

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 136
15th September 2009**

**Aiming high for disabled children:
delivering improved health services**

08/09/2009

There are around half a million disabled children in England, a figure that represents up to 18% of the child population. Funding for disabled children's services was a key priority for the NHS Operating framework of 2008-09 and 2009-10 with a total of £340m of allocations over the 3 years from 2008/09 to 2010/11. Moreover, as advanced in medicine increase the range of treatments and services available for disabled children, PCTs expenditure in this area is expected to increase.

This report looks at how PCTs can best work in partnership with local organisations to deliver high quality care services for disabled children which also provide value for money. It contains a number of case studies examining PCT partnership initiatives with child disability groups which have improved the provision of equipment and services.

<http://www.nhsconfed.org/PressReleases/2009/Pages/NHS-Confederation-report-aiming%20high.aspx>

http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/Documents/aiming_high_sep09.pdf

School Term Dates

This service allows you to find out school term dates in Local Authorities in England. There are also links for LAs in Wales, Scotland and NI.

[http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/index.jsp?LGSL=36&LGIL=8&ServiceName=Find+out+term+dates+for+your+child"s+school](http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/index.jsp?LGSL=36&LGIL=8&ServiceName=Find+out+term+dates+for+your+child)

**Information Sharing and Mental Health -
Guidance to Support Information Sharing
by Mental Health Services (09/09/09)**

This guidance sets out some of the issues relating to the exchange of information between mental health trusts and outside organisations and individuals. It sets out when, why and how information can safely be exchanged for the benefit of the individual and the public.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_104949

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_104948.pdf

**In it Together: Achieving Quality
Outcomes for Young People with Complex
Needs (10/09/09)**

LGA and providers' coalition the Children's Services Development Group (CSDG) have published a series of case studies to improve the commissioning of services for children with complex needs. Services covered include foster care and residential children's homes as well as specialist schools and education services for children with learning difficulties.

http://www.csdg.org.uk/images/pdfs/Inittogether_September2009.pdf

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/937442/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Social worker whistle blowing going unheard, GSCC poll finds (09/09/09)

Responses to a General Social Care Council poll indicate that employers are failing to take action when social workers report concerns or barriers to their work.

Almost 50% of respondents to the poll said that when they had reported operational difficulties or concerns about a colleague, their employer had not taken action. Similar numbers said they did not feel confident that their employer would take action if they spoke up. However, when asked if they would feel able to report concerns about colleagues to their employer, 85% said they would.

Social workers are bound by the Code of Practice for Social Care Workers, which says they must 'use established processes and procedures to challenge and report dangerous, abusive, discriminatory or exploitative behaviour and practice'. The most common fears cited by those who said they would not speak up were victimisation and a negative impact on their career.

<http://www.gsc.org.uk/News+and+events/Media+releases/9+September+news+release.htm>

Child Trust Fund boost (09/09/09)

From this month, children who turn 7 will get a £250 birthday boost to their CTF account. The extra money will benefit 700,000 children per year, with children in lower income families also receiving a further £250.

Since their launch in 2005, CTFs have helped over 4m children across the UK start to save for their future. Around £2b is currently held in Child Trust Fund accounts.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_80_09.htm

Top teen concerns are losing weight and fitting in (09/09/09)

Today's teens are most worried about losing weight and fitting in. But more teenagers from low income families worry about bullying, drugs, and smoking compared to peers from high income families.

Surveys for NHS Teen LifeCheck reveal social similarities and divides on some of the top teenage concerns. Of the teenagers surveyed, almost double the number of teens from low income families worried about bullying. However, teens from higher income families are more likely to worry about peer pressure and fitting in.

The research shows:

Worry	Low income families	High income families
Losing weight	43%	30%
Bullying	41%	21%
Drugs	21%	13%
Smoking	19%	10%
Fitting in	32%	40%
Peer pressure	23%	30%

Further research also shows that 48% of teens don't feel they can talk to their friends about their worries because they think they'll be considered silly or different, and 31% feel that their friends just wouldn't understand.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=406439&SubjectId=2>

<http://www.teenlifecheck.co.uk/Default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Illegal tobacco sellers get off too lightly
(14/09/09)

“Shop owners caught flouting the law and selling cigarettes to children are often only slapped on the wrist with small fines,” say Council Trading Standards bosses.

Research, conducted with council trading standards services by LACORS (Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services) shows that, from 72 fines, 33% were less than £100 and 79% less than £350.

The report also revealed that children were able to get cigarettes from vending machines in 58% of all test purchases conducted by councils in England and that 1 in 5 shops was willing to sell tobacco products to the children.

Complaints and enquiries about underage sales were common with 91% of trading standards officers reporting that they had received them. Nearly ¾ of all councils have education or publicity initiatives on underage tobacco sales aimed at retailers, but it seems a small minority of shops are still selling tobacco to minors.

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?N=0&Ne=0+2000+3000+4000+5000+6000+7000+8000+9000+10000+11000&id=22368>

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/upload/22469.pdf>

HSE warns schools after pupil is injured on work experience (08/09/09)

Schools across the West Midlands are being warned to make sure that full health and safety checks are carried out before pupils head out on work experience, following the prosecution of a Stafford company employed to locate extended work experience placements for pupils.



The court heard that a 14-year-old student was placed at a garage and the school was led to believe that a full health and safety audit and risk assessment would be carried out prior to the pupil starting work.

However, the checks failed to take place and the teenager was almost exclusively supervised by one employee who spoke very little English. During a petrol draining operation the teenager sustained a burn injury to his left hand.

Section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 states:

‘It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety.’

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=406491&SubjectId=5>

Tackling Youth Alcohol-related Disorder Grant: 2009-10 (10/09/09)

This circular sets out the grant allocations, conditions of grant and payment arrangements, relating to the Tackling Youth Alcohol-Related Disorder Grant, which builds on the Youth Crime Action Plan package and is available to the 69 participating authorities to deliver local summer activity targeted in neighbourhoods experiencing problems with alcohol related youth crime and disorder.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/lac0409090002/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6573>

Co-operative Schools – Making a Difference (11/09/09)

The Schools Secretary has called on more schools to consider the co-operative model as he spoke of how a school and pupils can benefit from the active involvement of parents, teachers, community groups and local businesses.

So far 15 co-op trusts, involving 25 schools, are up and running and Ed Balls said today that he hopes to see more than 200 schools embracing the approach over the next year.

The co-op model means local communities can come together to give input, help govern and have direct power over the running of their local schools.

Last year the DCSF made funding available for a pilot of up to 100 Trust schools with co-operative governance models over the next 2 years. Schools that join the Trust Schools Programme are currently eligible to receive up to £10,000 from Government to support the costs of setting up a Trust.

Those wishing to adopt the co-operative model are able to recoup an extra £5,000 to fund training and consultancy services to assist in developing this innovative model.
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0160
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00416-2009&>
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/DownloadHandler.aspx?ProductId=DCSF-00416-2009&VariantID=Co-operative+Schools+-+making+a+difference+PDF&>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/pnattach/20090160/1.html>

Teen Cash Class -3 lessons to turn anyone into a super-savvy 21st century consumer

In July 2007, the ITV1 Tonight programme gave Martin Lewis a challenge: take a class of ordinary teenagers for one day and turn them into junior Money Saving Experts. After the class, the 12 pupils went home and saved their families £5,050! This free guide has been written using the transcripts of 6 hours of filming.

http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/attachment/teen_cash_guide.pdf

Sure Start Children's Centres

Children's centres are service hubs where children under 5 and their families can receive seamless integrated services and information. By 2010, every community will be served by a SSCS, offering permanent universal provision across the country, ensuring that every child gets the best start in life. These services vary according to centre but may include:

- integrated early education and childcare – all centres offering Early Years provision have a minimum half-time qualified teacher (increasing to full-time within 18 months of the centre opening)
- support for parents – including advice on parenting, local childcare options and access to specialist services for families
- child and family health services – ranging from health screening, health visitor services to breast-feeding support
- helping parents into work – with links to the local Jobcentre Plus and training

This page provides further information and there is also a link to the first edition of Discovery, a monthly e-newsletter for staff.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/surestart/surestartchildrenscentres/childrenscentres/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6542>

Sure Start week 14th -18th September
(14/09/09)

The Children's Secretary celebrates the launch of Sure Start Children's Centre Week - which coincides with the start of free childcare for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds throughout the country.

Together with the entitlement to free childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds, parents can now access up to 1500 hours of free childcare during their child's first 5 years. This autumn also marks this second year of the Early Years Foundation Stage which has had an overwhelmingly positive response from the workforce. Recent research shows that contrary to fears in advance of its implementation, the vast majority of childcare professionals now support the framework and its impact on the children they look after. Early indications show that this positive impact extends to children in settings implementing the EYFS as they benefit from observations of their childcarer.

The Government is also announcing today £26m funding for Booktrust from 2009-2011. The funding includes £18m for around 12m books for 0-3 year olds.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0162

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/earlyyears/surestart/surestartchildrenscentres/natssccweek/natssccweek/>

Growing Up with Dad: Fathers and their Impact on Substance Use (09/09/09)

This research reveals the extent of drug and alcohol amongst children and young people in Wales today. However, the research goes on to demonstrate that a strong father/child relationship can act as a protective factor against the worst of these excesses.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/12131.htm>

VBS Media Coverage (11/09/09)

The CRB is aware of the extensive media coverage today regarding the additional safeguards coming into place with the Vetting & Barring Scheme in October 2009 and later in July 2010. These reports are being carefully monitored and the CRB is liaising closely with HO and ISA colleagues to address the issues raised.

The CRB would like to clarify that:

- Parents who make their own arrangement to transport their children to activities do not need to register with the ISA; however
- if parents are transporting children in an official capacity (i.e. at the request of activity provider), they will be required by law to register with the ISA but only if they do this regularly each month or on 3e or more occasions in any 1 month.
- The activity provider will be required by law to ensure that these helpers are not barred from working with children.
- People who volunteer to do this will not need to pay the ISA-registration fee.
- From July 2010, all new employees, those moving jobs and volunteers who want to work with children or vulnerable adults can register with the ISA.
- From November 2010, all new employees and volunteers who want to work with children or vulnerable adults must be ISA-registered.

http://www.crb.gov.uk/media/news/vbs_media_coverage.aspx

ISA Roadshow Media (11/09/09)

The Home Office has release for download:

- Vetting & Barring Scheme Presentation
 - V&B Scheme Frequently Asked Questions
- <http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=395>
<http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/docs/VBS%20General%20%20pres%20-%20sept09.ppt>

Becta helps LAs put school reports online
(03/09/09)

BECTA has launched a DVD to help LAs support schools to use technology to improve how parents, learners and schools report and discuss students' progress. The resource will help LAs meet government expectations and ensure all secondary schools can offer parents online reports by September 2010, and all primary schools by September 2012.

Online reporting gives parents secure access to information on their child's progress, achievement, attendance and behaviour. It enables parents to get closer to and support their child's learning, helping them to work with schools in improving learning outcomes for their child and provides valuable support to face-to-face meetings.

Schools look to LAs to guide and advise them on how to achieve this and, more importantly, on the benefits to the learner when parents engage with the school. According to Ofsted, pupils' achievement is improved in schools where parental involvement is judged to be outstanding.
<http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=41092&page=1658&catID=1633>
http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=oe&catcode=ss_es_fam_02

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 SI 2428

This provides for a reduction in the fee charged for a Criminal Record Certificate - a Standard CRB check. The Standard fee will be reduced from £31 to £26.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20092428_en.pdf
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20092428_en_1

New service makes setting up out of school clubs simple

With the start of the new school year, many parents are looking for after school care for their children. Despite the Govt's target that all primary schools should offer some form of care for children from 8.00am to 6.00pm by 2010, a large number have yet to do so.

A new online service from the Out of School Alliance (OOSA) supports the Government's initiative by making it quicker and easier for organisations to set up out of school clubs.

Launched this week, the OOSA website provides:

- help on how to start a club
- information on training
- lots of ideas for activities
- samples of all the necessary policies, forms and other paperwork
- recommendations for where to obtain toys, equipment and other supplies.
- suggestions for equipping a club

OOSA has also partnered with Morton Michel, the respected provider of insurance for the child care industry, to offer a discounted insurance package specifically for out of school clubs.

OOSA hosts an online forum which acts as a meeting place for anyone running an out of school club, enabling them to share ideas and experiences, and to offer mutual support.

<http://www.outofschoolalliance.co.uk/press.php>

<http://www.outofschoolalliance.co.uk/index.php>

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/937451/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Think Family Toolkit: Improving support for families at risk (September 2009)

Think Family means securing better outcomes for children, young people and families with additional needs by co-ordinating the support they receive from children's, young people's, adults' and family services.

This Toolkit sets out some of the ways in which these practices can be developed 'on the ground' and represents an important step towards setting out how Think Family can be made a reality in day-to-day practice. Much of what it contains has been developed locally and reflects the enormous commitment and ingenuity of those working with children, mothers, fathers and families.

The Toolkit will be updated when required. Out-of-date sections can be removed and replaced with a new one.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00685-2009&>

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/DownloadHandler.aspx?ProductId=DCSF-00685-2009&VariantID=Think+Family+Overview+PDF&>

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/DownloadHandler.aspx?ProductId=DCSF-00685-2009&VariantID=Safeguarding+and+promoting+the+welfare+of+children+PDF&>

Think Family Grant: 2009-10 (08/09/09)

This LA Circular sets out the grant allocations, conditions of grant and payment arrangements, relating to the Think Family Grant, supporting the roll-out of parent and family support across all authorities.

A supplementary letter offering authorities additional financial support through this grant to employ a health professional to



work alongside each FIP is attached.

To accept this offer, the completed form and letter must be returned by 25/09/09.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/3112080003/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=5768>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6563>

Updated Ofsted Forms and Guidance (09 – 11/09/09)

- [Self-audit checklist \(for new schools\)](#)
- [Local Authority Questionnaire](#)
- [s162a Report Template - annotated version](#)
- [Annotated report template LTI](#)
- [Using the early years evaluation schedule: guidance for inspectors of registered early years settings required to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage](#)
- [Guide to registration on the Childcare Register](#)
- [Framework for the regulation of those on the Early Years and Childcare Registers](#)
- [Conducting early years inspections](#)

New Children in Wales Training Brochure Launched (09/09/09)

All of our training courses are multi-disciplinary and aim to promote an integrated approach for all those working in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors. We are able to draw on the resources of our own specialist staff team, and a national network of expert individuals and organisations, to deliver high quality training events at a variety of venues across Wales.

We can also provide 'in house' training.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/news/12111.html>

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/12109.file.dld>

Pledges needed to make childhood better
(08/09/09)

The Children's Society is calling on 20,000 people to take a simple action to make childhood better for the children in their families and communities. For every person who pledges to undertake a simple action, Ecclesiastical Insurance will donate £1 to help the charity's work with disadvantaged children up to the value of £20,000.

20,000 people can therefore be part of a movement to improve the lives of children, and raise £20,000, at no financial cost to themselves. Pledges range from driving more slowly around neighbourhoods so children have safer routes to and from school to donating unwanted clothes to a charity shop- so there is something that everyone can do to make childhood better.

http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/whats_happening/media_office/latest_news/18216_print.html

<http://www.thegoodchildhood.com/pledge/>

Supporting Children and Young People with Diabetes – Guidance for Nurses in Schools and Early Years Settings

(11/08/09)

The RCN is aware of inequality in the care provision for children and young people with diabetes in schools and early years settings. This document outlines the principles that health care professionals and education staff should apply to ensure the needs of children and young people with diabetes are met. The aim is to ensure that children and young people receive appropriate intensive therapies, without prejudicing their health or education.

http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/265061/003318.pdf

Letter from Ed Balls on the Vetting and Barring scheme (14/09/09)

Concerns have been expressed about the precise interpretation of the degree of contact with children which should trigger the requirement to register. This has been accompanied by misleading reports about the operation of the new arrangements.

Two important principles lie at the heart of the scheme:

1. Where people work with children (or vulnerable adults) on a frequent or intensive basis, or overnight, they should be required to register
2. The scheme's requirements only apply to arrangements made through third parties e.g. a school or club

The scheme will not come into play when parents agree to give friends' children a lift to school or Cubs. Nor will it cover instances where parents work with children at school or a youth club on an occasional or one-off basis, or when parents visit their child's school e.g. to watch the Christmas play .

Striking the right balance has been difficult. In particular, a critical point is deciding how precisely the 'frequent or intensive' principle should be applied to real life situations. We have therefore asked the Chair of the ISA to check the Government has drawn the line in the right place on this issue.

We will produce more detailed information about the scheme and how it will work in practice. We will be opening the scheme up for applications for registration in July 2010 and registration will be mandatory for new workers from Nov 2010.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=letter_from_ed_balls_on_the_vetting_and_barring_scheme&type=1&CID=twitterINTN

Four in 10 deaths among young people worldwide from injuries, study finds
(14/09/09)

The first study into global deaths among 10-24 years olds has found that 2.6m children and young people died in 2004, 2 in 5 of them from injuries and violence. The findings call into question the focus of worldwide child health policies, which prioritise HIV/AIDS and maternal mortality, say the authors.

Most deaths (2.56m or 97%) among C&YP occurred in poor and middle income countries, 2/3 of them (1.67m) in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia, despite these regions containing just 42% of the juvenile population, the study found. High income countries had only 3% of the deaths, despite having 11% of the population in the age range studied.

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/339/sep14_1/b3742

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/339/sep14_1/b3742

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the National Indicator Set (September 2009)

The Audit Commission's Area Information Team publishes a regularly updated FAQ document on the national indicator set. The information it contains has been reviewed in conjunction with Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the relevant government departments.

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/nis/Pages/faqs.aspx>

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Downloads/20090323faqupdate.pdf>

The recognition and assessment of acute pain in children - Update of full guideline
(September 2009)

The previous 2000 guideline examined when pain in children should be assessed and by whom, and the use of scales and other tools to facilitate assessment of children's pain.

The evidence-based sections have been revised and updated, ensuring that descriptions of the tools used to assess acute pain in children and the associated recommendations provided are based on a systematic assessment of the published evidence.

In addition, a new section has been developed that examines the evidence on assessing acute pain in children with cognitive impairments.

http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/269185/003542.pdf

Consultations

Wales Audit Office seeks views on education of children in care (02/09/2009)

The Wales Audit Office is inviting foster carers and children and young people in care to give their views on what they think of the education and support provided to children in care, and to examine what impact this support is having.

Some children in care do very well at school and go on to excel in their chosen careers, many others do not achieve their potential and about half leave care without any recognised qualifications from school. The WAO is investigating whether support for the education of looked after children is improving and will publish a report that will be considered by the National Assembly and local councils.

The project team has created 2 separate surveys:

- for foster carers with the support of the Fostering Network
<http://www.wao.gov.uk/reportsandpublications/elac.asp>
- for children and young people aged between 10 -18 who are, or have been, in care
<http://www.schoolworkingforyou.info/>

The Wales Audit Office will publish a national report for members of the National Assembly for Wales. It will also inform other organisations such as the Welsh Assembly Government and LAs about what they are doing well and what can be improved.

Closing Date 30th September 2009

http://www.wao.gov.uk/news/pressreleases_2834.asp

Taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and girls (11/09/09)

Each year, across the UK, 3m women experience violence including domestic violence, sexual violence, forced marriage and trafficking. The Taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and girls is holding a month long listening exercise to collect feedback from health and other public sector professionals.

Health and public sector professionals will be asked for their views on areas including:

- **Service delivery** - early identification, access to healthcare services, staff awareness and attitudes maximising NHS resources
- **Service commissioning** – needs assessment, NHS commissioning, joint commissioning, commissioning from non-NHS providers
- **Partnership working** – information sharing, service level agreements and protocols, collaborative service delivery

Closing Date: 14th October 2009

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=406571&SubjectId=2>

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/ViolenceagainstWomenandGirls/index.htm>

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/ViolenceagainstWomenandGirls/DH_104816

Conferences

Promoting Pupil Well-Being in the 21st Century School

14th October 2009 London

£165.22 - £306.92

Schools are at the heart of children's social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Thanks to *Every Child Matters*, the unique role that schools play in securing children's well-being has finally been recognised.

To support schools in meeting their duties and changing their practice, NCB is bringing together for the first time the leading experts in the field to examine with head teachers, school governors, Children's Services professionals and others what well-being is, what it means for schools and how these partnerships can improve outcomes across the range.

<http://21centuryschool.eventbrite.com/>

'CSA: Professionals Who Offend'

27th October 2009 London £195

This conference will explore the sexual exploitation and abuse of children within organisations and institutions by those who work professionally within them and whom have abused their trusted position in order to abuse children.

Issues addressed include:

- can institutions protect their children from determined offenders?
- can sex offenders be detected in pre employment questionnaires?
- is there an identifiable pattern of offending in institution? and
- how many join the profession in order to gain access to children?

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

LGIU's CSN Annual Conference Transforming Services and Changing Lives

11th November 2009 London

£175 - £300 + VAT

Transformation has been a major feature of children's services for the best part of a decade. The tragic death of Baby Peter combined with the certainty of a 10% cut in public spending will promote further changes. The next spending round can be viewed either as a funding crisis or an opportunity to fundamentally rethink our approach to children's services.

Children's services, LAs and their partner organisations face significant challenges as we approach the new decade. Although most children thrive, many others live in misery — in families with low incomes, living in fear of bullying or violence, having poor mental health, or lacking access to training or education. Disaffection, isolation and early death are all too common.

The economic downturn will continue to be felt by families and communities for some time. In the run-up to a general election the future parameters of policy development are still far from clear.

So how can we respond and plan strategically to make a difference to the lives and outcomes for children and young people? This conference will provide a forum for national and local politicians and practitioners from here and abroad to debate how to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Pages/CSN111109.aspx>

Conferences (continued)

Children's Trusts, Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Serious Case Reviews: Next Steps

2nd December 2009 London £225

The Laming Progress Report and the government's response to it deal with issues concerning the relationship between the Children's Trust, the LSCB and the SCR process. Lord Laming's Report makes a number of recommendations to the DCSF, LAs and Ofsted about how, in each local authority, the Children's Trust, the LSCB and the SCR process must be changed to ensure that lessons are learned.

Delegates at this Westminster Briefing will have the opportunity to consider the implications of the recommendations in the progress report and the government's response.

Participants will engage with the panel looking at issues including:

- The relationship between the Children's Trust and the LSCB
- The relationship between the LSCB and the SCR process
- The new guidance from the DCSF on LSCBs and SCRs
- The recruitment and training of LSCB chairs & SCR chairs and authors
- The inspection of SCRs
- Learning the lessons from SCRs

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=5995>

Prevention, Intervention and Support: Delivering a New Strategy for Children's Health

8th December 2009 London

£195 - £395 + VAT (Early Bird discount)

'Healthy lives, brighter futures' sets out what children and families can expect from child health services from birth to 19. Delegates will review the proposals and the future direction of children's healthcare provision, funding and delivery, taking into account recent developments and announcements.

Participants will consider key themes and the challenges for those working in service delivery. Topics include:

- Reviewing the plan and delivering the vision locally
- Health implications for children affected by poverty & social exclusion
- Implications for health professionals in primary and acute care & role of the GP
- Securing better health for children and young people through world class commissioning
- Involving health professionals in statutory Children's Trusts
- The role of health in early intervention & child protection
- Examining care & services from birth to 5
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and discouraging risky behaviour
- Mental health and behavioural issues in our children and young people
- Services for children with acute or additional health needs

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=6314>

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