been reformulated to remove the colours.

The colours, identified by a Southampton University study financed by the FSA, are:

- sunset yellow FCF (E110)
- quinoline yellow (E104)
- carmoisine (E122)
- allura red (E129)
- tartrazine (E102)
- ponceau 4R (E124)

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2010/nov/colours>

Voluntary sector at the heart of public service reform (03/11/10)

Ministers have pledged swift action to open up new opportunities for the voluntary sector to help deliver public services as part of the Big Society.

Decentralisation Minister Greg Clark joined Paymaster General Francis Maude and Civil Society Minister Nick Hurd for a No11 Downing Street summit with voluntary sector leaders. They discussed plans for a Green Paper to address how to create a level playing field for charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises to bid for public service contracts.

Mr Clark added that the upcoming Localism Bill will devolve power from the centre, empowering people and organisations to challenge the way local services are being delivered and to offer a better, more cost effective alternative.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/communities/1759026>

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/101102-bigsociety.aspx

New powers on school discipline (01/11/10)

Welsh Education Minister Leighton Andrews has welcomed new powers which reaffirm teachers' ability to:

- Discipline pupils on and off school premises,
- use reasonable force to prevent pupils from harming themselves and others and in some cases of serious misbehaviour,
- clarify the powers relating to confiscation of pupil's property.

The powers come into force on the day that schools and FE colleges in Wales have power to screen any pupil for a knife or weapon.



Guidance on the commencement of new powers under the Education and Inspection Act 2006 and Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 will now be sent to schools and will also be available on the Welsh Assembly Government's website.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/newsroom/educationandskills/2010/101101schooldiscipline/?lang=en>

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/pupilsupport/searching/?lang=en>

Against the odds - Re-engaging young people in education, employment or training (03/11/10)

Since 1990, a yearly government survey has indicated that 9 - 10% of 16 to 18 year olds are without a wage, schooling or training. This new study looks at the financial, personal and social cost of teenagers who are NEET. It has found that the problem may be worse than the annual survey shows, but that a new approach can make scarce resources work harder for those at greatest risk.

The report summary document gives an overview of the main findings from the research, complete with a series of questions to help commissioners and members of 14-19 partnerships, children's trusts and local strategic partnerships explore what local issues may be for young people not in education, employment or training and how to work more effectively to help them.

Since the launch of the report on 07/07/10, the DfE has released updated NEET figures for 2009. We have produced a [series of maps](#) detailing changes in the proportion and numbers of young people NEET 07 and 09. <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/againsttheodds/Pages/default.aspx>

Infants suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm: A prospective longitudinal study (October 2010)

Decisions made by practitioners to protect and promote the welfare of infants suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm are extremely difficult and will have long-term consequences for their life chances. It is important to know how such decisions are made, and whether they can be improved.

This prospective study explored the decision-making process that influenced the life pathways and developmental progress of a sample of very young children who were identified as suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm before their first birthdays and were then followed until they were three. <http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RB053&>

Improving Young People's Lives Oct 2010

The environment plays a key role in influencing outcomes for young people. It can influence their development through the quality of place in which they live, whilst also providing opportunities for activities, approaches and learning that can engage and support even the most disaffected, enabling them to overcome barriers to participation

The purpose of this report is to present findings for the role of the environment in improving young people's lives through building their resilience, responsibility and employment chances. It develops proposals that aim to influence changes in local delivery, and gives recommendations for how this can be supported by policy at a national level. <http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=SDC-IYPL&>

Progress Matters: Reviewing and enhancing young children's development (October 2010)

The material in these professional development meetings is intended to support quality improvement on the theme of early assessment. The aim is to enable Early Years consultants to help practitioners identify children's starting points and their next steps in learning.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00797-2009&>

Childcare and early years survey of parents 2009 (October 2010)

This report provides the main findings of the 2009 survey in the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents series.

The survey's two main objectives are:

- to provide up-to-date and accurate information on parents' childcare arrangements and their views of particular childcare providers and childcare provision in general.
- to continue the time series and provide information to help monitor the progress of policies in the areas of childcare and early years education.

The report describes in detail what childcare is used by different types of families, changes in take-up over the years, parents' reasons for using or not using childcare and for choosing particular providers, and parents' views on the providers they used and on childcare provision in their local area in general.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR054&>

Education Endowment Fund (03/11/10)

The Secretary of State for Education has allocated £110m to establish an education endowment fund designed to turn around weakest schools and raise standards for disadvantaged pupils


The EEF will distribute money to LAs, academy sponsors, charities and other groups that bring forward innovative proposals to improve performance in our most challenging schools.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0066439/education-secretary-commits-110m-to-weakest-schools>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/presntices/a0066416/new-endowment-fund-to-turn-around-weakest-schools-and-raise-standards-for-disadvantaged-pupils>

Extended services subsidy pathfinder in schools: evaluation (October 2010)

The policy understanding underlying the subsidy pathfinder is that schools can make an important contribution to the development and life chances of disadvantaged children and young people, by offering them improved access to a range of extra-curricular services and activities.

This report examines data collected as part of the evaluation of the extended services disadvantaged subsidy pathfinder. The broad overall aim of this research is to find out how funding can best be targeted so as to engage disadvantaged children and young people in activities through extended schools. The focus is on implementation and management of the subsidy through the pathfinder schools rather than attempting to assess long term outcomes.

The research also makes comparisons of the flexible and defined models. These comparisons are not intended to result in 

concluding that either the flexible model is best, or the defined model is best, but to uncover the advantages and disadvantages of each model and provide learning as to how each has been implemented.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR042>
<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RB042>

Improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils: final report (Oct 2010)

Improving educational outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils has been a focus of research and policy for some time and is particularly serious for secondary age pupils. Evidence suggests that where Gypsy and Traveller pupils do transfer successfully to secondary school, their attendance is unlikely to continue beyond the age of 14.

The overall aim of the study was to explore the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and to offer parents, schools and LAs a range of possible methods for improving the outcomes for this group.

It aimed to maximise the information to be derived from the National Pupil Dataset to identify and quantify the impact of issues affecting outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and separate out the effects of social and economic factors from issues specifically relating to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners through comparison with a carefully matched sample from the NPD.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR043>
<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RB043>

The use of whole family assessment to identify the needs of families with multiple problems (October 2010)

It is estimated that around 2% of families in England experience multiple and complex difficulties, often intergenerational in nature and likely to impact significantly on the life chances and outcomes for children.

This paper provides an overview of the approaches to assessment taken by the LAs involved, along with a more detailed exploration of the whole family assessment processes developed by individual areas. It also explores some of the positive outcomes linked to taking a family focused approach.

A total of 15 LAs received funding to test family focused models of working, with 6 of these and 12 more LAs extending their work to include systems and support to address the needs of families with young carers. Each LA has developed their own approach to reforming support for families at risk.

A key aim of this work was to bring together tailored services and systems reform to ensure that families with complex needs receive coordinated, family focused packages of support. A key component of the work is bringing together adult and children's services to work more effectively together.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR045&>

Redesigning provision for families with multiple problems - an assessment of the early impact of different local approaches (October 2010)

The coalition government is committed to investigating a new 'whole family' approach to working with families with multiple and complex problems. ↗

This research provides: evidence of the impact of this family focused approach on outcomes for families; assesses the cost-benefit of the new model of working; and showcases good practice developed by LAs in this field.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR046&>

Social and emotional aspects of learning programme in secondary schools: national evaluation (October 2010)

SEAL is "a comprehensive, whole-school approach to promoting the social and emotional skills that underpin effective learning, positive behaviour, regular attendance, staff effectiveness and the emotional health and well-being of all who learn and work in schools".

The aims of this evaluation were:

- to assess the impact of secondary SEAL on outcomes for pupils, staff and schools
- to examine how schools implemented SEAL, with particular reference to the adoption of a whole-school approach.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR049&>

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RB049&>

Official Consultation Response for the Public Consultation on the Planning Transition to Adulthood for Looked After Children Guidance and the Regulations (October 2010)

The Children (Leaving Care) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (now consolidated as the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010) provides the legal framework for care leavers who are “relevant” or “former relevant” i.e. who are no longer formally looked after.

The Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers Statutory Guidance explains how the regulations should be put in to practice, offering advice to LAs on how to carry out their duties so that young people leaving care are able to reach their potential as they make the transition to adulthood.

This document summarises the key issues raised during the consultation period.
<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageModule=publications&ProductId=DFE-00556-2010&>

Teenage parent supported housing pilot evaluation (October 2010)

This report provides an interim assessment of the progress of the Teenage Parent Supported Housing (TPSH) pilot, funded by the DfE until March 2011, which provides 7 schemes designed to test a range of ‘enhanced support packages’ for teenage parents.

The purpose of the telephone surveys of service users is to give all young people utilising the projects an opportunity to comment on the services they have received and the perceived impact of these services.
<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageModule=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR050&>

Children's Minister calls for reduced delays in adoption process (02/11/10)

As part of a speech to mark National Adoption Week, Children’s Minister Tim Loughton called on LAs and voluntary adoption agencies not to deny children a loving home with adoptive parents solely on the grounds that they do not share the same racial or cultural background.

Statistics show that the number of children placed for adoption fell by 15% in 2009/10 and that more children are waiting longer to be adopted. Many LAs should be making more use of voluntary adoption agencies, with experience in finding families for difficult-to-place children, to help reduce delay and break down barriers in the system.

The Government has set up an advisory group on adoption to provide expert advice on practical proposals, including making better use of the Adoption Register and extending its proactive matching role.

LAs should also be making use of the Adoption Research Initiative, which provides guidance to frontline practitioners on planning and decision-making, family finding, adoption support and the costs of adoption.

In addition, the Government will be reissuing updated statutory adoption guidance, including advice on matching for BME community and mixed ethnicity children. The BAAF is also developing new practice guidance on promoting a child’s ethnic identity in adoption and balancing this against unnecessary delay.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/internationalnews/a0066330/childrens-minister-calls-for-reduced-delays-in-adoption-process>

Disability toolkit (29/10/10)

Earlier this year the University of Bath conducted research to pilot tools to support schools in identifying and collecting disability data. This research was developed in response to previous research conducted in 2008.

This work with volunteer schools has informed the development of a toolkit schools may find helpful in identifying and collecting information on all their disabled pupils.

The research found that collecting robust and consistent disability information can help schools better identify and respond to the needs of their disabled pupils, in addition to supporting schools in meeting their duties under disability and equality legislation.

The 2011 School Census also enables schools to submit information on disability as well as special educational needs. Schools can choose to provide disability data voluntarily in the school census for pupils in Years 1 and 7. You can find details of the census by searching for 'School Census 2011' on this website.

The toolkit comprises a

- questionnaire that can be distributed to parents to help schools identify disabled pupils and their individual needs
- range of flexible tools for schools to use with pupils, which can be matched to meeting the individual needs of disabled pupils.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/specialeducationalneeds/a0065985/disability-toolkit>

Improving underperforming schools and the academy programme (04/11/10)

The Secretary of State for Education has written to all LAs in England. The letter announces that LAEs will be freed from statutory targets and asks for their support in the next stage of the reform programme, which will include working together with sponsors to identify underperforming schools that would benefit from becoming academies.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/la-weekly-email/laemail04november2010/>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0066521/michael-gove-writes-to-local-authorities-about-academies>

Self-evaluation for initial teacher education providers (02/11/10)

This is the December 2010 submission for academic year 2009/10. A guidance document is also available.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Self-evaluation-for-initial-teacher-education-providers>

Ofsted inspects Cafcass (05/11/10)

This updated page has two versions of *Ofsted inspects – Cafcass*, the framework for the inspection of Cafcass and guidance for inspectors. Please use the appropriate one.

- *Ofsted inspects – Cafcass* is for inspections for the period April 09 to 30/09/10.
- Cafcass interim inspection framework is for inspections for the period 01/10/10 to 28/02/11. These dates are referred to on the cover of the document.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Ofsted-inspects-Cafcass>

When Family Life Hurts: Family experience of aggression (08/11/10)

This new report from Parentline Plus reveals that a growing number of families are seriously concerned about their child's aggressive behaviour and specifically, their direct experience of physical violence and verbal abuse at the hands of their children.

The report calls for greater recognition and understanding of the type of support that embattled families need. It highlights clear evidence that parenting support interventions are highly effective in turning escalating problems around and improving the wellbeing of both child and parent.

Over a two year period between June 2008 and June 2010, of the 83,469 calls made, 27% of callers were seeking advice from the charity's helpline regarding their children's behaviour with parents frequently reporting feelings of desperation, helplessness and shame.

<http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk/default.aspx?page=viewarticle&module=articles-view&id=686&tags=25>

<http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk/files/public/sharedfiles/PplusAggressionOctFinalGL.pdf>

<http://www.nya.org.uk/news/child-violence-against-parents-on-rise>

New five year plan to improve sexual health (08/11/10)

The Welsh Assembly Government has published a plan to highlight the importance of prevention, education, individual responsibility, and access to healthcare services.

The plan sets out how local health boards, health and social care and wellbeing partnerships and children and young people partnerships can work together with young people and their families. ↗

Some of the actions included are:

- £450,000 worth of grants, targeted at areas with the highest rates of teenage pregnancies;
- Information to help parents discuss sexual health with their children;
- Integrated sexual health services that meet the needs of a wide range of people, including younger people who access them will continue to be developed;
- Working with people living with HIV to develop ways to tackle stigma;
- Disseminate information, evidence, best practice and learning.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2010/101108sexual/?lang=en>

Meic launched to younger age group (08/11/10)

Young children aged 7 and under can now benefit from the Welsh Assembly Government's advocacy and advice helpline, Meic (short for 'Meicroffon', microphone in Welsh).

Since the service began in May, Meic has received almost 4000 calls from children and young people seeking advice and information on issues that matter to them.

Supported by more than £450,000 of Welsh Assembly Government funding, the helpline is the first of its kind in the UK to be rolled out on a national basis.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2010/meic/?lang=en&status=open>

Youth justice agencies join forces to tackle crime (08/11/10)

The YJB has sponsored the launch of a South West resettlement consortium to help spearhead improvements in the rehabilitation of young people leaving custody. This new approach involves youth offending services, voluntary services, custody and LAs – particularly children’s services and housing – working together to develop flexible and co-ordinated resettlement services.

One of the biggest barriers children and young people face on leaving custody is finding somewhere suitable to live. Coupled with gaps in education and training this increases the risk of high reconviction rates but successful resettlement is identified as the way to bring these down.

In addition to tackling reoffending, the issues of child welfare, safeguarding and community safety will also be addressed thanks to the consortium working across agency and local authority boundaries.

The SW consortium will focus on young people who are sentenced to a Detention and Training Order at one of the 3 custodial establishments in the SW.

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/News/Youthjusticeagenciesjoinforcestotacklecrime.htm?area=MediaCentre>

Consultations

Arrangements for Placement of Children by Voluntary Organisations and Others (England) Regulations 2011 (01/11/10)

This consultation is about consolidating and replacing old regulations about placement and case review of children other than looked after children, by various voluntary organisations or in children's homes.

The new regulations are required because previous regulations, which covered both looked after children and children who are not looked after, are being revoked or amended. We need to set out what arrangements apply to placement of children who are not looked after.

Closing Date: 24th January 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1738&external=no&menu=1>

Consultation on School Toilets: Best Practice Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools in Wales (01/11/10)

This consultation document seeks views on the best practice guidance for Governing Bodies and Head Teachers on issues relating to the standards of toilets and related facilities required in schools in Wales.

This consultation sets out best practice guidance for school toilets in primary and secondary schools to help inform that audit process. It is aimed at LAs, school Governing Bodies and Head Teachers. It provides non-statutory guidance in respect of provision and management of toilet facilities for pupils in their schools.

Closing Date: 24th January 2011

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/schooltoilets/?lang=en>

National Protocol for Case Responsibility produced – England only (02/11/10)

The YJB have produced this draft Protocol to promote a consistent approach to practice across English YOTs where contact with young people from outside a YOT's geographical area is concerned.

Among other things, the protocol covers responsibilities relating to aspects such as court work, case transfers between YOTs, and out-of-area placements regarding children in care.

The protocol aims to provide practice advice to YOTs. To ensure it provides an accurate and useful reference point for practice, the YJB wish to gather views from YOTs as to its content and format

Closing Date: 16th November 2010

<http://youthjusticeboard.newsweaver.co.uk/1fbw6q0dq1o16s49h76f4g?email=true>
<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C2597D61-542D-472D-97EE-DC9943766678/0/Nationalprotocolforcasere sponsibility.pdf>

Conferences

Safer Communities: Safer Children

25th November 2010 East Sussex Free
This event, hosted by Safe Network and East Sussex LSCB aims to explore how improved safeguarding practises can be put in place and introduce Safe Network's national core children's safeguarding standards.

For more information email:

Irene Aserie - iaserie@rospa.com

<http://www.csec.org.uk/news/WhatsNew.asp>

Are they safe?

30th November 2010 Newcastle Free
The Safe Network is hosting this workshop based on the resource pack Are they Safe?

http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/news_and_events/news_articles/Pages/are_they_safe_free_workshop_30_november_2010.aspx

There's no excuse for child abuse

20th January 2011 Huntingdon £15 - £60
The event is aimed at anyone working with children and young people working in Cambridgeshire and or Peterborough.

Issues to be covered include:

- The Vetting and Barring Scheme
- CRB checks and police information
- Paedophile activity within the workplace
- The role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) responsible for managing allegations against those that work with children
- The role of the LSCB
- The work of CEOP

E-mail: Angela Haylock

angela@young-lives.org.uk

http://young-lives.org.uk/news_details.php?newsid=122&osCsid=75e99a54b5c833cb1bbcf9e9d3ff4e11

Sustaining Adventure Playgrounds: Including all Children and Communities

30th November 2010 London Free
This free event, hosted jointly by Play England and KIDS will focus on how to sustain adventure playgrounds in an age of austerity, with practical examples of how to diversify funding and make the case locally for the adventure playground model.

The seminar will also look at setting up the best model for a national adventurous play network that will help adventure playgrounds, play ranger projects and other forms of adventure play provision to share information, resources and training opportunities.

Keynote speakers and workshops will explore:

- 1.How adventure playgrounds that are still going strong after decades built and maintained local support in their communities through tough times.
- 2.Different forms of revenue funding, help in kind and community ownership.
- 3.How playgrounds in the Play England-managed grants programme did great things with relatively small amounts of money.
- 4.How the new play pathfinder adventure playgrounds are developing sustainability plans.
- 5.How developing quality inclusive practice can support better funding opportunities for adventure playgrounds.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/events/sustaining-adventure-playgrounds-including-all-children-and-communities>

Conferences (continued)

Engaging children and young people: staying healthy, staying safe

6th December 2010 London £100 - £150

This event is for professionals working with children and young people in a wide variety of roles and settings.

The conference will include sessions on current issues that are relevant and affect the children and young people you care for in order that you can better understand and meet their needs. There will be a focus on how children and young people receive and share information, and ways for them to stay safe when doing so.

The day will be a mix of speakers and workshop sessions so you can question experts, network with peers, and discuss issues and solutions relevant to you to implement into your workplace.

http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/event_details/rcn_events/engaging_children_and_young_people_staying_healthy_staying_safe

What is 'special' about specialist care for children and young people?

15th March 2011 Leeds £100 - £150

If you are a nurse providing specialist nursing care to children and young people, hear the latest developments relevant to you.

Speakers will address issues covering policy direction, service delivery and role development. Attend sessions covering improving nutritional care, safeguarding children and promoting emotional well-being. ↗

Following the event you will be able to apply your learning to your team or workplace, thereby improving the service you provide your patients and ensuring high quality care.

Plenary sessions include:

- modernising nursing careers - developing roles in specialist care
- transitional care pathways in specialist services
- promoting emotional well being in children and young people
- listening to children and young people.

http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/event_details/rcn_events/what_is_special_about_specialist_care_for_children_and_young_people

Action on Youth Alcohol: Progress So Far and The Next Steps To Be Taken

25th November 2010 Westminster
£225 + VAT

Key issues to be addressed include:

- Progress in tackling youth alcohol consumption and the next steps to be taken
- The recent Tackling alcohol fuelled youth anti-social behaviour and crime guidance
- Implementing the new mandatory code for alcohol retailers
- Using the new powers in the Policing and Crime Act to best effect
- Alcohol marketing and what can be done?
- A joined up approach working with local authorities, health authorities, schools, police the third sector
- Learning from current good practice

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=13714>

This weekly newsletter collates information from various sources that is relevant to safeguarding children. Anyone working in this area who would like to be added to the circulation list can forward their details to – keithdriver@btinternet.com