

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN  
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 146  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Click Clever Click Safe: The first UK Child Internet Safety Strategy (08/12/09)**

Young people now have much greater online access than ever before, with research showing that 99% of 8-17 year olds have access to the web. New research published today also shows that 18% of young people said they had come across harmful or inappropriate content online, with 33% of children said their parents don't really know what they do on the internet.

The first ever internet safety strategy, 'Click Clever Click Safe', drawn up by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), will outline how government, industry and charities are working together to keep children and young people safe online and implement the recommendations from Professor Tanya Byron's review 'Safer Children in a Digital World'.

The strategy will mean:

- internet companies, charities and the Government will be independently reviewed against new UKCCIS standards to keep children and young people safe online
- young people and parents will be targeted by a new Digital Code 'Zip it, Block it, Flag it' - the 'Green Cross Code' for internet safety. This will be adopted by retailers, social networking sites, schools and charities and displayed where appropriate
- parents will be able to access a one-stop shop website for internet safety advice hosted by CEOP
- from September 2011 online safety will be a compulsory part of the curriculum from age 5; and

- Professor Tanya Byron will review the Council's progress, beginning in January 2010

This new strategy builds on the progress already made by the Government to implement the Byron review and provide parents and young people with the information, advice and guidance they need to ensure they can enjoy the internet safely.

The Government also announced today that:

- all 270,000 computers to be provided under the Government's Home Access scheme will incorporate the CEOP Advice, Help, Report button, to help children and their families quickly report inappropriate content or internet approaches from strangers as well as get help and advice on issues such as cyberbullying, viruses and hacking.
- Government will lead the way globally, by exploring how child internet safety can be improved through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0239](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0239)

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01100-2009&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/UKCCIS%20Strategy%20Report-WEB.PDF>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/COI.pdf>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/>

**Staying Safe Survey 2009: Children and Parents' Attitudes around Internet Safety**  
(08/12/09)

The Staying Safe Survey is the DCSF's new tracking survey of young people and parents' attitudes and confidence around a number of safety issues. The results in this report were commissioned specifically to inform its work on child internet safety.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15897&type=5&resultspage=1>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR183.pdf>

**Safeguarding children and young people: a new scrutiny guide** (Dec 09)

The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) have published a new guide to support overview and scrutiny committees in fulfilling their critical role in relation to safeguarding children.

Safeguarding children and promoting their welfare is one of the key statutory responsibilities vested in top-tier LAs. Safeguarding in this context is used to mean both child protection services and other activities designed to make children safer at home, at school, in their communities or using public services.

The guide is designed to assist councillors and officers in shaping and developing local safe services. The document includes:

- suggestions for approaches to scrutiny
- key references and further reading
- questions that committee members may want to consider when testing whether local arrangements are robust.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=15324715>

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/15327408>

**Working Together to support young carers** (07/12/09)

This is a model text for a local joint Memorandum of Understanding between Statutory Directors for Children's Services and Adult Social Services. The aim is to offer a firm basis for working together and working in partnership with health and third sector partners. The final local text may be varied to reflect local circumstances.

Additional areas may be included where this is considered appropriate.

The content of this document does not represent a formal statement of the law or Government policy.

[http://www.adcs.org.uk/Downloads/Working-together-to-support-young-carers-ADCS\\_ADASS.pdf](http://www.adcs.org.uk/Downloads/Working-together-to-support-young-carers-ADCS_ADASS.pdf)

**2009 children's services rating** (09/12/09)

Ofsted's assessment of outcomes for children and young people in every LA area provides a picture of services drawn from a wide range of local services and settings. It places an emphasis on the direct observation of professional practice – including inspection of child protection services and safeguarding, childcare, schools, children's social care and provision in the learning and skills sector.

The rating provides an overview of each council's performance in relation to children's services for which they have strategic or operational responsibilities (either alone or in partnership with other agencies) and the difference they are making to children's lives.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Ofsted-publishes-2009-childrens-services-rating>

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare\\_providers/list\\_by\\_la](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/list_by_la)

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0241](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0241)

**Under age gambling in betting shops - operators face further tests (03/12/09)**

The Gambling Commission undertakes a rolling programme of nationwide test purchase visits\* to determine that adequate and effective controls are in place to prevent under age gambling. The Commission benefitted on this occasion from working with a number of local council licensing authorities on the most recent series of visits to betting shops.

While the results show that there is still plenty of work to be done, the 5 major betting operators in GB, accounting for around 80% of betting shops, have made considerable progress. Following disturbing results in May this year when almost all shops failed a similar exercise, these results show that in 65% of the 160 shops visited, a person under 18 years of age was prevented from placing a bet at the counter.

The Commission is meeting the operators concerned next week to discuss the detailed results and how they plan to secure the further improvements needed. The rolling programme of test purchase visits will continue as part of the ongoing compliance programme.

This exercise also covered initial visits to a small sample of those medium and smaller betting operators in England and Wales that make up 20% of the total number of betting shops. The results were poor with only 35% of betting shops visited preventing someone under age from betting at the counter. Again, the Commission, working with local councils, is rapidly engaging with those operators whose shops we visited to secure immediate improvement plans. In addition it will be holding specific local events,



commencing early next year, for all smaller operators to discuss compliance under the Gambling Act 2005.

[http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gh-media/latest\\_news/2009/mystery\\_shopping\\_part2.aspx](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/gh-media/latest_news/2009/mystery_shopping_part2.aspx)

**Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales annual report 2008-2009 (07/12/09)**

This report recognises good practice throughout Wales, but highlights that there continues to be variation in performance between authorities and in the range and quality of services available across Wales.

LA social services continue to improve in core areas such as assessment, care management and reviews. Service users and their carers also report satisfaction with the services they receive.

In regulated services, performance is improving and there is greater evidence of respect for service users' dignity and their involvement in decision making is highlighted in the report. The meeting of individual needs is central to this. CSSIW has identified that financial pressures will require increased impetus on driving improvement and modernising services.

The Chief Inspector said:

CSSIW has taken forward the evidence from this report in developing its workplan for 2009-10. This is looking at key areas of safeguarding for children and adults as well as delivering individual inspection programmes in each local authority.

<http://wales.gov.uk/cssiwsubsite/newcssiw/news/annual/?jsessionid=TKNBLdTN5Ftzf2JyJjL4Ymp8rbxmp935PhyvGSzYj5X3ChwtwTGX!1963699030?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/cssiw/report/091203annualen.pdf>

**Healthy children, safer communities: A strategy to promote the health and well-being of children and young people in contact with the youth justice system**  
(08/12/09)

Evidence suggests that health is a key risk factor in youth crime. Of C&YP in contact with the youth justice system, half have difficulties with speech and communication; a third have mental health and/or substance abuse issues and; a quarter has a physical complaint and/or learning difficulties.

This strategy aims to help tackle youth crime and anti-social behaviour, and contribute to community safety. It sets out a strategic approach to inform the work of the Healthy Children, Safer Communities Programme Board to fulfil the vision that C&YP will be safer, healthier and stay away from crime.

The strategy will:

- Highlight the importance for those who work with children to have training to help them spot mental health issues early.
- Promote specialist interventions such as Youth Justice Liaison projects to divert more children from the justice system to appropriate services, and therefore reduce offending and re-offending.
- Ensure all children receiving a community or custodial sentence have a healthcare plan to address their specific needs.
- Improve access to health services on resettlement, and ensure young people register with a GP.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=409378&SubjectId=2>

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_109771](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_109771)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_109772.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_109772.pdf)

**One year On: the initial impact of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 in its first year of operation**

(03/12/09)

This Policy Paper examines the impact of the FMA and outlines any gaps in provision which need to be addressed. The paper sets out the available figures on use of the Act in this first year, and adds to the statistical data by presenting the views of those involved in the operation of the provisions of the Act to issue and implement protective orders.

This report concludes that the Act is being used with police the active players, seeing Protection Orders as emergency intervention and preventative protection.

Degree of use varies by locality, and there is concern about underuse in some areas due to fear of approaching the courts, compounded by fear among some agencies of offending the local communities

Some LAs have been slow to get involved, and there is lack of clarity about the boundaries between care proceedings under the Children Act, Court of Protection cases, and FM cases. The Act does not sit well with social services working methods.

There is a need for continuing publicity especially within the communities, for training, and for better interagency cooperation

There is a need for action, but also a need for caution and understanding of the impact of an application on a young person who then loses family and community, and will need long term protection and support.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/10508.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/one-year-on-forced-marriage-act.pdf>

**Improvised raft building (02/12/09)**

Improvised raft building is a fun and popular activity offered by many providers. It is licensable if conducted on water in scope of licensing.

Improvised rafts are commonly made from barrels, poles and logs or similar items. Annex 1 also gives relevant information of some of the key safety issues with using rafted open canoes as an improvised raft.  
<http://news.hse.gov.uk/2009/12/04/improvised-raft-building/?rss=>  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aala/guidance/68-improvised-raft-building.htm>

**Hedge-ucation for our children (03/12/09)**

A new interactive microsite to teach children about the importance of hedgerows has been launched by Hedgelink UK. Hedgerows can be found in all areas of our countryside and towns and 112 rare species of birds, insects and animals call them home or use hedgerows for food.

Aimed at 7 – 11s, the microsite gives children the chance to explore online the importance of hedgerows and includes fun interactive games to help them learn about hedgerows and the wildlife they support.

Children can learn about many of the animals, birds and insects that call hedgerows home, the plant species that grow in hedgerows, and how to look after hedgerows so they can grow properly.

The site is designed to help teachers to build learning about hedgerows and the environment into lesson plans with background information and activity sheets.  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2009/091203b.htm>  
<http://hedgelink.org.uk/>

**A (H1N1) Swine Flu Influenza: Phase 2 of the vaccination programme (08/12/09)**

Children between 6 months and 5 years will start to be vaccinated against swine flu in the run up to Christmas. This group is the next priority group because they are more likely to be hospitalised if ill with swine flu. They have high rates of admission to critical care and, sadly, there have also been some deaths.

This decision is supported by advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation – the UK’s independent advisory board on vaccines. NHS Employers has been in discussion with the BMA’s GPs’ Committee to seek a national agreement on vaccination of this group through GP practices. This has not proved possible and Ministers have therefore asked PCTs to put local plans into place to vaccinate this group.

The DH hopes many GPs will vaccinate under 5s, but where they do not, PCTs will determine whether vaccinations will be offered through other local GP practices, directly managed staff (e.g. health visitors, district nurses etc) or by arranging with alternative providers (e.g. community or hospital paediatric services, pharmacies etc).

Parents of children in the priority group will receive information about swine flu vaccinations as soon as these plans have been finalised.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/Content/Detail.aspx?ClientId=46&NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=409396&SubjectId=36>  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_109826](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_109826)  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_109825.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_109825.pdf)

**Your child, your schools, our future:  
building a 21st century schools system -  
Timetable for action (Dec 09)**

The evidence of international studies and national results is unequivocal: education in England has improved significantly.

In developing the system, the Government intends to extend and draw fully on the evidence base and seeks to understand ever more deeply the needs of different pupils, parents, teachers, schools and areas of the country. This implementation plan sets out the concrete steps they will take to make a reality of these goals.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01133-2009&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01133-2009DOM-EN.pdf>

**£900m to help school improvement –  
including £315m for 1-to-1 tuition and  
£50m as part of the World Class  
Primaries programme (04/12/09)**

Ed Balls has set out the support LAs and schools will receive for school improvement as part of a package of measures to ensure every child can succeed. He is writing to every LA setting out plans for primary school improvement measures, including helping schools learn from the best, and asking all LAs to respond by the end of March 2010 with a plan outlining how they will help their schools to become world class primaries.

The support package to enable LAs to do this will include funding for school improvement to help outstanding schools become part of supportive partnerships with strong schools which could then become Accredited Schools Groups.



He will also challenge LAs to build on the progress of the last few years to bring all their primary schools up to the standard of the best and he will write to the 12 LAs with the highest proportion of schools which have been below the floor for some years calling for an action plan by end of January 2010.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0237](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0237)

**Letter to Lead Members and DCSs of LAs**  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/pnattach/20090237/2.pdf>

**Letter to Lead Members and Directors of Targeted LAs**

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/pnattach/20090237/3.pdf>

**Somebody Else's Child (07/12/09)**

This promotional film targets teachers, health workers and other professionals working with children and families. It follows the story of 2 young privately fostered girls who represent the thousands of children in similar situations every year within the UK.

Private fostering describes an arrangement of 28 days or more when a child is cared for by someone who isn't a close relative. To protect children, it is a legal requirement that parents and carers inform children's services at their local council of these arrangements. But sadly, many don't.

While BAAF is keen to stress that most children in private fostering situations will be well cared for, some may not. In the worst case scenarios children in private fostering arrangements can be subject to abuse and neglect. LAs therefore need to know of all such arrangements. Notifying the LA enables the child, parent(s) and carer(s) to access vital support and advice.

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/media/releases/091207.shtml>

<http://www.privatefostering.org.uk/>

**“New Horizons: A shared vision for mental health” (07/12/09)**

A cross government programme of action has been launched to improve the mental well-being of people in England and drive up the quality of mental health care. This initiative will be delivered by 10 national government departments. It also brings together an alliance of local government, the voluntary sector and professionals, as well as local communities and individuals.

New Horizons covers a lifetime - from laying down the foundations of good mental health in childhood, through to maintaining mental well-being into older age. It also emphasises the importance of prevention through to effective treatment and recovery. New Horizons also outlines the benefits of reducing the burden of mental illness and unlocking the benefits of well-being in terms of physical health, educational attainment, employment and reduced crime

There is a programme of actions to ensure the commissioning and provision of services to improve the psychological well-being and mental health of C&yP, including:

- new legislation and statutory guidance intended to strengthen partnership working through Children’s Trusts and the new jointly owned Children and Young People’s Plan to help commission services to improve emotional well-being from birth to adulthood
- ensuring early intervention for C&YP who need more help; including through programmes to support families in need, the Targeted Mental Health in Schools Programme, and launching a consultation on early intervention
- a range of school-based programmes to foster better social and emotional skills and promote confidence and self-esteem.

- Expansion of the Family Intervention Projects programme to work with those families with the most complex problems, including mental illness.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH\\_109719](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_109719)

[http://newhorizons.dh.gov.uk/assets/Reports/299060\\_NewHorizons\\_acc.pdf](http://newhorizons.dh.gov.uk/assets/Reports/299060_NewHorizons_acc.pdf)

**Information and Signposting Project: Sharing the learning (Dec 09)**

S507B Education Act 1996 requires every unitary and county LA in England to secure access for all 13-19s and those with learning difficulties up to age of 24, to sufficient positive leisure-time activities.

The ISP has been working with 20 LAs to learn about the challenges associated with this duty. Through use of Substance’s Plings platform it has involved the piloting of fresh approaches to gathering, managing and sharing positive activity information.

This document aims to share the learning from the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the project and includes step-by-step guidance, addressing each of these 3 areas, to help LAs benefit from it.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01077-2009&>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01077-2009.pdf>

**Overseas trained teachers and instructors (04/12/09)**

Provisional registration with the GTC is now a legal requirement for Overseas Trained Teachers and instructors teaching in state schools in England.

[http://www.gtce.org.uk/teachers/features/ott\\_instructor041209/](http://www.gtce.org.uk/teachers/features/ott_instructor041209/)

**All public services to be held to account in Oneplace (09/12/09)**

The 6 independent inspectorates launch their first joint judgement, on a new website. It will show how places in England are coping with local priorities e.g. recession, obesity in schoolchildren, crime and elderly care.

The Oneplace website provides assessments of performance on the environment, services provided for children and young people, raising school standards and cutting disparities in health. Auditors and inspectors have come together to publish their findings, making them directly available to the public in everyday language.

Oneplace divides the country into 152 areas, measuring how well local services work together to meet both their own priorities and government indicators on e.g. anti-social behaviour and teenage pregnancy.

The website uses green flags to highlight exceptional performance others can learn from. Red flags signal where problems won't be solved without a fresh approach by the local public services working together.

Building on local government's track record of improvement, the Audit Commission is publishing assessments of councils on a revised basis, stripping out much of the detail and reflecting today's challenges such as carbon reduction.

The new assessments look at how well councils and fire and rescue authorities manage their performance, and make use of the resources available to them. For relevant councils, they take into account reports from Ofsted and CQC on services for children and vulnerable adults.



Councils are graded on a four point scale. 1 poor, 2 adequate, 3 performing well and 4 excellent.

<http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/pressreleases/pages/national.aspx>

<http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/14058781>

[http://www.audit-](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/CAA/pages/oneplace.aspx)

[ommission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/CAA/pages/oneplace.aspx](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/CAA/pages/oneplace.aspx)

**SEN: Statements issued within 26 weeks in 2008-09 (09/12/09)**

This publication presents national and LA level figures for National Indicator 103. This indicator has 2 separate elements;

- A. The number of final statements issued within 26 weeks excluding exception cases as a proportion of all such statements issued in the year.
- B. The number of final statements issued within 26 weeks as a proportion of all such statements issued in the year.

Key points:

- This publication provides, for the first time, national and LA figures for both parts of this indicator
- On indicator 103A, 91% of final statements of SEN in England were issued within 26 weeks (excluding exception cases). Local performance varied from 54% to 100%.
- On indicator 103B, 82% of final statements in England were issued within 26 weeks. Local performance varied from 30% to 100%.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000901/index.shtml>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000901/NI103Text.pdf>

**Children and Young People in Custody:  
2008-09 - An analysis of the experiences of  
15–18-year-olds in prison**

This annual report, published jointly with the YJB, draws together the reported experiences of 15–18-year-olds held in prisons. It provides an opportunity to compare young people's perceptions across establishments, and over time.

Findings include:

- Across the estate, 35% of young men and 21% of young women were from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.
- 56% of young men and 61% of young women said that they had had been in custody more than once, with 6% of young men and 9% of young women having been in custody more than 5 times.
- 24% of young men and 49% of young women in custody reported being in care at some point.
- 8% of young men and 9% of young women had children themselves.
- 88% of young men and 89% of young women had been excluded from school.
- 40% of young men and 38% of young women were under 14 years old when they last attended school.

[http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectores/hmi-prisons/docs/Children\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_in\\_Custody\\_2008-09\\_rps.pdf](http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectores/hmi-prisons/docs/Children_and_Young_People_in_Custody_2008-09_rps.pdf)

**New taskforce to improve service for  
missing persons and their families  
(10/12/09)**

A new taskforce to look at ways to improve the response of agencies such as the police and LAs to missing people and their families was launched today.

The charity Missing People estimates there are more than 200,000 incidents of people reported missing each year in the UK –



around 2/3 children and young people. Most return safely after a short time but a significant number do not, causing great anxiety to friends and family left behind.

The taskforce will take a fresh look at how councils, police and other bodies work together to handle cases of missing children and consider how this can be improved. It will consider measures to improve the service to missing persons and their families such as:

- whether new legislative powers or statutory duties on local organisations are necessary
- how to ensure information is collected consistently to gain a better understanding of the issue
- what barriers stop effective responses by local agencies and how these may be overcome
- what successful measures are in place and how these can be extended nationally.

The group, made up of representatives from across government, police, Missing People and CEOP, will make recommendations to the PM and Home Secretary next year. <http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/new-missing-persons-taskforce>

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Safety (Dec 09)**

The Staying Safe Survey is the Department's new tracking survey of young people and parents' attitudes and confidence around a number of safety issues. The results in this report were commissioned specifically to inform the Department's work on child internet safety.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR183&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR183.pdf>

**Guidance for schools on preventing and responding to sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying - Embedding anti-bullying work in schools (Dec 09)**

Preventing bullying in all its forms and taking swift, effective action to respond to bullying is a responsibility shared by all schools. All bullying is unacceptable, and schools should use the full range of sanctions at their disposal to deal firmly with bullying when it does occur.

Many schools now have robust procedures in place to deal with bullying. However, the prevalence of sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying may be underestimated. This guidance has been developed to help school staff recognise, report and respond to these forms of bullying.

This document and the quick guide form part of the 'Safe to Learn' suite of anti-bullying guidance. It outlines what school leaders and school staff can do to prevent and respond to sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying.

The guidance aims to:

- build understanding around what sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying is and how it is relevant to schools, and
- provide schools with the information they need to prevent and tackle this form of bullying. This includes the development of whole school policy and effective practice.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01136-2009>  
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01136-2009.pdf>  
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01141-2009.pdf>  
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01141-2009&>

**Knife crime sentencing quarterly brief (July to Sept 09)**

In June 2008 the Tackling Knives Action Programme Phase 1 was launched focussing resources on rapid, intensive work in 10 areas of England and Wales to tackle knife crime. The TKAP Phase 2 was launched in April 2009 and although there is still a focus on reducing the carrying of knives and knife related violence the primary aim is to reduce all serious youth violence, specifically among 13 to 24 years olds. The initiative was implemented in 16 areas (15 police forces and the BTP).

This bulletin shows that:

- the average length of the prison sentence for possession of a knife or offensive weapon went up by 41% since the first quarter of 2008 (140 – 197 days)
- 1,200 offences resulted in immediate custody (1,100 in 2008)
- A third of immediate prison sentences handed down were longer than 6 months (15% in 2008)
- The total number of knife or offensive weapon possession offences dealt with dropped by 11% (7,200 - 6,400)
- The proportion of offences resulting in tough community sentences has increased from 28% to 32%
- The number of cautions received for possession of a knife or offensive weapon fell by nearly 40% (2,500 - 1,600)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/knife-crime-sentencing.htm>  
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/knife-crime-sentencing-q3-2009.pdf>  
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease101209a.htm>

**DH new website section - Teenage Pregnancy National Support Team (09/12/09)**

The TP NST was launched in spring 2007. It supports those areas in England most significantly affected by high teenage pregnancy rates. The team diagnoses the obstacles and opportunities for moving forward and offers potential support for planning and implementation. Through this process progress in reducing teenage conception rates can be achieved.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/HealthImprovement/NationalSupportTeams/TeenagePregnancy/index.htm>

**Discussion group for bereaved families**

The FSID has launched a new discussion group for families who have suffered the sudden and unexpected death of a baby. Visitors to the group might find that they just want to read conversations between other bereaved parents, but they can also reply to posts. They can also choose to add a new topic if no-one is already talking about the issue they want to write about.

<http://fsid.org.uk/discussion-group-bereaved-families>

**Young black people and the criminal justice system (10/12/09)**

This is the second annual report of progress made on delivery of improved outcomes for young black people following the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry which considered how to tackle the over-representation of young black people in the criminal justice system.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/young-black-people-cjs-dec09.htm>  
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/young-black-people-cjs-dec09.pdf>

**New report backs evidence that rise in child obesity has levelled off (10/12/09)**

New statistics published today from the National Child Measurement Programme, support emerging evidence that the rapid rise in child obesity has levelled off.

More families are benefiting from knowing the facts about their child's weight. Record numbers of children took part this year, with more than 1m children in reception year (4-5 year olds) and year 6 (10-11 year olds) being weighed and measured. The programme is now recognised as a world-class source of data, which helps local areas target services for children and families.

However, the levels of childhood obesity are still too high, with 22.8% of Reception children and 32.6% of Year 6 children being overweight or obese.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=409466&SubjectId=2>

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2008-09-school-year>

**RCPCCH launches new child protection training (10/12/09)**

A new course aims to give doctors more skills in managing suspected cases of child abuse. *Child Protection in Practice* provides specialty trainees with the competencies required for their on-going CP practice. It will be rolled out to doctors training in paediatrics (ST4 – 7). Every paediatrician has to take a recognised CP course as part of their training. It is hoped that eventually everyone studying paediatrics will undertake the training course too.

[http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id\\_Resource=5837](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id_Resource=5837)

### **Confidential Enquiry into Head Injury in Children**

A study on head injury in children is the principle project within CMACE's national child health enquiry for 2009 -2012.

Traumatic head injury is the most common cause of morbidity, mortality, disability and lost years of productive life in children. There has not been a national study that is specific to head injury in children which tracks the care pathway from scene of injury to intensive care treatment and the CMACE study therefore promises to make a major contribution to the care of this patient group.

The management of head injury in children involves specific challenges which require their own in depth investigation if outcomes are to be improved. Children's care needs are very different to those of adults and in addition vary depending on the age of the child. The aim of the head injury in children study is to therefore build up the evidence base concerning how early management of head injury in children affects health outcomes and to identify avoidable factors associated with adverse outcomes.

The enquiry will include:

- A national survey of all Ambulance Service and Acute NHS Trusts to ascertain current policy, protocols and practice in the pre-hospital and hospital management of head injury in children.
- collection of core data on children (up to 15 years) admitted to hospital with an isolated head injury or a head injury as part of a pattern of injuries between 01/09/09 and 28/02/2010
- confidential enquiry panels on a sample of cases between July 2010 and Sept 2011

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/getdoc/6413dd9a-2b9a-4c59-aa8b-7b3bffe360f2/Head-Injury-in-Children.aspx>

### **New Cabinet Announced (11/12/09 [Wales])**

Leighton Andrews has been announced as the new Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning while Huw Lewis is Deputy Minister for Children. Mr Lewis will have particular responsibility for co-ordination of Government matters relating to child poverty.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/news/12672.html>

### **Directgov Kids (09/12/09)**

Children can now bring to life the different roles they may meet in the children and young people's workforce through an innovative government website. The CWDC has created a new online children's centre which aims to inform 5 - 11 year-olds about how government supports communities through a range of services. DirectgovKids already features a range of buildings including a fire station, hospital, library, No.10 and a town hall and now a newly built children's centre adds to the community.

By visiting the children's centre, young web surfers can discover how the roles of social workers, foster carers, education welfare officers and nursery workers can help and support them in addition to their teachers. The roles are brought to life through adult and child characters in an interactive game, animations and slide show.

With easy to understand language, vibrant graphics and a lot of fun, the new children's centre is a useful tool to help teachers and parents explain to children the need for a little extra help from different professionals and volunteers in caring for them.

[http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/2810\\_children-and-young-people-s-workforce-gets-animated-on-directgovkids](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/2810_children-and-young-people-s-workforce-gets-animated-on-directgovkids)  
<http://kids.direct.gov.uk/>

**Bullying incidents to be recorded to help schools clamp down on bullies (10/12/09)**

Schools will today receive extra help to crackdown on bullying, as a new duty to record and report incidents of bullying is announced by School's Minister Vernon Coaker.

By ensuring bullying incidents are picked up and resolved earlier, the new duty will help schools tackle bullying more effectively. It also means that head teachers can reassure parents and keep them well informed about everything the school is doing in dealing with bullying incidents.

The new duty, to be consulted on over the next 12 weeks, will mean that schools will have to record and report serious or recurring incidents of bullying to their LA. This will include incidents of bullying and racism between pupils, and abuse or bullying of school staff. The government is clear that schools must take seriously any complaints made by their staff of abuse or bullying by pupils.

The government is committed to ensuring that all forms of bullying are taken seriously. New guidance also announced today on sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying is the final guidance in the 'Safe to Learn' set of guidance for schools. The guidance provides advice on how schools can help prevent and respond to gender related bullying.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0244](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0244)

See Consultations

**Immigration detention of children and young people (10/12/09)**

The Royal Colleges of Paediatrics and Child Health, GPs and Psychiatrists and the UK Faculty of Public Health have published a new policy statement and recommendations on the harms to the physical and mental health of children and young people in the UK who are subjected to administrative immigration detention.

The statement recommends the following immediate actions:

- C&YP in immigration detention should be recognised as Children in Need and given the same safeguards such as Initial Assessment completed within 7 days.
- The commissioning of healthcare in the detention estate should be transferred from the HO to the NHS. Primary and secondary medical care for children and their families should be provided on the same in-reach basis as in the prison service. Such services need to be properly commissioned and resourced.
- Delivery of care should be provided by healthcare professionals who are competent to respond to the physical and mental health needs of this client group.
- Any medical care offered to C&YP in immigration detention should be consistent with what would normally be considered as good practice in other primary care settings including NHS general practice.
- Mental health services for C&YP in immigration detention should be provided based on their current mental health need and not on their immigration status.

[http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id\\_Resource=5828](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id_Resource=5828)

[http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id\\_Resource=5829](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id_Resource=5829)

## Consultations

### **Sure Start Children's Centres: Guidance (07/12/09)**

The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on the draft Sure Start Children's Centres guidance. Following the Apprenticeships, Children, Skills and Learning Act 2009, the document contains statutory guidance to LAs and, in some cases, PCTs and Jobcentre Plus, on the provisions of the Act in relation to children's centres.


This guidance builds on the existing DCSF guidance for children's centres. As well as relevant to LAs, PCTs and Jobcentre Plus, the guidance will also be relevant to staff at children's centres and organisations who work with children's centres.

The Act also establishes the inspection of children's centres by Ofsted, and views are also sought on a policy statement explaining the inspection proposals.

Closing Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1690&external=no&menu=1>

### **Common Registration Regulations of Establishments and Agencies under The Care Standards Act (08/12/09)**

The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on revised regulations covering the registration arrangements for children's homes, fostering agencies, independent adoption agencies, adoption support agencies and residential family centres. The current registration regulations for these establishments also cover adult and health settings. However, the Health and Social Care Act 2008 will remove adult and health settings from the Care Standards Act 2001. 

The revised regulations being consulted on here therefore only cover children's social settings.

Closing Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1682&external=no&menu=1>

### **Amendment Regulations for Independent Schools; consolidated regulations for Non-Maintained Special Schools; and revision of National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools and Residential Special Schools (03/12/09)**

This consultation seeks views on changed Regulations and NMS affecting the provision of education, care and information in independent schools, NMSS and in all schools providing boarding/residential accommodation. NMSS regulations are being consolidated to bring together the principal regulations and amendments and take account of new requirements.

The regulations governing the standards for, and the provision of information by, independent schools are also being amended to take account of new requirements.

The NMS for Boarding Schools and Residential Special Schools consolidate 2 existing sets of standards to create common standards across both settings. In addition, all the documents respond to certain of Sir Roger Singleton's recommendations in his review of safeguarding arrangements; 'Keeping our School Safe'.

Closing Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1664&external=no&menu=1>

## Consultations (continued)

### **Recording and Reporting Incidents of Bullying Between Pupils, and Incidents of Abuse against School Staff (10/12/09)**

The purpose of this consultation document is to gather the views of a wide range of stakeholders who work with LAs, school staff and children and young people on bullying and staff grievance issues, on the scope of these new duties, and how best to support schools in implementing them. We want to ensure that the new duties meet our central policy objective which is to keep school staff and pupils safe from bullying and harassment, while at the same time keeping any additional bureaucratic burdens on schools to a minimum.

This policy highlighted in the document only applies to England. The policy highlighted in the document is devolved, in differing settlements, to the administrations in NI, Scotland and Wales, who can tailor their policies and deliver public services to meet the specific needs of their countries.

Government and Devolved Administrations will continue to work closely together to build a more prosperous, stronger, fairer UK, whilst recognising their particular and varying responsibilities.

Closing Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1606&external=no&menu=1>

### **Statutory guidance for LAs and schools on Information Passports, Personal Learning Plans and the Core Entitlement for all pupils in PRUs and other Alternative Provision (10/12/09)**

The White Paper, Back on Track, announced plans to introduce information passports, personalised learning plans and a core entitlement for all pupils in alternative provision. The core entitlement includes the curriculum, number of hours provision pupils should have per week and maximum waiting times for placement in alternative provision and for engagement of support services. This draft guidance sets out Government expectations in these key areas.

Closing Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1617&external=no&menu=1>

### **Consultation on Regulations and Guidance on School Governing Bodies' Power to Refer Pupils to Off-site Provision to Receive Education or Training to Improve their Behaviour (10/12/09)**

Section 154 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 gives school governing bodies the power to require a pupil to attend premises outside the school for the purpose of improving behaviour. It also gives the Secretary of State powers to make regulations to impose restrictions in relation to governing bodies' exercise of this power. This is a consultation on these regulations and on the accompanying guidance.

Closing Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1613&external=no&menu=1>

## Conferences

### **Taken: Sexually-motivated child abductions**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 London £195

This conference will explore issues in a variety of child abduction cases, focussing on sexually motivated stranger abductions. By using recent research, case studies and offender debriefs, it will seek to identify pertinent issues for any such investigation.

Delegates will gain:

- an understanding of the link between online grooming and child abduction;
- an insight into how child abduction is dealt with by US law enforcement agencies;
- an insight into the UK perspective on dealing with child abduction.

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/training/conferences/takenconference.asp>

### **Well-being and the whole child: leading across the children's workforce**

22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 Birmingham £135

Open to all leaders in the children's workforce, including those in schools and children's centres, this event will bring together leaders of education and children's services who are committed to improving the well-being of children and young people for debate and learning.

The speakers and workshops will address the opportunities and challenges around placing well-being outcomes at the centre of the agenda for all leaders in the children's workforce, including those in schools and children's centres. A key theme will be how best to implement prevention and early intervention strategies in multi-agency contexts.

<http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index/events/events-item.htm?id=22393>

### **Effectively Safeguarding Children and Young People in Schools and Colleges**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 London

£259 - £399 + VAT

Following Lord Laming's review there has been a renewed wave of activity to improve safeguarding with schools facing increasing pressure to identify and help support children at risk or in need.

How can you effectively translate the continued stream of legislation and guidance into safe daily working practices and ensure you have an effective safeguarding system in your school?

Attend this Conference and ensure you are fully up to date. You will gain practical guidance on the issues you face on a day-to-day basis so you can provide the best possible protection for your students and improve safeguarding throughout your school.

Through a range of in-depth sessions our experienced speakers will help you:

- Manage and respond effectively to students disclosures of abuse
- Provide effective training for the whole school community to ensure safe practice
- Deepen your knowledge of self harming and develop strategies to help students cope
- Protect your students from sexual bullying and abusive peer relationships

<http://www.teachingexpertise.com/landing/LE09K-Order.html>

## Conferences (continued)

### **Working Together to Safeguard Children: Implementing Lord Laming's Recommendations**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Central London  
Following the death of Baby Peter, Ed Balls asked Lord Laming to prepare an urgent, independent report on the progress of national safeguarding arrangements. He acknowledged that Government ECM reforms provided a firm foundation, but there now needs to be a renewed commitment to CP at every level of government and across all local services.

In May 2009, the Government announced a wide ranging package of measures setting out how it will deliver the step-change in CP called for by Lord Laming. The action plan commits to a greater openness and public scrutiny of local CP arrangements, as well as more investment in training and support for front line social workers. This reform will be driven forward by a new cross-Government delivery unit working alongside Sir Roger Singleton.

The package also outlines a £58m 6 point plan to transform the social work profession, including:

- Sponsoring 200 university places from September
- New recruitment campaigns specifically targeting social workers
- Funding a new practice-based Master's in social work
- A new Advanced Social Work Professional Status programme

- Coaching and development for frontline social worker managers to boost leadership and management skills

Delyth Morgan also launched a consultation on guidance on serious case reviews in order to improve their quality, consistency and impact. In his recent progress report, Lord Laming made a number of recommendations to strengthen and clarify the SCR process. His recommendations were accepted in full by the Government with an undertaking to update statutory guidance set out in Chapter 8 of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Since the publication of Lord Laming's report, the Government has announced a number of measures to improve child protection services. This forum will offer delegates the opportunity to consider the practical implications of Lord Laming's Report, and discuss and share best practice on how we can work together to better safeguard children

[http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/child\\_protection/](http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/child_protection/)

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](mailto:keithdriver@btinternet.com)