

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 197
22nd September 2011**

Child Well-Being Report (Sep 2011)

New research by Ipsos MORI for UNICEF UK has shown that children in the UK feel trapped in a "materialistic culture" and don't spend enough time with their families. The research compares the experiences of over 250 children across the UK, Sweden and Spain. Children in all 3 countries told researchers that their happiness is dependent on having time with a stable family and plenty of things to do, especially outdoors, rather than on owning technology or branded clothes.

Despite this, one of the most striking findings is that parents in the UK said they felt tremendous pressure from society to buy goods for their children; this pressure was felt most acutely in low-income homes.

The research also shows that parents in the UK are committed to their children but they lose out on time together as a family due in part to long working hours. They often try to make up for this by buying their children gadgets and clothes.

Consumer culture in the UK contrasts starkly with Sweden and Spain, where family time is prioritised, children and families are under less pressure to own material goods and children have greater access to activities out of the home.

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/Latest/News/Research-shows-UK-children-caught-in-materialistic-trap/>

Sarah Teather - Children's Minister - response to UNICEF report (14/09/11)

We are consulting on plans to help parents better balance work and family life through more flexible and generous parental leave and flexible working. We are also looking at ways to give families better access to advice and support on parenting.

We share UNICEF's concerns about the rise of consumerism among children, and it's worrying to see that in some cases parents are under the same pressures. We are clear this needs to be tackled and are currently working with businesses and regulators to implement the recommendations from Reg Bailey's review on commercialisation and sexualisation of children.

We're committed to tackling inequalities so every child, regardless of social background, has the opportunity to thrive. That's why we are extending free early education to all disadvantaged two-year-olds so every child starts school ready to learn. We are providing extra funding for poorer pupils through the pupil premium, and we are transforming our education system to raise standards and equip all pupils with the skills they need to succeed.

For the most troubled families, we are also providing funding through the Early Intervention Grant to address the underlying problems which can have such a negative impact on children's future happiness, attainment and success.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00197978/sarah-teather-responds-to-the-unicef-report-on-childrens-wellbeing>

New EYPS programmes launches with 1,500 funded places available in the next six months (08/09/11)

Around 1,500 early years practitioners will have the opportunity to embark on Early Years Professional Status funded training in January 2012. Launched in 2007 and led by the CWDC, EYPS is the only government endorsed professional accreditation for the early year's sector.

Beyond the January intake, future intakes are expected from September 2012 until March 2014 with up to 7,000 new candidates expected to enrol and attain EYPS over the life of the programme. Full details of the EYPS training and assessment providers will be made available in the next month on the CWDC website.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6314_new-eyps-programmes-launches-with-1-500-funded-places-available-in-the-next-six-months


<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/eyps>

Investment to deliver Munro recommendations for social work

(08/09/11)

CWDC is allocating £8.5m funding on behalf of the DfE to help LAs implement recommendations from the Munro Review of Child Protection. This funding will be available from 3 October.

In addition to the funding, which is part of an overall £79.9m investment in social work, CWDC will be offering specialist support to help local authorities find workable and sustainable solutions to address the recommendations.

The support available reflects the Govt's response to Professor Munro's review, which accepted the recommendation that LAs and their partners should start an on-going 

process to review and redesign the ways in which children and family social work is delivered.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6312_8-5m-investment-to-deliver-munro-recommendations-for-social-work

Young people, alcohol and the media

(09/09/11)

Are young people's attitudes to drinking affected by entertainment media?

The media is important in the lives of young people, who have access to a variety of media devices and content. They encounter a range of alcohol depictions that may influence their attitudes to alcohol and their own drinking. Little is known about the effect of non-advertising alcohol depictions and, despite speculation that representations of celebrity alcohol use influence young people's drinking behaviour, there is a lack of evidence to support such claims.

This mixed-method study explored:

- the representations of alcohol and drinking in media accessed by young people;
- how messages were interpreted and the influence they had on drinking;
- the way young people viewed celebrities shown to drink alcohol;
- the views of media professionals on the production of alcohol-related content and the potential role of the media in health promotion regarding alcohol use.

http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/young-people-alcohol-and-media?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New+JRF+publication+and+blog+-+9+September+2011&utm_content=New+JRF+publication+and+blog+-+9+September+2011+CID_de3b78ac82bfe400f6ebd0d852b4d194&utm_source=Email+marketing+software&utm_term=Young+people+alcohol+and+the+media

Change4Life and Sportacus tackle our lazy towns (13/09/11)

Change4Life is teaming up with super hero Sportacus to inspire children around the country to ditch their junk food and tuck into more 'Sports Candy', Public Health Minister Anne Milton has announced.

The popular children's show LazyTown has partnered with Change4Life to encourage young children between the ages of two and five to be more active, eat healthier food and leave their own Lazy Town ways behind.

Eating well and being active can help prevent children developing serious illnesses later in life and new physical activity guidelines show that once a child can walk they should be physically active for at least 180 minutes a day.

To launch the partnership, 3,600 Sure Start Children's Centres will receive new Change4Life activity packs featuring all the LazyTown stars next week. The packs will contain fun ideas for group activities and parents at home, such as healthy recipe ideas and a sticker wall chart. This will help children track their progress as they become as active and healthy as Sportacus.

New research out today has revealed that Sportacus is the healthiest children's character on UK television. Although other characters are also very active, such as Tom and Jerry and Scooby Doo, it was Sportacus who took the top spot and sets the best example for children.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=421191&NewsAreaID=2&HUserID=895,779,891,848,780,867,710,705,765,674,677,767,684,762,718,674,708,683,706,718,674&ClientID=-1>

More help for our heroes (14/09/11)

UK servicemen and women, veterans and their families will, from today, have access to specialised help from the award-winning online support network - Big White Wall.

This is a further commitment from the DH and MoD – in a partnership with Help for Heroes - to support the mental health needs of the Armed Forces community.

The website is a pioneering online wellbeing service, staffed by professional counsellors, that has already helped many other people. The Government has committed £250,000 to fund a one-year pilot of the Big White Wall online support network specifically for serving personnel, veterans and their families. This is supported by a commitment of £100,000 from Help for Heroes for the first year with additional funding after this. Serving personnel, veterans and their families can access the 24/7 service for free.

Amongst other services, Big White Wall users can chat anonymously to others who may have gone through similar experiences, with a team of specially trained counsellors always online to offer support.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=421197&NewsAreaID=2&HUserID=895,779,891,848,780,867,710,705,765,674,677,767,684,762,718,674,708,683,706,718,674&ClientID=-1>

<http://www.bigwhitewall.com/my-account/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

'Standing on my own two feet': disadvantaged teenagers, intimate partner violence and coercive control (September 2011)

This research report from the University of Bristol and the NSPCC looks at intimate partner violence in the relationships of disadvantaged young people.

It focuses on the experiences of young people outside mainstream education, young mothers, young offenders, young people living in residential care and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

The findings are compared with a larger study of young people in mainstream schools which provided a picture of the incidence and impact of teenage partner violence in Great Britain.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/findings/standing_own_two_feet_wda84543.html

Supervision training (15/09/11)

Training to support front line social work supervisors and managers to develop their skills and confidence has been made available by the CWDC.

Employers are being encouraged to register for the places designed for aspiring, new in post and experienced front-line managers of social workers, as well as supervisors on the Newly Qualified Social Worker and Early Professional Development programmes. The training is designed to equip participants with the right skills and confidence to carry out their role.

Closing date for registration: 31st October
http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/press-releases/6323_more-than-1-000-funded-supervision-training-places-available-for-social-work-supervisors-and-managers

CEOP and AFP strengthen their partnership (09/09/11)

CEOP and the Australian Federal Police have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in tackling the increased threat of online child sex abuse – including online grooming, the production and dissemination of CSA images and travelling offenders.

Both agencies will adopt strategies to enhance current arrangements for sharing information and criminal intelligence about priority cases. CEOP and AFP will also share expertise and knowledge of particular issues associated with CSA and child sexual exploitation to enhance understanding and develop collective responses.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2011/CEOP-and-Australian-Federal-Police-strengthen-their-partnership/>

Invitation to Tender: Children and young people's experience of GPs and the complaint mechanisms available

(16/09/11)

The Office of the Children's Commissioner are inviting proposals to gather evidence and produce a report on access to, and operation of, complaints systems available to children and young people with sexual and/or mental health issues. Its intention is to focus on access to services and advice on mental and/or sexual health primarily, but not exclusively, through GPs.

Closing date: 6th October 2011

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_528
http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F528%2FResearch_Tender_NHS_Complaints_FINAL_16_09_11.pdf

Invitation to Tender- Inquiry into School Exclusions (12/09/11)

The Office of the Children's Commissioner is inviting tenders for a contract to work with a group of school staff and others involved in decision-making in secondary school exclusions to identify the decision-making process for exclusions in typical cases.

The project will identify the key decision points in this process, and the factors influencing decisions. This will include an assessment of practitioners' awareness of the relevant regulatory framework.

Closing date: 30th September 2011

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_518

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F518%2FInvitation_to_Tender_Inquiry_into_School_Exclusions.pdf

A Summative Report on the Qualitative Evaluation on the Eleven Remodelling Social Work Pilots 2008-11 (20/09/11)

In this pilot individual authorities were asked to identify areas for improvement in their services and attempt to tackle them through the trial of new approaches. Among the aims were to use the expertise of staff more widely, delivering children's social work as part of integrated services, and social workers could spend more time on direct work with clients, through lessened bureaucracy.

The pilots all adhered to the same objectives:

- To explore processes supporting improved multi-agency, evidence-based social work practice that would allow staff to use their expertise more widely and in new ways.



- To free social worker time to enable more direct work with vulnerable children, young people and their families as well as more effective assessment and planning, leading to improved outcomes for service users.
- To provide effective background support to social workers to allow the above to happen.

Findings from the evaluation show varying levels of progress from the pilots in a range of areas including success related to a team approach to cases, the importance of providing opportunities to learn from colleagues and the factors that facilitate multi agency work and early intervention.

A key message from the pilots was that achievements were possible through the support provided to social workers that allowed them to use their skills directly with families.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6460_lessons-learned-from-remodelling-social-work
http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/3603/A_Summative_Report_on_the_Eleven_Remodelling_Social_Work_Pilots.pdf

Removing food colours (15/09/11)

The FSA has published guidance to help food businesses remove from their products certain food colours associated with possible hyperactivity in young children. Research has shown that combinations of certain permitted food colours, and the preservative sodium benzoate, could be linked to increased hyperactivity in some children.

The guidance includes technical details to provide businesses with more information about alternative colours that may be appropriate for their products.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2011/sep/colourguidance>

'Ivory wave' to become class B drug

(15/09/11)

New psychoactive substances found in 'legal high' dubbed 'Ivory Wave' are to become controlled Class B drugs, the government has signalled.

The psychoactive substance Desoxypipradrol (2-DPMP) and its related compounds are to be classified as Class B drugs. The move follows advice from the Advisory Council on Misuse of Drugs and a ban on imports introduced in November 2010. The ACMD advice found these substances have the potential to cause harm.

'Young people in particular may often equate legal with 'safe' and are quite simply playing a high risk game of lottery by taking these substances', Baroness Browning, Minister for Crime Prevention and Antisocial Behaviour Reduction, said.

An order making the substance illegal will be put before Parliament this autumn.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/ivory-wave>

Safeguarding children at London 2012

The London SCB recently commissioned a small scoping study to establish the level of safeguarding response that is likely to be required during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This study will capture the range of safeguarding risks associated with the Games and conclude with a report outlining the steps needed to mitigate these. It is anticipated that this research will conclude in mid-September 2011.

Members of the Safe Games for Children training subgroup have also developed a training pack to assist trainers when training POD managers, mentors and volunteers.



Three days free training for all London LSCBs have been arranged at the Red Cross headquarters in Moorgate:

31st October 2011 (9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30am – 4.30pm)

28th November 2011 (9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30am – 4.30pm)

17th February 2012 (9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30am – 4.30pm)

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

Increasing support for parents with mental health problems (12/09/11)

Professionals can find that working with families, where an adult carer is mentally ill, can be a complex and sometimes daunting task. Such cases often require many different professionals to come together to make an assessment and provide support for whole families as well as individuals. To provide better support for families, professionals need to understand some of the assumptions and myths associated with parental mental ill health, and the adverse impact of social stigma on their families.

The new Parental mental health and families eLearning package sets out all the key relationships, linkages and systems that need to be understood in parental mental health and families work. The materials look at the ways current organisational structures may not be working for families affected by parental mental ill health and what changes might be beneficial. In a unique move, the material asks the professionals to step into parents shoes to try and understand some of the difficulties and frustrations they may experience.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/news/mediareleases/2011/120911.asp>

A big step forward for better children's medicines (07/09/11)

The first ever children's medicine to hold a new paediatric use marketing authorisation (PUMA) has been granted by the EC. The medicine, Buccolam, is now specifically licensed for children aged 3 months to 18 years to treat severe convulsions and epileptic seizures.

The news is a landmark in MHRA's ongoing campaign to improve the quality, safety and efficacy of children's medicines available in the UK. The MHRA has been advocating the increased availability of specific children's-only medicines for several years in recognition that many adult medicines are offered to children in cut-down doses.

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/NewsCentre/Pressreleases/CON129006>

One on every corner (05/09/11)

New research commissioned by Alcohol Concern shows a positive link between the density of off-licensed premises and harm from alcohol in underage drinkers.

The study finds that, excluding London: on average a 2:1 relationship exists between the number off-licences per 100,000 of population and hospital admissions by underage drinkers for alcohol specific admissions such as alcohol poisoning or intoxication.

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/news-centre/press-releases/off-licence-density-linked-to-alcohol-harm-in-under-18s>

http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/Number_of_licences_linked_harmful_drinking_young_people.jsp

Fighting food allergies among schoolchildren (20/09/11)

Food allergies are among the most common type of allergic disorder, with 6 – 8% of children up to the age of 3 having a food allergy across Europe and North America.

One in every 20 children will develop a food allergy, which means that every primary school year group is likely to have a child with an allergy. They can cause severe reactions, which in some cases are even deadly, and research shows there has been a 500% increase in the rate of hospital admissions for children with food allergies in the UK.

However, diagnosis can be difficult, which has led to growing numbers of people incorrectly self-diagnosing themselves. NICE estimates that only 25 – 40% of self-reported food allergies are clinically confirmed as true.

And there are concerns that children are being diagnosed by their parents as having a food allergy when in fact they have a food intolerance, or even just a stomach complaint.

NICE produced a clinical guideline on food allergies in February 2011, which covers the diagnosis and assessment of the condition among children and young people. It contains recommendations on when it is appropriate to test a child or young person for a food allergy, and what kind of tests should be used for diagnosis.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/features/FightingFoodAllergiesAmongSchoolchildren.jsp>

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG116>

Funding for deprived pupils set to double
(19/09/11)

The total funding available for the Pupil Premium is set to double and will rise to £1.25bn in 2012-13.

The Pupil Premium began to be allocated to schools this year and is targeting funding at pupils from low income families who generally do not achieve as well as pupils from more advantaged backgrounds. Government funding will support them in reaching their potential and help schools reduce educational inequalities.

Children's Minister Sarah Teather confirmed that the total funding available for the Pupil Premium will be £1.25bn in 2012-13. This is a rise from £625m in 2011-12, and will rise again each year until 2014-15 when it will be worth £2.5bn.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00198251/funding-for-deprived-pupils-set-to-double>

Government sets out which two-year-olds will be eligible for free early education
(19/09/11)

Thousands of disadvantaged two year olds, and those living in care, stand to benefit from an extra year of free early education, under Government plans announced today.

In October 2010, the Government announced, as part of the Fairness Premium, that it will extend the free entitlement of 15 hours per week – available to every three and four year old – to all disadvantaged two year olds. Plans, to be consulted on this autumn, will propose that the criteria for measuring disadvantage should match the criteria used to assess free school meals eligibility.

The Government also wants local authorities to provide free early education for all two year olds who are looked after by the state. ↗

In total, approximately 140,000 two year olds each year will be able to benefit from an extra year of free early education from 2013. <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00198256/government-sets-out-which-two-year-olds-will-be-eligible-for-free-early-education>

Parents to be given new freedoms to run their local children's centres (19/09/11)

Parents and communities are to be given the freedom to run their local children's centre, under new plans announced today.

The Government will consult in the autumn on changes to children's centres, including proposals that will enable parents and community groups to apply to their local authority to run a children's centre in their local area. Under the plans, local authorities, not the Government, would have the final say on whether projects go ahead.

The Government also confirmed today that a further 18 local authorities will trial payment by results for children's centres. Together with the first wave announced in July, 27 local authorities will be testing rewards for reaching the most vulnerable families, improving family health and wellbeing and raising attainment of children at age five.

As part of wider reforms to the core purpose of children's centres, the Government wants to see a clearer focus on reaching the most disadvantaged families and more work to help narrow the attainment gap between wealthier and poorer children that is evident from as early as 22 months.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00198257/parents-to-be-given-new-freedoms-to-run-their-local-childrens-centres>

Government trials parenting classes for all parents of children under five (19/09/11)

The Govt has announced a trial to offer vouchers for parenting classes to mothers and fathers of children under 5. This is part of plans to increase support for parents to help them communicate better with their children, encourage good behaviour, and prevent problems developing later on.

The trial is likely to run in 3 or 4 areas of the country. The Gov hopes to encourage demand for parenting classes and reduce the stigma of asking for information, advice and help with parenting.

Around ¾ of parents say they want more information and support to help their parenting. The vouchers will potentially benefit parents from a wide range of backgrounds, not just those who may have significant problems, like drug or alcohol abuse. Many good and able parents still need information and advice in the early years of their child's life.

Most parents will have accessed antenatal classes during pregnancy, which provide useful guidance and support. The trial will give parents similar access to parenting classes in the first five years of their child's life, so that support does not stop when their baby is born but is available right through to when their child starts school.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00198258/government-trials-parenting-classes-for-all-parents-of-children-under-five>

New phonics check will identify children needing extra reading help (16/09/11)

1000s of children will receive extra support to become confident, fluent readers thanks to the DfE's phonics check an independent study reveals. ↗

In a pilot, 43% of teachers said they had been able to pinpoint 6 year-old pupils with reading problems of which they were not previously aware. Those children will now be given additional support to improve. The study of the pilot also found that:

- the majority of teachers found most aspects of the check appropriate
- most pupils found the check to be a positive experience
- it took on average between four and nine minutes for each pupil to complete.

The check, supported by ¾ of parents in a survey by the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, was piloted in 300 schools this summer and will be rolled out across England next year. All Year 1 pupils will be screened between 18 and 22 June 2012. The check involves teachers taking pupils through a booklet of 40 words on a one-to-one basis.

If the pilot's success rate is replicated when it is rolled out, thousands more teachers will be able to identify children who need extra reading help.

In this year's tests for pupils leaving primary school:

- one in six 11-year-olds did not reach the reading standard expected
- one in 10 boys aged 11 can read no better than a seven-year-old.

England has also slipped down the international table for reading in primary schools. The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study of 10-year-olds saw England fall from third out of 35 countries in 2001 to 15th out of 40 countries in 2006. <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00198205/new-phonics-check-will-identify-thousands-of-children-needing-extra-reading-help>

Standards and Testing Agency (15/09/11)

Schools Minister Nick Gibb has announced that the STA, a new executive agency of the DfE, will commence on 03/10/11. The STA will be responsible for the development and delivery of all statutory assessments from early years to the end of KS3.

This work was previously carried out by the QCDA, which – subject to the will of Parliament – will cease its final remaining functions in March 2012.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00198081/standards-and-testing-agency>

Reducing bullying amongst the worst affected (September 2011)

This report was commissioned to provide a collation and synthesis of research findings into school age bullying. It also provides an evidence base for the development of policy, communications and implementation plans to address the prevalence of bullying amongst those worst affected. It originated as a project to develop an evidence-based communication strategy to combat school age bullying.

The project was then extended to cover the scoping of a strategy to reduce bullying amongst those worst affected. It comprised desk research and discussions with experts on bullying within govt departments and in bullying-related charities, discussions with four 16 to 18-year-old Diana Award anti-bullying ambassadors and one interview with an academic working in the field of bullying.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-00078-2011>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/Reducing%20Bullying%20Amongst%20the%20Worst%20Affected.pdf>

Turning around the lives of families with multiple problems - an evaluation of the Family and Young Carer Pathfinders Programme (September 2011)

The Family Pathfinder programme aimed to develop and test the effectiveness of intensive, family focused approaches to addressing the needs of families who face multiple and complex problems. Typically these might include poor housing, debt, worklessness, disability, poor parenting, harmful family relationships, substance misuse, poor mental health, poor educational outcomes and child protection concerns.

The Cabinet Office's Families at Risk Review estimated that around 2% of families in England face such difficulties. The review also found that existing support for many of these families failed to result in improved outcomes because of a lack of coordination between supporting agencies and because services did not always account for the wider problems faced by family members.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR154>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB154>

Schools given freedom to have control over school day (12/09/11)

If a maintained school wanted to change its lunchtime, it had to go through a process which in some cases took up to 3 months. Foundation, foundation special, voluntary aided schools and academies were free from these regulations and so could already vary their school day. Under the changes, in effect from 01/09/11, the same freedoms are now extended to LA maintained schools.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00197902/schools-given-freedom-from-bureaucratic-rules-to-have-control-over-school-day>

Process evaluation of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Pilot (September 2011)

In the 2010 White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' the DfE signalled its intent to introduce a Phonics Screening Check at the end of Year 1 (to five and six year old pupils). It is designed to be a summative assessment of phonics ability and includes a list of 40 words - half real, half pseudo - which each pupil reads one-to-one with a teacher.

By introducing the Check the Government hopes to identify pupils with below expected progress in phonic decoding. These pupils will receive additional intervention and then retake the Check to assess the extent to which their phonics ability has improved, relative to the expected level.

The aim of the Pilot was to assess how pupils and teachers responded to different versions of the Check and its administration. The DfE recruited 300 schools to take part in the Pilot. All administered the Check with Year 1 pupils during, or shortly after, the week of 13th June 2011. Across the 300 schools, the Pilot trialled a total of 360 words (each read by around 1,000 pupils).

The evaluation comprised four strands which addressed the evaluation objectives: two surveys conducted with all 300 pilot schools, case studies carried out in 20 schools, monitoring visits to a further 20 schools, and a survey of parents/carers.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR159>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB159>

Monitoring and evaluation of family intervention services for families supported up to 31 March 2011 (14/09/11)

This release contains figures for families receiving support from family intervention services, which provide intensive support to families with multiple social, economic, health and behaviour problems:

- The cumulative measure of service capacity is 8,841 families and 5,461 families between 01/04/10 and 31/03/11. LA figures are in an excel spreadsheet
- 85% (2,569) left the intervention for a successful reason (e.g. formal sanctions had been lifted);
- 10% (316) left for a reason that cannot be counted as a success or a failure (e.g. family moved away, child taken in care);
- 5% (142) left for an unsuccessful reason (i.e. the family refused to engage).
- There was significant improvement in outcomes for 3,675 families who had exited an intervention, compared to their circumstances at the start: There was, on average, reductions in the proportion of families experiencing the following issues:
 - 53% in truancy, exclusion or poor behaviour in school
 - 58% in anti-social behaviour
 - 34% in child protection issues
 - 57% in domestic violence issues
 - 23% in mental health problems
 - 40% in drug & alcohol problems
 - 48% in alcohol problems
 - 41% in crime
 - 14% where no parent was in employment or training

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001021/index.shtml>

Response by Tim Loughton, Children's Minister.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00197976/family-intervention-projects-and-services>

Pathfinders to test out proposals in SEN and disabilities Green Paper (21/09/11)

The Govt has announced that 20 pathfinders, covering 31 LAs and their PCT partners, will test out the main proposals in the SEN and disabilities Green Paper.

The pathfinders will all test some core elements of reform, including:

- a single education, health and care plan from birth to 25 years old, focusing on whether outcomes for disabled children and their parents have been improved
- personal budgets for parents of disabled children and those with SEN so they can choose which services best suit the needs of their children
- strong partnership between all local services and agencies working together to help disabled children and those with SEN
- improved commissioning, particularly through links to health reforms
- the role of voluntary and community sector organisations and parents in a new system
- the cost of reform.

Pathfinders will also test some optional elements, including:

- whether a national funding framework would help parents understand what level of funding is available to support their child's needs
- better support to help parents through the process
- support to vulnerable children through the new process
- and the impact of reforms on children aged 16 to 25, or children in the early years.

Pathfinders will receive up to £150,000 per LA per year.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00198359/20-pathfinders-to-test-out-proposals-in-the-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-green-paper>

Good practice by LSCBs (15/09/11)

This report provides practical examples and detailed case studies of how LSCBs have helped to improve child protection. Its purpose is to help LSCBs to reflect on their practice, plan for improvements and learn from the experience of other boards.

The report builds on previous research into the operation of LSCBs by analysing examples of how some boards are helping to improve child protection services and keep children in their area safe.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/improving-child-protection-shining-light-good-practice-how-number-of-local-safeguarding-children-boa-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/good-practice-local-safeguarding-children-boards>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/g/Good%20practice%20by%20Local%20Safeguarding%20Children%20Boards.pdf>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/g/Good%20practice%20by%20Local%20Safeguarding%20Children%20Boards%20-%20summary.pdf>

Social care inspection: the children's audit (20/09/11)

This report by the Children's Rights Director presents the views about Ofsted's social care inspection of children living in children's homes, residential special schools and boarding schools.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/children-audit-ofsted-inspection-of-social-care>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/s/Social%20care%20inspection%20the%20childrens%20audit.pdf>

Development of inspection documents to support the inspection of local authority fostering agencies and independent fostering agencies (14/09/11)

Equality impact assessment to help Ofsted teams think about the likely equality impact of their work so they can take action to improve strategies, policies and projects, where appropriate.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/development-of-inspection-documents-support-inspection-of-local-authority-fostering-agencies-and-ind>

Monitoring inspections of schools with a notice to improve (09/09/11)

This is the guidance for inspecting schools with a notice to improve under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/monitoring-inspections-of-schools-notice-improve>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/inspection--forms-and-guides/m/Monitoring%20inspections%20of%20schools%20with%20a%20notice%20to%20improve.pdf>

Monitoring inspections of schools whose overall effectiveness is satisfactory (09/09/11)

This is the guidance for inspecting schools whose overall effectiveness is satisfactory under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/monitoring-inspections-of-schools-whose-overall-effectiveness-satisfactory>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/inspection--forms-and-guides/m/Monitoring%20inspections%20of%20schools%20whose%20overall%20effectiveness%20is%20satisfactory.pdf>

Monitoring inspections of schools that are subject to special measures (09/09/11)

This is the guidance for inspecting schools that are subject to special measures under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/monitoring-inspections-of-schools-are-subject-special-measures>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/inspection--forms-and-guides/m/Monitoring%20inspections%20of%20schools%20that%20are%20subject%20to%20special%20measures.pdf>

Inspecting academies and academy predecessor schools (09/09/11)

Guidance for section 8 inspections of sponsored academies established before 31/08/11 and their predecessor schools.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspectin-g-academies-and-academy-predecessor-schools>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/inspection--forms-and-guides/i/Inspecting%20academies%20and%20academy%20predecessor%20schools.pdf>

Welfare and duty of care in Armed Forces initial training (09/09/11)

This is Ofsted's third annual report on the effectiveness of welfare and duty of care for recruits and trainees in Armed Forces initial training. The report draws on evidence from the inspection of 11 training establishments between June 2010 and February 2011.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/welfare-and-duty-of-care-armed-forces-initial-training-0>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/surveys-and-good-practice/w/Welfare%20and%20duty%20of%20care%20in%20Armed%20Forces%20initial%20training%20Jun%202010-Feb%202011.pdf>

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records and Registration) (Isle of Man)

Regulations 2011 - SI 2296 (19/09/11)

These Regulations, in force on 01/10/11, make detailed provision in relation to applications made in the Isle of Man for criminal record certificates and enhanced criminal record certificates under Part 5 of the Police Act 1997. These Regulations, which apply only in the Isle of Man, mirror, with appropriate modifications, the Regulations which apply in England and Wales.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/2296/contents/made>

The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 and The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 (Wales) Regulations 2011

The main purpose of the Act is to prevent the use of sunbeds on commercial premises by children and young people under 18.

The Regulations, in force on 31/10/11, will:

- require the supervision of sunbed use on all sunbed businesses;
- prohibit sale or hire to under 18s;
- extend to businesses that operate from domestic premises the requirement that sunbeds are not used, or offered for use, to under 18s on those premises;
- prescribe the health information that is to be displayed and made available to adults who may seek to use a sunbed;
- prohibit the provision or display of any material relating to health effects of sunbed use, other than material containing the health information prescribed; and,
- require the provision and wearing of safe and appropriate protective eyewear for adults.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/protection/environmental/publications/sunbeds/?lang=en>

An evaluation of the implementation of the Foundation Phase for five to six years old in primary schools, with special reference to literacy (13/09/11)

The Foundation Phase is having a positive impact on the wellbeing of children and in the majority of primary schools, 5 to year olds are achieving well, according to Estyn, the education and training inspectorate for Wales.

This report found that the majority of primary schools in Wales provide a varied, productive and motivating environment for children to thrive and develop their skills in reading and writing. And, generally, children are more engaged and eager to learn, particularly the boys, who are benefiting from more active learning including greater use of the outdoors.

However, in a minority of schools there is a lack of understanding of the principles and practices of the Foundation Phase and in a few schools, staff are not convinced about the educational value of the Foundation Phase. In these schools, children are not offered challenging enough opportunities to develop and practise their reading and writing skills.

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/news/whats-new/children-are-happier-and-more-engaged-with-learning-thanks-to-the-foundation-phase/>

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/download/publication/221976.3/literacy-and-the-foundation-phase-an-evaluation-of-the-implementation-of-the-foundation-phase-for-five-to-six-year-olds-in-primary-schools-with-special-reference-to-literacy-september-2011/>

Pupils Educated other than at School, 2010/11 (14/09/11)

The key points from the latest release are:
In 2010/11

- 2,632 pupils were recorded as being educated other than at school, with 1,043 of these receiving their main education outside of school;
- Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of EOTAS pupils whose main education is outside of school were boys;
- 85% of EOTAS pupils were recorded as having SEN;
- The most frequently used form of educational provision for EOTAS pupils was being taught at a PRU, accounting for almost half of all enrolments;
- 565 pupils were singly registered at a PRU in Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2011/110914/?lang=en>

Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities, y/e 31/03/11 (15/09/11)

The key points from the latest release are:

- 5,419 children were looked after, UP 5% and a rate of 87 per 10,000 population under 18. The number of looked after children has increased by 20% over the last 5 years.
- 9% of children looked after had 3 or more placements during the year.
- Educational attainments improved over the previous year, with the exception of KS3 assessments.
- LAs were in touch with 93% of 19 year old care leavers; 48% of 19 year old care leavers were known to be in education, training or employment.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2011/110915/?lang=en>

Independent Schools' Census, January 2011 (20/09/11)

The key points from the latest release are:

- The percentage of full-time equivalent pupils in independent schools in Wales has decreased.
- 16.5% of boys and 11% of girls were boarders.
- Pupil Teacher Ratios are lower than in the maintained sector.
- The incidence of pupils with statements of SEN was higher than in maintained schools, but lower where identified by the school (but with no statement).

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2011/110920/?lang=en>

Protecting child victims of trafficking in Wales (13/09/11)

Gwenda Thomas, Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services, has welcomed the publication of the All Wales Protocol on Child Trafficking.

The protocol forms part of the effective action which the Welsh Government is taking with a wide range of agencies to ensure that Wales will not tolerate human trafficking in any form.

The protocol provides practice guidance to professionals and volunteers from all agencies to help enable them to effectively safeguard children who are abused and neglected by adults who traffic them into and within the UK for purposes of exploitation. This protocol will form part of the national child protection procedures which will ensure that all LSCBs are signed up to its principles and practices.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2011/110913trafficking/?lang=en>

Consultations

Proposed changes to the newly qualified teacher (NQT) induction regulations for England (14/09/11)

This consultation document provides details of proposed changes to the NQT induction regulations for teachers in England. The current system is set out in The Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (England) Regulations 2008.

The White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" sets out a vision of the teacher as society's most valuable asset. We know that nothing matters more in improving education than giving every child access to the best possible teaching. The first, and most important, lesson is that no education system can be better than the quality of its teachers. The Govt is therefore committed to raising the quality of new entrants to the profession. Reviewing the arrangements for supporting and challenging new entrants to improve their teaching in their first year of practice is a key element of securing this goal.

Current arrangements for the induction of newly qualified teachers are generally working well, but could be improved to ensure that they are less burdensome and reflect the needs of all schools, including academies and free schools. These proposals aim to reduce prescription and provide appropriate bodies and schools with the flexibility to exercise their professional judgement in relation to their own induction arrangements. This consultation invites comments on a number of specific proposals.

Closing Date: 1st December 2011
<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1775&external=no&menu=1>

Protecting children and young people: the responsibilities of all doctors (27/06/11)

The GMC is consulting on new draft guidance which gives advice to doctors on:

- their duty to identify children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect, even when only treating adults
- the boundary between parental freedoms and child protection concerns
- good communication with children, parents and families when there are CP concerns
- respecting confidentiality and when to share information
- good record keeping practice
- seeking consent to examination or investigation
- understanding how other professionals involved in CP work consider and act on child protection concerns
- training and skills development
- giving evidence in court as a witness of fact and as an expert witness.

Closing Date: 14th October 2011

http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/news_consultation/8411.asp

Handling cross- border CP cases: a "key steps" guide for LAs, health boards and NHS trusts in Wales

This consultation seeks views on guidance to support LAs, Health Boards and NHS Trusts on implementation of the 1996 Hague Convention, which covers a range of child protection measures. Countries participating can request authorities in other countries to:

- provide assistance in locating a child about whom there are protection concerns;
- implement protection measures; and
- provide reports on the child's situation.

Closing Date: 7th October 2011

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/childrenandyoungpeople/hague/?lang=en>

Conferences / Training

Delivering Paediatric First Aid Training

Train the trainer workshop

25th October 2011 Manchester

28th October 2011 London

£270 - £370 + VAT

The CIEH has introduced a Level 2 Award in Paediatric First Aid which meets the first-aid training requirements set out by 'The Practice Guidance in the Early Years Foundation Stage' for Ofsted regulated childcare settings.

This workshop will refresh and update paediatric first aid knowledge and meet the registration criteria. However, attendance to this event alone will NOT qualify you to deliver the qualification, so please read the full registration requirements.

Aims and outcomes

- review the roles and responsibilities of paediatric first aiders
- understand the legal requirements under OFSTED and the EYFS
- receive practical sessions covering essential paediatric first aid skills
- gain an in-depth understanding of the qualification syllabus and key areas that need to be covered in order to deliver the qualification including the practical assessment element
- receive guidance on the practical assessment of candidates paediatric first aid skills
- gain a full understanding of the first aid equipment required to deliver this qualification
- understand the requirements of external verification and the need to maintain a trainer portfolio

<http://www.cieh.org/events/paediatric-first-aid.html>

Managing Allegations against Foster Carers

8th November 2011 Newcastle

£71.25 - £118.75

Allegations against foster carers produce tremendous anxiety for all concerned. Even when not substantiated the experience can cause foster carers to resign. Investigations can be extremely complex and delicate, involving several agencies. This workshop will address issues such as:

- What is the difference between a complaint, a concern and an allegation?
- What role should the fostering supervising social worker take?
- How do foster carer reviews and fostering panels fit into the process?
- What responsibility does the agency have in supporting the carers through the process of investigation and beyond?

Aims:

- To look at the process for managing allegations about foster carers' practice/standards of care
- How do we balance supporting foster families whilst conducting a thorough investigation?
- To look at issues of safer caring and minimising the risk of allegations
- To consider current dilemmas associated with allegations and complaints

Objectives: Gain a better understanding of:-

- The legislative and regulatory framework for managing complaints and allegations
- Factors that can lead to unsafe care
- How foster carers and members of different teams need to work together to safeguard children

▪ Values and attitudes in this complex area.
<http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/3166>

Conferences (continued)

Supporting Teenage Parents

30th November 2011 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

This conference coincides with the Government's renewed emphasis on early intervention strategies designed to improve life chances and narrow the achievement gap of young parents.

This new agenda brings together comprehensive guidance on the Child Poverty Strategy, development of Community Budgets for families with multiple problems and the refocusing of Children's Centres on the most in-need groups. To sustain the positive outcomes achieved under the previous *Teenage Pregnancy Strategy*, it is essential to implement new ways of working, understand the indicators driving performance and develop effective multi-agency responses.

This event provides a forum to gain useful strategic and practical advice on:

- The forthcoming Youth Policy Statement and the DH Sexual Health Policy Document
- Developing robust, local strategies for tackling child poverty that is responsive to the needs of young families
- Commissioning and sustaining evidenced-based, early intervention programmes, including Family Nurse Partnerships
- Meeting the 60% target of teenage mothers in full-time education and training
- How to signpost and access sustainable supported housing

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/housing/full-conference/article/supporting-teenage-parents-1.html>

Special Educational Needs: Delivering Effective Education and Care for All Children

8th November 2011 London
£225 - £495 + VAT

This forum will offer delegates the chance to discuss future funding opportunities and what the green paper 'Support and Aspiration: A New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability.' will entail. Following a period of testing proposals in local areas from September 2011, the forum will be a timely opportunity to assess interim findings and their impact. Sessions will focus on early identification of young people's needs; personalising services in mainstream and specialist schools; and discuss training for school staff.

<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/special-education-need/>

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adolescents Engage with at risk and detached young people

1st December 2011 Birmingham
£199 - £399 + VAT

This conference will enable you to:

- Engage with vulnerable and at risk teenagers
- Understand the risks and address the issues of over-sexualisation of young people and drug and alcohol misuse
- Deliver a local multi-agency response to risk
- Recognise when a child is being groomed or at risk of child sexual exploitation

http://www.communitycareconferences.co.uk/adolescents?cp=EMC-SCCON_COMP5_20110725

Conferences (continued)

Do you work in child protection? If so, you should attend the dedicated children and families stream at:

Community Care Children & Families Live

16th November 2011 London Free

Key debate sessions, include:

- Keynote address by Jeanette Pugh, *DfE*
- Raising the standards in child protection: Rhetoric into reality with Professor Eileen Munro, *LSE*
- Risk Factor Live: Detecting common triggers of serious occurrences with Perdeep Gill - *Consultant*
- Integrating youth justice policies into local authority services with Andrew Webb *Stockport Council*

Tailored workshops, include:

- Social work and working with the media
- In the firing line: Working with highly resistant parents
- Building family resilience and engagement in child protection
- The changing face of social work regulation
- Innovations in child protection
- Working with families with multiple issues: Parental mental health and substance misuse
- Child exploitation through technology
- Community building: Taking forward the vision of The College of Social Work

http://www.childrenandfamilieslive.co.uk/childrenandfamilies2011?cp=EMC-SCEVT_CFLIVE10_20110916

London Safeguarding Children Board conference

5th December 2011 London
Further details to be confirmed

Workshops will highlight some examples of the innovative multi-agency work already underway in London.

The conference will follow by a ceremony for the inaugural London Safeguarding Children Award, the first ever multi-agency award for best practice in the capital.

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

TES Special Educational Needs Show

14th and 15th October 2011 London
Free registration

This event offers:

- Knowledge, networking, offers, CPD news and resources.
- 48 seminars on a wide range of topics, to meet the needs of all SEN professionals at all experience levels
- 5,000 peers and 180 suppliers
- specialist advice on career development, recruitment strategies and
- free sessions on Moving into Leadership and Developing Outstanding Leadership.

<http://www.teachingexhibitions.co.uk/Exhibitions/TES+Special+Needs+Exhibition/London/2011/>

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