

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 202
17th November 2011**

The Safe Network: Safeguarding children and young people (09/11/11)

The Safe Network is funded by the DfE and the NSPCC, and is run as a partnership between Children England, the Child Accident Prevention Trust and the NSPCC.

The Safe Network's website contains practical safeguarding information and advice for community and voluntary groups, as well as training events, an enquiry service and community-based support through regional development managers, delivery partners and other networks.

<http://www.isa.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=437>

<http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

Liquid paracetamol for children: Revised UK dosing instructions have been introduced (14/11/11)

In July 2011 we informed you that, following a review, the UK dosing instructions for children's liquid paracetamol products were being revised to clarify the most effective dose to be given to a child. The revised dosing instructions are now being introduced.

Read the Public Assessment Report for a summary of results from the review and the new dosing instructions:

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Safetywarningsalertsandrecalls/Safetywarningsandmessagesformedicines/CON134919>

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/groups/comm-s-ic/documents/websiteresources/con134921.pdf>

Education Act granted Royal Assent (15/11/11)

The Education Act 2011 includes new legal powers to:

- help teachers root out poor behaviour
- tackle underperformance, and
- improve the way in which schools are held to account

Provisions in the Act include:

- a power for schools to search pupils without consent for any dangerous or banned items
- Removal of restrictions preventing schools from issuing detentions to pupils without providing 24 hours' written notice
- new pre-charge reporting restrictions on allegations of criminal offences made by pupils against teachers at their school
- Power to create an entitlement to free early years provision for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- reforms to the procedure for establishment of new schools, to give preference to Academies and Free Schools
- Re-focusing routine school inspections on 4 key areas that matter most to parents
- Power to exempt schools from routine Ofsted inspections
- Powers to tackle underperforming schools, including extended powers for the Secretary of State to close them
- Abolition of 5 arms-length bodies, with some functions transferring to new executive agencies, directly accountable to the Secretary of State.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted>

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/pdfs/ukpga_20110021_en.pdf

Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space (YJILS) Survey

The Youth Justice Board are currently undertaking a review of the Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space online resource. As part of the review, we intend on gaining an insight into your views about the website, what works and perhaps what doesn't work so well.

Youth offending managers, practitioners and volunteers are invited to complete this survey, which should only take 10 minutes.
<http://www.skillsforjustice.com/surveys/YJILS4/yjilssurvey.htm>

Family Justice Review proposals to end delays in family courts (03/11/11)

The Family Justice Review panel today announce a package of recommendations aimed at tackling delays in the family justice system and to make sure that children and families are given the service they deserve.

The key recommendations are:

- A new 6 month time limit in care cases so delays are significantly reduced
- Enabling people to make their own arrangements for their children when they separate, and only use courts when necessary
- Overhauling the family justice system so that agencies and professionals work together to improve the experience and outcomes for children and families.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/moj-newsrelease031111a.htm>

Statement from the British Association for Adoption and Fostering

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/media/releases>
<http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/3789>

Youth custody data – September 2011 (11/11/11)

This publication includes monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm>

Case reviews – News about SCIE model (08/11/11)

Tim Loughton, Minister for Children and Families, has announced that the SCIE model for case reviews, called “Learning Together”, is to be used in some pilot serious case reviews. A serious case review occurs where there has been a death of a child, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the death.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/news/mediareleases/2011/081111.asp>

C4EO is looking for examples of effective practice of Adoption (09/11/11)

C4EO is interested in local area experience of initiatives - involving LAs and all relevant partner agencies in the public, voluntary and/or private sector – which have been introduced to improve the wellbeing and life chances of children and young people currently in care by:

- Increasing the number of children appropriately placed for adoption where this is in their best interest.
- Improving the speed with which decisions are made and reducing delays in the adoption system.
- Encouraging potential adopters to enter the system.
- Improving the quality of adoption support.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/news/whatsnew/11092011effectiveexamplesofadoption.aspx>

Child runaways in significant danger as professionals fail to step in (15/11/11)

26% of child runaways have been the victim of a harmful or dangerous experience, reveals new research from The Children's Society.

Still Running 3, the first comprehensive picture of running away for under 16s for 6 years, also shows that:

- 1 in 5 child runaways have begged, stolen or done 'other things' to survive.
- 11% were hurt or harmed on the last occasion they ran.
- 18% said they had slept rough, or stayed with, someone they had just met.

Yet teachers, social workers, police and other professionals are not stepping in and supporting the vast majority of young runaways. Around 2/3 of children who run away are not 'visible' to professionals.

The research also shows that:

- there is a very strong link between family relationships and running away.
- Children who have experienced family change are more than 3 times as likely to have run away in the past year as those who have not.
- Children who have experienced high family conflict are around 6 times as likely to have run away in the past year.
- 7 in 10 runaways were not reported missing to police the last time they ran away.
- A quarter of child runaways were forced to leave home.

<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-views/press-release/child-runaways-significant-danger-professionals-fail-step>

Missing Out: A child centred analysis of material deprivation and subjective well-being (07/11/11)

This research published by The Children's Society reveals that materially deprived children are 5 times more likely to be unhappy than their peers.

The report shows, for the first time, the things children say they need for a 'normal kind of life' and gives a clear insight into how children experience material deprivation. The report pinpoints 10 items including family holidays, access to a garden or outdoor space and a personal music player.

Children most commonly lacked pocket money, with 37% not receiving it each week. This was also the item that was most frequently 'missed', with 22% of children wanting pocket money but not receiving it. Together with the second most commonly missed item, money to save each month, the findings suggest that children want some degree of financial autonomy and independence.

They also 'missed' monthly trips or days out with family or a family holiday every year, highlighting that many children want to spend more time with their family. Children who wanted items or experiences but did not have them reported much higher levels of unhappiness. 34% of children without the right clothes to fit in with their peers were unhappy, followed by children without cable/satellite TV (28%), access to a garden or outdoor space (26%) and a family car (25%).

<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-views/press-release/materially-deprived-children-unhappier-peers>

http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/Images/missing_out.pdf

Cafcass Care Demand – Latest figures for October 2011 (07/11/11)

Care application demand has remained at a very high level. Between April and October 2011, Cafcass received 5,798 new applications. This figure is 10.1% higher when compared to the same period last year. Applications received between May to October this year have been the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for these individual months. The figures for August 2011 were the second highest ever recorded for a single month by Cafcass.

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/PDF/October%202011%20care%20demand%20update.pdf>

Review of early year's qualifications – new learner cut off date postponed (08/11/11)

Supporting the Government-commissioned, review of early year's qualifications, led by Professor Cathy Nutbrown, the CWDC has confirmed that it is postponing the cut-off date for new learners embarking on early learning and childcare qualifications beyond Spring 2012.

This decision means that all qualifications currently deemed as 'full and relevant' on the Qualifications List for those delivering the EYFS will continue to be accepted as such, until a clear statement about any future cut-off date is made in the Government's response to the Nutbrown Review. It is expected that Professor Nutbrown will publish the results of her review in Summer 2012.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/press-releases/6561_cwdc-postpones-new-learner-cut-off-deadline-to-support-early-years-qualifications-review

Second evaluation for Newly Qualified Social Workers (04/11/11)

The interim evaluation of NQSW for 2009-10 highlights progress 2 years in for the 3-year project, launched in 2008. The programme sets out how to ensure NQSWs receive consistent, high quality support and that those supervising are confident to provide support.

Among the findings were:

- NQSWs and their managers reported that the programme had made NQSWs more confident in their role and job satisfaction was high.
- the majority of NQSWs who responded by the end of the survey were happy with the overall package of work, support and training that NQSW offered.
- NQSWs particularly valued reflective supervision, a reduced caseload and peer support as key features of the first year.
- Senior managers said they thought NQSW had led to an increase in the quality of applications for posts and that NQSWs had a better idea of what to expect in a career as a social worker.
- Senior managers also saw NQSW as helping them to consolidate good practice and promote staff development through more formalized and systemic training.
- Team managers said the programme was effective in raising the profile of supervision and Continuous Professional Development. They thought it made NQSWs more aware of the need for effective support in the crucial first year.
- Where NQSWs were dissatisfied with the programme, the reasons were generally to do with the ways in which it was implemented in their organisation.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6559_second-evaluation-for-newly-qualified-social-worker-s-programme-published

**Ending child immigration detention -
Commons Library Standard Note**

(04/11/11)

Families with children are no longer detained in Immigration Removal Centres prior to removal from the UK, although they may be held in an alternative type of secure accommodation (“pre-departure accommodation”) for up to a week instead. This accommodation, called ‘Cedars’, opened in August 2011. It can accommodate up to nine families at any time. It is operated by G4S on behalf of the UKBA. Barnardo’s provides on-site welfare services.

The pre-departure accommodation is part of a new process for managing the removal of families:

- Following a ‘case conference’ with UKBA staff, families are encouraged to make a voluntary departure
- Those who do not leave have their removal arranged by the UKBA, but can continue to live in the community in the meantime and self-check-in at the airport
- Those who do not cooperate with these processes are referred to an Independent Family Returns Panel. The panel will recommend a tailored family return plan. As a last resort, it may recommend that non-compliant families be accommodated for a few days prior to departure in the Cedars pre-departure accommodation

Families and unaccompanied children can still be held in short-term holding facilities at UK ports of entry (or in Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre) pending their admission to or immediate removal from the UK. In Dec 2010 the Govt stated that it expected these powers to be used sparingly. However recent disclosures suggest that far greater numbers of children are being held in short-term facilities.



Some campaigners have suggested that the Government’s claims to have ended child immigration detention are undermined by the secure nature of the pre-departure accommodation and the extent of use of short-term holding facilities. On the other hand, the Government argues that these ‘last resort’ measures are necessary for maintaining robust immigration controls, and are preferable to alternatives such as separating children from their parents.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05591>
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05591.pdf>

New policy guidance on the marriage visa age of 21 (07/11/11)

The UKBA has issued new policy guidance following the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of *Quila and Bibi v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] UKSC 45.

This case challenged the requirement under paragraph 277 of the Immigration Rules for both foreign spouses and their sponsors in the UK to meet a minimum age of 21 before the foreign spouse could be granted a visa to enter or remain as a spouse or partner. Paragraph 277 (along with other paragraphs of the Immigration Rules) was amended on 27/11/08 to raise the minimum age from 18 to 21.

The Supreme Court has ruled that, whilst they recognised that the Secretary of State was pursuing a legitimate and rational aim of seeking to address forced marriage, the change to the rule disproportionately interfered with the Article 8 rights of those who were in genuine marriages.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/10-marriage-visa-age>

Bullying rife in schools (14/11/11)

One in four children have been verbally bullied in the past year, according to figures released today by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, part of the NCB. The study has been released to mark the start of the Anti-Bullying Week campaign which begins today.

This year, Anti-Bullying Week highlights the worrying trend of verbal bullying and the casual use of derogatory language - a widespread phenomenon not just amongst school children, but in society as a whole.

The results show that:


- 26% of 11-16 year olds have directly experienced verbal bullying, with 79% happening at school.
- Almost 40% of respondents also reported being bullied online or my mobile phone.
- 81% of secondary school pupils think verbal bullying is a problem in their school and
- 66% say they have witnessed some form of verbal bullying in the past year.
- 14% of 11-16 year olds have considered missing school for fear of being verbally bullied.
- 54% of respondents would turn to a teacher for help and advice, highlighting the important role of teachers and schools in tackling bullying behaviour.

http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/press_centre/latest_news/1_in_4_children_bullied.aspx

Candle Fire Safety Week (14/11/11)

Fire and Rescue Services across the country are asking people to take care and snuff out the risk of fire in their homes.

The Fire Kills safety campaign is offering some top tips:

- Never leave burning candles unattended. 

- Place your candles carefully. Make sure they are on a stable surface, out of the reach of pets and children, and keep them away from flammable objects.
- Don't move candles once they are lit.
- Do not burn several candles close together.
- Burn candles in a well-ventilated room.
- Always put scented candles in a heat resistant holder.
- Fit a smoke alarm and test it regularly.
- Make sure that everyone in your home knows what to do if a fire should occur.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2028863>

Alcohol Awareness Week 2011 - 14-20 November 2011

Did you know:

- Every minute alcohol-related problems cost the UK economy around £48,000
- Every hour more than 100 people go into hospital in England and Wales with an alcohol-related condition
- Every day more than 40 people die as a result of alcohol in England and Wales
- Every week more than 100 children call ChildLine upset about their parents' drinking

Alcohol Concern wants to build a grassroots campaign movement to create a world free from alcohol harm. Our starting point is the launch in Alcohol Awareness Week of the Alcohol Concern Charter, a 4 point statement based on the WHO's own charter on alcohol. We want everyone, including those who represent us in local and national government, to sign up.

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/alcohol-concern-in-action/campaigning/alcohol-awareness-week>

The green paper on special educational needs and disability - Commons Library Standard Note (04/11/11)

This Standard Note briefly outlines of the current SEN system in England, and highlights the main proposals in the Government's green paper on SEN and disability. A selection of initial reaction to the green paper is also provided.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05917>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05917.pdf>

'All babies count' (09/11/11)

The NSPCC has launched its 'All babies count' campaign to highlight the vulnerability of babies and to call for better and earlier support for new parents.

Babies are 8 times more likely to be killed than any other age group in childhood. And factors such as domestic violence, mental health problems, and drink and drug dependency among parents are known to be important risk factors for abuse and neglect.

Two thirds of serious case reviews for infant fatalities or serious cases of abuse involve one or more of these problems. And over half the contacts to the NSPCC Helpline involve concerns about children in families with these issues.

The NSPCC is calling on the Government to:

- Ensure there are sufficient resources in place to fund services for families.
- Give commissioners at a local level - in health services and LAs - the powers and responsibility to ensure the right services are in place to protect vulnerable babies and prevent abuse at the earliest opportunity.



- Review the early intervention services available for families every 2 years, and use this to deliver a clear action plan to address gaps.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/media-centre/press-releases/2011/11-11-10-all-babies-count/all-babies-count-press-release_wdn85695.html

Young People's voices on Cyber-bullying (11/11/11)

As the UK prepares to raise awareness of bullying during Anti-Bullying Week, 14-18 November 2011, latest research reveals that:

- cyber-bullying amongst teenagers is on the increase with 38% affected.
- 78% of young people fear cyber-bullying will continue to rise
- 46% of young people feel that current initiatives are insufficient in targeting their protection, prevention and needs, perhaps partly explaining why 28% of cyber-bullying victims have not informed anyone of their experience.

<http://diana-award.org.uk/news-events/new-research-shows-cyber-bullying-is-on-the-increase-38-of-young-people-affected#more-3186>

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Social_Care/article/1103587/young-people-fear-safeguards-against-cyber-bullying-not-enough/?DCMP=EMC-CONCYPNow%20Daily

Achievement for All National Evaluation: Final report (November 2011)

The Achievement for All pilot involved 10 LAs, and 454 selected schools. The main aim was to examine the impact of AfA on a variety of outcomes for children and young people with SEND. It also aimed to find out what processes and practices in schools were most effective in improving these outcomes.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR176>

Vaccinating healthy children against flu (16/11/11)

Further evidence is needed before the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation can make a recommendation to the Government on extending the seasonal flu vaccination programme – that is the conclusion from the latest meeting. The DH now awaits advice from independent experts.

The Committee confirmed that increasing flu vaccine uptake in older people and those in the clinical risk group, including children in clinical risk groups, should remain the priority.

The Committee reviewed the evidence regarding the benefits of extending the flu vaccination programme to other groups. Its position is that:

- An initial study by the Health Protection Agency, suggests it might be cost effective to vaccinate healthy children to reduce transmission of flu. However, further data is needed before the Committee is able to make a recommendation to Government on vaccinating healthy children.
- More information is needed on the availability of flu vaccines that provide better protection in children and that are likely to become available in the UK. More information from the vaccine manufacturers about how and when enough vaccine would be available is needed.
- Further assessment of the impact on GPs and schools of vaccinating healthy children and the resources needed is required, as well as further studies on the likely take up of the flu vaccine by healthy children.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=422081&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>

Peer Inspector Programme - LA Education Services for Children and Young People - terms and conditions - Dec 2010 (08/11/11)

This document outlines roles, responsibilities and expectations of the 3 parties in respect of the participation of peer inspectors in LA inspections.

Peer inspectors will bring a new perspective to LA inspections. They will work alongside HMIs and Wales Audit Office or Audit Commission staff. They do not take the place of inspectors but work alongside them to add a different perspective. The inspectorate will monitor the, in particular the performance of Peer Inspectors, the take-up of invitations for training and assessment as a Peer Inspector and the take-up of invitations to join inspection teams.

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/download/publications/225279.6/peer-inspector-programme-local-authority-education-services-for-children-and-young-people-terms-and-conditions-december-2010/>

100 days in care (15/11/11)

This report, from the Children's Rights Director, Dr Roger Morgan, documents 100 personal diary entries about children's experience of being in care, leaving care, and living in boarding schools or residential special schools. It asks children and young people for their views about their experiences, their rights, their welfare, and how they are looked after. It seeks to provide a direct voice for these young people, simply containing 100 of their diary entries, describing things happening in their own lives, in their own words.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/personal-diary-entries-of-children-about-care-support-and-life-away-home-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/100-days-of-care>

Point in time surveys for staff, for parents and carers and for boarders and residential pupils (14/11/11)

Ofsted carries out surveys of the views of the staff who work in school boarding or residential provision, parents and carers and also boarders and residential pupils by sending questionnaires by email to the school at a specific point of time, with instructions for distribution and completion.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/point-time-survey-for-staff>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/point-time-survey-for-parents-and-carers>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/point-time-survey-for-boarders-and-residential-pupils>

Management of cross-remit concerns about children's welfare (10/11/11)

This document clarifies Ofsted's approach to concerns about a local authority's arrangements for children and young people that arise during any inspection of a social care service, early years or education provider.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/management-of-cross-remit-concerns-about-childrens-welfare>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/other-forms-and-guides/m/Management%20of%20cross%20remit%20concerns%20about%20childrens%20welfare.pdf>

Majority of LAs providing good services for local children and young people (08/11/11)

Ofsted has published the outcomes of the 2011 annual children's services assessments for LAs across England. It shows that the majority are providing good or better children's services, with 28 providing excellent services for children in their area, 8 more than last year. ↗

This year 25 LAs have improved their overall performance, with 11 improving from performing adequately to performing well.

The annual children's services assessment this year found that overall 71 LAs are performing well, 33 are providing adequate services and, similar to the previous year, 15 authorities are performing poorly. The outcomes for 5 LAs are not being published today as further inspections are due to take place.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/majority-of-local-authorities-are-providing-good-services-for-local-children-and-young-people-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/results/type/44/any/any>

Protocols between Ofsted and other organisations in relation to childcare (04/11/11)

We have revised and updated the following protocols after consultation with respective organisations. The revisions reflect the working arrangements between Ofsted and other organisations to ensure working practices are consistent with the role and responsibilities of the appropriate organisations.

The protocols are between Ofsted and:

- building control departments
- fire and rescue authorities
- LAs: information on childcare providers
- LAs with environmental health responsibility
- LA children's services
- LSCBs
- Ministry of Defence
- Women's Aid Federation of England

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/protocols-between-ofsted-and-other-organisations-relation-childcare>

Pupils' experiences of bullying in school
(04/11/11)

This survey will evaluate the effectiveness of anti-bullying practices in schools and make recommendations as appropriate. It will:

- extrapolate the elements of successful practice in schools
- contain case studies of how schools have tackled and prevented particular bullying.
- focus on homophobic bullying and the bullying of disabled pupils.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupils-experiences-of-bullying-school>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/p/Pupils%27%20experiences%20of%20bullying%20in%20school.doc>

Children's social care providers and places (04/11/11)

Statistics on registered providers and residential accommodation for children in boarding schools and FE colleges in England

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-social-care-providers-and-places>

Transition from the Early Years Foundation Stage to KS 1 (08/11/11)

This survey will evaluate and report on the effectiveness of transition from the EYFS to primary education and the impact it has on pupils' achievement in Key Stage 1. It will report on the characteristics of transition that are most effective in promoting pupils' achievement, and provide detailed examples of successful practice that lead to improved outcomes.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/transition-early-years-foundation-stage-key-stage-1>

Factsheet: childcare - Regulating play-based provision (16/11/11)

This revised factsheet explains Ofsted's role in regulating play-based provision.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-regulating-play-based-provision>

School exclusion trial 2011- 14 (11/11/11)

Over 300 schools are taking part in a 3 year trial which will see schools taking on responsibility for ensuring that permanently excluded pupils continue to receive a good education, and in partnership with each other and the LA - try out new ways of tackling challenging behaviour.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/exclusion/b00200074/exclusion-trial>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/exclusion/a00200076/questions-and-answers-about-the-school-exclusion-trial>

School Attendance – Updated Guidance
(15/11/11)

Improving attendance: Action points
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a0010280/improving-attendance-action-points-for-schools-and-las>

E-registration
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a0010016/e-registration>

Removing pupils from the admissions and attendance registers
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a0010009/removing-pupils-from-the-admissions-and-attendance-registers>

Absence data
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/attendance/a009991/absence-data>

Number of children's centres by local authority (14/11/11)

In answer to a Parliamentary Question, information provided by Lord Hill included:

LAs have confirmed that on 08/09/11 there were 3507 centres across the country. The DfE published a statistical release in June 2010 that showed there were 3,631 in April 2010. LAs have informed the DfE that the net reduction of 124 since April 2010 includes 6 closures with the remainder of the reduction being accounted for by local reorganisations such as the merger of two or more centres. This includes cases such as when a LA has merged the management teams of previously separate centres but kept their premises open on separate sites. A breakdown of this information is attached.

Numbers will continue to change as LAs make decisions about how to configure services to make best use of available resources and fulfil their duties to children and families.

For more information see:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00200125/number-of-childrens-centres-by-local-authority>

Pupil Premium – Update Advice and Guidance (14/11/11)

The Government set out in the Coalition Agreement its commitment to tackle educational inequality via a Pupil Premium allocated to schools for every Free School Meal pupil on their roll. We believe that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address the current inequalities by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most. This is why the Premium is allocated to schools for every pupil on their roll known to be eligible for FSMs.
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium>

Pupil Premium - what you need to know
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium/a0076063/pupil-premium-what-you-need-to-know>

Deprivation - what you need to know
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium/a0076062/deprivation-what-you-need-to-know>

FAQ Pupil premium and accountability
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium/a0076069/faq-pupil-premium-and-accountability>

Increasing registrations for FSM and the Pupil Premium
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium/b00200056/increasing-registrations-for-free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium>

Free School Meals - FAQ
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium/a0076064/free-school-meals-faqs>

£16 million to support training of Educational Psychologists (14/11/11)

People training as Educational Psychologists will have their tuition fees paid by the Government, and will be offered bursaries to help cover the costs of training, under new plans outlined today. £16m will be available over the next 3 years, following a review which recommends that training needs to become more sustainable.

EPs have a vital role in supporting children's development and helping them to reach their full potential. They work in schools and LAs to provide professional advice on children's emotional and educational development. In particular, they work with children with SEN to identify where children may need support, and to provide ongoing support.
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200150/16-million-to-support-training-of-educational-psychologists>

Advice for Handling Industrial Action in Schools - Guidance (08/11/11)

This document clarifies a number of issues raised by schools after the strike on 30 June. The information has been requested by head teachers and governing bodies in maintained schools and Academies, but may also be useful for school staff, LAs and parents.

This guidance covers:


1. Responsibilities
2. Health and safety
3. Staff deployment
4. Using volunteers
5. Directly employing individuals
6. Infant class sizes
7. Delivering the curriculum
8. Insurance
9. Recording attendance when schools are closed
10. Transferring control of the school premises to a third party
11. The law on trade disputes

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/advice%20for%20handling%20industrial%20action%20in%20schools.doc>

Voluntary and community organisations to play a key role in helping children with SEN and disabilities (04/11/11)

Voluntary and community organisations will help deliver key reforms to support children with SEN and disabilities, and their parents.

The Children's Minister Sarah Teather has announced contracts involving voluntary and community organisations which will deliver the support, including the Council for Disabled Children and I CAN, the children's communication charity. The DfE is providing funding of around £6m a year for 2 years to deliver the support.

The organisations will support the delivery of short breaks, provide greater 

information and help to parents, and help disabled young people and those with SEN prepare for employment, training and independent living after they leave school.
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199898/voluntary-and-community-organisations-to-play-a-key-role-in-helping-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

Children's Minister speaks to the LSCB Chairs' Network conference (08/11/11)

Transcript of speech by Tim Loughton in which he covers the Munro Review and the policy on publishing SCR overview reports
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/speeches/a00200014/tim-loughton-speaks-to-the-lscb-chairs-network-conference>

Consultation on free early education (11/11/11)

Free early education will be extended to 140,000 disadvantaged 2 year olds, and made more flexible for parents to access, under plans published by the Government.

The plans are set out in a consultation which includes proposals to:

- Make the free entitlement to 15 hours per week of early education more flexible, so it can be taken between 7am and 7pm, and spread across 2 days instead of 3.
- Use the criteria which is used for free school meals to decide which disadvantaged 2 year olds should qualify for free early education,
- Include 2 year olds who are looked after by the state in the eligibility criteria for free early education.
- Slim down statutory guidance for LAs from 100 pages to fewer than 20.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200071/consultation-launched-on-free-early-education>

See Consultations

Consultations

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

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

Closing Date: 3rd February 2012

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

Consultation on stalking (14/11/11)

The government has launched this consultation to ask for views on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively. The consultation incorporates a number of issues, including current legislation, the effect of police information notices, search powers, the work of existing organisations and alternative measures to tackle stalking.

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

Closing Date: 5th February 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/stalking-consultation>
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/stalking-consultation/>
ACPO comment
<http://www.acpo.presscentre.com/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=291&NewsAreaID=2>

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

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

This consultation seeks responses on two issues.

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

Closing Date: 3rd February 2012

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

Conferences

Future Direction of the Children's Workforce Conference

29th November 2011 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

Hear from expert speakers, who share your commitment to improving outcomes for all children and families through better integrated practice, cover:

- Successful models for multi-agency early identification and intervention
- Targeting resources and reducing unnecessary duplication and bureaucracy
- Measuring outcomes across agencies to improve performance

Benefits of attending:

- Guidance from sector leaders on multi-agency working and developing a common approach to assessment
- Effectively evaluate services to improve frontline delivery
- Understand how the Children's Improvement Board will support the development of the children's workforce
- Examine your business model to identify where cost savings can be made
- Gain insight on how to measure performance across agencies so services can be commissioned based on outcomes
- Benefit from a practical case study showcasing a successful initiative bringing together shared decision making across children's services, health and police
- Guidance on how the CAF can be used and expanded to support the whole family

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/future-direction-of-the-childrens-workforce.html>

Tackling Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage Conference

5th December 2011 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

Following the launch of *Call to End Violence against Women and Girls*, there is a renewed focus on prevention and early intervention, training and information sharing.

Issues to be addressed include:

- Progress since the implementation of the FMA (2007) and ACPO's Strategy on Honour Based Violence and FM
- Updates on the *No Recourse to Public Funds* protocols
- Working in partnership to ensure confidentiality and appropriate referrals to safeguard victims
- Developing community engagement strategies and outreach programmes to get to the hardest-to-reach

Benefits of Attending

- FMU plans to revise the statutory guidance to safeguard children and vulnerable adults
- Legal guidance on civil court procedures from one of the most experienced solicitors in this field
- ACPO's strategy for improving investigation and evidence gathering techniques
- Community cohesion experts who provide tailored resettlement services to identify pathways back into the community
- Engaging with schools to raise awareness and scope the prevalence of emerging issues
- New strategies to encourage communities to take responsibility and challenge HBV and FM

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/health-social-care/full-conference/article/tackling-honour-based-violence-and-forced-marriage-1.html>

Conferences (continued)

FSID NW Regional Conference - When A Child Dies Unexpectedly

Warrington 8th December 2011

Topics that will be covered in this conference include:

- Establishment of Child Death Database in Cheshire?
- Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP): is it an entity?
- Inquest process and what is expected from health care professionals?
- Limitation of pathology examination: what questions should we be asking?
- Should we be undertaking genetic investigations in SUDI?
- Non-invasive autopsy: role of post-mortem radiology?
- Toxicological examination: limitation and interpretation of the results

<http://fsid.org.uk/document.doc?id=224>

<http://fsid.org.uk/page.aspx?pid=191>

Improving Behaviour & Discipline in Schools: The Key to Successful Education

9th February 2011 London

29th February 2011 Manchester

£225 + VAT

The Govt has announced a trial to give responsibility to headteachers to ensure excluded pupils receive a decent education. The Education Bill will give teachers greater powers to search pupils, confiscate property and hold no-notice detentions. It will also afford teachers greater protection against false allegations.

Charlie Taylor, Govt Adviser has also issued a simple checklist of what schools can do to instil good behaviour and improve discipline.

Key issues to be discussed include:

- Developing individual school policies – working with parents & governors
- Role of the senior leadership team in schools to improve behaviour
- New slimmed down guidance: how effective will it be?
- Examining the powers available and protection for teaching staff
- Taking action to deal with poor teaching staff who fail to follow behaviour policy
- The measures in the Education Bill – examining impact & effectiveness
- Permanent exclusions – new powers for Heads to choose alternative provision
- Exclusion of children who may have SEN
- Examining the new “behaviour checklist” – developing school wide consistency
- Early intervention strategies to improve behaviour and avoid exclusions
- Strategies to tackle the causes of behavioural issues including bullying and attendance

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/home/event-detail/newsarticle/improving-behaviour-discipline-in-schools-the-key-to-successful-education-london/>

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/home/event-detail/newsarticle/improving-behaviour-discipline-in-schools-the-key-to-successful-education-london/>

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/home/event-detail/newsarticle/improving-behaviour-discipline-in-schools-the-key-to-successful-education-manchester/>

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