

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN  
INFORMATION UPDATE - 182  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**Female Genital Mutilation: multi-agency practice guidelines** (24/02/11)

New guidelines, issued to LSCB chairs, DCSs and Regional Directors of Public Health, will help professionals identify women and girls at risk and set out practical steps that can be taken to protect them.

The guidelines have been developed across government departments in partnership with the Royal Colleges, FGM experts, charitable organisations and the ACPO. They will support frontline practitioners such as nurses, doctors, teachers and social workers to:

- identify and prevent further incidents;
- ensure that victims and potential victims receive the response and support they need; and
- provide a step-by-step practical guide to sensitively handling cases of FGM.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=418263&NewsAreaID=2&HUserID=895,779,891,848,780,867,710,705,765,674,677,767,684,762,718,674,708,683,706,718,674&ClientID=-1>

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_124551](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_124551)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_124588.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_124588.pdf)

**Parents urged to do safety homework before booking holidays** (17/02/11)

Research conducted by RoSPA shows that in 7 years up to 09, 67 British children, aged 0 - 17, drowned while on holiday abroad, mostly in popular European destinations: 26 in hotel pools, 15 in the sea and 11 in private pools e.g villas. The rest happened in lakes, rivers and canals. ↗

The best time to find out as much as you can about your destination is while booking:

- Reputable holiday specialists should have information on how appropriate their properties are for children, so don't be afraid to ask questions about the swimming pool or any other aspect of the safety arrangements
- If you are thinking of staying in a hotel or apartment, see if the pool has a lifeguard on duty at the poolside (be aware that a "pool attendant" might not be a trained lifeguard)
- If you prefer a villa, ask whether it has pool safety fencing with lockable gates and, if you have young children, think twice before booking if it doesn't.

<http://www.rospa.com/news/releases/detail/default.aspx?id=952>

**Nurturing children, supporting families** (16/02/11)

Making high quality childcare accessible and affordable has a key role to play in reducing child poverty, Deputy Minister Huw Lewis said today as he launched this Childcare Policy Statement which outlines the Welsh Assembly Government's priorities and ambitions for improving childcare across Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2011/110216childcare/?lang=en>  
<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/110216policyen.pdf>

**Safe Network Conference** (17/02/11)

Transcript of speech made by Minister Tim Loughton

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/speeches/a0074690/tim-loughton-to-the-safe-network-conference>

**Internet safety materials for children available to order** (21/02/11)

Materials from the Zip it, Block it, Flag it campaign are available free to all those who work with children.

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety have developed the 'Click Clever Click Safe Code', designed to act as an everyday reminder of simple good behaviours, to help you and your children avoid common risks online.

[http://www.education.gov.uk/ukccis/news\\_detail.cfm?newsid=48&thisnews=2](http://www.education.gov.uk/ukccis/news_detail.cfm?newsid=48&thisnews=2)

<http://clickcleverclicksafe.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

**Online Early Years Workforce Qualifications Audit Tool** (11/02/11)

The CWDC has improved the audit tool to ensure that childminders and home-based carers can take control of their own professional progression and be part of workforce development locally and nationally. It includes easier login, clarity over the information required and a shorter and simpler form to enable childminders to submit their data and be counted in the delivery of high quality early years provision.

Once practitioners have registered and completed their details, they only have to update the information as and when they gain qualifications or details change.

7,000 early years settings and childminders in England are registered, benefitting from the interactive online records management system. 130 LAs are also registered and can access evidence to help prioritise workforce development in their area.

[http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/4637\\_childminders-benefit-from-audit-tool-update](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/4637_childminders-benefit-from-audit-tool-update)

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/early-years/audit-tool>

**Resourceful leadership: how directors of children's services improve outcomes for children** (23/02/11)

This research has explored the ways in which leaders have demonstrated resourcefulness in their leadership to improve outcomes for children and young people. It found that the most highly effective leaders of children's services consistently display a common set of eight behaviours in their leadership practice.

The key areas it looks at are:

- the resourceful leader: effective local public services leadership
- the eight core behaviours of resourceful DCSs
- leading change
- leading in a time of shock
- managing the political and corporate landscape

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/news/whatsnew/023022011resourcefulleadership.aspx>

[http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/files/resourceful\\_leadership\\_dcs.pdf](http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/files/resourceful_leadership_dcs.pdf)

**Tackling bullying in schools: a governors guide** (17/02/11)

This is a new specialist guidance document for school governors, written by the ABA with advice and support from a team of governors. It outlines the research and legal context, sets out how governors can take an active role, and looks at issues around managing bullying incidents and working with parents and carers. This document is available to download, along with other guides and tools, from the ABA Tools for Schools website.

[http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/press\\_centre/latest\\_news/new\\_guide\\_for\\_governors.aspx](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/press_centre/latest_news/new_guide_for_governors.aspx)

[http://www.abatoolsforschools.org.uk/resources/aba\\_tools.aspx](http://www.abatoolsforschools.org.uk/resources/aba_tools.aspx)

### **Adoption Guidance (22/02/11)**

The Government wants to see more children adopted where this is in their best interests, particularly those from ethnic minority backgrounds, older children and those with disabilities. LAs and voluntary adoption agencies should also be more welcoming towards all potential adopters – and not turn people away on the grounds of race, age or social background.

The Government is looking at what more can be done to improve this situation, including:

- revised adoption guidance for LAs
- investigating how inspection of LA adoption services could be strengthened
- exploring whether enough is being done to support approved adopters who are not matched with a child.

The statutory guidance explains the different regulations under the Adoption and Children Act 2002, and the duties and responsibilities placed on adoption agencies. It applies to domestic adoption in England only.

This guidance is issued under s7 LASS Act 1970, requiring LAs in their social services functions to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State. As such, it does not have the full force of statute, but should be complied with unless there are exceptional reasons.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/b0072314/guidance/>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/adoption/b0072314/guidance/>

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/a/adoption%20guidance.pdf>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/speeches/a0074791/tim-loughton-at-the-adoption-guidance-launch>

### **Enabling Excellence: Autonomy and Accountability for Health and Social Care Staff (16/02/11)**

The vast majority of those who work in health and social care are committed and have a strong sense of professionalism. However, where there is poor practice or behaviour that presents a risk to the public, it is vital that swift action is taken, whether by employers, or by national regulatory bodies.

The system of professional regulation ensures high standards of practice and reassures the public that their health and social care needs are provided by qualified, properly vetted professionals. However, the regulatory system is becoming increasingly complex and expensive and requires continual Government intervention to keep it up to date. This Command Paper sets out the Government strategy for reforming and simplifying the system for regulating healthcare workers in the UK and social workers and social care workers in England.

Enabling Excellence' sets out proposals:

- to devolve power to the regulators, while enhancing accountability and sustaining effective national safeguards where necessary;
- to constrain the growth and costs of the regulatory system at a time when health and social work professionals are facing pay constraints;
- for a system of assured voluntary registration as a more proportionate approach to ensuring high standards in the workforce; and
- to simplify the regulatory structure.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH\\_124376](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_124376)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_124359](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_124359)

**Improving local safeguarding outcomes -  
Developing a strategic quality assurance  
framework to safeguard children**

This framework is aimed at strategic partnerships and individual organisations with safeguarding children responsibilities. It has been designed to help those with leadership, senior management or scrutiny responsibility for the safeguarding of children to gain a better understanding of how safe children are in their services and communities e.g. DCSs, Lead Members, NHS trust boards, CEs, LSCBs, Children’s Trust Boards, senior management teams.

The elements and principles can also be applied throughout all levels of all organisations that make a contribution to the safeguarding of children (including frontline practice) so that each level can self-assess whether it is being effective in keeping children safe.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>  
<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/25409798>

**More separating couples to be spared  
court battles (23/02/11)**

From April separating couples must assess whether mediation would be a better way of resolving their disputes than battling over them in court, Justice Minister Jonathan Djanogly announced today.

Anyone setting out to contest the terms of their separation in court will first be required to consider mediation, under a new protocol agreed with the Judiciary. This usually takes place through one mediation awareness session, where both parties find out what the process can offer before they decide if it is right for them, and replicates the system already in operation for couples granted legal aid. It will not apply to couples not planning to contest their terms in court.



Mediation is often quicker, cheaper and less confrontational than going to court. Research shows it can cost a quarter of the price and take a quarter of the time of going to court, and with two thirds of publicly funded mediation already resulting in full agreement it can ensure better results for families too. For couples who have decided separation is the only course of action, mediation means they can decide the terms of their split between themselves, helped by a trained and impartial mediator, rather than fighting each other through lawyers, with a judge making the key decisions which will shape their lives.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease230211.htm>

**Circular - Criminal Procedure and  
Investigations Act 1996 (Defence  
Disclosure Time Limits) Regulations 2011  
(21/02/11)**

The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 sets out the disclosure duties of the prosecution and the defence in relation to criminal proceedings. The 1996 Act provides that accused persons must disclose any defence statement, and disclose the name, address and date of birth of any witnesses they intend to call at the trial, within time limits prescribed by regulations.

These regulations (a) amend the currently applicable time limits and (b) consolidate earlier Regulations prescribing these time limits.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/15218.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/circular-11-02-defence-disclosure-time-regs-2011.pdf>

**Sure Start children's centres statutory guidance (17/02/11)**

Children's centres play a crucial role in early intervention, ensuring families can get help when they need it, tackling issues early and helping to prevent costly problems from emerging later on. The Government wants the network of children's centres to be retained but focused more effectively on those families who need them the most. We have ensured there is enough money in the system through the new Early Intervention Grant (EIG) to keep the network of children's centres.

LAs continue to have duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to consult before opening, closing or significantly changing children's centres, and to secure sufficient provision to meet local need so far as is reasonably practicable. Statutory guidance (March 2010) accompanies these duties, which outlines how the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 provisions relate to children's centres.

The statutory guidance advises LAs, PCTs and Jobcentre Plus on the action they should take to comply with their duties. Although the delivery context has changed, these duties remain current. The guidance will be particularly useful to LAs, as they work with local communities to plan future provision.

We are now working with a range of partners to develop a new shared vision for Early Years. In the meantime, please note that some parts of the statutory guidance do not reflect recent policy developments.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0074514/sure-start-childrens-centres-statutory-guidance>  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-00020-2011>

**Government confirms future funding for children's charity and helpline (15/02/11)**

Children's Minister, Tim Loughton, is today announcing a grant worth £11.2m to the NSPCC for continued investment in Childline and the NSPCC Helpline.

The Helpline is the only UK service offering anonymous and free access to trained child protection staff 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It provides specialist support, advice, counselling and information for anyone with concerns about a child who is either being abused or is at risk of being abused. It is also the only voluntary charity sector organisation named as an 'authorised person' under s31 Children Act 1989 and is hence authorised to initiate proceedings to protect children.

The grant will enable the NSPCC to help even more children who ask them for advice and support, and act to protect those at risk of harm through developing capacity in their Childline and NSPCC Helpline services. This means that the NSPCC can offer children and young people counselling by voice, online and by text and ensure that adults with concerns about a child have someone to turn to 24 hours a day.  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/presnotices/a0074369/government-confirms-future-funding-for-childrens-charity-and-helpline>

**NEET Statistics - Quarterly Brief - Quarter 4 2010 (24/02/11)**

This brief sets out the latest statistics available on NEET (young people not in employment, education or training) in England from the DfE 16 - 18 Participation SFR, the Labour Force Survey, and regional NEET figures and segmentation using Connexions data.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000987/index.shtml>

**Scoping review to draw together data on child injury and safeguarding and to compare the position of England with that in other countries** (Feb 11)

Statistical data on the proportion of children identified as likely to suffer significant harm, cases of substantiated abuse and neglect and the number placed in public care vary between regions and countries, as do placement types and service responses.

The report and summary present the findings from a review undertaken to explore some of these issues. The overarching aim is to scope existing international data on safeguarding children from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and exposure to intimate partner violence and from child death and injury.

The objective is to consider how different institutional and cultural approaches to safeguarding children and different forms of provision and support may influence trends in the incidence and nature of abuse and neglect and similarities and differences in the responses of public authorities.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR083>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB083>

**Improving support for young carers - family focused approaches** (Feb 11)

The recently updated Carers' Strategy recognises that many young carers remain hidden from services. It suggests that more should be done to identify and support young carers and that all services should be more 'carer aware'. The strategy also highlights the benefits of taking a personalised, whole family approach, which looks at the needs and views of all individuals within the family.



The research looks at the progress made by LAs in developing family focused support and highlights some of the challenges faced. A more in-depth assessment of the challenges and achievements will be provided in the final Family Pathfinder Evaluation report in spring 2011.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR084>

**Activity Agreement Pilots - trialling different approaches to re-engaging young people NEET: Evaluation of the 2009-10 extension** (Feb 11)

This research consisted of implementation studies, providing a detailed, longitudinal and qualitative account of the perspectives of different stakeholders involved in the delivery of AA, and 3 themed case studies.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB086>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR086>

**Specialist drug and alcohol services for young people: cost benefit analysis** (Feb 11)

This report and summary look at the costs and benefits associated with young people's drug and alcohol treatment.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR087>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB087>

**Community cohesion and PREVENT: how have schools responded?** (Feb 11)

This report presents the findings from research to assess the effect on schools and LAs of implementing the duty to promote community cohesion and the extent to which schools are aware of, and undertaking activities to contribute to, the Government's PREVENT strategy.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllRsgPublications/Page1/DFE-RR085>

**Off the Radar: Protecting children from British sex offenders who travel (13/02/11)**

This report calls for a cross-government strategy to deal effectively with the investigation and prosecution of CSA offences committed abroad.

The report highlights the government's inability to produce accurate numbers of how many British nationals have been prosecuted for offences against children overseas.

Similarly the government is unable to confirm how many individuals have been prosecuted in the UK under the SOA 2003 for crimes against children outside the UK.  
<http://www.ecpat.org.uk/media/uk-must-take-urgent-action-prevent-british-offenders-abusing-children-uk-and-abroad>  
[http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/of\\_f\\_the\\_radar\\_ecpat\\_uk\\_2011\\_.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/of_f_the_radar_ecpat_uk_2011_.pdf)

**New Guidance to help pubs, clubs and shops spot fake ID (24/02/11)**

New posters warning young people of the risks of using fake ID and guidance to help door staff and those selling alcohol to spot false documents are available to download today.

Schemes to crackdown on underage drinking such as Challenge 21 and 25 have made it more difficult for people to use fake ID to buy alcohol or get into pubs and bars, but the use of counterfeit ID bought over the internet or borrowed ID from older siblings or friends by some young people can still cause problems.

Examples of the kinds of fake ID used include the international driving permit and the provisional motorcycle licence, which don't even exist as real documents.  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/Fake-ID-guidance>

**British Bill of Rights planned (16/02/11)**

Theresa May says that a legal framework is required to make sure parliament makes laws, not the courts. In a statement to parliament the Home Secretary said that a Commission will be established to investigate creating a British Bill of Rights. This comes after the Supreme Court ruled that not granting sex offenders the opportunity to seek a review is a breach of their human rights.

Theresa May said that government is 'appalled' by this ruling. She explained: 'It is time to assert that it is Parliament that makes our laws, not the courts; that the rights of the public come before the rights of criminals; and above all, that we have a legal framework that brings sanity to cases such as these.'

Currently serious sexual offenders sign a register for life, with no right of appeal. But the final court of appeal in the UK said this must change. Mrs May said that the government will comply with this ruling but make the 'minimum possible changes to law in order to comply'.

The final decision of whether an offender should remain on the register will be down to the police, not the courts. She explained: 'I want to make clear that the Court's ruling does not mean that paedophiles and rapists will automatically come off the sex offenders' register. The Court found only that they must be given the right to appeal.'  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/british-bill>

### **Health-e - online learning tools**

The NYA has developed a set of FREE online resources to help youth professionals work more effectively on health issues with young people. There are 5 e-learning modules designed to offer an introduction to key health areas which learners can then build on through further research, training and learning. The e-learning covers:

- Introduction: non-formal health education and youth work
- Healthy lifestyles
- Healthy relationships and sex
- Mental and emotional wellbeing
- Substance use

<http://www.nya.org.uk/health-e-online-learning-tools>

### **Mobile phones (18/02/11)**

Mobile phones may be used in settings, as long as their use is appropriate. The use of a mobile phone must not detract from the quality of supervision and care of children.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Mobile-Phones>  
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/12029/139787/file/Mobile%20Phones%20v01.pdf>

### **Serious accidents, injuries and deaths that registered providers must notify to Ofsted and local child protection agencies**

(18/02/11)

This is a factsheet for registered early years and childcare providers on when and how to inform Ofsted and local child protection agencies of deaths, serious accidents and/or injuries.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Factsheet-Serious-accidents-injuries-and-deaths-that-registered-providers-must-notify-to-Ofsted-and-local-child-protection-agencies>

### **Children on Family Justice (16/02/11)**

This report, published by the Children's Rights Director, Dr Roger Morgan, reveals concerns children in care have about the court system. Only half of the children surveyed trust the courts to make the right decisions about their lives. The findings were similar when children took part in discussion groups.

The three main worries for children going to court included whether the court's decisions about their future was right for them; people and strangers hearing about their private lives and problems, and not being able to give the right answers to important questions in front of a court.

Confidentiality was also a concern for children. In the voting session, a large number of children (46) thought that media and members of the public should not be allowed into the courts when children's cases are heard.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Children-on-family-justice>  
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/12021/139702/file/100206%20children%20on%20family%20justice.pdf>

### **Inspection of children's homes (16/02/11)**

This new inspection framework, for all children's homes in the England, will focus inspection on the quality and impact of services and the outcomes achieved for children and young people.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/New-inspection-system-to-improve-outcomes-for-children-living-in-children-s-homes>  
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/12014/139626/file/Framework%20for%20in-spection%20of%20children's%20homes.pdf>

**Diagnosis and assessment of food allergy in children and young people in primary care and community settings** (Feb 2011)

The advice in the NICE guideline covers:

- C&YP who have symptoms or signs that could suggest food allergy.
- C&YP who are at greater risk of developing a food allergy. For example, they may already have another condition linked with allergies such as asthma, atopic eczema (an allergy-related type of eczema that tends to run in families) or allergic rhinitis (a type of allergy that includes hay fever). Alternatively, they may have a parent, brother or sister with a food allergy or allergy-related condition.

It does not specifically look at:

- Children and young people who have a reaction to a food that is not caused by the immune system (e.g. an intolerance to lactose, the main sugar found in dairy products).

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG116>

**NICE warns against the use of alternative testing for food allergy in children**

(23/02/11)

Children are being placed on restrictive and potentially dangerous diets as parents look to the internet and the high street for alternative tests to diagnose food allergy, NICE warns.

The use of these alternative tests is on the increase because of a lack of allergy services on the NHS and difficulties with diagnosing the condition in primary care. But there is very little evidence to support the use of these tests, some of which can retail for £60 or more. It is estimated that of those children who report an allergy, 20% wrongly self-report diagnoses of various food allergies and do not eat certain foods because they think they are allergic to them.



NICE recommends that GPs, practice nurses and health visitors diagnose and assess a suspected food allergy, commonly an allergy to cow's milk, fish and shellfish or peanuts, using either skin prick testing or by taking a blood test for IgE antibodies. This decision should be based on the results of the allergy-focused clinical history and whether the test is suitable, safe and acceptable to the child.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/NICEWarnsAgainstTheUseOfAlternativeTesting.jsp>

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2011/feb/allergyguide>

**Next steps for healthy start** (17/02/11)

This document responds to a consultation which asked whether Healthy Start beneficiaries should be able to choose to spend their vouchers on plain frozen fruit and vegetables as well as the foods already allowed. We also asked whether further measures may be needed to reduce the risk of vouchers being spent on products that are not included in the scheme.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH\\_124380](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_124380)

**The Healthy Start Scheme and Welfare Food (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 426** (17/02/11)

These Regulations amend the Healthy Start Scheme and Welfare Food (Amendment) Regulations 2005 and apply to England only. Regulation 2 amends Schedule 3, by revising the category of fruit and vegetables which can count as Healthy Start food to include frozen as well as fresh fruit and vegetables and by clarifying the qualifications.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2011/426/contents/made>

**NICE helps LAs to reduce number of child injuries and deaths (23/02/11)**

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of death and serious injury in children and young people under 15. Each serious injury and death is a tragedy, yet many are preventable. In Novr 2010, NICE published three pieces of complementary public health guidance on this topic recommending ways to reduce unintentional injuries based on the best available evidence.

To help put these new recommendations into practice, NICE has developed two new tools in partnership with IDeA and the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Both are designed to help the users save time and be used locally.

**Key facts for local councillors: making the case for investment**

This is designed for use by local councillors with the help of their public health analyst, scrutiny officer or a member of the LSCB. It can help councillors to inspire, challenge and lead the case for local investment at a strategic level on the grounds of using the best evidence available; value for money and cost effectiveness; their personal or political commitment; or a combination of all of these.

**Ten questions to ask if you are scrutinising local action on preventing unintentional injuries in under 15s**

This provides a question and answer framework especially for members of overview and scrutiny committees and their officers based on the NICE guidance. It also provides information on how OSCs should prepare for scrutiny, and who to invite as witnesses.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/pressreleases/NICEHelpsReduceChildInjuriesAndDeaths.jsp>

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/25902604>

**Short breaks implementation guidance (08/02/11)**

The short breaks implementation guidance for PCTs and LAs, informs the transformation of short break provision over the next three years and should be read in conjunction with other AHDC resources. PCTs should also consider this guidance in shaping their response to the 2008-09 NHS operating framework priorities.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/ahdc/b0070499/support-and-information-for-practitioners/>

**Protection of Freedoms Bill (11/02/11)**

Relevant provisions in this Bill include:

- requiring schools and colleges to obtain the consent of parents before taking fingerprints (and other biometrics such as iris scanning) from children under 18 years
- legislative provisions to implement the outcome of the reviews of the VBS and the criminal records regime, so as to scale them back to common-sense levels
- changing the law so that historical convictions for consensual gay sex with over-16s no longer have to be disclosed

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/legislation/protection-freedoms-bill/>

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/protectionoffreedoms.html>

**Keeping Children Safe - Welsh communication materials (22/02/11)**

The Home Office has produced a range of Welsh communications materials which police forces and partners can use to raise awareness and understanding of the child sex offender disclosure scheme with the public in Wales.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/Welsh-communications-materials/?view=Standard&pubID=862141>

**Guide to Bottle Feeding (24/02/11)**

The DHealth and the Food Standards Agency have issued revised guidance for parents on the safe preparation and storage of powdered infant formula milk.

Powdered infant and follow-on formulas are not sterile, which means they can contain harmful bacteria. So it is important to take care when preparing and storing formula, to reduce the risk of babies becoming ill.

Bacteria will be killed if formula is made up following the advice, which includes using water that is at least 70°C.

This new guidance will make it easier for parents to prepare and store infant formula safely.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2011/feb/formulaguide>

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_124526.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_124526.pdf)

## Consultations

### **Consultation on CPS Interim Guidance on Perverting the Course of Justice - Charging in cases involving rape and/ or domestic violence allegations (10/02/11)**

On 16/12/10 the DPP announced measures to strengthen rape prosecutions. One element was to seek the views of interested parties about the factors the CPS should consider before charging a person involved in rape or domestic violence allegations with an offence of perverting the course of justice.

We have drafted Interim Guidance designed to assist prosecutors making decisions in this type of case.

We would appreciate your comments and views on developing the final version.

1. Is the description of perverting the course of justice clear?
2. Do the observations on the evidential stage of the Full Code Test clearly set out the issues we should address when deciding whether there is sufficient evidence to justify a prosecution?
3. Does the section on the public interest stage of the Full Code Test clearly set out factors which we should consider when deciding whether it is in the public interest to prosecute?
4. Have we provided sufficient explanation of what we mean by “double retraction” and are the factors to be considered in such cases clearly set out?
5. Any other comments?

Closing Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press\\_releases/106\\_11/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_releases/106_11/)  
[http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/pcj\\_index.html](http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/pcj_index.html)

### **Survey on sharing good practice to drive improvement (21/02/11)**

Ofsted seek views on how it should share good practice. Please take a few minutes to complete this very short survey.

Closing Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Survey-on-sharing-good-practice-to-drive-improvement>

### **Draft Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales (23/02/11)**

Views are sought on this draft plan which builds on measures to discourage young people from starting to smoke. The plan also wants to help support smokers who want to give up and promote smoke-free environments, particularly to protect children and reduce inequalities in health.

To achieve these aims, the draft Action Plan identifies four strategic action areas:

- leadership in tobacco control;
- reducing the uptake of tobacco use, especially amongst children and young people;
- reducing smoking prevalence levels; and
- reducing exposure to second-hand smoke.

Closing Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/tobaccocontrol/?lang=en>  
<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2011/110224smokingplan/?lang=en>

## Conferences

### **Children as Victims: Prevalence and Prevention**

14th March 2011 Nottingham £95

The scope and purpose of this One Day International Conference on 'Children as Victims' is to present the latest findings from a National Prevalence Study carried out by the NSPCC on the victimisation of children in the home and in the community and to compare the findings with previous studies carried out in the USA, Australia and the UK.

Furthermore, the Conference will consider strategies for preventing the victimisation of children in the home and in the community including school safety programmes, social work and policing. It will also consider how to intervene and treat children who have suffered as victims and ways to prevent their further re-victimisation.

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/iwho/news/conference-childrenasvictimsprevalenceandprevention.aspx>

### **Vulnerable Children – Recognition and Protection - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**

18th March 2011 London £140 - £205

David Finkelhor is to be the International Guest Keynote Speaker at this Conference.

The day focuses on issues of vulnerability for victims of internet-related abuse and the impact of this in relation to the needs of children and young people who are subject to being trafficked or Looked After.

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/booking.php?event=7>

### **Safeguarding, everybody's business!**

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 9:30am - 12:30pm

Gt Yarmouth Racecourse, or

24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 9:30am - 12:30pm

Colchester Football Club

£60 (£30 for non-profit organisations), includes refreshments and lunch, a comprehensive delegate pack and a Certificate of Attendance.

- Are you aware of the latest legislation affecting your business?
- Are you aware of your business's legal safeguarding responsibilities?
- Does your staff recruitment meet current legislation?
- Have you effective policies in place?
- Are you confident in completing safeguarding risk assessments?

Organised by the charity SAFEchild, this essential conference is for managers of all organisations working with the children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is suitable for Health Providers, Social Care Settings & Providers, Education, Sports, Leisure, Museums, Public Services, Faith, Community and Voluntary Groups. It will cover Ofsted and CQC requirements.

Closing date for registration: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

Email: [Lynne.kerridge@safchild.co.uk](mailto:Lynne.kerridge@safchild.co.uk)

Tel: 01359 241229 or

enrol on line at

<http://www.safchild.co.uk/SAFE/>

## Conferences (continued)

### **Conducting serious case reviews**

21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 London

£195 - £295 + VAT

This conference has been convened to support the professional development of senior managers and practitioners charged with conducting SCRs in children and adult safeguarding.

The conference will include time for networking and small group discussions designed to build confidence in commissioning SCRs, conducting the inquiries and then managing the learning that emerges from them.

#### Key themes

- Terms of reference
- The function and drawing together of internal management reviews
- Linking in with homicide reviews
- How to ensure that lessons are fed back in to create better practice at all levels


<http://www.pavpub.com/p-299-conducting-serious-case-reviews.aspx?s=1>

### **Child Poverty Conference**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 London

£225 - £545 + VAT

The Government's Child Poverty Strategy provides a platform for up to date policy, best practice case studies and guidance on implementing the new strategy at a national and local level.

Speakers will cover key issues including changes to welfare provision, the Pupil 

Premium and the role of children's centres. Plus hear the findings from the Government commissioned review into early intervention. <http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/child-poverty-conference.html>

### **Improving Outcomes for Young People in Care**

5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 London

£135 - £205 + VAT

This conference will provide a mix of research, lessons from practice and perspectives from young people that will aim to help those working with or caring for young people. Workshops will explore views from young people, the impact of mental health on well-being and how to support and maximise educational achievements for those in care.

Delegates will have an opportunity to:

- consider the importance of supporting and achieving stability for young people in order to improve their outcomes
- examine a substantial range of evidence from a range of highly regarded studies that will inform and improve practice
- hear directly from young people on what has helped and hindered them in making an effective transition from public care to independent living
- gain a greater understanding of the needs of young people in public care

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/3189>

This 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](mailto:keithdriver@btinternet.com)