

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE
15th February 2010**

The safe use of new technologies (10/02/10)

This report of a small-scale survey evaluates the extent to which schools taught pupils to adopt safe and responsible practices in using new technologies, and how they achieved this. It also assesses the extent and quality of the training schools provided for their staff. It responds to the report of the Byron Review, *Safer children in a digital world*

The survey found that pupils that use 'managed' online systems have a better knowledge and understanding of how to stay safe when using new technologies.

'Managed' systems are systems that have fewer inaccessible sites than 'locked' systems and so require pupils to take more responsibility for their own safety.

'Locked' systems make many websites inaccessible and although this ensures pupils' safety in school it does not encourage the pupils to take responsibility for their actions or prepare them for dealing with systems that are not locked.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-safe-use-of-new-technologies>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10749/128220/file/The%20safe%20use%20of%20new%20technologies.doc>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2010/February/Students-safest-using-the-internet-when-they-are-trusted-to-manage-their-own-risk>

Parents stuck in online generation gap (09/02/10)

Parents and young people will see the digital code, 'Zip it, Block It, Flag It' brought to life with radio, press and poster advertising, as the new internet safety campaign 'Click Clever, Click Safe' is launched.

The launch comes alongside a survey, conducted by Young Poll, which found that:

- 26.8% of young people say their parents never talk to them about how they're spending their time online - which can leave a child more vulnerable to cyber bullying, people accessing their personal information and witnessing potentially harmful or upsetting content
- the average 6-14 year old communicates with over 1,100 people online in a year
- Out of the 73.2% of young people who did talk to their parents, under half said their parents talked to them about using the internet safely
- From the same group, less than 43% said their parents used controls to stop them accessing inappropriate content online
- Young people spend an average of 8 hours online each week – with the majority of time spent on social networking and gaming sites
- Only 34% of young people have met in 'real life' all the people they speak to online.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0034

<http://www.72point.com/ukccis>

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

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

Has your child met Lee and Kim yet?

(09/02/10)

Changing the way children behave online is the key to keeping themselves safe from abuse, said Jim Gamble, head of CEOP. It is the theme that dominates CEOP's role in spearheading the UK's response to EU Safer Internet Day 2010 and is central to a number of initiatives being launched:

- new resources aimed at reaching children as young as 5, at the heart of which is a new interactive cartoon introducing them to the adventures of Lee and Kim
- the launch in partnership with Microsoft of the UK's first ever 'ClickCEOP' browser that will sit on Internet Explorer 8 and provide users of all ages with direct, access to CEOP's internet safety advice and guidance
- a 'Protect' programme that sees volunteers from O2, Visa Europe and Microsoft joining forces with CEOP to deliver online safety into hundreds of schools.
- 39,000 volunteers spread across the UK have all been trained to help deliver CEOP's advice-giving programme and will play their part in reaching children and parents in schools, workshops and clubs.

With 1 in 5 parents of 5-7 year olds highlighting concern about who their child is in contact with online (10% very concerned, 8% fairly concerned), CEOP's new animated film, '**Lee and Kim's Adventures**', is designed to introduce very young children to the concepts of personal information and trust. This resource is being delivered to schoolchildren across the UK.

http://www.ceop.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2010/ceop_09022010.asp

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/reportabuse/>
<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/saferinternetdayuk/Default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Abuse in teenage relationships (15/02/10)

The HO has launched an advertising campaign to challenge attitudes of teenagers to violence and abuse in relationships. The adverts send a strong message to 13 - 18 year olds, challenging them to stop abusive behaviour or seek help.

The campaign includes:

- television adverts depicting a teenage girl being abused physically and emotionally by her controlling boyfriend. Teenagers are challenged "If you could see yourself would you see abuse?" and "If you could see yourself would you stop yourself?";
 - radio adverts challenging teenagers to recognise and reject abuse;
 - posters showing teenagers in everyday situations, reflecting on their abusive or controlling relationships;
 - a website giving teenagers information on abuse in relationships and where to go for help. It will include live online discussions where experts will answer questions about relationships and abuse;
 - a viral allowing the user to interact with a "dream" boyfriend or girlfriend in which the boy becomes abusive, before messages that challenge teenagers to recognise and reject abuse;
 - print adverts aimed at parents encouraging them to talk to their teenagers about relationship abuse;
 - education in schools by working with the DCSF and stakeholders to produce school pack designed to provide school professionals and students with further information and suggestions about how to handle specific issues arising from the campaign; and
 - leaflets for healthcare professionals.
- <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=411210&SubjectId=2>
<http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>

All local authorities should provide short breaks for parents and carers who care for disabled children (09/02/10)

All LAs will be required to provide short breaks for parents and carers who look after a disabled child, under plans announced by Ed Balls and Diana Johnson.

The Government knows that for many parents caring for their disabled children can over time place a tremendous strain on them and their families. Short breaks from their caring responsibilities can and do make a vital difference to their lives and the lives of their children. Short break services include day-time or overnight care in or out of the home. As part of our consultation on disabled children's services in 2008 parents said more short breaks provision was their greatest priority. The government responded to this and committed £280m in LA grants over the period 2008-11 specifically to improve these services. The range and type of short breaks has grown with the support of the Aiming High for Disabled Children funding.

To build on this progress, the DCSF launched a public consultation which, if agreed, will mean require all LAs to provide short break services for parents who care for disabled children.

See consultations

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0033

Private Fostering Update (09/02/10)

This letter from Baroness Morgan outlines key developments in private fostering and reminds of the national private fostering awareness raising week 22-28 February.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/publications/documents/laeprivatefosteringupdate/>

Government action to promote good behaviour and strong discipline in schools (11/02/10)

Parents will be expected to sign up to school behaviour policies when they apply for a school place under proposals announced today.

Proposed changes mean schools' policies will be brought to the attention of parents before they apply for a place. Under the plans out for consultation, parents will also be asked to agree to the behaviour policy, amongst other policies such as attendance and uniform, as part of the application process.

These measures will apply to applications for school places made from this autumn, and will help parents recognise the importance of complying with a school's policies once the child has been admitted.

See Consultations

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0037

Guidance on making judgements during subject survey visits to schools (04/02/10)

This is guidance for inspectors carrying out subject inspections in schools under Ofsted's annual survey programme.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guidance-on-making-judgements-during-subject-survey-visits-to-schools>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10732/128073/file/Guidance%20on%20making%20judgements%20during%20subject%20survey%20visits%20to%20schools.pdf>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Education-and-skills/Schools/The-Ofsted-survey-programme>

Home Office dispels VBS Myths

1 – Parents who supervise children on a school day trip will have to register

No they won't. People will be required to register if they work or volunteer with vulnerable groups 'frequently' – once a week or more. In health and social care services this means once a month or more. People will also have to register if they work 'intensively' – 4 times or more in a single month with the same group. Supervising a one-off activity is not a regulated activity because it is not 'frequent.'

2 – Babysitters or parents who look after their friends' children will have to register

No they won't. The scheme will not intrude into personal relationships like babysitting or car sharing. You will only need to register if your activity is arranged by an organisation and it is frequent or intensive. The scheme doesn't apply to activities carried out in the course of a family or personal relationship.

3 – People will have to register to watch their children in the school play or visit relatives in a care home

The scheme does not apply, as these activities are done in your personal capacity.

4 – Everyone will be expected to be registered

No they won't. The scheme only applies in work situations. Employees and volunteers working or volunteering in regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults on a frequent or intensive basis need to register. It will be a criminal offence to work in a regulated activity role without being ISA registered.

5 – Employers don't have to pass information to the ISA if an employee leaves

Employers must inform the ISA about an employee they have dismissed, or whom they might have dismissed but who resigned first, because her or she harmed – or might

harm – a vulnerable person. The ISA will assess those individuals who are referred to them on the grounds that they pose a possible risk of harm to vulnerable groups. The pre-employment vetting will ensure all those known to present a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults are not allowed to work with them in the first place. They will use information such as criminal convictions, cautions, and police intelligence to make decisions. In all but the most serious cases, if the ISA is considering barring, then people will be given the opportunity to make representations and to express their views on the information used to take the barring decision.

The Scheme:

- does not apply where an arrangement is a family arrangement
- does not apply where an arrangement is made personally between friends, and is not on a commercial basis
- does not apply where an activity is not 'regulated activity', because it is not:
 - an activity specified by the Scheme
 - work for a specified organisation
 - a post specified by the Scheme
- does not apply where an activity is an exception to the Scheme.

The Scheme's requirement to register will depend in particular on two key principles:

- if an activity is arranged by an organisation (as opposed to a private arrangement)
 - if that activity is 'frequent or intensive'
- http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/media/news/home_office_dispels_vbs_myths.aspx
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?event=news.item&id=vetting_and_barring_myth_buster
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/images/userfiles/file/Vetting_scheme_recommendations_accepted.pdf

Churches Child Protection Advisory Service and the ISA (Jan 2010)

David Pearson from the CCPAS has written to Ed Balls expressing concern about the decision to redefine 'regulated activity' in terms of contact which is once a week or more.

In the view of the CCPAS, changing the requirements will allow unscrupulous individuals to evade criminal record checks and organisations to avoid making them, placing children and vulnerable adults at greater risk because many roles in places of worship involving the teaching or supervision of children will now fall outside the scope of ISA registration.

Mr Pearson gave the example of those working in Sunday schools who will teach every other week, or are allowed one week off each month, so the worker can participate in adult services too. Although they are working less often than weekly, they remain in a position of trust when not teaching. Mr Pearson expressed concern that some organizations would not carry out criminal record checks where there is no legal obligation.

The CCPAS recommends that:

- the government should still, in its statutory guidance and at every opportunity, emphasise that good practice in relation to the safe recruitment of workers means that people have to go beyond the minimum legal requirements.
- even though ISA registration is not going to be a legal requirement in regard to certain positions, there should still be an expectation that proper recruitment procedures should be undertaken, including the completion of application and self disclosure forms, interviews and finally a CRB check before people are appointed. ↗

- until the automatic updating of CRB checks comes into operation, repeat checks are needed even for those who are ISA registered. This is because there may be offences, cautions or other police information which could indicate that someone might be a risk in working with children and young people, but which falls short of consideration for a bar to their working in this area.

In his reply, Ed Balls accepted that a number of positions will no longer have a statutory requirement to register with the Vetting and Barring scheme, but points out that these people will be eligible to register and in many cases best practice would be for them to join. He said that working in Sunday schools is a good example of where best practice would suggest that those persons should register.

Mr Balls added that where people work who work on a 'rota' system and swap 'shifts', this could trigger a requirement to register. He suggests a sensible approach would be to register all those involved in the work whether or not they meet the definitions of frequent or intensive. He said that a similar approach will be used in other sectors such as firms that employ school bus drivers and wish to have a 'pool' of drivers to cater for sickness and other unforeseeable events.

Mr Balls also said that the government is committed to reviewing the policy on CRB disclosures as a consequence of Sir Roger Singleton's recommendations.

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/ISA.htm>

Introduction of Prevenar 13 into the Childhood Immunisation Programme

(09/02/10)

This letter provides further information about the DH's plans to replace Prevenar that contains antigens against seven pneumococcal strains with Prevenar 13.

Replacing Prevenar with Prevenar 13 will broaden the protection against pneumococcal disease. The UK will be one of the first countries in the world to introduce this new vaccine and it reflects our continued commitment to improving our vaccination programme.

The annexes to this letter contain the information needed for the introduction of this new vaccine. All surgeries should be using Prevenar 13 in the routine immunisation programme by 1st April 2010.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_112193
http://www.dh.gov.uk/dr_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_112192.pdf

Children's Community Equipment: proposals for funding and DH workshop
(02/02/10)

This letter invites each SHA to submit proposals for funding for innovative activities within and across PCTs to help achieve transformation of children's community equipment and related services, taking account of the findings of a recent consultant's report.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_111875
http://www.dh.gov.uk/dr_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_111874.pdf

Models and options for children's equipment and related services: CSED consultant's report (03/02/10)

This independent consultant's report notes that in many areas the commissioning and provision of children's equipment is poor. It analyses the various factors underlying this, concluding that mainstreaming transformation of children's community equipment services would require change in four major areas: governance, pathways, sourcing strategies and management of equipment once bought (equipment stores).
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111870

How it looks to me (02/02/10)

This report about how children and young people feel about going through divorce and separation, found that children and young people felt that Cafcass' involvement generally helped and in some cases made a difference to their lives. However, many of them worried about their financial situation.

46% of the young people explained that there was a worsening financial situation for themselves and the parent they lived with.

The majority of young people felt that they required financial support. The possibilities of day trips and general activities were also mentioned.

88% of the young people felt that they had a right to decide where they live and who they see after their parents separate.
http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2010/how_it_looks_to_me_report.aspx
<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/pdf/How%20it%20looks%20to%20me%20report%20FINAL%2025.01.10.pdf>

Thousands more to benefit from free school meals (04/02/10)

Ed Balls has written to all LAs inviting them to bid for cash to fund more universal free school meal pilots. Pilots are running in 3 LAs and there has been positive feedback. Adding new pilots from September 2010 will help even more families across the country and allow the government to collect more evidence on the health and educational benefits of free school meals.

In Dec 09 the Pre-Budget Report announced the government would be expanding the successful pilots to trial universal free school meals to all primary aged children in at least 1 LA area in each region of the country, a minimum of 9 pilot areas.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0032

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=14674>

Improving progression to sustainable unsupported employment (04/02/10)

This report evaluates the strategies and practices of Workstep providers aimed at moving adults (16+) with significant physical, mental and personal barriers into sustainable jobs and identifies barriers to progress. Case studies illustrate effective practice.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Improving-progression-to-sustainable-unsupported-employment>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10724/127985/file/Improving%20progression%20to%20sustainable%20unsupported%20employment.doc>

Child killing rate 'drops by 40%' in England and Wales (04/02/10)

A Bournemouth University study says the death rate is the fourth lowest in the Western world. Better monitoring by social workers and improved liaison between health visitors, paediatricians, GPs and police had led to the drop, it said.

Between 1974 and 2006, the annual number of killings and other - unexplained - violent deaths of children aged 14 and under, fell by 38% from 136 to 84. As a proportion of the child population, violent death rates almost halved from 32 to 17 per million children.

Prof Colin Pritchard, from the university's school of health and social care, said the findings showed violent death rates among children "had never been lower" and were a "relative success story". He told BBC News: "Thirty years ago England and Wales were the third or fourth highest child killers in the Western world, but we're now fourth lowest. "There's been a gradual decline in these terrible events," he said.

The death of 17-month-old Peter Connelly, who suffered more than 50 injuries including a broken back before his death in Haringey in 2007, thrust the role of social workers into the spotlight. He had been seen by various health and care professionals 60 times before he died. However, Prof Pritchard said improvements in social care systems, along with a greater focus on child poverty, had helped improve the death rate. "When these things go wrong it is because very often because the usual good working-together has actually broken down," he said.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?event=news.item&id=number_of_violent_deaths_among_children_drops

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8497277.stm>

Ed Balls invites bids for new school chains
(10/02/10)

Successful schools and education institutions, business, faith and charity groups were today invited to apply to become Accredited Schools Groups and Accredited School Providers. Under this new system these groups will be able to gain a 'chartermark' to support or take over under-performing schools and turn them round.

Providers will need to demonstrate they have the following key skills:


- sound governance;
- highly effective leadership and management;
- a strong model for managing and improving schools;
- a track record of improving outcomes for children and young people; and
- the capacity to achieve transformational change in the schools they are supporting.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0036

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

Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper – Summary
(Feb 2010)

The Green Paper sets out a wide range of measures to support all families as they bring up their children and aims to help families cope with times of stress and difficulty. The proposals recognise that while all families need some help, there are families in our society with complex needs and others who require additional - and sometimes non-negotiable - support.

The proposals aim to influence factors that can strengthen or weaken family life, such as the choices available when balancing employment with bringing up children; and how welcoming and accessible public services are to families of all kinds. 

Some of the proposals can be implemented straight away; others are for consultation or will take longer to put into place.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00148-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00148-2010BKT-EN.pdf>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1685&external=no&menu=1>

Local Authority Measures for National Indicators supported by the Tellus4 Survey 2009-10 (Feb 2010)

5 National Indicators are derived from data produced by the Tellus4 Survey. Statistics produced from the data are used to measure the following performance indicators:

- NI 50: Emotional health and well-being - children and young people user perception
- NI 69: Percentage of children who have experienced bullying
- NI 110: More participation in positive activities
- NI 115: Reduce the proportion of young people frequently using illicit drugs, alcohol or volatile substances
- NI 199: Satisfaction with parks and play areas

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000908/index.shtml>

Every Child Matters

Information Sharing Questions and Answers
(January 2010)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/deliveringservices1/informationsharing/informationsharing/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7321>

National quality framework for the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process (Feb 2010)

All LAs, working with other partners in the Children's Trust, are responsible for introducing arrangements to ensure that CAF processes are of a high quality way across all children's services (including Children's Centres, schools offering extended services, third sector organisations, etc.). This guidance provides a framework that can be implemented locally to monitor and improve the quality of the CAF process to help to improve outcomes for C&YP.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/sources-and-practice/IG00662/>

Common Assessment Framework and the Family Pathfinders (Feb 2010)

This paper responds to concerns raised about the policy links between the CAF and the Family Pathfinders.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/sources-and-practice/IG00661/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7494>

Funding boost for extra school activities (09/02/10)

£167m of additional funding for out-of-hours school activities is being rolled out nationally from April this year. The TDA is helping schools improve access to activities for economically disadvantaged children.

The subsidy is designed to improve equal opportunities in schools. All pupils will now have the chance to take advantage of the extended services provided by their school, such as after-school clubs and holiday activities. Economically disadvantaged C&YP and children in care, might not otherwise be able to afford some or all of the charges associated with taking part.



In order to help schools, LAs and partners get the most out of the subsidy, the TDA has created a new resource pack including guiding principles based on learning experiences from pathfinder schools.

<http://www.tda.gov.uk/about/mediarelations/2010/09022010.aspx>

London guidance for assessing children and families affected by adults viewing CSA images on the Internet

This document has been produced on behalf of the London SCB and in conjunction with the Essex SCB. The aim is:

- to provide practice guidance to support practitioners working with children and families affected by adults viewing child sexual abuse images – particularly via the Internet;
- to identify key principles to help inform assessments;
- to consider some of the practice implications;
- to provide an overview of current messages from research and underpinning knowledge.

It is not intended to replace existing procedures and should be seen as complementary to the London CP Procedures and Essex CC CP Procedures.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>
http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/sexual_abuse/final_cads_guidelines.pdf

Change in Legal Entity

The UK Human Trafficking Centre is moving to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) from 01/04/10. The UKHTC provides operational, tactical and legal support to police forces and other law enforcement agencies and partners engaged in tackling human trafficking.

<http://www.ukhtc.org/news/change-legal-entity>

Registration for EEA teachers (12/02/10)

The General Teaching Council (Registration of Temporary Teachers from Relevant European States) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 came into force on 5 January 2010. The regulations introduce a duty on applicant teachers from other European countries, who wish to practise their profession on a temporary or occasional basis in England or Wales, to register with the GTCE or the GTCW. This will ensure that this group of teachers is subject to the same requirements and safeguarding measures as other teachers in England and Wales, i.e. full and provisional registration.

Employers in the education sector are reminded that where it becomes evident that an applicant teacher has not registered with the respective GTC, it is the responsibility of the employer to take the appropriate action.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/news/?id=2321>
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20093200_en_1

Voluntary Sector Support programme (10/02/10)

This aims to build capacity within the children and young people's third sector so that it can continue to deliver effective services for children and young people.

The programme provides a range of services directly to children and young people's voluntary sector organisations, keeping them informed on matters of policy and practice, supporting them around commissioning and funding opportunities and offering access to core services such as ICT, HR and event management.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media_news/2010/jan_to_jun/ncb_launches_voluntary_sector.aspx

Safer interviewing skills for:**Education (schools for 5 - 16 year olds)**

30th March 2010 London £250

Children's Social Care

12th May 2010 Leicester £250

The course aim is to equip those who have experience of recruitment and selection with more advanced interviewing skills to explore candidates' behaviours, attitudes and motivations in relation to safeguarding children in a professional capacity.

This course is designed to enable participants to:

- interview candidates using safeguarding competences as the basis for questions
- use active listening and a range of questioning and probing techniques to explore candidates' answers in-depth
- analyse evidence of candidates' behaviours and attitudes against a set criteria
- make a more informed decision on candidates' authenticity and suitability to work with children in a specific sector
- create questions addressing safeguarding competences in the context of their own sector.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/trainingandconsultancy/training/trainingcourses/safer_interviewing_skills_wda70923.html

DECIPHer Youth Advisory Group- Opportunity for Young People (03/02/10)

DECIPHer is looking to bring together an advisory group of people aged 14-19, living in and around the Cardiff, Bristol and Swansea areas to help advise on producing research on the health issues that affect young people.

Full training and support will be offered, as well as payment for the young people's time.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/news/12857.html>

<http://www.decipher.uk.net/>

Consultations

Survey on sharing good practice to drive improvement (10/02/10)

If you are a provider, Ofsted would like to hear your views about how we share good practice with you.

Since April 2009, Ofsted has published more than 26 publications highlighting aspects of good practice across a broad range of topics. The publications are based on the evidence we gather through our inspection work. This evidence is used to report publicly, to inform national policy makers and support providers with their improvement.

Closing Date: 26th February 2010

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Survey-on-sharing-good-practice-to-drive-improvement>
<http://85.234.135.179/index.php?sid=61394>

Consultation on terms of reference of a proposed review of the maternal death enquiry

The purpose of the review is to advise the CMACE Board on how it should seek to undertake the MDE as part of the CEMACH programme, for which the NPSA is lead commissioner, following completion of the current triennium (2009-2011), i.e. in respect of maternal deaths from 1 January 2012.

Closing Date: 2nd March 2010

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/getdoc/1a4eadead-459c-47a2-bd3e-e79cef26dd14/MDE-TOR-250110.aspx>

Contraceptive Services for socially disadvantaged young people: consultation on the evidence (08/02/10)

NICE was asked by the DH to 'Produce programme guidance for the NHS on the provision of contraceptive services in appropriate settings for socially disadvantaged young people (up to the age of 25)'.

All registered stakeholders are now invited to comment on the evidence that has been assembled to inform the development of this guidance. This evidence is used by the Programme Development Group to develop draft recommendations.

The aim of this consultation is to enable stakeholders to consider the evidence and to provide the opportunity to comment, in particular on:

- major gaps in the evidence reviews, including papers in the published literature that we have not been able to identify
- queries around the interpretation of the evidence, both of single studies and the reviewed material as a whole
- the applicability of the evidence and its usefulness for the development of guidance
- issues relating to equity, equality and diversity
- issues relating to cost-effectiveness

Closing Date: 8th March 2010

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=47358>

Consultations (continued)

Consultation on the draft new 'School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board)(England) Regulations 2010 (03/02/10)

This consultation seeks views on draft regulations made under paragraphs 19(2) and (3) of Schedule 6 to the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that update the School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2004.

The 2004 Regulations are being brought in to line with provisions in the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007 made under the Education Act 2002 to take full account of new models of school governance.

It is also proposed that the 2004 Regulations are amended to replace the duty on LAs to appoint a shadow governing body as part of the transitional arrangements from an Interim Executive Board (IEB) to a normally constituted governing body, with a power.

This would give LAs discretion over whether there is a need to appoint a governing body to shadow an IEB for at least 6 months, or whether it would be reasonable given all the circumstances to establish a normally constituted governing body in a shorter timescale, or immediately.

Closing Date: 17th March 2010
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1702&external=no&menu=1>

Call for evidence: Proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure (04/02/10)

The National Assembly for Wales is calling for evidence to help consider the proposed Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure. If approved the proposed measure would charge authorities with informing carers of the rights and benefits they are entitled to, and it would ensure authorities involve carers when deciding which services to offer them or the person they are caring for.

Closing Date: 18th March 2010
<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/consultations/consultations/12867.html>
http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/bus_legislation_meas-cs.htm

Planning Transition to Adulthood for Looked After Children Guidance and on the amended Children (Leaving Care) (England) Regulations 2001

The DCSF are revising the entire suite of Children Act 1989 Regulations and guidance, including Guidance on the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, to meet the new duties inserted into the Children Act 1989 by the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and respond to the commitments to transform outcomes for looked after children and care leavers set out in the White Paper "Care Matters".

This consultation aims to review these changes in policy with the public, and solicit opinions and ideas.

Closing Date: 25th March 2010
<http://leavingcareconsultation.dcsf.gov.uk/>
<http://leavingcareconsultation.dcsf.gov.uk/suimary-of-consultation-document>

Consultations (continued)

Draft School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (11/02/10)

The DCSF is seeking responses to implementing the proposal made in the government's *The Pupil and Parent Guarantees* consultation document: "Parents will be expected to signal that they understand and will abide by schools' key policies (including their behaviour policy) during the application process".

This proposal is designed to meet the government commitment that every pupil will go to a school where there is good behaviour and strong discipline.

The change being consulted on is an amendment to the School Admissions Co-ordination Regulations, which will require all local authorities to include a statement on their common application form (CAF) which signals to parents the importance of complying with a school's policies once their child has been admitted and that by signing the form or making the application the parent is confirming that they accept those policies.

Closing Date: 25th March 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1703&external=no&menu=1>

Short Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children and Young People

This consultation is on:

- draft Regulations to require LAs (England) to provide services designed to assist parents/carers to continue providing care for disabled C&YP, or to do so more effectively, by giving them access to short breaks from their caring responsibilities.
- associated draft Statutory Guidance to help LAs, and others, to understand the legal context of their duty to provide short breaks; issues related to eligibility for short breaks; the range of short breaks required; local assessment of sufficiency of provision; planning and information.

Closing Date: 26th April 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1688&external=no&menu=1>

Conferences

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – Making it Everybody’s Business

1st March 2010 Hampshire Free
8th March 2010 Lincolnshire Free
15th March 2010 West Mercia Free
4th location to be announced soon!

Stop it Now! UK and Ireland and the Lucy Faithfull Foundation are pleased to host 4 free one-day conferences designed to explore some of the key issues surrounding CSA.

We all have a part to play in preventing CSA – which is why these conferences are open to everyone who works with, or has contact with children or families.

The conference aims to explore key issues surrounding CSA including:

- Female abusers – facts and fiction
- Internet offenders – how the internet is used as part of abusive behaviour
- Children and young people who display worrying sexual behaviour
- Developing a comprehensive framework to prevent CSA

E-mail: office@stopitnow.org.uk

Tel: 01527 591184

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

Managing Exclusions

18th March 2010 London
£259 - £399 + VAT

This conference aims to help you get your exclusions process right, avoid repeat suspensions, make the correct decisions, conduct investigations, obtain the right standard of proof, and manage effective reintegration.

Education lawyers will guide you through the legislative framework and recent case law.

Further sessions will help you:

- Meet your duty to provide 6th day provision through effective partnership working
- Assess cases that have been overturned at appeal and why so you can be clear how your decisions are likely to be judged
- Update your legal knowledge for managing the exclusion of SEN and disabled students
- Effectively present your case to Governors and the Independent Appeal Panels
- Correctly and confidently handle parental concerns throughout the exclusions process
- Understand your legal responsibilities for managing exclusions of Looked After Children

<http://www.teachingexpertise.com/landing/educationlaw/MEL10B-EP293-Order.html>

Somebody else’s child – everyone’s responsibility: Safeguarding privately fostered children

26th March 2010 Manchester
£129 - £199 + VAT

The conference will describe the experiences of privately fostered children and young people in their own words. It also provides an unrivalled opportunity in 2010 to learn the latest about private fostering.

The conference will present new research on private fostering, news about future inspection plans for private fostering and an opportunity to hear from the Chair of the Government’s Private Fostering Advisory Group, current issues with contributions from front line practitioners and a wide range of agencies. .

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/100326_conf.shtml

Conferences (continued)

National Play Event - Better Outcomes through Play

10th March 2010 London

This national event is aimed at DCS or equivalent senior officer, at which there will be opportunity to discuss issues having an impact on planning for future play provision and explore how provision can be embedded into strategic plans.

The event will focus on the strategic role of Children's Trusts in commissioning, co-ordinating and embedding play provision with a range of partners and key stakeholders including PCTs, police forces and voluntary and community groups.

By highlighting how a range of local partners can work together to deliver more and better play opportunities, this event will enable delegates to discuss ways to make the best use of resources to embed play more firmly in local plans and strategies.

<http://www.playevent2010.co.uk/>

Workshop on improving services for disabled children

10th March 2010 London

This workshop, for any staff providing services to disabled children and their families, has been organised by DCSF with the aim of helping to improve service delivery by:

- Gaining deeper insight into National Indicator 54 results
- Sharing experience on practical service delivery
- Helping shape national policy
- Helping with planning wider service improvement

<https://survey.w-c-l.com/scorecard/q.asp?sid=61&k=voddkdjejy>

Child Trafficking In The UK

25th March 2010 London

£199 - £299

Reports from children's charities highlight the plight and frequency of trafficked children and that child trafficking is an issue for more agencies than those based around UK ports. All agencies involved in safeguarding children and/ or those who have a responsibility for looked-after children, should take steps to ensure they have effective strategies in place to safeguard these vulnerable children from exploitation.

Key topics will include:

- The responsibilities for agencies under the council of europe convention on trafficking
- Projected trends on the trafficking of children in the wake of the 2012 Olympic Games: what will this mean regionally and nationally
- How do we safeguard against internal trafficking (i.e. within the UK)?
- Identifying and safeguarding children vulnerable to trafficking
- Supporting victims of child trafficking for best outcome
- An overview of the multi-agency toolkit, currently trialled in 12 LAs across the UK
- Examining the issues of private adoption in the context of child trafficking joint working with other agencies and safeguarding children at risk

<http://www.conferencesandtraining.co.uk/en/Browse-Events/Community-Care/Child-Trafficking/>

Conferences (continued)

C4EO Safeguarding Workshops

11th March 2010 Manchester
 16th March 2010 Bristol
 17th March 2010 Birmingham
 23rd March 2010 London
 25th March 2010 Leeds

- What are the circumstances, characteristics and prevalence of families that are resistant to change?
 - What challenges to practice and oversight are raised by a lack of positive change for families?
 - What can you do that is effective for families where positive change is difficult?
 - Explore what data can tell us
 - Debate key issues
 - Exchange knowledge
 - Access support
 - Consider commissioning implications
- 4 FREE places are available per Children's Trust area – open to key personnel across agencies including: LCSB Chairs, LA safeguarding leads from LAs, PCTs, police and commissioning champions.

http://www.c4eo.org.uk/events/?dm_i=7SL,3FQF,12Q26J,AQ91,1

Tackling childhood obesity – healthy eating and local procurement

19th March 2010 London £150 - £250 + VAT

This seminar will look at the part played by some key partners – LAs and their policies on local sustainable procurement, town planning and catering as well as work by health authorities and others. It will look at how partners can work together to promote healthy life styles and bring about the cultural shift needed to achieve the targets set nationally and locally. It will also consider how this work can go forward in times of budgetary restraint.



There will be presentations by the School Food Trust, SFT, the LA Catering Association, LACA, those working at LA level, and researchers involved in analysing and comparing the strategies being used to reduce childhood obesity in London and New York.

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

Teenage Pregnancy

23rd March 2010 London Free

As a key issue of child poverty, health inequalities and safeguarding, teenage pregnancy will remain a priority for us all. Building on and learning from the achievements so far, will be critical to strengthening the Strategy in its next phase.

This seminar will help lead members and other councilors further develop and embed an effective teenage pregnancy strategy into local planning beyond 2010. This will give you the opportunity to hear about the next phase of the National Strategy, learn about good practice from local areas and share opportunities and challenges with other Lead Members.

We are inviting you to bring your Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator to enable you to consider together any further actions you need to take.

The seminar is supported by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in DCSF, the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group and the DH.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=6621652>

Conferences (continued)

Working Effectively With Carers

23rd March 2010 London
£199 - £299

This conference will focus on progress with the national carers strategy and showcase examples of best practice that have begun to emerge from it in the localities. What models of good practice are there, what is the business case for them, and how do they fit with services directed at service users? As working effectively with carers becomes more important than ever, our conference aims to show how to make it happen both for adult and young carers.

Benefits of attending:

- Discussing issues of how personalisation for service users impacts on their carers
- Examining the carers strategy and related policy
- Sharing best practice and legal updates relating to carers and employment
- Funding and personal budgets Children and Families and Adults' Sector specific case studies and workshops
- Successful case studies of working effectively and developing community infrastructure to promote carers
- Working with young carers
- Exploring the idea that as carers take on more of the burden of care they receive training to become more expert in caring

<http://www.conferencesandtraining.co.uk/en/Browse-Events/Community-Care/Carers-Conference/>

Young People Leaving Care

29th April 2010 London £179 - £279

The *Children (Leaving Care) Act 2001 Care Matters* has acknowledged that looked-after children have long been vulnerable to poor outcomes and it's aims are to improve the lives and wellbeing of this vulnerable group of young people still largely remain rhetoric. Never has achieving positive outcomes for children leaving care been more challenging - with biting recession and rising unemployment meaning that young people leaving care face a harder struggle to grow up securely and thrive in an adult world with confidence.

This conference will provide the opportunity to explore how to promote positive outcomes for children leaving care in terms of education, employment, independent living and wellbeing as set out in the guidance to *The Children and Young Persons Act 2008* which is currently under consultation.

Benefits

- Learn about the relevance of the £7bn funding transfer for the commissioning of learning for 16-19 year olds under the *Children, Skills and Learning Bill*
- Consider how to achieve successful independent living
- Education and training as the key to employment
- Effective steps to wellbeing, stability and social inclusion

<http://www.conferencesandtraining.co.uk/en/Browse-Events/Community-Care/Young-People-Leaving-Care/>

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