

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 206
23rd January 2012**

Background checks for taxi drivers

(18/01/12)

New proposals will allow taxi licensing authorities to carry out enhanced criminal records checks on their drivers before they are issued with a licence. Current drivers will get additional checks when they renew their licence.

Under the current regime, only drivers who pick up children or vulnerable adults are automatically eligible for enhanced checks, although some firms do choose to get these extra checks for drivers as a matter of course.

These proposals standardise the practice and simplify the system giving additional reassurance to women travelling alone and other vulnerable customers using taxi services.

The proposed changes are part of plans to simplify and reform the system of criminal records checks, while ensuring adequate protections are in place where they are needed most.

Licensing authorities will make the final decision on whether to grant a licence based on the information available to them. Criminal records checks play a vital role in recruitment practices, providing employers with the information they need to employ the right person for the role.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/criminal-checks>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/parliamentary-business/written-ministerial-statement/crb-taxi-drivers-wms/>

The green paper on special educational needs and disability (11/01/12)

This Standard Note briefly outlines the current SEN system in England, and highlights the main proposals in the Government's green paper on SEN and disability. A selection of initial reaction to the green paper is provided. The note also provides information on the pathfinder programme to test key elements of the green paper's proposals. It includes provision for LAs to test in a pilot scheme the use of direct payments for educational provision for children and young people with SEN or disability.

The green paper, Support and aspiration: a new approach to SEN and disability, proposes:

- a new approach to identifying SEN through a single early years setting-based category and school-based category of SEN;
- a new single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan by 2014;
- LAs and other services to set out a local offer of all services available;
- the option of a personal budget by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or a new Education, Health and Care Plan;
- strengthening parental choice of school, for either a mainstream or special school; and
- changing the assessment process to make it more independent.

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

Child Safety Week (18/06/12 – 24/06/12)

Child Safety Week aims to raise awareness of the number of accidents that seriously injure or kill children every year and the steps we can take to help prevent them. It is for anyone working with children or families.

<http://www.childsafetyweek.org.uk/child-safety-week/>

Participation in education and training: 16-18 year olds: Social Indicators page (11/01/12)

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02628>

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN02628.pdf>

More freedom to manage teacher performance (13/01/12)

New arrangements for teacher/head teacher appraisals in maintained schools in England, and for dealing with underperforming teachers, will come into effect from September 2012. They include:

- giving schools more freedom over managing their teachers through simpler, less prescriptive appraisal regulations;
- removing the 3 hour limit on observing a teacher in the classroom (the so-called "three-hour observation rule") so that schools have the flexibility to decide what is appropriate;
- a requirement to assess teachers every year against the new, simpler and sharper Teachers' Standards – the key skills that teachers need;
- allowing poorly performing teachers to be removed in about a term – the process can currently take a year or more;
- an optional new model policy for schools that deals with both performance and capability issues; and
- scrapping more than 50 pages of unnecessary guidance.



Ministers are also consulting on new proposals to help schools when they recruit new teachers. This will mean that schools will have to pass on information to prospective employers, on request, about whether a teacher is or has been subject to capability procedures.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00202005/schools-get-more-freedom-to-manage-teacher-performance>

Preventing Babies' Deaths: what needs to be done (18/01/12)

This report from Sands highlights how the charity believes that up to 1,200 babies lives could be saved each year through a combination of more research, better care, and a greater awareness of stillbirth and newborn baby death. The report focuses on what needs to be done to reduce the number of baby deaths each year.

http://www.uk-sands.org/no_cache/News/Newspage/article/235/22.html

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Health/article/1112831/1200-baby-deaths-year-preventable/?DCMP=EMC-CONCYPNow%20Daily>

Review of Child Neglect 2011 (23/01/12)

51% of social workers and 36% of police officers report feeling 'powerless' to intervene in suspected cases of child neglect, according to a report by Action for Children.

The charity has found a worrying picture of neglected children getting trapped in, rather than caught by, the safety net in place to protect them, as teachers, health workers and nursery staff are increasingly aware of child neglect, yet unsure as to what to do.

<http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news/archive/2012/january/social-workers-feel-powerless-to-intervene-in-child-neglect-cases>

Local area interactive tool (16/01/12)

The DfE has developed the LAIT to provide easy access to a wide range of data related to children and young people sourced from various departments across government. It acts as a single central evidence base that helps support the Accountability Framework and Transparency Agenda.

The LAIT is an Excel-based tool that provides user-friendly access to a system that brings together a consistent set of LA performance and data items including:

- inspectorate judgements
- contextual information about individual LAs, including number and type of schools, social deprivation factors
- pupil attainment, health, looked-after children, post-16, etc.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/research/lait/a0070240/local-area-interactive-tool-lait>

New arrangements for teacher appraisal and capability to be introduced from September 2012 (16/01/12)

Following a public consultation, new arrangements for managing teacher performance have been announced. They will come into force on 1 September 2012.

New regulations on teacher appraisal will abolish the 3 hour limit on classroom observation and give schools and LAs more freedom to design appraisal policies that suit their own individual circumstances.

The new model policy provides an example of the sort of policy that schools might want to adopt when managing teacher performance. Part A covers the routine appraisal arrangements that apply to all teachers and Part B covers the capability procedures that apply only to teachers about whose performance there are serious

concerns that the appraisal process has been unable to address.

The consultation included a proposal to require schools to pass copies of teachers' annual appraisal reports to prospective employers. That proposal is not being taken forward. A new consultation asks for views on an alternative proposal to require schools to pass on to prospective employers, on request, information about whether a teacher is or has been subject to capability procedures.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/deployingstaff/a00201884/new-arrangements-for-teacher-appraisal-and-capability-to-be-introduced-from-september-2012>

Special Educational Needs Information Act - An Analysis 2011 (Dec 2011)

'Support and aspiration: A new Approach to special educational needs and disability' included proposals to improve outcomes for children and young people who are disabled or have SEN. The information in this publication will help teachers, parents, school governing bodies, LAs and those they work with to assess the quality and efficiency of the provision they make with a view to improving those outcomes.

This publication presents information at national and local levels about the characteristics and attainment of pupils with SEN. In addition, this year's publication also includes, for the first time, provisional data on the numbers of disabled children. However, this was experimental data in 2011 which was recorded for a small percentage of children and so its findings should be treated with caution.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00074-2011>

Post-legislative assessments of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Childcare Act 2006 and Children and Adoption Act 2006 (Dec 2011)

This memorandum provides post-legislative assessments of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Childcare Act 2006 and Children and Adoption Act 2006 prepared by the DfE for submission to the Education Committee of the House of Commons. The paper outlines the background, objectives and implementation of each of the Acts and provides references from previous reviews of the Acts.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/AllPublications/Page2/CM%208204>

Thousands of schools sign up for phonics funding (19/12/11)

Thousands of primary schools have signed up to spend more than £7.7m on new phonics products and training to drive up their pupils' standards of reading, new DfE figures show.

3,211 schools have taken advantage of the match-funding scheme to buy the products, including books, software and games. Additionally, 987 schools have booked training for staff to improve their teaching of phonics, the method proven to improve reading, especially among younger children.

The scheme went 'live' in September last year with the publication of the phonics catalogue of approved products and services. Under the scheme, any state-funded school with KS 1 pupils – including Academies and Free Schools – can claim up to £3,000 to buy products and training until March 2013.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00202159/thousands-of-schools-sign-up-for-phonics-funding>

Food Safety and Hygiene e-learning course for schools (16/01/12)

The FSA in Wales has announced that it will be making available an e-learning course 'Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene (Catering)' to schools in Wales. This City and Guilds accredited qualification offers students an opportunity to develop important life skills, and equip those hoping to work in the food or catering industry. The course is generally most suitable for students aged 14 and over.

The course is free to schools in Wales, although funding is limited. Applications are invited from schools able to demonstrate commitment to support student study.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2012/jan/elearning>

Cutting them free (17/01/12)

A survey of Barnardo's 21 specialist services reveals that locally, awareness raising of sexual exploitation has reduced by 30% due to funding cuts and that acknowledgement and recognition of the issue remains patchy. Barnardo's understands that in some regions there may have been a downgrading of sexual exploitation as a priority although it is becoming more complex and pernicious.

Barnardo's service data also shows:

- The number of sexually exploited children Barnardo's works with has grown by 8.4% to 1,190
- the majority of grooming is in private with cases of 'street grooming' being rare
- 1 in 10 of those exploited were boys
- 44% have gone missing from home
- 1 in 6 have been trafficked, rising to 1 in 2 in some areas
- 1 in 3 services has seen a marked increase in peer-to-peer exploitation.

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/press_releases.htm?ref=76559

Changes to NHS landscape devalue young people's participation (18/01/12)

A survey conducted by YoungMinds of all local government health scrutiny chairs in England has revealed a worrying trend for children and young people's participation in the new NHS landscape. The survey revealed that 80% of health scrutiny chairs had not had outlined to them how children and young people could get involved in shaping local services through local HealthWatch or Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Analysis of the DH website also reveals that only 5 out of 75 local HealthWatch Pathfinder's mention children and young people's involvement in the synopses of their work.

http://www.youngminds.org.uk/news/news/528_changes_to_nhs_landscape_devalue_young_people_s_participation

New guidelines launched on food and drink in early years (16/01/12)

Nurseries, childminders and other providers of early years services now have extra support on providing healthy meals for young children and to help reduce obesity in under-fives, thanks to new national, voluntary guidelines launched today.

For the first time, childcare providers have a nationally recognised source of information about the foods they should offer young children, portion sizes, sample menus and recipes, advice on tackling fussy eating and involving children in food and cooking activities.

<http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/news-events/news/new-guidelines-launched-on-food-and-drink-in-early-years>
<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Health/article/1112211/first-national-food-guidelines-under-fives-released/?DCMP=EMC-CONCYPNow%20Daily>

Child Protection: from Examination to Court

12th - 13th March 2012

London

£400 - £450

Every paediatrician will encounter many child protection cases during their clinical career and it is likely that a high proportion of these will require written reports, with some cases leading to legal proceedings. Paediatricians have a key role in both providing written evidence and presenting as a professional witness in family, criminal or civil proceedings. On occasion some paediatricians may accept an instruction to appear as an expert witness.

This RCPH 2-day course for all senior paediatric trainees and consultants will:

- Give you an overview of criminal and family law
- Explain the paediatricians role in legal proceedings
- Help you manage your fears and expectations
- Provide seminars on particularly important subjects, such as FII and CSA
- Improve your report writing skills – which may in turn help reduce your court appearances
- Prepare you for giving evidence – how to do it and how to do it well

<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/events/child-protection-examination-court>

Looked After Children and Offending: Reducing Risk and Promoting Resilience' Conference (18/01/12)

TACT and University of East Anglia have launched their research project 'Looked After Children and Offending: Reducing Risk and Promoting Resilience', funded by a Big Lottery grant.

<http://www.tactcare.org.uk/news.php?type=4&id=248>

Rules of Engagement - Changing the heart of youth justice (15/01/12)

A report commissioned by the Centre for Social Justice says that Britain is failing to prevent youth crime, and that imprisonment of young people between the ages of 10 and 17 should be limited to the “critical few” guilty of serious crimes and representing a threat to the public.

The report identifies 3 other key shortcomings with the current youth justice system:

- YOIs and other institutions often promote offending, rather than reduce it because of the “criminogenic” effects of locking up youngsters alongside hardened lawbreakers.
- The current system is obsessed with following rules and regulations and “robotic box-ticking”. This emphasis on correct processes rather than outcomes works against the interests of young people.
- The scope for potentially transformational relationships between adult youth workers and young troublemakers is often overlooked.

The report also concludes that it is time to break the “taboo” surrounding raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 and advances reasons for making the change.

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/default.asp?pageRef=566>

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/Thousands%20of%20children%20'needlessly%20dumped%20in%20prison'%20says%20CSJ.pdf>

[http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/CSJ_Youth_Justice_Full_Report_WEB%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/CSJ_Youth_Justice_Full_Report_WEB%20(2).pdf)

Landing in Dover (17/01/12)

This report focuses on immigration procedures to which unaccompanied children arriving in Kent are subject between their first encounter with the authorities and the time they are placed in the care of Kent County CC children’s social care services.

Unaccompanied children are held under detention powers on, and immediately after, their arrival. Government policy is that unaccompanied children should only be detained in the most exceptional circumstances and only while arrangements for their care and safety are made. This policy is in line with the standard set by Article 37(b) UNCRC which requires that children should only be detained as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

The report finds that children are in fact not currently being held for the ‘shortest appropriate period of time’. Rather they are detained whilst significant interviews that will inevitably bear on their prospects of being granted permission to stay in the UK are conducted. From the cases we have considered in preparation of this report, we find that the LA is only informed of the child’s arrival several hours after initial detention and well into the interviewing process.

The report concludes that interviewing children in depth immediately on arrival is unnecessary and not in their best interests and should be reconsidered.

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/press_release/content_458


The Good Childhood Report 2012

(12/01/12)

The Good Childhood Report 2012 reveals that at any moment half a million children across the UK are unhappy with their lives.

The report unveils 6 key priorities needed for a happy childhood, after interviewing more than 30,000 children aged 8 - 16. Children who have low levels of happiness are much less likely to enjoy being at home with their family, feel safe when with their friends, like the way they look and feel positive about their future. Children unhappy in this way are also more likely to be victimised, have eating disorders or be depressed.

Key findings include:

- Choice and family have the biggest impact on children's happiness.
 - It is not the structure, but the relationships within a family that children care about. Loving relationships between a child and their family are ten times more powerful than family structure in increasing well-being.
 - Stability is important. Children who experience a change in family members they are living with are twice as likely to experience low well-being. 23% of children who have moved home more than once over the past 12 months have low levels of well-being.
 - Low well-being increases dramatically with age – doubling from the age of 10 (7%) to the age of 15 (14%).
 - Children as young as 8 are aware of the financial issues their families face. Children in families who have experienced a reduction in income are more likely to have low well-being.
 - Children who do not have clothes to 'fit in' with peers are more than 3 times as likely to be unhappy with their appearance.
- 

Around a third say they often worry about the way they look. Unhappiness with appearance increases with age and is greater among girls.

- Children who had been bullied more than three times over the last three months were significantly more likely to experience low well-being (36%) than those that had never been bullied (6%).
- Children like to be similar to their friends. Children who have a lot less, or even a lot more pocket money than their friends, have lower levels of well-being.

<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-views/press-release/key-childrens-happiness-revealed-charity-calls-radical-new-approach-childho>

New set of court statistics supports case for a comprehensive reform programme across the justice system (12/01/12)

These regular quarterly court statistics show the average duration of civil and family cases at every County Court, and the duration of criminal cases at every Crown Court and local magistrates' court group.

The new timeliness statistics showed that in July to September 2011, on average:

- Care proceedings took 55 weeks
- Criminal cases were completed 152 days after the offence.

Ministers have already committed to a series of reforms to speed up the justice process. Measures include improved technology, more use of mediation to solve civil and family disputes, and simplifying processes to reduce delays and frustration for victims and witnesses of crime.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/pressrelease120112a.htm>

Youth custody data

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

This includes those aged under 18 and 18 year olds. Some 18 year olds remain in the secure estate for children and young people if they only have a short period of their sentence to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes.

The publication also contains more detailed information on the make-up of the custody population by legal basis for detention, accommodation type, age group, gender, ethnicity and region of origin. Data are also provided on a trend basis dating back to 2000/01 and 2005/06 onwards for more detailed data.

This monthly publication contains the provisional 2010/11 data. Final 2010/11 data will be published on 26th January in the annual Youth Justice Statistics 2010/11. Data for 2010/11 in this publication will be reconciled in the next monthly publication
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm>
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-figures/youth-custody-report-nov-2011.xls>

10th Special Report - Services for Young People: the Government response: Government response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2010–12 (16/01/12)
The Education Committee published on 11 October 2011 a second report following its inquiry into "services beyond the schools/college day for young people, primarily those aged 13-25".



This document sets out the Government's response to the Committee's report. The responses reflect *Positive for Youth*—a new approach to cross-Government policy for young people aged 13-19, published on 19 December 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/201012/cmselect/cmeduc/1736/173602.htm>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/201012/cmselect/cmeduc/1736/1736.pdf>

Launch of 10 week online consultation as part of the review of the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) standards.

This is an opportunity for early years practitioners and stakeholders to have their views taken into account. The new Standards will be implemented by training providers delivering the EYPS programme from September 2012.

This consultation follows a call for evidence with training providers and early years professionals to gather initial feedback on the current Standards. Findings were analysed and a revised set of Standards developed, following discussions with an external reference group.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6684_having-your-say-is-just-a-click-away

See Consultations

Guidance for returning additional data requirements: Foundation Learning and Entry to Employment (E2E) (13/01/12)

The data forms enable the collection of the data required to allow inspectors to make judgements about recent and current performance of your Foundation Learning and Entry to Employment (E2E) programmes.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/guidance-for-returning-additional-data-requirements-foundation-learning-and-entry-employment-e2e>

Sharper focus and shorter notice proposed as Ofsted launches a consultation on changes to the inspection of adoption support agencies. (10/01/12)

Key proposals are to reduce the number of judgements and to give shorter notice of inspections. This will help to focus inspections on what makes the most difference in bringing about positive outcomes for children, adoptive families and adults who use the service and allow inspectors to gain as true a picture as possible. Following consultation, inspections under the new framework will begin in September.

Adoption support agencies may offer a range of services including support for adoptive families after children have been adopted, supporting children and helping them to understand their background, providing counselling and family support, and supporting prospective adopters and adults who were adopted and their birth relatives. The agencies may also help to trace birth records and support adopted people and birth relatives when they want to meet.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/sharper-focus-and-shorter-notice-proposed-ofsted-launches-its-consultation-for-inspection-of-adoptio-0>

See Consultations

Ofsted announces plans for no-notice inspection for schools (10/01/12)

Ofsted's new Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, has announced plans to introduce no-notice inspections for all regular school inspections from September 2012. Ofsted already undertakes unannounced inspections in a number of circumstances, including where concerns are raised about a school and for some satisfactory schools that do not show enough capacity to improve.



The HMCI, said:

'Ofsted has been moving towards a position of unannounced school inspection over a period of years. I believe the time is now right for us to take that final step and make sure that for every school we visit inspectors are seeing schools as they really are in the corridors, classrooms and staff room.

'With our new Parent View online questionnaire we can now make this change and have confidence that we can still consider the views of parents during inspections.

'Ofsted already has considerable experience in undertaking unannounced inspections and we know it works. With this further change, parents and all those interested in what is happening in our schools can have absolute confidence in Ofsted's findings.'

As part of the changes introduced in 2009, Ofsted consulted extensively on no-notice inspections and also piloted unannounced visits. We found a great deal of support for the move. At that time, however, we could not overcome the important issue of being able to get parents' views as part of the process. With the introduction of our new Parent View online questionnaire last year, parents can now share their opinions of their child's school at any time, making a move to no-notice inspections possible.

Details of how the changes will work will form part of a wider consultation on the future of inspection.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-announces-plans-for-no-notice-inspection-for-schools>

Ofsted announces scrapping of ‘satisfactory’ judgement in move designed to help improve education for millions of children (16/01/12)

Ahead of a government summit on ‘coasting schools’ to be held at Downing Street later today, Ofsted’s Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, has confirmed his intention to scrap the ‘satisfactory’ judgment for school inspections.

The move is designed to tackle the number of coasting schools that have remained stubbornly ‘satisfactory’ over a number of inspections, as highlighted in Ofsted’s Annual Reports over recent years. The proposals, which will be subject to consultation, would mean that any school that does not provide a good standard of education will be given a new “requires improvement’ grade.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-announces-scrapping-of-%E2%80%98satisfactory%E2%80%99-judgement-move-designed-help-improve-education-for-mill-0>

Serious case review evaluations: April 2007 onwards (18/01/12)

SCRs are local enquiries into the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor. They are carried out by Local Safeguarding Children Boards so that lessons can be learned.

Ofsted is responsible for evaluating SCRs in line with the requirements of *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. The evaluation of a serious case review is not an evaluation of the quality of the professional practice, or the quality of service delivery, in relation to the incident under review. Nor is it about allocating blame. It is an evaluation of the degree to which the review has



succeeded in identifying lessons to be learned from the events and the analysis, and the action that needs to be taken to improve the protection of children in the future.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/serious-case-review-evaluations-april-2007-onwards>

Commissioned services data analysis tool (19/01/12)

Ofsted developed the commissioned services data analysis tool to help with the 2010-11 Children’s Services Assessments; it is also used in inspections of looked after children.

The tool uses data collected by Ofsted from LAs on placement of LAC. Specifically, the data focus on those children where the LA commissioned a placement for them through either another LA’s services or, more commonly, through a private or voluntary social care provider, rather than place them in their own in-house provisions.

The tool enables the user to compare LAs with their statistical neighbours and also to see the national figures. The user can see:

- the number of children placed outside of the LA’s services;
- the number of Ofsted inspected provisions the placements were in; and
- a percentage breakdown of the overall grade of these provisions at their latest inspection (as at 31 March 2011).

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/commissioned-services-data-analysis-tool>

Guidance on the registration of an independent fostering agency branch (updated) (23/01/12)

All independent fostering agencies must register with Ofsted and each branch of an agency must register separately.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/guidance-registration-of-independent-fostering-agency-branch>

Office of the Children's Commissioner: A Child Rights Impact Assessment of the Welfare Reform Bill (January 2012)

This paper presents the OCC's child rights impact assessment of the Welfare Reform Bill. Its purpose is to identify the likely impact of draft legislative provisions on the promotion and realisation of children's rights.

We assess the Bill against the rights set out in the UNCRC; the Human Rights Act 1998, which incorporates provisions of the ECHR into domestic law; and other international human rights obligations.

We also have regard to the interpretative comments of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and case-law and comments of domestic and international courts and treaty bodies.

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F555%2FChild_Rights_Impact_Assessment_of_Welfare_Reform_Bill_11_Jan_2012.pdf

Having a premature baby (17/01/12)

This free guide will support parents of babies born too soon, as well as for those parents at risk of giving birth early. It provides:

- Information and advice through pregnancy, birth, baby's time in hospital and early days at home.
- Help to navigate the early months of their child's life and encouragement to look after their own well-being during this time.
- Best practice treatment advice for those told they are at risk of giving birth early to help them have a full-term pregnancy, such as healthy lifestyle advice to help prevent premature birth.

<http://www.tommys.org/page.aspx?pid=486>
<http://www.rcm.org.uk/midwives/news/new-premature-baby-guide-launched/>

The Education (Head Teachers' Qualifications) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2012 SI 18 (12/01/12)

These Regulations revoke the Education (Head Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003 (and amending Regulations). Those Regulations made provision, from 01/04/01, for first-time head teachers of maintained schools and non-maintained special schools in England to hold the National Professional Qualification for Headship or its equivalent in Wales, Scotland or NI. The Regulations did not apply to persons who had been appointed as head teachers before they came into force. Special provision was also made for persons appointed before 1st April 2009.

It will no longer be compulsory for an individual to hold the NPQH or an equivalent qualification before being appointed to head teacher in any school.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/18/contents/made>

Changes to NHS landscape devalue young people's participation (18/01/12)

A survey conducted of all local govt health scrutiny chairs in England has revealed a worrying trend for children and young people's participation in the new NHS landscape.

YoungMinds survey revealed that 80% of health scrutiny chairs had not had outlined to them how C&YP could get involved in shaping local services through local HealthWatch or Health and Wellbeing Boards. Analysis of the DH website also reveals that only 5 out of 75 local HealthWatch Pathfinders mention C&YP's involvement in the synopses of their work.
http://www.youngminds.org.uk/news/news/528_changes_to_nhs_landscape_devalue_young_people_s_participation

Consultations

Consultation On Proposed Changes To The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 To Require Governing Bodies To Share Information With Prospective Employers About Whether Head Teachers And Teachers Have Been In Capability Procedures (13/01/12)

This consultation asks for views on proposed changes to the *School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009* to introduce new requirements on governing bodies in maintained schools to share information about whether a teacher or head teacher at their school has been in capability procedures, when asked to do so by a prospective school employer.

Closing Date: 24th February 2012
<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1801&external=no&menu=1>

Inspection of adoption support agencies (10/01/12)

This is a consultation on proposals for a revised framework for the inspection of adoption support agencies. Ofsted seeks the widest possible range of views from those who have an interest in, or expertise relating to, adoption to ensure that the inspection framework takes proper account of the needs and circumstances of all interested parties. Above all, the framework must assure the quality of services for all those receiving adoption support and promote their continuing improvement. There is also a version of this consultation document for children and young people.

Closing Date: 3rd April 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/consultations/inspection-of-adoption-support-agencies>

EYPS Standards Review (Consultation) (16/01/12)

CWDC is undertaking a review of the Early Years Professional Status standards, following the announcement in the government's policy statement Supporting Families in the Foundation Years.

The aim is to produce a revised set of Standards for implementation by training providers' delivering the EYPS from September 2012.

The Standards, launched in 2007, are the basis for the assessment and accreditation for the award of the EYPS and set out the national expectations for anyone wishing to gain the status.

Since its launch, over 8,500 Early Years Professionals have successfully achieved EYPS and are working across England, making a positive difference to children's learning and development every day.

The aim of the review is to:

- Test how the Standards can support the concept of teaching in early years and help to spread leadership practice
- Streamline the Standards where possible ensuring that they link with other standards
- Ensure that the Standards properly reflect outcomes of development since 2007

Closing Date: 23rd March 2012
<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/early-years/graduate-leaders-in-early-years/eyps-standards>
<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/early-years/graduate-leaders-in-early-years/eyps-standards/eyps-standards-review-on-line-consultation>

Consultations (continued)

Overweight and obese children and young people - lifestyle weight management services: consultation on the draft scope (17/01/12)

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on Managing overweight and obesity among children and young people: lifestyle weight management services.

All registered stakeholders for the above public health programme guidance are invited to comment on the draft scope.

Closing Date: 14th February 2012

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=57862>

Removing the duty on maintained schools to follow the information and communication technology (ICT) Programmes of Study, Attainment Targets and statutory assessment arrangements (18/01/12)

As part of the Government's broader vision for technology in schools, and as a way of removing barriers to innovation and stimulating change in schools, we are seeking views on the proposal that the existing ICT Programmes of Study and associated Attainment Targets should be disapplied at all four key stages, along with the statutory assessment arrangements at Key Stage 3, from September 2012. ICT will remain a compulsory subject at all key stages, pending the outcome of the current review of the National Curriculum in England. This consultation is being conducted under section 96 of the Education Act 2002.

Closing Date: 11th April 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1802&external=no&menu=1>

Protecting children in Wales arrangements for multi-agency child practice reviews - Draft guidance (09/01/12)

Views are sought on proposed arrangements for CPRs, to replace the present Serious Case Review system. As part of the new CPR framework, different types of reviews will be undertaken depending on the nature of the incident and the circumstances of the child involved.

Closing Date: 2nd April 2012

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

Consultation on the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) regulations (20/01/12)

From summer 2013 all young people will be required to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, and from summer 2015 onwards until their 18th birthday.

Participating in education or training brings benefits for young people, and also for the economy and wider society.

This consultation seeks views on elements of how RPA will work in practice - by consulting on the policies that will form the secondary legislation. It covers aspects such as the definition of residency; the definition of full-time education; any wider ways of working that (when combined with part-time study) could be considered as participating, and the amount and use of any fines.

Closing Date: 13th April 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1694&external=no&menu=1>

Consultations (continued)

Children's Safeguarding Performance Information Consultation (23/01/12)

This consultation asks for views on the proposed children's safeguarding national performance information dataset, how the data is published and how the locally held information (published December 2011) is used.

Closing Date: 16th April 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1803&external=no&menu=1>

Conferences

All babies count professionals conference: promoting the welfare of babies and keeping them safe from harm

7th March 2012 London £175 - £280

This event will provide a forum for experts to share their knowledge of early intervention and best practice in preventing abuse and neglect of babies.

Professionals whose work brings them into contact with young babies will:

- learn about best practice and evidence from research findings to prevent the abuse and neglect of babies
- find out about information and resources available to help you maximise the impact of your work
- have the opportunity to engage with key speakers about current research of brain development in early years
- get further insight into early intervention
- increase knowledge on recognising and responding to the possible abuse and neglect of a young child.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/cpconferences/promoting-welfare-of-babies2012_wda86228.html

New horizons in safeguarding children - Promoting children's safety and wellbeing through innovation and organisational change

23rd – 24th May 2012 Manchester
£99 - £429 + VAT

This conference will draw together UK and International contexts to debate and gain knowledge that will inform organisational change to safeguard children more effectively. It will provide a vibrant space for innovative, future-orientated dialogue and reflection sparked by new and emerging research on safeguarding children.



Key themes:

- innovation in multi-agency practice
 - professional judgement and effective assessment
 - evidencing the child's journey
 - technology for practice change
 - rejuvenating family support: early help
 - new directions - high risk families
 - judiciary and the 'best interests of the child'
 - learning outcomes
 - surviving austerity
 - inclusive practices with disabled children
- http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/cpconferences/new-horizons-safeguarding-children_wda86227.html

Self-harm: developing and improving professional understanding and practice

20th March 2012 London

The focus of this Pavillion's roadshow will be predominantly on professional issues and concerns for those working in health, education and social care. A range of topics include:

- Finding practical ways of working with young people who self-harm and their families
- The legal issues around working with people who self-harm including questions around the duty of care, safeguarding and confidentiality
- The importance of delivering an appropriate, professional and sensitive first response
- Holistic care planning and assessment
- Developing multi agency protocols
- Harm minimization
- Strategies for professionals to protect their own emotional health

<http://www.saphna-professionals.org/node/805>

Conferences (continued)

Early intervention for families with multiple problems

27th February 2012 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

This event will cover:

The latest developments in Government policy
Alternative funding options, including private s
Impact Bonds and the role of Payment by Resu
Successful interventions involving a range of st
health visitors, Housing Providers and early ye

Benefits of attending:

Hear from Graham Allen MP on the role of the
Foundation and its first year's aims

Gain insight from a Community Budget Pilot a
partner agencies through the use of locality tea

Learn how improving school readiness for child
families is helping to reduce the need for interv

Explore the role health visitors play in pre-birth
how Family Nurse Partnerships are engaging w

Examine successful methods of information sh
agencies to ensure the most effective use of dat

Understand how a Housing Provider has worke
on the verge of eviction

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-services/full-conference/article/early-interventions.html?code=EMTS1>

Evidencing Outcomes of Early Interventions

28th February 2012 London
£225 - £445 + VAT

With reduced budgets and the developing
role of Payment by Results, the need to
measure and evidence successful outcomes is
essential in order to sustain services.

This half-day briefing shines a spotlight on
the key challenges of capturing outcomes,
examining the most effective methods of
evidencing vital cost-savings, and ways
of ensuring continued investment in

programmes



Benefits of Attending

- Learn the most effective means of evaluating results from early intervention work
- Hear how to choose the right measures to focus on at the outset of projects
- Examine the best strategies for analysing outcomes to demonstrate the cost benefits of programmes

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/evidencing-outcomes-of-early-interventions.html?code=EMTS1&cHash=20f5c0dabf>

Enhancing Clinical Expertise in Safeguarding

27th February 2012 London £50
Effective named and designated doctors are
vital to ensuring that safeguarding services
are both high priority and high quality in the
NHS. RCPCH is holding an event that will
cover the following:

- Health and Social Care Bill
- The Munro Review of Child Protection
- Working Together to Safeguard Children - revised statutory guidance
- The DH's Safeguarding Accountability Framework

This event will give you the opportunity to:

- Be briefed on current reforms
- Inform College responses to the reform
- Know how to drive the safeguarding agenda in your local area
- Identify gaps and help design future College work

<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/events/enhancing-clinical-expertise-safeguarding>

Conferences (continued)

Conducting effective Serious Case Reviews - Implementation, partner involvement and managing the aftermath

29th February 2012 London
£199 - £399 + VAT

Serious Case Reviews are going through an intense period of scrutiny surrounding their future direction. The Government have yet to respond to recommendations in the Munro Review on children's and ministerial plans to implement adults' SCR on a statutory footing to raise questions about the role of adults' SCR.

This conference will consider the practicalities of carrying out both adults' and children's SCR and offer insights into good practice around implementation, partner involvement and managing the aftermath. It will help you to:

- Explore the synergies and good practice between undertaking children's and adults' SCR
- Review current models and learning: SCIE, Health, Significant Incident Learning Process and Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Implement an effective strategy for engaging statutory and voluntary services and the private sector in joint working arrangements
- Hear how to conduct a coherent and robust investigation
- Create and embed a learning culture in services
- Manage damaging media attention

<http://www.communitycareconferences.co.uk/seriouscasereviews>

A New Category of Child Abuse – Is Corporate and Commercial Exploitation of Children and Young People a Form of Significant Harm?

Western society has reached a critical point in the way it targets children and young people which now leads them towards addictive hybrid consumer orientated lives. We have 24 hour bombardment of their minds to eat, purchase, imitate, possess or conform. Child protection and child care professionals should examine the evidence – the excessive imagery, junk food, extreme body images, access to pornography and allure of celebrity. There is now so much corporate targeting of children and young people that they consume without objective consent or informed knowledge – do we face a new diagnosis of 'significant harm'?

New and Emerging Challenges in Child Protection

22nd March 2012 London £55

Pornography and Child Sexual Abuse

23rd March 2012 London £40

<http://www.basw.co.uk/events/a-new-category-of-child-abuse-new-and-emerging-challenges-in-child-protection/>

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