

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 133
25th August 2009**

Early Identification, Assessment of Needs and Intervention: The common assessment framework for children and young people –

A guide for practitioners and a guide for managers (Aug 09)

On 1 October 2006, the CWDC took over responsibility from the DCSF (previously the DfES) for the implementation of the toolkits and guidance which support integrated working.

These documents replace the CAF for children and young people: practitioners' and managers' guides originally published by the DfES in 2006 and reprinted in September 2007. They remain non-statutory guidance.

The new guidance has been updated and re-titled in order to reflect policy developments and include revisions identified in consultation with practitioners and managers across the children and young people's workforce. It also seeks to link together the processes and tools mentioned above, to show how collectively they provide a package of support to help practitioners and managers implement integrated working in their practice.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=IW91%2f0709&>

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=IW90%2f0907&>

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/CAF-Practitioner-Guide.pdf>

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/CAF.pdf>

The Team Around the Child (TAC) and the Lead Professional: A guide for managers (Aug 09)

An estimated 20 – 30% of children and young people have additional needs at some point in their lives.

This guidance replaces guidance originally published by the DfES in 2006 and reprinted in 2007. It remains non-statutory guidance. The new guidance has been updated and re-titled in order to reflect policy developments and include revisions identified in consultation with practitioners and managers across the children and young people's workforce.

The document also seeks to link together the processes and tools, to show how collaboratively they provide a package of support to help practitioners and managers implement integrated working in their practice.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=IW92%2f0709&>

http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/LeadPro_Managers-Guide.pdf

National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan: Annual progress report 2008-09 (20/08/09)

This report sets out the progress made against the national domestic violence delivery plan.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/dom-violence-delivery-plan-08-09>

Perinatal Mortality 2007

This is the 5th annual report since CEMACH became responsible for confidential enquiries into perinatal outcomes.

In January 2009, CEMACH provided each Trust with a copy of their individual Trust report for 2007. A similar report has also been produced and distributed to each Neonatal Network, SHA, PCT and LSCB. This national report complements these reports.

Key findings for 2007 include improvement in UK rates for stillbirths, neonatal deaths, and mortality among twin births. However, there continues to be a large regional variation in the reporting of deaths of pre-viable babies born before 22 weeks of gestation; overall, more than a 10th of early neonatal deaths in 2007 were in this category.

For the first time, CEMACH has been able to provide a comparison across maternity units with the same level of neonatal care and information on hospital-to-hospital transfer patterns for neonatal deaths.

CEMACH looks forward to continuing to improve this report and future editions will include its new cause of death classification, an expanded description of maternal risk factors and further exploration of neonatal care. Feedback is welcome if you wish to see areas developed or presented differently.

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/>
<http://www.cmace.org.uk/getattachment/1d2c0ebc-d2aa-4131-98ed-56bf8269e529/Perinatal-Mortality-2007.aspx>

* CMACE is the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries

Revised National Standards for Youth Justice Services (August 09)

Ministers have allowed online publication of draft revised National Standards for Youth Justice Services to help prepare for implementation of the Scaled Approach and Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) from 30/11/09. Until final approval, however, current national standards still apply.

<http://youthjusticeboard.newsweaver.co.uk/nbdz27jyamn16s49h76f4g?email=true>
<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/DCD8C604-8024-4768-9F97-9B651608744C/0/DraftNationalStandardsforYouthJusticeServices.pdf>

The Scaled Approach and YRO

This leaflet provides information for youth justice practitioners on the Scaled Approach and the Youth Rehabilitation Order.

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Scripts/rodView.asp?idproduct=452&eP=>

Supporting young victims of crime (24/08/09)

A pilot programme to support young victims of crime and help them keep themselves safe will be rolled out nationwide. The 5 pilots:

- have reached around 13,000 young people at risk of becoming a victim of crime e.g. anti social behaviour, knife or gang related crime
- enable young victims to deal with the impact of crime and move on with their lives.

From today the government is pledging a further ½ million pounds to helping new projects learn from their success. Working with local communities, police, schools and voluntary groups, these pilots have identified needs of young people and put in place services, advice and tailor-made support.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease240809a.htm>

Guidance on the Employment of Children
(August 2009)

This guidance document seeks to explain the law on child employment for local authorities, employers, parents and other stakeholders. It includes some best practice advice to help those implementing it to deal with the sorts of practical questions they regularly face. This will enable employers to operate as prudently as possible within the legal framework to their benefit and to the benefit of the young people themselves.

This guidance is about the special rules which apply to the employment of children under the school leaving age. It does not cover general employment law.

It is not, and cannot be, an authoritative legal interpretation of the provisions of the relevant Acts of Parliament, byelaws and regulations, which is a matter for the Courts, nor is it intended as a substitute for specific legal advice on particular issues.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00827-2009&>

http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Child_employment09.pdf

Restraining order powers to protect victims of domestic violence (21/08/09)

A powerful tool to help protect victims of harassment including domestic abuse will come into effect next month, the government has confirmed. From 30/09/09 courts will have greater freedom to grant restraining orders when abusers appear before them, giving victims immediate protection and sparing them the ordeal of a separate civil action.

Currently courts can only issue restraining

orders following conviction for 2 types of offences: harassment or putting someone in fear of violence. Under the new rules an order can be made following conviction for any offence, even where someone is acquitted in order to better protect victims. Breaking a restraining order is a criminal offence punishable by up to 5 years in imprisonment.
<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/restrain-powers-protect>
<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=406016&SubjectId=2>

Guidance on inspecting Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in independent schools (18/08/09)

This guidance is for use on s162A independent school inspections from Sept 09
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guidance-on-inspecting-Early-Years-Foundation-Stage-EYFS-in-independent-schools>

Guidance on evaluating independent schools' action plans following s162A inspection (18/08/09)

This guidance is for use by inspectors in independent schools from Sept 09
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guidance-on-evaluating-independent-schools-action-plans-following-s162A-inspection>

Form A. Confirmation that an independent school is causing concern (18/08/09)

This form is for use by lead inspectors in independent schools from Sept 09
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Form-A.-Confirmation-that-an-independent-school-is-causing->

Building parents' and carers' confidence online with myguide (21/08/09)

Children's Minister Delyth Morgan has launched a new facility on myguide, a free and easy-to-use tool to help parents and carers catch up with their children when it comes to the Internet.

myguide helps provide the next step in the Government's implementation of Dr Tanya Byron's review of internet safety. myguide can be used independently, with the support of a friend or family member, or with help from experts in one of the thousands of UK online centres based in libraries and community organisations.

myguide has now added an interactive guidance course and quiz to help families manage the risks while enjoying the benefits of the web. It includes many of the top parental concerns about the internet, from phishing and spam to online rogue traders and extremist websites, from chat rooms to music file-sharing, and from stealth marketing to safety filters. The site stresses the importance of open family discussions and where to go for additional information and help.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0152

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

<http://www.myguide.gov.uk/myguide/MyguideHome.do>

Social workers help to give a voice to thousands of people every day (20/08/09)

The 'Help Give Them A Voice' campaign is supported by the DCSF and the DH who have responsibility for national policy on social work.

The aim is simple but vital; to recruit more social workers. The campaign highlights some of the real life issues which social workers work with. Actors and Actresses have joined this campaign because they feel passionately about the impact that social workers make, not only on individual people and families, but on society.

The films are designed to help people think again about what social workers do and to encourage people who think they could make a difference for someone to apply to train as a social worker. A wider recruitment drive by The CWDC will follow this campaign.

As well as supporting recruitment, the Government is committed to making sure that social workers have the training, support and capacity they need to practice to the highest professional standard.

Government is also investing in a number of other initiatives to support social workers. Much of this work is being carried forward by the CWDC and Skills for Care. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/200809socialworkershelptogivevoice/>
<http://www.helpgivethemavoiced.com/>
<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/social-work-introductions.aspx>

The use of eligibility criteria in social care services for disabled children (24/08/09)

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) has issued a statement on its understanding of the use of eligibility criteria in social care services for disabled children, following a high court ruling on the issue in March 2009.

Earlier this year, CDC registered as an interested party in the case of R(JL & LL) v Islington LB. The judgement clarified the lawfulness or otherwise of eligibility criteria used to limit or cap access to disabled children's services.

CDC has now issued a statement on its understanding of the implications of the judgement. EDCM welcomes this statement but believes the government still needs to fully respond to the challenges raised in the judgement.

http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_1473nu_69649540096914g50j_20098241120s
http://partner.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_4627kw_74817656078474k56x_2009824492p
http://partner.ncb.org.uk/cdc/eligibility_final_24_08_09.doc

Disabled children's services national indicator: Local reports (19/08/09)

A series of reports published by the DCSF set out findings for each of the 30 LA areas that participated in the first year of survey research to measure parental satisfaction of services for disabled children. A national level report showing overall findings and analysis, as well as more detail on the scope and methodology is due to be published at the end of August 2009.

The findings reveal that of the 3 key service areas asked about: health, education and care



and family support services, the latter was rated most poorly, with over 70% of parents answering 'none' when asked what care and family support services they had received in the last 12 months. .

When asked if they had received all the care and family support services they required in relation to their child in the last 12 months, one third said they had received 'little' or 'none' of what they require.

According to the survey, 'care and family support services' include social worker services, short breaks, childcare and play provision, home adaptations and emotional support.

http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_982ks_36204289000024e5d_20098192118e
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/re-sources-and-practice/RS00200/>

Anti-bullying Local Authority Toolkit (22/08/09)

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has launched an online LA Anti-Bullying Toolkit which contains key information on all aspects of anti-bullying work including standards for monitoring and measuring performance.

The sections on law and guidance provide an overview for how anti-bullying practice is constantly evolving, and there are practical examples of how to create an anti-bullying strategy action plan for schools and the wider community, plus info on where to get further support.

http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_8434nl_25568697902568z23j_20096232340z
<http://www.anti-bullyingalliancetoolkit.org.uk/>

Understanding Parent's Information Needs and Experiences Where Professional Concerns Regarding NAI Were Not Substantiated (June 2009)

Current difficulties facing paediatricians working in child protection are well documented. One particularly difficult area is determining whether or not a presenting sign is a non-accidental injury (NAI). Some accidental injuries may at first appear to be deliberately inflicted, and there a number of medical disorders that can masquerade as child abuse (Hall, 2003). Situations of this kind are distressing for all concerned.

In recent years, the RCPCH has had a strategy to support paediatricians in this area, which has included development of evidence-based guidelines and child protection training materials, incorporating communication skills training. There has also been a parallel research agenda.

A survey of RCPCH members established that the number of complaints about child protection was rising (RCPCH, 2004). This was followed by research exploring circumstances around complaints against paediatricians in relation to child protection (Haines and Turton, 2008; Turton and Haines, 2007). This study established that communication was an area that triggered complaints and highlighted the need to explore parental perspective.

A qualitative project was therefore undertaken with parents and carers, exploring communication when concerns about a possible NAI are first raised. This report presents the findings of this research. http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id_Resource=4846

Safe At Home

The Safe At Home National Home Safety Equipment Scheme is a major initiative to help families keep their children safe from home accidents. The main focus of the national scheme is to provide home safety equipment to the most disadvantaged families in areas with the highest accident rates.

Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to suffer accidental injuries or deaths. Children of parents who are long-term unemployed or who have never worked are 13 times more likely to die as a result of unintentional injury and 37 times more likely to die from exposure to smoke, fire or flames than children of parents in higher managerial or professional occupations.

This site has two main areas:

- Information for families - up-to-date information on how to keep homes and children safe; highlighting schemes operating in their area; details of eligibility and equipment available
- Scheme pages - provides local partners with all the details of how to apply; whether there is an allocation of equipment for your area; details of training and downloadable versions of all documentation necessary to run the scheme.

<http://www.safeathome.rosipa.com/>

Integrated Family Support Teams

(24/08/09)

The 3 areas chosen to pioneer a new innovative scheme to strengthen support for vulnerable children and families in Wales have been named by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council in a consortia arrangement, and Newport City Council and Wrexham County Borough Council individually have been selected to drive the development of the Integrated Family Support Teams in their areas along with the Local Health Boards for their areas.

The new multi-agency teams, which are unique to Wales, will bring together social workers, family workers, substance misuse professionals, nurses and health visitors, to work directly with families to protect and support vulnerable children.

The powers for the development of the Integrated Family Support Teams are being secured through the Children and Families Measure (Wales). The groundbreaking teams will become operational in spring 2010 with the aim of rolling out across Wales over the next 5 years.

The 3 areas will receive up to £600,000 each financial year over the next 3 years to support the establishment of the new teams.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/090824familysupport/?lang=en>

Consultations

Consultation on the statement for social workers in children and families services (20/08/09)

Following the interim report of the Social Work Task Force, the CWDC is developing a clear statement of the roles and tasks that social workers should perform and skills and knowledge they need in children's services.

This draft document:

- offers a clear description of what is expected of social workers in their role
- provides their employers with a basis for planning ahead for their workforce
- outlines the wider social work programme at CWDC
- sets out:
 - the roles and tasks of social workers;
 - the essential skills and knowledge base
 - a series of case studies showing real life situations which illustrate these skills in practice

The children and young people's workforce is asked to feed back on:

- Does the draft statement capture the contribution of social workers in the field?
- How could the statement be used for workforce planning?; and
- Do the case studies provide sufficient insight into the scope and nature of social work?

Closing Date 21st September 2009

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/whats-new/news/2430_childrens-and-young-peoples-workforce-to-shape-official-blueprint-of-social-work-in-the-21st-century
<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/social-work/statement/consultation>
http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/6586/Social_work_statement_consultation.pdf

Sure Start Children's Centres inquiry (20/08/09)

This inquiry by the Children, Schools and Families Committee will examine whether the CCs model of integrated services for under-5s and their families promotes early childhood development and is an effective response to deprivation.

The inquiry will also look at how the policy is being delivered, including:

- How models have developed
- The range and effectiveness of services provided by Children's Centres
- Funding, sustainability, value for money
- Staffing, governance, management, strategic planning
- How well Children's Centres work with other partners and services, especially schools and health services
- Whether services are being accessed by those most in need and how effective they are for the most vulnerable.

The CSFC examines expenditure, administration and policy of the DCSF and its associated public bodies. It chooses its own subjects of inquiry, within the overall terms of reference. It invites written evidence from interested parties and holds public evidence sessions. The Committee will then normally agree a Report which usually contains recommendations to the Government and other bodies.

Closing Date for written evidence submissions: 12th October 2009

<http://news.parliament.uk/2009/08/committe-e-launch-sure-start-childrens-centres-inquiry/>
<http://www.parliament.uk/csf/>

Consultations (continued)

Draft requirements for the proposed assessment-only route to qualified teacher status (17/08/09)

The DCSF is currently consulting on the proposed amendments to the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003, which govern who can gain qualified teacher status (QTS). Subject to this consultation and to Parliament, the DCSF is aiming to bring amended regulations into force on 1 January 2010.

Proposed regulation changes include a proposal to allow the gaining of QTS by assessment only, without training. The DCSF has asked the TDA to consult on the necessary requirements for such an assessment.

Closing Date 9th November 2009

<http://www.tda.gov.uk/partners/quality/consultationinformation.aspx>

Single Equality Scheme (24/08/09)

Ofsted is preparing its first single equality scheme, to replace its existing three separate schemes (disability equality; race equality; gender equality).

Your responses to this questionnaire will help it to define its priorities which will inform the scheme. This will be published in April 2010. Before completing this questionnaire, you may find it useful to look at the Ofsted website to see the kind of work we do.

Closing date: 16th November 2009

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Single-equality-scheme>

Preventing unintentional injuries among under 15s in the home: evidence consultation (19/08/09)

NICE was asked by the DH to 'Produce guidance on public health interventions to reduce accidental injuries to persons under the age of 15 in the home'.

All registered stakeholders are now invited to comment on the evidence assembled which will be used by the Public Health Interventions Advisory Committee (PHIAC) to develop draft recommendations. The evidence comprises a review of effectiveness and cost effectiveness, a review of qualitative evidence and an economic analysis.

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

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

Please note, the evidence presented here does not constitute the Institute's guidance on this topic. NICE will issue draft guidance in November 2009.

Closing Date 17th September 2009

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=45193>
<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/PreventingInjuriesU15sFinalScope.pdf>

Training/Conferences

Building Rigorous Safety Plans in High-Risk Child Protection Cases

18th September, 2009 London £205 + VAT

This workshop will:

- Describe clear processes for creating in-the-home, everyday safety plans that directly address the child protection concerns which are collaboratively created with the family, that everyone understands including, and most especially, the children
- Describe how to involve all key professionals in working with the family to create these safety plans
- Be grounded in actual case examples involving safety plans relating to all categories of child maltreatment, including situations of sexual and physical abuse, children's exposure to severe domestic violence and neglect
- Explore how to create on-the-ground safety plans even where parents/caregivers dispute or deny the professionals' maltreatment concerns/allegations
- Draw upon video recordings of professionals and parents describing their experience of using and living with these sorts of safety plans

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/files/In-TRACBuildingRSPflyer.pdf>

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/other-events.php>

Leaving Care Conference - Supporting the Transition to Independence

30th September 2009 – Central London
£195 - £545 + VAT

This conference will provide sessions offering guidance, best practice and ideas to help build on leaving care services:

- Question Government speakers on care leaver policies and future initiatives



- Hear updates on accommodation pilots and how others offer choice and flexibility to better meet care leavers' needs
- Understand how joining up health provision can improve support to care leavers
- Hear recent care leavers' opinions on what services helped with transition and what improvements could be made
- Hear practical ideas on how to engage local employers and businesses to support care leavers into training and employment
- Learn how peer mentoring can raise the aspirations and improve the confidence of children in care and care leavers

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/Health/Leaving+Care+sep+09.htm>

Working with faith to safeguard African children

20th October 2009 London £60

This training course is designed to enable those working closely with African children to develop a stronger working knowledge of clients from African background and the key role that religion can play in child upbringing in many African communities. It will assist participants to assess and examine some religious practices and their impact on parenting styles and child safeguarding.

Participants will work to identify strategies to promote better safeguarding of African children and to intervene positively in families where there are child protection concerns of abuse related to the influence of religion. This course will also assist in identifying key strategies to better engage faith leaders in order to safeguard vulnerable children.

<http://www.afruca.org/>

Conferences (continued)

Safeguarding Children Conference

16th November 2009 Central London
£195 - £545 + VAT

Key presentations at this conference will address core areas of concern, including:

- Updates on Ofsted's new arrangements for the inspection of children's services
- Best practice examples of implementing effective safeguarding procedures tailored to your specific sector
- Issues of governance and accountability in the safeguarding children agenda

Benefits of Attending

- Explore the impact of Laming's recommendations and ensure you are aware of new expectations for safeguarding professionals
- Clarify the ISA's new procedures for vetting and barring and adjust your processes to meet the new responsibilities and duties
- Identify ways to increase engagement of the healthcare workforce in safeguarding
- Understand the importance of Serious Case Reviews in achieving improved safeguarding practices and procedures
- Address the challenges of responding to online safeguarding issues in schools
- Receive practical advice and guidance on how to protect children at risk of abuse through forced marriage or female genital mutilation
- Learn more about effective strategies for strengthening the relationship between the Children's Trust and LSCB

Plus a Half-Day Workshop on Implementing Safer Recruitment Measures

17th November 2009 Central London
£195 - £545 + VAT

Led by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) this half-day workshop will provide you with practical guidance and advice on safer recruitment practices and procedures for the wider children's workforce.

- Receive the latest information on developing robust and reliable recruitment practices
- Identify potential for making changes to current recruitment and training practices to improve upon quality and outcomes of safeguarding work
- Understand your legal obligations with regard to the vetting and checking of potential candidates
- Learn best practice on dealing sensitively with allegations made against staff members

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/Health/Safeguarding+Children.htm>

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