

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 156
18th March 2010**

**Working Together to Safeguard Children:
A guide to inter-agency working to
safeguard and promote the welfare of
children** (March 2010)

This guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in accordance with the Children Acts 1989 and 2004.

Part 1 is statutory guidance and Part 2 is non-statutory practice guidance.

The document is addressed to practitioners and front line managers who have particular responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and to senior and operational managers.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00305-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00305-2010DOM-EN.PDF>

**Working Together to Safeguard Children:
Government response to public
consultation** (March 2010)

This document provides an overview of responses and a summary of key findings from the consultation on the revised Working Together statutory guidance. It also summarises changes made to further strengthen Chapter 8 since it was published on 18 December.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00304-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00304-2010.PDF>

**The Government's Response to Lord
Laming: One Year On** (17/03/10)

'The protection of children in England: action plan – The Government's response to Lord Laming' set out the Government's shared commitment to do everything possible to deliver improvements in safeguarding practice following the publication of Lord Laming's report, 'The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report', in March 2009.

While a good deal of progress has been made nationally and locally, there is much more still to do. Ofsted's unannounced inspections of contact, referral and assessment arrangements in LAs have so far identified that at least half of those visited had a priority area for action.

The purpose of this short report is to provide an overview of progress against Lord Laming's recommendations and set out future priorities. The report summarises the progress and sets out how the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will seek to make a difference over the coming year. The Unit's priorities have been developed alongside practitioners and key stakeholders.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00311-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00311-2010.pdf>

Serious Case Review Executive Summaries should be more transparent and thorough (17/03/10)

LSCBs will be required to produce clear and comprehensive executive summaries of SCRs and set out in their annual reports what actions have been taken following SCRs. These requirements, explicit in a template setting out a recommended format for SCR executive summaries, will build on action already taken to further strengthen SCRs.

Funding to support social work improvement in adult and children's services for 2010 -11 will be more than £200m. A new £23M 'Local Social Work Improvement Fund' will provide flexible funds to reduce pressure on front line social workers, and a £15m grant will continue to improve IT systems in local areas. LAs will be expected to consult with social workers and local partners to decide how to use the additional money.

The money might be used for:

- Specialist teams to ensure that referrals are responded to quickly and appropriately so that all children get the support they need.
- Increasing the time that social workers in the hardest pressed teams can spend with children and families
- New roles to keep experienced staff on the front line
- Supporting 'grow your own schemes' to make the most of local talent and increase the number of social workers in the future.
- Improving assessments and the use of early intervention support.

Government will invest up to £10m for Cafcass to tackle backlogs, enabling it to meet the needs of children in care proceedings and ensure their best interests remain at the heart of court proceedings.
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0068

The Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children: First annual report to Parliament – 2010 (March 2010)

The safeguarding environment continues to change, with increased demand for services most concerned with child protection, increased expectations of professionals, and a likely decrease in available resources.

This report on safeguarding progress includes the Chief Adviser's views about the implementation of the recommendations in Lord Laming's report, The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report. It also advises the Government on the effective implementation of safeguarding policy.
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00310-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00310-2010.PDF>

Juvenile reoffending statistics for 2008 (18/03/10)

There was an 8.9% fall in juvenile re-offences 2005 - 2008 (125 to 113.9 per 100 offenders).
Between 2000 and 2008 juvenile re-offending fell 24.8%.

Serious re-offences remain less than 1%.
Juvenile serious re-offences fell from 0.90 in 2005 to 0.84 in 2008.

Because of the small numbers of serious offences, these figures should be interpreted with caution.
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease180310b.htm>
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/reoffendingjuveniles.htm>

Evaluation Of Arrangements For Effective Operation Of The New LSCBs In England (17/03/10)

Key Findings of this study include:

- LSCBs have addressed a number of weaknesses of ACPCs and in Case Study performed at 65% effectiveness.
- LSCBs determining main priorities have:
 - been realistic about what is feasible
 - maintained focus and
 - been more effective than those that have been overly ambitious and opted for a very broad remit
- Professionals are embracing the notion that safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and not just that of Children's Social Care. Opinions differ on whether LSCBs should embrace a wider safeguarding agenda or concentrate on child protection.
- LAs struggle to establish accountability mechanisms, especially for Chairs. Governance arrangements remain weak.
- LSCB Chairs have provided strong leadership and broad membership and agency representation on Boards has been secured. Independent Chairs have struggled to be active in the wide strategic framework within local areas.
- Demarcation of roles and responsibilities between the Board and Children's Trust have not always been clear
- LSCB representatives largely have the seniority to speak with authority, commit their organisation on policy and practice matters and hold them to account, but this still needs to be addressed in some areas.
- Securing appropriate levels of participation in LSCB meetings remains a challenge.
- Size and time/resources available to support LSCB work are influential. 20-25 members appears the most effective size.
- LSCBs struggle to fulfil all their functions, particularly because of time and resources in undertaking Serious Case Reviews

- Links and mechanisms to ensure effective dissemination of information to inform operational practice were relatively weak.
- LSCBs help progress inter-agency work but developments have also been influenced by wider changes, such as the establishment of Children's Trusts and implementation of the CAF.
- Progress has been made in inter-agency communication and development of a shared language across agencies, but challenges remain.
- The LA provides most resources; health (and police to a lesser extent) make a substantial contribution; other agencies contribute finances and/or in kind but the level is small in comparison.
- LSCBs need resources and contributions to
 - pay for support staff and training, release staff to attend meetings and engage in LSCB activities. The combined ranges from £136,494 to £472,658, not including costs of SCR and Child Death Processes.
- Annual estimated costs associated with attendance at subgroups (excluding Serious Case Review and Child Death Processes) ranged from £20,272 to £135,776.
- With no funding formula Boards spend much time securing contributions with considerable variations in their resources.
- Addressing public understanding of LSCB work is inhibited by lack of resources.
- Engagement and consultation with children and young people is underdeveloped; although they may be informed about the work of the Boards it is unusual for them to be actively involved or for their views and opinions to influence LSCB business and priorities.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15459&type=5&resultspage=1>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF_RB10.pdf

New funding for victims of sexual violence (15/03/10)

Victims of sexual violence will soon benefit from £860,000 to increase access to Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, HO Minister Alan Campbell has announced. In total 18 new ISVA posts in the voluntary sector will be created, alongside additional funding for 23 existing positions. Grants of up to £20,000 will be used to support victims by helping them to access services and supporting them as their cases progress through the criminal justice system.
<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=412158&SubjectId=2>

No regulation for unpaid childcare arrangements between friends (18/03/10)

Unpaid childcare arrangements between friends will be legally exempt from Ofsted registration and inspection under new legislation the Government announced today. Children's Minister Dawn Primarolo welcomed the move which will mean that from April this year, friends caring for one another's children without payment are no longer included within the remit of Ofsted.

The amendment to an Order under the Childcare Act 2006 will be supported by revised Ofsted guidance which will highlight where and when childcare arrangements are considered to be formal and within their inspection remit.

The Government is clear that the amendment does not affect the tens of thousands of professional childminders who provide a valuable service to parents.
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?event=news.item&id=no_regulation_for_unpaid_childcare_arrangements_between_friends

Independent reports will help CAA improvement (17/03/10)

Two independent reports evaluating the impact and cost of the first year of Comprehensive Area Assessment will help the inspectorates improve the assessment framework. The inspectorates, including the Audit Commission, CQC, HMIC, Prisons and Probation, and Ofsted, welcomed the feedback and learning the reports provide.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Independent-reports-will-help-CAA-improvement>
<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/Pages/inspectoratesrespondtoindependentreviewsofcaa.aspx>
<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/audit/CAA/caareview/Pages/default.aspx>

Fostering agencies and fostering services dataset 2008/09 (15/03/10)

The fostering dataset gives a snapshot of fostering services in England as of 31/03/09. Data was submitted last year by nearly 80% of all fostering services. Although not fully complete, it gives a useful picture of the numbers and profile of foster carers and children, in both LA and independent services. It also gives data relating to types of foster care, registrations and deregistrations, and a range of other matters.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Fostering-agencies-and-fostering-services-dataset-2008-09>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10928/129778/file/Fostering%20agencies%20and%20fostering%20services%20dataset%20200809.pdf>

Reducing the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training: what works and why (17/03/10)

This report highlights strategies, partnerships and activities successfully employed by 12 LAs to attract some of the most difficult to reach young people into work or learning.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2010/March/Tackling-the-NEET-problem-how-local-authorities-are-getting-young-people-back-into-education-employment-and-training>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Reducing-the-numbers-of-young-people-not-in-education-employment-or-training-what-works-and-why>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10930/129788/file/Reducing%20the%20numbers%20of%20young%20people%20NEET.pdf>

Response to Lord Laming's recommendation for a system-wide target for reducing delays in care and supervision proceedings (17/03/10)

A new inter-agency approach to reducing unnecessary delay in care and supervision proceedings, in force 01/04/10, recognises that only by working together as a partnership can we reduce these delays.

The partnership includes LAs, Cafcass, the Legal Services Commission and Her Majesty's Courts Service, all of whom have agreed targets aimed at removing barriers in the way of safeguarding children.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/delays-care-proceedings.htm>
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/delay-care-proceedings.pdf>

Building a Safe and Confident Future: Implementing the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force (March 2010)

In Dec 09, the Government accepted the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force for a programme of comprehensive reform for social work in England.

This Implementation Plan explains how the Government is now working, with employers, social work educators, the social work profession, and with people who use social work services, to develop that reform programme and put it in place.

It provides a route map for improvement – setting clear milestones for those who must work together to develop and deliver reforms, and giving current and future social workers, people who use their services, professionals who work with social workers and members of the public, clarity about the changes they should expect and when they should expect to see them.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00306-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00306-2010DOM-EN.pdf>

New Horizons: Towards a shared vision for mental health - Report on responses to the consultation (17/03/10)

This report describes the consultation process, summarises responses, and sets out the Government's response.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_114076
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_114077.pdf

More funding to tackle knife crime and serious youth violence (17/03/10)

The HO have pledged over £5m to tackle knife crime and serious youth violence from April 2010 as the Tackling Knives and Serious Youth Violence Action Programme (TKAP) is extended for another year. The 3rd phase will build on previous successes and operate in 52 areas undertaking targeted action to reduce serious youth violence among 13-24 year olds.

The funding will support tough enforcement alongside education and prevention programmes and build on the work of TKAP so far, which includes:

- **an increase in stops and searches including extra mobile knife scanners** – combined with a national move to a presumption of prosecution for knife possession and a significant fall in the use of cautions
- **nights of intensive enforcement and prevention action** – resulting in over 600 arrests, discovery of three cannabis farms, seizure of a shotgun and 22 knives in the past two months alone
- **improved information sharing** – more than 100 hospitals sharing data with police on knife and serious youth violence-related admissions, helping them to target local problems
- **the roll-out of the knife crime prevention programme** – an education programme for all young offenders convicted of a knife related crime which is on track to reach 2,000 young offenders
- **prevention work** – education sessions for more than 200,000 young people to make them aware of the dangers of knives, and a public information campaign worked on by young people themselves.

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/tackle-knife-crime.html>

A&E Serious Youth Violence Data Sharing Initiative

The aim of the initiative is to support and encourage A&E Departments to work with police and other local agencies to understand more about serious youth violence in their community.

Research indicates that only 38% of serious violence is reported to police; whereas 85% of victims attend A&E for treatment on their injuries. Prototype models show that local agencies can use data collected by asking a few simple questions to understand much more about the location and type of serious youth violence; and respond tactically and strategically to decrease its prevalence.

This site provides resources to help develop local data sharing initiatives; evidence and case studies of the impact; and networking opportunities with others doing similar work. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/SeriousYouthViolenceDataSharingInitiative/index.htm>

Count Me In: Together We Can Stop Knife Crime (15/03/10)

The Government has joined forces with Families Utd, which represents families of victims of knife crime, to get thousands of young people to join an online campaign to end knife crime. Hosted through the Families Utd website and Facebook, young people will be urged to join the campaign with a week of activity in and around schools.

Young people will be directed to the websites where they can join a group to give their support to the campaign. The websites will contain advice, routes to further support and testimonies from the families and communities affected by knife crime.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0065

Sure Start Children's Centres - Statutory Guidance (March 2010)

Sure Start Children's Centres are part of the local system of universal children's services, providing easy access to a range of community health services, parenting and family support, integrated early education and childcare, and links to training and employment opportunities for families with children under 5. Children's centres are a key mechanism for improving outcomes for young children while reducing inequalities between the poorest children and their peers, as well as helping bring an end to child poverty.

This guidance outlines the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 provisions that relate to children's centres. The Act amended the Childcare Act 2006 so that it now defines Sure Start Children's Centres in law. It places duties on LAs in relation to establishing and running children's centres. It also places duties on PCTs and Jobcentre Plus to consider regularly whether the early childhood services they provide should be delivered through children's centres and it introduces a duty on Ofsted to inspect children's centres.

The guidance advises LAs, PCTs and Jobcentre Plus on the action they need to take to comply with their new duties.
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00280-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00280-2010.pdf>
Sure start children's centres Statutory guidance - Response to the Consultation
http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/SSCC-Consultation_response.pdf

3500 Sure Start Children's Centres now open - reaching families in every community (16/03/10)

Every expectant parent will now get a personal introduction to their local Sure Start centre and their own contact for advice throughout pregnancy and early years, the Government has announced on the day it reaches its target of 3500 Children's Centres.

The Government has also announced:

- improvements to maternity and early years services for families
- the right of parents to ask for more flexible free childcare and
- a review of standards of nursery food

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0067

Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group: Annual Report 2008-2009 (March 2010)

The TPIAG monitors the implementation of the Government's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and advises ministers.

This report contains recommendations to accelerate and progress the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy which has 2 strands:

- to halve the number of under-18 conceptions by 2010 (and to establish a firm downward trend in the rate of under-16 conceptions); and
- to increase the participation of young mothers aged 16-19 in education, employment and training to reduce the risk of long-term social exclusion, with a target of 60% participation by 2010.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00323-2010&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/TPIAG-Annual-Report08-09.pdf>

Maternity and Early Years - Making a good start to family life (16/03/10)

This document sets out a vision of renewed and more integrated maternity and early years services that put the excellent clinical care already available at the centre of a wider network of family support:

- with commitments to consult on new entitlements for women to access maternity services early in pregnancy and make choices around where to have their baby;
- where local services will join up so that families have continuous care and support from early pregnancy to at least the child's sixth month – with a named Sure Start Children's Centre contact offered to parents early in pregnancy, and access to a health visitor for every children's centre;
- where families will also be offered more help to prepare for parenthood so they can give their baby the best possible start in life – with new antenatal education opportunities rolled out in settings that suit parents and with a further focus on the opportunities for fathers to get more involved - including an invitation for both parents to attend a Family Start meeting at their children's centre and an opportunity to agree a Parents' Plan together; and
- understanding that families will have very different needs, and that some may want more support in preparing for parenthood, with extra support for those families that need it - for instance by expanding the Family Nurse Partnership to help young, vulnerable first time families.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114023

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_114041.pdf

Expressions of interest to provide Parenting Together Apart pilot programmes (15/03/10)

Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper announced the Government's intention to pilot Parenting Together Apart sessions for separating parents. These will seek to support parents to think through how they can best support their children through separation and beyond.

The aim is to test ways of improving support to separating and separated parents, gaining learning that can be disseminated and replicated. The objective is to mitigate the negative impact of separation on children by focusing on:

- reducing levels of parental conflict post-separation by supporting the development of co-operative parenting arrangements;
- improving parents' relationship and communication with their child(ren) and each other.

The DCSF is seeking expressions of interest from organisations, consortia or partnerships with the ability to operate at national level wishing to design, manage and deliver this pilot programme across at least 4 large areas of England.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/150310niparentingtogetherapartpilotprogrammes/)

[communications/news/150310niparentingtogetherapartpilotprogrammes/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news/150310niparentingtogetherapartpilotprogrammes/)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00691/>

Review of court fees in child care cases
(15/03/10)

Following a recommendation in Lord Laming's report on the protection of children in England, the Justice Secretary asked Francis Plowden to undertake a review of the fees that local authorities pay when bringing child care proceedings in the courts.

The review used a combination of data analysis, interviews with national organisations with an interest in child safeguarding, and visits to local authorities across England and Wales.

Francis Plowden concludes that the costs of bringing proceedings, including the court fees, can deter local authorities from bringing proceedings. He therefore recommends abolition of the fees.

The Government has accepted this conclusion, and will implement it from April 2011 alongside the next three-year funding settlement for English local authorities.
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/court-fees-child-care-cases.htm>
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/court-fees-child-care-proceedings.pdf>

Child Trust Fund boost for disabled children (18/03/10)

From April 2010, disabled children will receive an annual Government contribution of £100, paid directly into their CTF account. The most severely disabled children will receive £200 per year.

CTFs strengthen the savings habit of future generations, promote financial education and ensure that, in future, every child will have access to a financial asset at 18.
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_27_10.htm

CWDC calls on volunteers and professionals to work together (16/03/10)

Results from an ICM survey show that 77% of parents and 72% of the public think that children and young people would benefit if professionals and volunteers, delivering services to children, worked together in a more integrated way.

The findings highlight the key role that voluntary sector professionals and volunteers serve. When asked to select up to 3 professional or volunteer groups that had the most positive impact on their childhood:

- 20% selected scouts or guides
- 14% chose religious groups
- 63% cited teachers

The survey showed that 57% of parents and 51% of people surveyed, believe that the children and young people's workforce interacts effectively

Younger respondents reported having received children's services from a wider number of practitioners whilst growing up, with 36% of 18-24 year olds and 30% of 25-34 identifying 5+ sources (teachers, health workers, youth groups etc), compared to 24% of those aged 65+.

Children and young people's services are wide ranging, and 35,000 charities, their staff and over 5m volunteers make up the voluntary sector workforce. CWDC has launched an all together better microsite for integrated working, offering a range of free resources to help practitioners work together.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/3479_cwdc-calls-on-volunteers-and-professionals-to-work-together-for-children
<http://alltogetherbetter.cwdcouncil.org.uk/>

Consultations

Local Safeguarding Children Boards: Practice guidance for consultation

LSCBs co-ordinate local safeguarding activity and drive improvement to safeguard and promote the welfare of children more effectively. Their role, functions, governance and operation are set out in Chapter 3 of the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguarding Children'.

This practice guidance responds to a recommendation from Lord Laming, and requests from LSCBs, for additional non-statutory guidance and for better sharing of local practice. It concentrates on ways of measuring effectiveness and on particular issues relating to governance, accountability and management. It is, however, not extensive; some stakeholders have reservations about the usefulness of further guidance, whether statutory or non-statutory.

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit would welcome suggestions for other material, and in particular further examples of local practice, that might be included in the resource pack. They would also welcome comments on the practice guidance itself, and both the coverage and presentation of the material.

Closing Date: 9th June 2010

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00312-2010>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/consultations.shtml>
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00312-2010.PDF>

Consultation on the future distribution of school funding (15/03/10)

This consultation seeks views on proposed arrangements for distributing the Dedicated Schools Grant to Local Authorities from 2011-12 onwards. Respondents are invited to comment on whichever elements of the proposed distribution methodology relate to their area of interest or expertise.

Closing Date: 7th June 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1709&external=no&menu=1>

Proposed Rights of Children And Young Persons (Wales) Measure (17/03/10)

This document is a consultation on the Proposed Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure which relates to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The Measure, if passed, will require the Welsh Assembly Government to have due regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in areas of its work. The areas will be set out in a scheme which will need to get the agreement of the National Assembly for Wales.

Closing Date: 7th May 2010

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/100317rights/?lang=en>

Conferences

Are They Safe?

30th March 2010 York Free

The Are they Safe? pack, is a toolkit for community and voluntary groups and organisations. It includes a step by step guide, a DVD and other information to help managers, staff and volunteers feel confident about what they need to do to safeguard children effectively.

To promote this resource the Safe Network is running regional workshops for representatives from community and voluntary sector organisations and from support and umbrella groups. The aim is to familiarise participants with the resource and explore how it could improve safeguarding practice in their own organisation.

http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/news_and_events/news_articles/Pages/are_they_safe_workshop_30_march_2010.aspx

Tackling the Trafficking of Women and Children

22nd April 2010 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

This conference offers a frontline perspective on progress being made in the 3 key areas of trafficking - prevention, prosecution and protection. Issues addressed include:

- Updates on policies and current levels of trafficking
- Enforcement and prosecution
- Best practice in detecting and rescuing victims
- Victim support
- Child trafficking
- Potential risks with the 2010 Olympics

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/local-government-communities/full-conference/article/tackling-the-trafficking-of-women-and-children.html>

Young People Leaving Care - Supporting outcomes for employment and training, supported living and wellbeing

29th April 2010 London £199 - £299

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.

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

What are children worried about?

21st May 2010 London £75 - £150

This conference will consider trends in calls made to ChildLine and the broader social policy and practice implications. It will:

- demonstrate the value of what children and young people are saying
- help professionals inform their practice by sharing with them what children and young people are saying are issues for them
- identify ways of working together to achieve the best outcome for children and young people
- highlight areas of best practice in relation to the prevention of bullying, sexual abuse and suicide
- share how children and young people's issues change over time.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/CPConferences/what_are_children_worried_about_wda70325.html

Conferences (continued)

Safeguarding Children Annual Conference

16th June 2010 London

This event will discuss issues and challenges facing LAs, PCTs and schools, in relation to safeguarding and children's services.

Key questions to be addressed include:

- The difference between safeguarding and children's services and where is the line drawn when getting involved?
- Are Serious Case Reviews really the best ways to promote and monitor learning? What will the implications be if the findings are fully published?
- What level of risk to a child is acceptable and how can this be assessed?

<http://www.lgcandlgn-safeguarding.com/>

Building capacity in children's services

17th June 2010 London

This event will discuss future policies and processes relating to children's services for the public sector. Key questions to be addressed include:

- How is The Protection of Children in England report going to affect you? How can you ensure you comply with it?
- What is the role of your partner agencies in relationship to the CAF?
- How can you measure outcomes and processes through your National Indicator set?

<http://www.lgcandlgn-safeguarding.com/>

Improving Children's Safeguarding

14th June 2010 London

£145 - £245 + VAT

The conference will be led by managers and practitioners working in children's safeguarding who have an interest in:

- what best practice is
- the practical steps others are taking to make children safe
- how they and their practice can be improved.

Aims of the conference are to:

- Review the current issues in safeguarding
 - Identify key events and opportunities to improve policy, practice and performance
- Improving participants' understanding through case study workshops of how LAs are trying to improve:
- joint working with other key agencies
 - safeguarding recording, reporting and analysis
 - preparing for and responding to inspections
 - using online and face to face sharing of best practice, training and development.

<http://www.pavpub.com/pavpub/conferences/showfull.asp?Conference=909>

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