

<p style="text-align: center;">Safeguarding Children Information Update Live Consultations – Updated 17th November 2011</p>
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Spasticity in children and young people: guideline consultation (19/10/11)

A clinical practice guideline on Spasticity in children and young people is being developed for use in the NHS in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Registered stakeholders for this guideline are invited to comment on the provisional recommendations via this website.

Note that the provisional recommendations presented here do not constitute the Institute's formal guidance on this topic. The recommendations are provisional and may change after consultation.

Closing date: 14th December 2011

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG/Wave22/5/Consultation/Latest>

Proposed changes to allow qualified teachers from further education and from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand to become permanent teachers in English schools (22/09/11)

We want to give schools greater freedom to appoint the right teachers for their pupils. This consultation sets out changes to the qualifications regulations and induction regulations for teachers in England. The changes will give qualified teacher status to QTLS holders and fully qualified teachers from the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Closing Date: 16th December 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1778&external=no&menu=1>

Call for Evidence for the Independent Review of Early Education and Childcare Qualifications (28/10/11)

Professor Cathy Nutbrown has been asked by the Minister of State for Children and Families, Sarah Teather MP, to conduct an independent review into qualifications in the early education and childcare sector. Details of this review are set out in the Terms of Reference. As a first step in her review, Professor Nutbrown would like to hear the views of parents and families, and all those involved in the delivery of early education and childcare. Please help us by responding to the consultation questions.

Closing Date: 23rd December 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1781&external=no&menu=1>

Simplification of Criminal Law: Kidnapping (28/09/11)

This consultation is open to specialists and the general public.

Through this consultation, the Law Commission is seeking views on its provisional ideas for reform of the common law offence of kidnapping. The existing definition of kidnapping is unclear and leaves room for confusion. The Commission aims to clarify

the definition of kidnapping, rectify the problems associated with the current law and ensure that all types of kidnapping can be dealt with efficiently by the courts.

Closing date: 27th December 2011

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/lawcommission/consultations/1674.htm>

Inspection of residential provision for students under 18 years of age in FE colleges (04/10/11)

This is a consultation document on proposals for a revised framework for the inspection of residential provision in FE colleges.

From September 2012, Ofsted proposes to concentrate on 5 key judgements for colleges:

- overall effectiveness
- outcomes for young people
- quality of service
- safeguarding and
- leadership and management

Ofsted seeks the widest possible range of views from those who have an interest in colleges, to ensure that the inspection framework takes proper account of the needs and circumstances of all interested parties.

Closing date: 27th December 2011

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-of-residential-provision-for-students-under-eighteen-years-of-age-further-education-colle>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/revised-inspection-framework-for-residential-provision-fe-colleges-ofsted-consultation-0>

Consultation on the Review of Intercountry Adoption Legislation (11/10/11)

This is a joint consultation by the DfE, the Scottish Government Children and Families Directorate and the DH, Social Services and Public Safety in NI in relation to proposed changes to the Adoption (Designation of Overseas Adoptions) Order 1973 also known as the 'Designated List'.

The 1973 Order lists the countries whose adoptions are classified as 'overseas adoptions' for the purposes of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 and the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and are recognised as adoptions in the UK under that legislation.

The 1973 Order applies to England and Wales only. However, this consultation is UK wide as the 1973 Order is incorporated into the law of Scotland and NI, and the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have their own similar legislation.

Closing Date: 3rd January 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1772&external=no&menu=1>

Revised Statutory Guidance on the Roles and Responsibilities of the DCS and LMCS (30/09/11)

The Children Act 2004 requires LAs to appoint a Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services for the purposes of discharging the education and children's social services functions of the local authority.

This consultation seeks views on revised statutory guidance for local authorities on the roles and responsibilities of the DCS and LMCS. Following consultation, the guidance will be revised and will replace the version issued in 2009.

Closing Date: 6th January 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1771&external=no&menu=1>

Changes to BCS sample design

The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, which reported in October 2010, led to a reduction in HO budgets and resulted in a reduction in available expenditure for the BCS from April 2012 onwards.

Given the main component of BCS costs is interviewer fees and expenses, a reduction in the actual sample size is required.

The HO is proposing a reduction in the annual sample size of the BCS from a nationally representative achieved sample of 46,000 adults (16 or over) to 35,000 adults. This will reduce the number of achieved interviews with children (10 to 15 years) from 4,000 to 3,100 per year. A new sample design is proposed that will preserve the ability to produce estimates with reasonable levels of precision at police force area level based on a minimum sample of 650 interviews with adults per year.

Users are invited to consider the proposals outlined in the consultation paper

Closing Date: 12th January 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/about-home-office-science/consultations/>

Domestic violence disclosure scheme

The HO are launching a consultation asking whether the protection of victims of domestic violence can be improved by the establishment of a national domestic violence disclosure scheme and, if so, how such a scheme could work in practice.

This consultation seeks your views on whether to introduce a scheme for disclosing information about an individual's history of domestic violence to a new partner.

The police already have common law powers to disclose information relating to previous convictions or charges to the public where there is a pressing need for disclosure of the information concerning an individual's history in order to prevent further crime. However, calls for the introduction of a national disclosure scheme have gained momentum following the tragic case of Clare Wood, who was murdered by her former partner in Greater Manchester in 2009. Her partner had three previous convictions under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Today's consultation presents three options:

1. continue current arrangements under existing law
2. a 'right to ask' national disclosure scheme - this would enable a person to ask the police about a person's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts
3. a 'right to know' national disclosure scheme where the police would proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances

Closing Date: 13th January 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/domestic-violence-disclosure/>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/clare%27s-law-consultation-launch>

Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) Call for Evidence- Phase One (14/10/11)

This 2 year Inquiry will be conducted under the Children's Commissioner's powers in the Children Act 2004. In doing so, we aim to throw light on the scale, scope, nature and extent of the sexual exploitation, victimisation and abuse that girls and boys in England are subjected by street gangs and loosely formed groups.

Current data based on limited reporting indicates that up to 10,000 children may be affected. The picture we are getting from research to date, notably that conducted by ROTA, CEOP and the University of Bedfordshire, is of serious and violent sexual, physical and emotional abuse. All agree that we simply don't yet have the full picture as the data is still inadequate.

The emerging evidence is that the children and perpetrators involved are very diverse and seem to reflect the local demographic of where the abuse is taking place. It would be wrong for anyone to conclude or assert that this is an issue for one particular ethnic community.

In this call for evidence, we are seeking information to find out the true picture and to highlight where there is good practice to support and identify children and young people in these circumstances.

Closing Date: 20th January 2012

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_536

Consultation on Revised School Premises Regulations (03/11/11)

This consultation aims to seek views on revisions to the regulations governing school premises, and on a reduction in the amount of guidance produced by the Department.

Closing Date: 26th January 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1784&external=no&menu=1>

Cosmetic piercing of young people (18/10/11)

The Welsh Government is committed to improving the health of people in Wales. This consultation meets a key action in the Programme for Government: 'consult on

the need to introduce legislation to ensure parental consent for cosmetic piercing procedures carried out on young people’.

We are thinking about introducing a new law which will cover the following key areas:

- The need for a parent or guardian to give their permission (both in writing and through attendance at the piercing appointment) before a young person below a certain age can have a cosmetic piercing (we currently think this should be below 16).
- A clear age restriction for intimate cosmetic piercings.
- A standard set of questions which must be asked by the piercer before any cosmetic piercing can be done.

Closing Date: 31st January 2012

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/cosmetic/;jsessionid=Tt0GTmgWqvN61phXYdXyVbnl8bf0hM0k1LGbRggfQVxVkcGhkt6L!-630957411?lang=en&ts=4>

Equality Act 2010: Duty on schools and Local Authorities to provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled children (11/11/11)

The Equality Act 2010 makes a Minister of the UK Government responsible for commencing the new auxiliary aids duty, making any regulations under s22 of the Act and for undertaking any consultation regarding these matters in relation to Wales. The Welsh Ministers have agreed however to consult in relation to Wales on the UK Minister’s behalf under s83(1) of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

This consultation seeks responses on two issues.

1. the date by which the new duty should be brought into effect, including consideration of whether there are any reasons why the duty should not be commenced or should be commenced later than September 2012.
2. whether regulations under s22 of the Equality Act 2010 would be necessary to define the duty on schools and LAs to provide auxiliary aids.

Closing Date: 3rd February 2012

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/servicesfordisabled/?lang=en&ts=3>

Supporting Families in the Foundation Years: Proposed Changes to the Entitlement to Free Early Education and Childcare Sufficiency (11/11/11)

This consultation sets out proposals on the new entitlement for two year olds from September 2013, including which children will be eligible. It also includes proposals on the quality and flexibility of the entitlement for two, three and four year olds.

Closing Date: 3rd February 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1782&external=no&menu=1>

Consultation on stalking (14/11/11)

The government has launched this consultation to ask for views on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively. The consultation incorporates a number

of issues, including current legislation, the effect of police information notices, search powers, the work of existing organisations and alternative measures to tackle stalking.

The consultation seeks the views of key partners and directly affected parties, including the police, practitioners, other government departments and organisations with a direct interest in preventing stalking.

Closing Date: 5th February 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/stalking-consultation>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/stalking-consultation/>

ACPO comment

<http://www.acpo.presscentre.com/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=291&NewsAreaID=2>