

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 181
10th February 2011**

**The Munro Review of Child Protection:
Interim Report, The Child's Journey**
(01/02/11)

Professor Munro's interim report examines the areas of the child protection system where reform needs to take place. Currently the amount of prescription and bureaucracy in the system has meant that social workers are not able to do the jobs they came into the profession to do.

The report highlights the importance of having multi-agency services based in the community to help keep children safe and support their wellbeing, identify the children and families most in need and give them help as early as possible.

The areas for reform include

- the importance of a management and inspection process that monitors whether children are getting the help they need, rather than being a tick-box exercise
- developing social work expertise by keeping experienced, more senior social workers on the front line so they can develop their skills and better supervise more junior social workers
- giving other professionals – health, police and family support services – easier access to social work advice when they have concerns about abuse and neglect
- revising and reducing the statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, which is now 55 times longer than it was in 1974, so that core rules are separated from professional advice
- considering having a national system of trained reviewers of serious case reviews (SCRs), who can share findings so that lessons can be learnt nationally.



<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0074007/professor-munro-child-protection-must-focus-on-the-child-not-on-rules-and-targets>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/Munrointerimreport.pdf>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/>

Ofsted welcomes Munro review interim findings (01/02/11)

Ofsted has welcomed the Munro Review and the proposals both for the children's social work field and for the inspection of these services. We endorse the importance placed on prevention and early intervention as well as services focused on those children identified as being at risk.

It is also encouraging to see that inspection is valued by the Review and the sector as a significant factor in driving improvement and the finding that inspection should continue to play this distinct role. We welcome the opportunity to further improve the inspection process and look forward to the extension and development of unannounced inspections that cover all children's services.

While we believe that Ofsted's work in the evaluation of Serious Case Reviews has had a positive impact in improving their quality, we agree that these should now end and have been suggesting this ourselves for some time. Ofsted supports the Review's proposals for how SCRs are likely to be approached in the future to maximise learning and improve practice.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Ofsted-welcomes-Munro-review-interim-findings>

Radical shake-up of criminal record regime and vetting and barring scheme
(11/02/11)

More than 9 million people working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults will no longer need to register and be monitored by the state following an overhaul of the checking regime.

The government today unveiled plans to scale back the vetting and barring scheme (VBS) and criminal records regime to common sense levels while ensuring vulnerable groups are appropriately protected.

The proposals, which come after a comprehensive review of the existing system, include:

- the merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service;
- a large reduction of the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults;
- portability of criminal records checks between jobs to cut down on needless bureaucracy;
- an end to a requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the VBS and then be continuously monitored by the ISA; and
- stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them.

The government will also keep the scope of CRB checks under review to ensure that they are not disincentivising people putting themselves forward for volunteering.



The proposed changes will be introduced gradually to ensure a seamless transition.

The necessary legislative changes will be included in the Protection of Freedoms Bill. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Bill is expected to become law by early 2012. The new regime would be introduced as soon as possible after this.

1. Registration for the first wave of workers and volunteers with the VBS was halted on 15 June pending remodelling of the system.
2. The VBS report makes a number of recommendations including a new streamlined body to provide a national barring system and criminal records disclosure service. The new scheme will also capitalise on technological developments to provide an online checking function for employers and applicants whilst allowing checks to be transferred easily from one company to another.
3. The review of the criminal records regime was carried out by the independent adviser on criminality information, Sunita Mason. A number of her recommendations are reflected in the Protection of Freedoms Bill. Mrs Mason is now continuing with the 2nd phase of her review, which deals with broader issues relating to the handling of criminal records. The government will make a full response once this work is complete.
4. The review sought views from a range of partners and members of the public via the 'Your Freedom' website which called for portability of CRB checks from one job to another. This is one of the proposals that will be introduced under the new scheme.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=417932&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>

Funding to tackle knife, gun and gang crime (02/02/11)

More than £18m to tackle knife, gun and gang crime has been announced by the Home Secretary, responding to a report on knife crime projects published by Brooke Kinsella.

The 2 year funding will be given to police, local agencies and the voluntary sector to tackle serious youth violence and prevent young people entering a cycle of crime. It will support enforcement and prevention work by police in 3 knife crime hotspot areas, alongside positive activities for young people and local work to bring about long-term changes in attitudes and behaviours.

The money includes up to:

- £3.75m for the areas where more than half of knife crime occurs - London, Manchester and the West Midlands;
- £4m for a 'Communities against Gangs, Guns and Knives' fund - for local voluntary organisations across England and Wales working with young people to stop involvement in knife and gang violence;
- £10m for prevention and diversionary activities and engagement with young people at risk of becoming involved in crime, including knife related violence;
- £1m to support the development of anti-knife, gun and gang crime materials for schools and a good practice website to enable local projects to share knowledge and expertise; and
- £250k for one further year of the Ben Kinsella fund for young people to run anti-knife crime projects in their local area.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=417744&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.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/knife-gun-gang-youth-violence/>

New offence keeps airguns under lock and key (27/01/11)

A new offence to stop under 18s gaining unauthorised access to airguns has been introduced by the Government today.

From 10/02/11, owners will be liable for a fine of up to £1000 if they do not take reasonable precautions to stop unauthorised access to their airgun by people under the age of 18. Safety leaflets informing new owners of the offence will be also be included with every air gun purchased.

In 2009/10 there were 1,317 incidents where an air weapon was obtained without permission. There was one death and 67 serious injuries caused by air weapons.

The offence has been introduced to Parliament with a Commencement Order enforceable under S46 of the Crime and Security Act 2010.

How to keep your weapon safe:

- Store your airgun out of sight and separately from pellets.
- Use a robust, lockable cupboard and keep the keys separate and secure.
- Always store your airgun inside a house rather than in an out building, such as a garden shed.
- Never store a cocked or loaded airgun.
- When using your airgun, keep it under close supervision and never leave it unattended.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=417634&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>

No health without mental health

(02/02/11)

New plans to transform the mental health and well-being of the nation and ensure – for the first time – that mental health is given the same importance as the nation’s physical health, were announced today.

The Strategy outlines how a new emphasis on early intervention and prevention will help tackle the underlying causes of mental ill-health. It sets out how the Government will work with the NHS, local government and the third sector to help people recover and challenge stigma.

Central to these plans is an additional investment of around £400m to improve access to modern, evidence-based psychological therapies over the next 4 years. This will extend the current programme available to offer personalised support to 3.2m people across the country, making available a choice of psychological therapies such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Counselling for Depression, and Interpersonal Psychotherapy and ensuring access for anyone who needs it.

At least 1 in 4 people experience a mental health problem at some point in their life and mental ill-health represents up to 23% of the total burden of ill health in the UK - the largest single cause of illness.

Half of those with mental health problems first experience symptoms before the age of 14 and three-quarters before their mid 20s. Depression is also the most common mental health problem in people aged over 65, with 13-16% having sufficiently severe depression to require treatment.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=417742&SubjectId=2>

Youth charities join forces (Jan 2011)

The Prince’s Trust and Fairbridge are uniting to offer more support to disadvantaged young people across the UK.

The charities will merge on 1 April 2011 with a vision of delivering a more joined-up, wide-ranging service for an increased number of disadvantaged young people.

The announcement comes as the UK Government calls on the voluntary sector to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in order to secure funding. The two charities are confident their decision to integrate will help drive more funds into the youth sector at a critical time for disadvantaged and unemployed young people.

The united organisation, which will be called The Prince’s Trust, will help around 50,000 young people over the course of the next year alone – with a view to helping a growing number in the future.

http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/news_2011/110125_fairbridge.aspx

Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood Review (07/02/11)

Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of the Mothers’ Union, is carrying out an independent review to address parents’ concerns about the pressures on children to grow up too quickly. He is launching a call for evidence to hear the views of parents, industry, and anyone who works with children and young people or has an interest in this area. Mr Bailey will report back to Government by May 2011.

See consultations

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0074217/reg-bailey-wants-to-hear-from-parents-and-businesses-about-the-commercialisation-and-sexualisation-of-childhood>

Serious case review evaluations: April 2007 onwards (19/01/11)

SCRs are local enquiries into the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor. They are carried out by LSCBs so that lessons can be learned.

The evaluation list shows the SCRs carried out by LSCBs that Ofsted has evaluated.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Other-statistics/Serious-case-review-evaluations-April-2007-onwards>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11959/139043/file/Serious%20case%20review%20evaluations%201%20April%202007%20-%2031%20December%202010.pdf>

Having corporate parents (20/01/11)

This report by the Children's Rights Director for England, sets out what children and young people in care say about some of the things that those in care experience because the council is acting as their parent.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Care/Children-s-rights/Having-corporate-parents>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11960/139048/file/Having%20corporate%20parents.pdf>

Engagement with the inspection process: a survey of Ofsted's Parents' Panel (21/01/11)

In early 2010 the Ofsted Parents' Panel was consulted on how inspectors can better engage with parents during an inspection of their child's school or childcare provider.

It is essential that Ofsted understands parental attitudes towards inspections, as well as finding out about the most



practical ways to gather parents' views during the inspection process.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Miscellaneous/Engagement-with-the-inspection-process-a-survey-of-Ofsted-s-Parents-Panel>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11970/139143/file/Engagement%20with%20the%20inspection%20process.pdf>

Removing barriers to literacy (21/01/11)

This report shows that poor development of speaking and listening skills at an early age is holding children back from learning to read and write. It also highlights the need for teachers to have high expectations, the importance of systematic teaching of phonics, and how clear assessment of individual pupils' progress and needs can drive improvement.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Multiple-barriers-prevent-children-and-learners-from-acquiring-literacy-skills-Ofsted>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Removing-barriers-to-literacy>

Early years registered providers inspections outcomes (27/01/11)

This page has statistics for the inspection of early years registered providers in England since the introduction of the EYFS on 01/09/08.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Childcare-and-early-years/Early-years-inspection-outcomes/Early-years-registered-providers-inspections-outcomes>

Memorandum of understanding between Ofsted and the first-tier tribunal of the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber (31/01/11)

The memorandum of understanding has been agreed by Christine Gilbert, HMCI and Kevin Sadler, Chief Executive of The Tribunals Service.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Memorandum-of-understanding-between-Ofsted-and-the-First-tier-Tribunal-of-the-Health-Education-and-Social-Care-Chamber>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11979/139218/file/Memorandum%20of%20understanding%20between%20Ofsted%20and%20HESC.pdf>

Inspecting residential provision in boarding and residential special schools (28/01/11)

This document provides guidance for inspectors on inspection methodology and procedures when inspecting the residential provision in a school either as a single activity, where it is part of the inspection of the whole school, or where the Ofsted inspection is aligned with the school inspection conducted by an independent inspectorate. It informs maintained, non-maintained and independent boarding and residential special schools about how we inspect the residential provision they make for children and young people in their care.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Inspecting-residential-provision-in-boarding-and-residential-special-schools>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11569/135806/file/Inspecting%20residential%20provision%20in%20boarding%20and%20residential%20special%20schools%20Feb%2011.pdf>

Guidance for mobile services (11/01/11)

This policy applies to England. It takes effect from 10/01/11 for all new applications. Current registered providers must comply from 01/04/11. It clarifies when mobile services must register as children's homes.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guidance-for-mobile-services>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11953/138987/file/Guidance%20for%20mobile%20services.pdf>

'The impact of the Early Years Foundation Stage: A good start' (09/02/11)

This report examines the work of early years providers across the sector, from large primary schools to childminders working alone with 1 or 2 children. The report focuses particularly on personal, social and emotional development; and communication, language and literacy skills.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/A-good-start-for-the-Early-Years-Foundation-Stage>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-impact-of-the-Early-Years-Foundation-Stage>

New Chairman of Ofsted (08/02/11)

Baroness Morgan of Huyton was today named as the new chairman of Ofsted. Education Secretary Michael Gove said Baroness Morgan would play a key role in ensuring Ofsted met the Government's priorities of focusing on pupil attainment, teaching and learning, leadership, and behaviour and safety.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0074272/baroness-morgan-of-huyton-named-new-ofsted-chairman>

Review of National Curriculum (20/01/11)

The Secretary of State for Education has announced a major review of the National Curriculum in England. The review will

- replace the current substandard curriculum with one based on the best school systems in the world and provide a world-class resource for teachers and children
- consider what subjects should be compulsory at what age
- consider what children should be taught in the main subjects at what age.

The new Curriculum will begin to be taught in maintained schools from Sep 2013. To manage the transition effectively, the new Programmes of Study for English, maths, science, and PE will be introduced from 2013, with Programmes for other subjects coming into force the following year.

See consultations

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0073152/michael-gove-announces-major-review-of-national-curriculum>

Cafcass Care statistics Jan 2011 (08/02/11)

Care application demand has remained at a very high level with 677 applications in January 2011, the highest ever recorded in that month.

Between April 2010 and January 2011, Cafcass received 7,417 new applications. This figure is 2.6 % higher when compared to the same period last year.

Care application demand for all months in the current year have been the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for the individual months except June, October and December 2010.

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2011/january_care_stats.aspx

Safeguarding trafficked children

The London Safeguarding Children Board has launched a new set of guidance and assessment tools to help agencies identify and support children who have been trafficked, which are available to download.

The guidelines aim to support social workers, teachers, police, health workers and other professionals who may come into contact with suspected victims of trafficking, and have been piloted extensively in a number of LAs across London and the UK over the past 18 months.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/trafficking/>

http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/trafficking/trafficking_launch_3.2.11.pdf

Children ‘forgotten and let down’

(02/02/11)

140,000 children across the UK are being raised by grandparents and other family and friends carers because of parental alcohol or substance misuse, according to new survey data released by Grandparents Plus.

The charity is joining forces with the Children's Society, Mentor UK and Adfam to highlight the plight of carers raising children under these challenging circumstances - who are saving the taxpayer an estimated £5.5billion each year in care costs.

<http://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk/press-releases.php>

http://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk/news_files/press%20release%20survey%20alcohol%20and%20substance%20misuse%20FINAL26JAN.pdf

New website to support young disabled children and their families (07/02/11)

[Wales]

The Early Support Programme which provides support to young disabled children and their families has launched its new website.

Early Support Wales is the Welsh Assembly Government mechanism to improve services for disabled children under the age of five and their families.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/pressrelease/15349.html>

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

Protecting vulnerable children online (13/01/11)

Vulnerable children are being taught how to stay safer online thanks to two new educational films and teaching resources, launched by CEOP.

The resources have been created in the recognition that vulnerable young people and those with additional needs and learning difficulties can be more susceptible to abuse.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2011/Protecting-vulnerable-children-online/>

Think before you send (08/02/11)

“Think before you send” is the message from CEOP to talk about the dangers young people face when sending indecent images of themselves to each other, often called ‘sexting’. This is in response to increasing evidence that such images are being shared with wider groups of friends.

Research from Beatbullying highlighted that 38% of 11-17 year olds have received a sexually explicit or distressing text or email, with 70% admitting they knew the sender. ↗

Young people often do not realise that by digitally sharing such images, they may lose control and may never really know where it ends up. In some extreme cases, CEOP has found these in the collection of child sex offenders and their networks.

To support this message and Safer Internet Day on 08/02/11, CEOP has launched a brand new resource called “Exposed”; a 10 minute film aimed at 11-16 year olds, encouraging them to think about their actions and how these may affect others and their lives in future.

Together with lessons plans and accompanying activities, the film has been produced in consultation with leading charities and education practitioners and is available free of charge.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2011/UK-CHILDREN-ASKED-TO-THINK-BEFORE-THEY-SEND/>

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Teachers/>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/think-before-send>

Shop displays mislead parents, survey reveals (09/02/11)

UK baby shops are misleading parents and undermining advice about reducing the risk of cot death, a survey has revealed.

An investigation, led by the FSID, found that 56% of nursery stores do not make their display cots up to show the safe ‘feet to foot’ position or provide ‘Reduce the Risk’ information for shoppers. It has been estimated that half of all cot deaths could be prevented if all parents followed the safe sleep advice.

<http://fsid.org.uk/page.aspx?pid=892>

Reduce youth crime through early intervention (08/02/11)

In an interview with C&YP Now, Minister Crispin Blunt said spotting and acting on signs of criminality in a child's early years is crucial to bringing down youth offending. He hopes reforms outlined in December's sentencing green paper will herald a radical change in approach over the next decade. Most prevention programmes focus on children already on the fringes of crime, but the minister is keen for more to be invested in earlier interventions.

Mr Blunt hopes that by making LAs responsible for the cost of youth custody, the Government can encourage them to fund more early intervention projects.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement080211a.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+gov%2FWfFX+%28Ministry+of+Justice+latest+news+alerts%29

New streamlined approach to anti-social behaviour (07/02/11)

Councils, police and other local agencies will be forced to support victims of persistent ASB in plans to give them better tools and powers. This follows a review that found too many tools for practitioners to tackle ASB which are too bureaucratic, costly and do not address underlying problems. At the same time, the growing numbers of people who ignore their penalties suggest a persistent minority are still not being deterred from committing ASB.

A public consultation proposes new measures to better protect communities from the serious harm caused by criminal and antisocial behaviour.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/asb-approach>

See Consultations

Rejuvenated health visiting service (08/02/11)

The Health Visitors Implementation Plan sets out services that families will be able to expect from HVs and their teams, depending on their needs. It will create an extra 4,200 HVs by 2015 and improve quality. The rejuvenated service will:

- develop, support and promote the services set up by families and communities as part of the 'Your Community' service;
- deliver the Healthy Child Programme - ensuring all children get the essential immunisations, health and development checks - as part of 'Universal Services';
- ensure rapid response with expert help for problems e.g. postnatal depression or a sleepless baby - as part of 'Universal Plus' Service; and
- provide ongoing support as part of local services working together and with disadvantaged families, to deal with more complex issues over a period of time - under 'Universal Partnership Plus' service.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_124200

Fund to help more carers (07/02/11)

Thousands of new or 'hidden' carers in England will be offered help from a new fund, the Care Services Minister announced.

The Govt is investing £1.39m to support 79 local projects to help identify and support carers, particularly first time carers and those who may not realise they are a carer.

Caring for someone can be rewarding but the 6m carers in the UK face huge pressures on their own lives. Children in particular may not realise that the support they provide to family members puts them into a caring role.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_124173

Intervening to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people: a review of the evidence (Jan 2011)

Concerns about the number of young people who fail to reach their potential at school, or get into trouble, or are NEET, underpin the continuing commitment to end child poverty in the UK by 2020.

This review sought to identify: the common barriers to the effective implementation of new initiatives; elements of effective practice in the delivery of multi-agency services for vulnerable young people and their families; the costs associated with integrated service delivery; the outcomes that can be achieved; and whether fewer and more targeted initiatives might offer better value for money.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/NewRsgPublications/Page1/DFE-RR078>

Outcomes for Children Looked After by LAs in England, as at 31/03/10

The key points of this Statistical First Release are:

- 44,400 children had been looked after continuously for 12 months, up 3% from 2009.
- Of the children looked after continuously for 12 months and of the age where the child is eligible to sit key stage assessments and tests:
 - 58% achieved the expected level in reading and 62% achieved the expected level in mathematics at KS 1.
 - 36% achieved the expected level in both English and mathematics in KS 2 tests
 - 12% achieved 5 or more GCSEs or the equivalent including English and mathematics at grades A* to C.
- 73% of school age children looked after continuously for 12 months have some form of SEN



- The rate of overall absence for children looked after continuously for 12 months was at 6.2%, slightly lower than the rate for all children
- In the 2008/09 school year, 100 children who had been looked after continuously for 12 months were permanently excluded from school.
- 7.9% of children looked after continuously for 12 months who were aged 10 or over had been convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the year
- Of the children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March, 4.3% were identified as having a substance misuse problem during the year.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000978/index.shtml>

Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn Term 2009 and Spring Term 2010

The key points from this latest release are:

- The overall absence rate has decreased, going from 6.31% to 6.04%
- The unauthorised absence rate has decreased, going from 1.03% to 1.01%

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000962/index.shtml>

Local authority child poverty innovation pilot evaluation (Jan 2011)

The LAIP is a programme that trials locally appropriate and innovative ways of addressing child poverty, to provide local and national learning. The national evaluation is structured to provide a local evaluation to each of the 10 unique LA programmes, with a synthesis evaluation to CPU. This is the third synthesis evaluation report, based upon fieldwork undertaken in, and monitoring data provided to, October 2010.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/NewRsgPublications/Page1/DFE-RR076>

Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn Term 2009 and Spring Term 2010 (25/01/11)

This release reports on pupil absence in maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies across autumn term 2009 and spring term 2010 provides information on the levels of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) by type of school, absence by reason and summary statistics on persistent absentees.

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- The overall absence rate has decreased, going from 6.31% to 6.04%
- The unauthorised absence rate has decreased, going from 1.03% to 1.01%

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000962/index.shtml>

Tackling child poverty must remain a priority for all, says First Minister (02/02/11)

A new strategy to tackle child poverty in Wales was published today by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Launching the new Child Poverty Strategy at Llwynhendy Children's Centre in Llanelli the First Minister, Carwyn Jones and Deputy Minister for Children, Huw Lewis called on everyone to play their part in tackling child poverty in Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2011/110203childpoverty/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/poverty/newcpstrategy/?lang=en>

Government holds talks on parental internet controls (08/02/11)

Internet service providers have committed to looking for fresh solutions to protecting children from inappropriate and harmful content on the internet.

Government Ministers have hosted a roundtable with ISPs and representatives from the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, which saw industry, government and children's charities coming together to discuss providing parents with more choice in how the internet in their home is filtered. http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/7810.aspx

Proposed Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure (21/01/11)

This week Assembly Members unanimously supported the Measure which will now go forward for Royal Assent.

The proposed Measure will strengthen and build on the existing rights based approach of the Welsh Assembly Government towards policy for children and young people, and also strengthen children and young people's position in Welsh society.

It will place a duty on Welsh Ministers to have due regard to the UNCRC from 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2014, when making decisions about the formulation, review or change of policies, or about proposed legislation. And from 1 May 2014, the duty will apply when Welsh Ministers exercise any of their functions.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2011/110121children/?lang=en>

Local Government Improvement and Development: A new strategic quality assurance framework to safeguard children (01/02/11)

This framework is aimed at those with leadership, senior management or scrutiny responsibilities for safeguarding children. It will be available through the LGID and London Safeguarding Children Board websites for local areas to use as they choose.

The framework includes guidance on:

- identifying relevant 'content areas', for example, practice, organisational and wider picture elements, and examples of what 'good' looks like in a range of safeguarding areas
- the types of performance information (quantitative, qualitative and outcomes-based information) which can be used locally, with examples
- the different sources of information and methods of obtaining information (from children, parents and carers, frontline staff and managers, case records and other organisational and management information) with examples
- implementing a local safeguarding quality assurance framework, both for single agencies and for partnership bodies such as LSCBs
- governance frameworks and learning and improvement cycles
- examples of questions for leadership and scrutiny bodies to ask.

Pilot areas will start implementation before the end of March 2011.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=25384499>

Guidance on Non-Accidental Head Injury cases involving children (06/01/11)

Updated guidance for prosecutors on dealing with Non-Accidental Head Injury (NAHI) cases involving children, formerly known as "Shaken Baby Syndrome" cases, has been published by the CPS.

The updated guidance gives prosecutors information on the position taken by the Court of Appeal and the High Court on these cases; how to approach decisions to charge and prosecute; how to deal with expert evidence and the defence case.

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_releases/101-11/

http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/l_to_o/non_accidental_head_injury_cases/

Education Bill (28/01/11)

The Education Bill takes forward the legislative proposals in the Schools White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching* and measures from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to improve skills, including two elements of the reforms to higher education funding.

The Bill will give teachers the power to search pupils for items banned under the school rules and issue same-day detentions. It will provide better protection for teachers from false allegations by pupils. Exclusion appeal panels will be replaced by review panels, which will review decisions but will not have the power to force a school to reinstate an excluded pupil.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departamentalinformation/educationbill/a0073748/education-bill>

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

The influence of family and friends on young people's drinking (20/01/11)

This Round-up examines family and friendship influences on young people's drinking habits, in order to shed light on how the negative aspects of young people's drinking culture in the UK might be changed.

Drawing on five research projects, it concludes that:

- prevention and harm reduction approaches need to take into account how family circumstances vary;
- public health messages need to connect more with the realities of parents' attitudes and practices;
- interventions should consider group behaviour, not just individuals' behaviour;
- the potential for using price as a harm reduction measure and the need for more appealing spaces for young people to socialise require further consideration.

http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/influence-family-and-friends-young-people-drinking?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New+JRF+publication++20+January+2011&utm_content=New+JRF+publication++20+January+2011+CID_b138c20d07fd219139d822662f6541e2&utm_source=Email+marketing+software&utm_term=The+influence+of+family+and+friends+on+young+peoples+drinking

Teenage drinking cultures (02/02/11)

This report:

- discusses the development of tacit informal rules and regulations about drinking with groups ('drinking etiquette');
- investigates how teenagers manage their intoxication within the group;
- considers the importance of relationships both within the group and outside it (e.g. parents);
- presents findings about underage experiences of alcohol-related harm;



- discusses the implications of these findings, including restricting access to alcohol, teaching harm reduction skills and the role of parents.

http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/teenage-drinking-cultures?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New+JRF+publication++2+February+2011&utm_content=New+JRF+publication++2+February+2011+CID_653b1520fc2fa87f3409dd0712c1f99b&utm_source=Email+marketing+software&utm_term=Teenage+drinking+cultures

Safeguarding of Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation

(12/01/11)

The guidance document will help teachers, health professionals, social workers, the police and other key practitioners in Wales to tackle sexual exploitation. The guidance will help identify children at risk, equip them to protect these vulnerable children and to take action against the perpetrators.

There will be free of charge one day regional training events for LSCBs and partner agencies:

- 17th March 2011 - Gwent
- 18 March 2011 – South Wales
- 22nd March 2011 – Powys
- 23rd March 2011 – North Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2011/110111safeguarding/?lang=en>
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/publications/exploitation/?lang=en>

Consultations

Review on the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood (Parents and carers version) (07/02/11)

Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union, is carrying out an Independent Review to address parents' concerns about the pressures on children to grow up too quickly. The views submitted through a questionnaire will help him develop his recommendations to be published in May. Closing Date: 18th March 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1749&external=no&menu=1>

Bailey Review on the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood (Industry and Wider Stakeholder Version) (07/02/11)

This questionnaire is aimed at organisations interested in this issue, including from industry, and the parenting, children and young people's sectors.

Closing Date: 18th March 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1746&external=no&menu=1>

National Curriculum Review (20/01/11)

The National Curriculum was originally intended as a guide for study in key subjects. As it has developed, it has come to cover more subjects, prescribe more outcomes and take up more school time than originally intended. This review calls for opinions and evidence start a debate about what is taught in our schools.

Closing Date: 14th April 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1730&external=no&menu=1>

More effective responses to anti-social behaviour (07/02/11)

This consultation asks for your opinions on government plans to streamline the toolkit used to tackle anti-social behaviour, so that the police and partners have faster, more flexible tools. These, plus more effective sanctions, will help professionals and, where necessary the courts, stop anti-social behaviour earlier, and better protect victims and communities.

The proposals include:

- Replacing ASBOs and other court orders with 2 tools that bring together restrictions on future behaviour and support to address underlying problems
- ensuring there are powerful incentives on perpetrators to stop behaving anti-socially
- bringing together many of the existing tools for dealing with place-specific anti-social behaviour
- bringing together existing police dispersal powers for anti-social behaviour into a single police power
- making the informal and out-of-court tools for dealing with anti-social behaviour more rehabilitative and restorative
- introducing a Community Trigger that gives victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour.

Closing Date: 3rd May 2011

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/cons-2010-antisocial-behaviour/>

Consultations (continued)

Draft teenagers and young adults cancer measures for the Manual for Cancer Services (11/01/11)

The purpose of this consultation is to make sure that the new 'Teenagers and Young Adults Cancer Measures' are clear and comprehensive for inclusion in the Manual for Cancer Services 2008.

Closing Date: 5th April 2011

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_123365

Autism spectrum disorders in children and young people: guideline consultation (28/01/11)

A clinical practice guideline on Autism spectrum disorders 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.

Individuals and organisations not registered as stakeholders **are not able to comment**, we recommend that you register as a stakeholder or you contact the registered stakeholder organisation that most closely represents your interests and pass your comments to them.

*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: 25th March 2011

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=52732>

Conferences

Ten free regional 'Excellence and Evidence' training workshops during February and March (26/01/11)

C4EO is bringing the next round of 'Excellence and Evidence' training workshops to your region. A national consultation exercise was undertaken with DCSs and the sector, asking for guidance on the emerging priorities for each region. As a result, C4EO have created a training event specific to each area. There is no cost to participants for these workshops.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/news/whatsnew/26012011excellenceandevidence.aspx>

Children's Mental Health - Sustaining improvement, building capacity

2nd March 2011 London £150

Organised by NCB in partnership with YoungMinds and National CAMHS Support Service, this conference will set out the future agenda for children's mental health, incorporating perspectives on GP commissioning consortia, Public Health, health and wellbeing boards, the role of the voluntary sector and the importance of local partnerships. Influential keynote speakers associated with key policy areas will be present and a range of cutting-edge workshop sessions will offer exemplars of local service commissioning and provision.

The conference will provide delegates with:

- An understanding of the new policy context
- Take home key exemplars of commissioning and provision models to their local organisations and contexts



- Information about the launch of the 2011 online NCSS legacy product to enable easy access to updated and new resources related to integrated workforce planning, young people's participation, developing supervision and consultation standards at a single point of entry

<http://camhs.eventbrite.com/>

Early Intervention for Families at Risk

28th February 2011 Manchester

£225 - £545 + VAT

There is a clear need to embed early intervention as a core element of service delivery across the public sector and realise the important role it plays in delivering cost savings and fulfilling the wider priorities of the Big Society programme.

Agenda highlights include:

- Government policy and financial landscape for at-risk families
- The latest outcomes of the Early Intervention Review
- Understanding the funding options for early intervention
- Demonstrating cost-effectiveness to attract continued investments
- Positive interventions for families with complex problems including mental health issues, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour

This event offers strategic guidance and a platform to share successful interventions with peers.

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/early-intervention-for-families-at-risk-2.html>

Conferences (continued)

Indecent Images of Children - Building the picture

8th March 2011 London £195

This conference will consider important issues around indecent images of children, including the legal framework, contemporary research, innovative hi-tech approaches, techniques for victim identification as well as safeguarding and risk assessment.

Delegates will:

- Gain an understanding of current legislation surrounding indecent images
- Understand what current research is telling us about offenders
- Explore how technological advancements may afford significant opportunities for victim identification, disruption and dealing with high volumes
- Gain an insight into how CEOP's Victim Identification team operates as well as the skills and techniques they utilise

http://www.ceop.police.uk/Training/Training-courses/indecnt_images/

Improving the safeguarding of Muslim children - Looking beyond difference

17th March 2011 London £250

(concessions available, early bird £200)

Muslim children come from communities that are diverse in terms of nationality, ethnicity, culture and language. We must acknowledge and value this diversity, but cultural sensitivity or lack of confidence to act must not get in the way of protecting children from harm.



This conference will offer delegates the opportunity to share information and ideas about safeguarding Muslim children in their community through a series of workshops.

You will:

- examine the links between Islam and the wellbeing of children
- increase your cultural knowledge of Islam and Muslim communities and explore current issues for Muslim children and families
- consider evidence-based social work practice with Muslim children and learn about projects and support offered through effective partnership working
- discuss potentially harmful practices and ways to overcome barriers to safeguarding
- explore issues affecting deaf and disabled Muslim children
- consider the views of Muslim young people
- discover practical ways to engage with Muslim young people, parents, mosques and madrassahs
- build your network with statutory sector and community-based stakeholders.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/newsandevents/cpconferences/beyond_difference2011_wda79977.html

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