

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE
25th February 2010**

Teenage pregnancies fall to lowest rate for over 20 years (24/02/10)

The 2008 ONS conception statistics show that, despite a slight rise in 2007, there has been a decline in pregnancies among under 16 and 18 year olds. The statistics also show:

- The rate of under 16s falling pregnant decreased by 5.7% between 07 and 08
- Since 1998 there has been a 13.3% reduction in under 18s conceiving, and encouraging reductions in more than 120 LAs and at every age range
- England's under-18 conception rate for final quarter 2008 was 5.4% lower than 2007 and is the lowest fourth quarter rate since 1993

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010 outlines new measures to tackle the root causes of teenage pregnancy, including:

- Pilots so that 16 year olds in selected areas will receive tailored 1 to 1 sexual health and contraception consultations.
- a new web-based tool to help people find the contraception that best suits them
- lesson plans to improve teaching on fertility and effective use of contraception, including how to access local services.
- driving up the quality of SRE through the improvements to the enhanced Healthy Schools Programme and supporting schools to develop or expand existing school-based health advice services.
- new materials to help parents talk to their children as part of the Sex. Worth talking About campaign, and a guide for parents that explains what SRE is and how parents can help to reinforce what their children learn in SRE at school, in the home.



- developing training materials for the wider children's workforce so that they can support young people with questions and concerns about sex and contraception.
- LAs, PCTs, charities and third sector organisations will be invited to take part in an open consultation to see what more can be done to accelerate progress. A consultation with young people and parents will begin in March.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0048

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=8903&More=Y>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/teenagepregnancy/teenagepregnancy/>

Evaluation of Time to Talk Community Programme

The initial overall aim of this evaluation was to determine whether the TTT community programme resulted in parents being able to give their children messages about delaying the onset of sexual activity and practising safe sex when they do begin and in improvements in general parenting, including improved communication and more effective negotiation.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR207&>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR207.pdf>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RB207&>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RB207.pdf>

School-based interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking among children (Feb 2010)

This guidance is for those responsible for preventing the uptake of smoking by children and young people under 19, including those working in the NHS, LAs, education and the wider public, private, voluntary and community sectors. It may also be of interest to children and young people, their parents or carers and other members of the public.

The 5 recommendations include the following advice:

- The smoking policy should support both prevention and stop smoking activities and should apply to everyone using the premises (including the grounds).
- Information on smoking should be integrated into the curriculum e.g. classroom discussions could be relevant when teaching biology, chemistry, citizenship and maths.
- Anti-smoking activities should be delivered as part of PHSE and other activities related to Healthy Schools or Healthy FE status.
- Anti-smoking activities should aim to develop decision-making skills and include strategies for enhancing self-esteem. Parents and carers should be encouraged to get involved and students could be trained to lead some of these programmes.
- All staff involved in smoking prevention should be trained to do so
- Educational establishments should work in partnership with outside agencies to design, deliver, monitor and evaluate smoking prevention activities.

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH23>

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH23/Guidance/doc/English>

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH23/Guidance/pdf/English>

Safe. Sensible. Social: Young people, alcohol and positive activities (Feb 2010)

10,000 young people are admitted to hospital each year after drinking alcohol. And by age 16, one in five young people will have been caught up in violence after drinking.

To include young people, who have been drinking in positive activities raises some challenges, but to simply leave young people outside and at risk of getting into trouble or vulnerable to becoming victims themselves is simply not an option.

This guide aims to give those working with young people practical advice and tools to ensure they – and those they work with – are equipped to deal with this real issue.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00160-2010&>

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00160-2010BKT-EN.pdf>

Children, Young People and Alcohol (16/02/10)

The Youth Alcohol Action Plan (June 08) committed to delivering a social marketing campaign targeting parents and young people to discourage harmful drinking amongst under 18s. This research was undertaken to inform this work, specifically to: link the usage of, and attitudes towards alcohol; quantify potential audience segments; establish a baseline to measure progress in changing behaviour; and to link data to the DCSF Families? Segmentation.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15956&type=5&resultspage=1>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR195.pdf>

Embedding the Play Strategy (Feb 2010)

The Government's Play Strategy sets out the vision that all children, young people and families should have access to free, high-quality play spaces in every local area.

This new guidance will help LA senior executives, strategic planners and their partners to improve local play offers by embedding everyday opportunities for healthy, active play within top-level strategies for children, communities and spatial planning. It will assist DCSs and their partners in Children's Trusts to deliver play services locally through multi-agency cooperation.

The steps recommended in this document will enable LAs to embed the provision for play as part of the strategic planning and commissioning within authorities.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01194-2009&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01194-2009DOM-EN.pdf>

Inspections of children's centres briefing for local authorities (16/02/10)

In February 2010, Ofsted held a series of 4 briefings on the arrangements for the inspection of children's centres for all LAs in England.

A set of 4 powerpoint presentations has the details of these briefings. LAs and others may use the presentations and their accompanying notes to give guidance and training to their own staff about how Ofsted will inspect children's centres.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Inspections-of-children-s-centres-briefing-for-local-authorities-February-2010>

Early years education and childcare myth buster (15/02/10)

The EYFS is about setting the standards for learning and development through play, and care for children, from birth to 5. The EYFS built on and replaced the statutory Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage, the non-statutory Birth to 3 Matters framework, and elements of regulatory frameworks in the National Standards for Under 8s Day Care and Childminding. As of 31/03/09, there were:

- 60,900 looked after children (LAC), 2% more than last year but relatively unchanged since 2005.
- 3300 children LAC were adopted
- 24,700 who ceased to be looked after, up 1% on last year and down 5% from 04-05
- over 3000 Sure Start Children's Centres, providing integrated services to over 2.4m under-5s and their families.
- 1.3m registered childcare places

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?event=news.item&id=early_years_education_and_childcare
<http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/earlyyears>

Raising awareness of child-safety issues (17/02/2010)

This DCSF/CAPT campaign to raise awareness of child-safety issues in the home for parents of newborn to 4 year olds, aims to specifically engage parents, highlight types of potential accidents and help them manage the risks, without being patronizing or pointing a finger of blame. The campaign will include news stories, features, promotions, case studies and regional activity.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/17022010niraisingawarenesschildsafety/>

An evaluation of the provision of mental health services for looked after young people over the age of 16 accommodated in residential settings (18/02/10)

Access to CAMHS is inconsistent for young people in care, with provisions varying from good to none at all, according to Ofsted. This report identifies how the mental health needs of young people in care aged 16 and over are met. It illustrates the use of mental health resources in the children's homes visited, as well as good practice and the problems found, and considers how well staff respond to the needs of young people in their care.

The report emphasises the importance of different agencies working together to improve and develop services for young people.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2010/February/Inconsistent-mental-health-provision-is-disadvantaging-young-people-in-care>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/An-evaluation-of-the-provision-of-mental-health-services-for-looked-after-young-people-over-the-age-of-16-accommodated-in-residential-settings>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10778/128473/file/An%20evaluation%20of%20the%20provision%20of%20mental%20health%20services.pdf>

Change4Life One Year On (17/02/10)

Change4Life, launched in January 09, is the social marketing part of the Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives cross-governmental strategy for England. In its first year, Change4Life focussed on those families with children aged 5-11, who were at greatest risk of becoming overweight or obese.



One year on reports back on how Change4Life has performed against the targets in the marketing strategy, together with what had been learned about using marketing to influence behaviour.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112529

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_112632.pdf

New youth centre for Kings Cross (23/02/10)

The New Horizons youth centre has been refurbished. It will help young people who have been exposed to dangerous lifestyles from an early age. Some of the young people to benefit from specialist support have suffered mental health and drug problems and have been victims of physical or sexual abuse. The centre will give them a safe place to go and alternative things to do to prevent them from risky behaviours and activities.

New Horizons is the second 'myplace' centre to open in England giving young people a place to call their own, as well as targeted support based on local needs. Up to 10 projects are expected to be opened by the end of this summer.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0044

Vetting and Barring Scheme (Feb 2010)

This note adds detail on the exception from ISA registration re host families for school and FE college exchanges, and draws attention to recent news items relating to the VBS.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/vettingandbarringscheme/vettingandbarring/>

New measures to tackle underage drinking (16/02/10)

Building on the drive to reduce underage drinking, these measures are designed to educate and support young people to make sensible decisions about alcohol, as well as cracking down in areas where underage drinking is causing anti-social behaviour.

The measures mean that:

- Over 2,000 young people will take part in a Kickz football tournament, a positive alternative to drinking. Along with over 35,000 young people involved in wider Kickz activity, participants will be encouraged to have open and honest conversations about the dangers of underage drinking in workshops
- Cinema adverts showing risks associated with drinking alcohol as part of the *Why Let Drink Decide?* campaign
- Every LA will have a good practice guide to help them work with the police, Trading Standards, children's services and youth services to prevent underage drinking becoming a problem in their area
- Parents will have greater confidence to talk to their children about drinking - research shows how influential parents are in a young person's relationship with alcohol
- The 69 Youth Crime Action Plan areas will receive additional funding of £350,000 to help police implement their new alcohol powers, including confiscation from young people and cracking down on retailers selling alcohol to underage young people

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/16022010nimeasurestotackleunderagedrinking/>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0039
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/youthmatters/youthtaskforce/ytf/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research>

Dawn Primarolo: Get to know what activities are on offer through your school (17/02/2010)

Parents will be targeted in a new campaign to help raise awareness of the range of activities, services and advice available through schools, as latest data shows that more than 90% are now offering extended services.

Over 20,000 schools are currently offering access to services for families in their local communities and thousands of children and parents are already benefiting. The new campaign aims to get even more families taking up the services available - with radio and press adverts starting today.

Schools are working in partnership with local services in their area to offer a range of activities for families, including:

- before and after school activities including homework clubs, sport, music and arts activities - providing young people with a safe place to be before and after school
- childcare from 8am-6pm for 48 weeks a year for primary schools, on the school site or through other local providers
- parenting and family support, including parenting programmes and family learning sessions
- swift and easy access to specialist services such as speech and language therapy and mental health services
- community use of facilities including adult and family learning and information technology services

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/17022010niactivitiesonofferthroughschool/>
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Childcare/DG_172212

Aiming High for Young People: Engaging through social media (Feb 2010)

DCSF have created a set of materials to help communicate and collaborate with young people through social media and inspiring video content. This advice will help reach out to a youth audience by promoting activities and encouraging innovative ways of communicating:

- Engaging through social media: Social media explained – This explains social media and how you can work with it. It will allow you to start a conversation with young people and get them actively involved in creating and maintaining a social media group, page or account.
- Engaging through social media: Video production explained – This outlines how you can develop creative videos to promote your activities.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00676/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7740>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7742>

Pathfinders for nursery funding system (22/02/10)

56 LAs will be invited to join the pathfinder programme to implement the Early Years Single Funding Formula from today, ahead of the full rollout in April 2011. The EYSFF will provide a more transparent basis for childcare funding and will mean that LAs will be able to manage the funding of childcare providers in their area according to local priorities and need.

This will ensure that they are better able to implement the free childcare entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds - which will be extended from 12.5 hours to 15 hours per week in September 2010.



The new offer aims to ensure all children get the best possible start in life, regardless of background or income, by providing families with easy to access, high quality early learning and childcare that is flexible to their needs.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/22022010ni56localareastobepathfinders/>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0041

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0041

Children Missing from Home or Care. LA self-evaluation scores of measures to monitor, respond to and address runaway cases. England, Oct 2008 - Dec 2009 (24/02/10)

LAs provide a self-evaluation score in:

- Local information about running away is gathered
- Local Needs Analysis, based on gathered information, is in place
- Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways agreed
- Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals from police or other agencies are in place
- Local procedures include effective needs assessment protocols, to support effective prevention /intervention work.

The sum of the above scores constitutes the Overall Score which represent the National indicator 71

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000912/index.shtml>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000912/YRs_Jan_10_StatisticalRelease.pdf

Vetting and Barring Scheme (Feb 2010)

This note adds more detail on one aspect of VBS policy - the new exception from ISA registration in relation to the host families for school and FE college exchanges - and to draw the attention of head teachers and

Response to Asbestos Training and Consultancy Association survey of asbestos management in 16 schools

(22/02/10)

Schools Minister Iain Wright said:

The health and welfare of pupils and staff is absolutely paramount – that's why we are listening carefully to the views of different groups on asbestos. By law, tough, robust processes must be in place in schools to carefully monitor asbestos. All LAs and school employers must fully comply. The HSE's expert advice is to remove damaged asbestos, but it is safer to leave undisturbed or undamaged asbestos in place and carefully manage it. The HSE does not hesitate to take action in areas which are not up to scratch.

The HSE and DCSF have surveyed every LA over the last year to assess their asbestos management and ensure that they are fulfilling their legal duties – the first ever such national audit.

We will be producing further training and guidance on asbestos management for headteachers, governors and LAs. We are setting up a steering group with campaigners, unions and other groups to help improve asbestos management in schools.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/index.cfm?event=news.item&id=response_to_asbestos_training_and_consultancy_association_atca_survey_of_asbestos_management_in_16_schools

Asbestos: The Survey Guide HSG264

(18/02/10)

This new guide updates and replaces the guidance contained in MDHS100. It also has a wider target audience and introduces some new terminology. It clarifies the role of the survey in the management of asbestos and contains specific new guidance for the



Client. It strongly recommends the use of accredited or certificated surveyors. The guide also targets the dutyholder. This is the person who is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the fabric of the building. It sets out how to decide what type of survey is appropriate, how to select a competent surveyor; what the client (duty holder) should expect from a surveyor and what the client should provide to the surveyor. It highlights issues (e.g. restricted access, excluded areas and other caveats) which not only reduce the effectiveness of the survey, but also have serious implications for managing asbestos.

<http://news.hse.gov.uk/lau/2010/02/18/new-asbestos-guidance-published/?rss>

Supporting the parenting workforce

(16/02/10)

From 20/03/10, the CWDC will take over responsibility for support to those who work with parents from the National Academy for Parent Practitioners. A new programme - Support to Work with Parents and Families – will have 3 distinct threads:

- Qualifications and training development and delivery.
- Communication and strategic change.
- Promotion of evidence-based practice throughout the workforce.

The programme's aim will be to provide support for updating the work with parents national occupational standards and qualifications and link it to the agreed strategy of the children and young people's workforce.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/3119_cwdc-to-take-over-responsibility-to-support-the-parenting-workforce

Action plan on special educational needs
(24/02/10)

Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Schools Minister Diana Johnson have published plans to implement all the recommendations in Brian Lamb's review on SEN. This action plan will help create a higher skilled workforce able to respond to children's needs; more accessible information and advice for parents; and stronger accountability and redress when children do not get the support they need.

In addition, ministers are also announcing:

- Advanced teacher training: up to £4m for the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to develop advanced training on SEN by Spring 2011. The TDA will also run projects engaging parents in the training and professional development of teachers.
- Legal training for all school governors: A new training package on SEN law will be launched so governors are clear on their school's responsibilities to support children with SEN.
- Improving information for parents: A public consultation on amending how information on SEN is given to parents. The consultation will involve parents, schools, local authorities and other organisations and will find best practice in communicating with parents.
- Educational psychology services: a review of services provided at arms length from LAs and their impact on parental confidence and children's outcomes.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0047

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

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0255

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/8623-DCSF-ParentalConfidence.pdf>

SEN and Disability: Understanding Local Variation in Prevalence, Service Provision and Support (Feb 2010)

The aims of the study were to explore why there was variation in the way LAs provided for SEN, and whether and when this variation amounted to inequitable provision. Specifically the research examined the extent and nature of local variation in the apparent prevalence of children with SEN, how it arises, and the implications for the ability of local authorities to identify and meet the needs of children with SEN.

It aimed to identify the approaches and systems that appear to support more effective practice in identification, provision and working practices to support children with SEN and how the issues of identification, classification and provision are linked, with implications for policy and practice.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR211&>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR211.pdf>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RB211ES.pdf>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RB211.pdf>

Customer Voice Research - Safer School Partnerships (Feb 2010)

This research aimed to provide an understanding of parents' and young people's spontaneous reactions and feelings about having a police presence in schools and to ascertain what is it they know about police in schools and where/how they get their information.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR212&>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR212.pdf>

Deaf children 'being failed by local authorities' (25/02/10)

The University of Manchester study of 57 LAs for the NDCS found:

- 60% did not view deaf children as "children in need", despite being defined as such in law
- about a third had specialist teams or arrangements with designated responsibility for deaf children and their families (4 had no designated services arrangements at all).
- in 46%, there were no qualified social workers who worked with deaf children and their families either as part or whole of their job remit.
- More than 50% said they had no formal referral arrangements between social work and education professionals
- nearly 45% said they had no formal referral arrangements between social work and health professionals.
- Only 37% showed evidence of co-working arrangements between child protection teams and specialist social workers
- 18% described a situation in which there was no co-working at all

The report said that deaf children were "3.4 times more likely than hearing children to experience abuse; and 40% will experience mental health problems in childhood"

NDCS policy and campaigns director Brian Gale said "It is vital that local safeguarding children boards take heed of this research and improve their child protection arrangements for deaf children before it is too late."

The research is published in Every Child Journal.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8534660.stm>

'Invisible children' and their anxieties (22/02/10)

Research commissioned by BAAF as part of their Somebody Else's Child awareness raising campaign reveals that:

- more than 1 in 10 children living in England and Wales could have been privately fostered
- 46% of those surveyed said they have had anxieties while in those arrangements.
- 42% said they didn't think anyone outside of the family was told that they were being privately fostered, creating large numbers of 'invisible children'
- 8% said they didn't know why they had been sent away
- 14% said they felt confused while being privately fostered
- 80% felt they were well looked after, 15% said the care was only okay, and 6% felt they were not well looked after

The reasons children become private fostered can vary greatly. In the survey:

- 25% said they became privately fostered because their parents were on holiday
- 17% said their parents had long term health problems
- another 17% said their parents were working away from home
- 10% said their parents were living somewhere else
- 9% said they'd had a row with their mum and dad
- 5% said their parents were in prison
- A further 34% cited 'other' as the reason.

David Holmes, Chief Executive of BAAF said: "This research is important because it tells us what children and young people think about private fostering. It also gives us important new evidence about the potential prevalence of these arrangements.

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/media/releases/100222.shtml>

Case management and outcomes for neglected children returned to their parents: A five year follow-up study

Practitioners have very little research to inform them about which kinds of case management or combinations of services keep neglected children safe and contribute to improved outcomes. Given that cases of neglect often need long-term interventions, the aim of this study was to help to fill knowledge gaps about how children are assessed and managed over time when there are concerns about harm to them and to identify predictors of child outcomes when cases were followed up over a five-year period.

The study, summarised in this brief, followed up a cohort of neglected children who had been looked after and reunified with a parent and aimed to examine the case management, interventions and outcomes of a consecutive sample of neglected children for 5 years from the point of first referral to children's social care services.

It also investigated which factors are related to outcomes for children at the 5 year follow-up point and explores, through in-depth interviews with social workers, how far parents and children engage with professional interventions and whether there are particular issues in cases of neglect which make the work more complex or demanding.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RB214&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RB214.pdf>
<http://tcru.ioe.ac.uk/scr/Default.aspx?tabid=131>

Special educational needs and disability (Feb 2010)

Following the Badman review of Home Education, the DCSF has published a guidance letter for LAs on their duties in meeting the special educational needs of home-educated children.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/en/>
http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/14700/Home-educated%20children%20with%20SEN.pdf

The impact of the National Strategies in education (24/02/10)

This report identifies lessons from programmes ranging from literacy and numeracy, to pupil behaviour and the development of a more highly skilled workforce.

This report evaluates which aspects of the National Strategies' programmes had been effective and which less so, and how leaders and managers at regional and local levels of the National Strategies judged their impact.

Almost all the schools visited considered that the National Strategies had contributed to improving the quality of teaching and learning and the use of assessment, and valued their materials. However, the frequent introduction of new initiatives had led to overload and diminished their potential effectiveness. Evaluation of the impact of the National Strategies' many programmes was also a weakness at national and local level.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-National-Strategies-a-review-of-impact>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10855/128988/file/The%20National%20Strategies%20a%20review%20of%20impact.pdf>

Towards safer organisations: Adults who pose a risk to children in the workplace and implications for recruitment and selection (Feb 2010)

This report presents the key findings of a review of the literature on child abuse in organisations. It aims to inform methods of recruitment in settings where staff or volunteers may come into contact with children. The study also draws on interviews with relevant professionals and a small sample of convicted child sex offenders.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/TowardsSaferOrganisations_wda63931.html

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/TowardsSaferOrganisationsReport_wdf72972.pdf

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/TowardsSaferOrganisationsSummary_wdf63929.pdf

Outcomes of Interagency Training to Safeguard Children: Final Report to the DCSH and DH (Feb 2010)

Official inquiries, policy guidance and research reviews have consistently advocated that if professionals concerned with safeguarding children are to work together more effectively they should learn together to work together.

The overall aim of this study was to develop an evidence base for interdisciplinary training to safeguard children by assessing the scope and content of programmes commissioned by LSCBs, and the participation in courses of professionals and others in contact with and/or working with children.

It also aimed to investigate the context for training, specifically, how LSCBs carried out their responsibilities under the statutory guidance and the experiences of training

coordinators and trainers.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR209&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR209.pdf>

Staying Safe Survey 2009: Young people and parents' attitudes around accidents, bullying and safety (Feb 2010)

In March 2008, the Byron review was published and recommended an education and awareness campaign to parents and children around internet safety. To support this work the DCSF wanted to establish some benchmark levels of awareness among parents and children and young people of the safety issues covered within the Staying Safe Action Plan and the Byron Review, and awareness of some of the communications materials currently available to parents and children and young people.

The main aim of this research is to measure and track parents' and children's awareness, attitudes and reported behaviour across the various safety issues covered within the Action Plan and Review, which will be delivered (or supported) by the DCSF. This research is also required to inform further campaign development and priorities.

This research will also be used to measure progress of the collective communications efforts, although it will not be used to determine the success of any individual communications activity or campaign.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR192&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR192.pdf>

Improving outcomes for young people

(16/02/10)

C4EO is urging local areas to share examples of effective practice concerning young people which are improving outcomes. Validated examples will contribute to a bank of evidence designed to help equip those working in the sector with knowledge and evidence about 'what works'.

For its youth theme in particular, examples are being sought which demonstrate improved outcomes for young people by:

- Increasing the engagement of young people in positive activities
- Spreading and deepening the impact of targeted youth support
- Reducing alcohol consumption by young people and so improving their health, safety and well-being.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/news/whatsnew/16022010areyouimprovingoutcomesforyoungpeople.aspx>

Change in Wellbeing from Childhood to Adolescence: Risk and Resilience (Feb 2010)

The ECM framework identified 5 outcomes as important for child wellbeing: being healthy; staying safe; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution and achieving economic wellbeing. This report uses secondary data analysis to examine changes in wellbeing within the framework of risk and resilience. It focuses on children's psychosocial wellbeing, looking at 4 different aspects: emotional, behavioural, social and subjective school wellbeing,

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-WBL-10-01&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-WBL-10-01.pdf>

The arrest and detention of children subject to immigration control (Feb 2010)

This report sets out the children's perspective of their experiences following any changes arising from the report published by the Children's Commissioner in May 2009. It focuses on recommendations from that report and considers whether the arrangements now in place have addressed the concerns.

http://www.11million.org.uk/content/publications/content_393

http://www.11million.org.uk/content/publications/content_394

Amended London Child Protection Procedures

Section 19 (serious case reviews) of the London Child Protection Procedures has now been superseded by the publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children, Chapter 8. Serious Case Reviews (DCSF, December 2009). The pdf versions of the London Procedures have subsequently been amended.

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

A helping hand for schools (17/02/10)

The Food Standards Agency is offering grants towards half the cost of Cookits for primary schools. Cookit is a set of high quality cooking equipment, containing all the equipment needed to teach basic cooking and baking skills to up to 12 pupils.

It also includes a range of items for teacher demonstrations, activity and recipe ideas, and health and hygiene advice. It is designed to enable teachers to teach practical cooking skills and inspire children to learn about healthier eating and food

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2010/feb/cookit>

Consultations

Notifications by Ofsted to LAs about children's social care providers (15/02/10)

This consultation is about the information Ofsted are required to notify to all LAs in England and Wales when they take specific actions against providers of children's homes, residential family centres, fostering agencies, voluntary adoption agencies and adoption support agencies.

Actions include restricting new admissions to children's homes or residential family centres or cancelling a provider's registration. The consultation asks whether the detail to be provided is appropriate and whether the circumstances where notifications are made to LAs are appropriate.

Closing Date: 10th May 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1686&external=no&menu=1>

School, college and community-based PSHE, including health literacy, with particular reference to sexual health behaviour and alcohol (24/02/10)

Registered stakeholders are asked to consider the evidence and comment, in particular on:

- major gaps in the evidence reviews, 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 equity, equality and diversity

Closing Date: 24th March 2010

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=47605>

Improving the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people (15/02/10)

Registered stakeholders are invited to comment on this draft guidance.

Points to consider:

- Points or areas that are not covered, but which appear to fall within the scope of the guidance.
- Potential inconsistencies or any disagreement with the Programme Development Group's interpretation of the evidence and its applicability.
- The practical value of the provisional recommendations.
- Issues of presentation and style, including how the provisional recommendations have been grouped and ordered. Currently, they are grouped under themes – would they be better grouped by type of organisation/practitioner?
- Whether the right organisations and individuals have been identified under 'Who should take action?' for each recommendation.
- Do you think this guidance could be changed to better promote equality of opportunity relating to age, disability, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, religion and belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic status?

Closing Date: 14th April 2010

lookedafterchildren@nice.org.uk

Consultations (continued)

Inspection of local authority private fostering arrangements (24/02/10)

Ofsted has been asked by the DCSF to inspect LAs' private fostering arrangements for a second time. The purpose of this consultation is to seek a wide range of views from those who have an interest in, or expertise relating to, private fostering arrangements in order to ensure that the inspection framework takes proper account of the needs and circumstances of all interested parties but above all the needs of the children and young people who are privately fostered. Therefore Ofsted is particularly interested to hear from privately fostered children and young people.

Closing date: 19th May 2010.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Inspection-of-local-authority-private-fostering-arrangements>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10861/129066/file/Inspection%20of%20local%20authority%20private%20fostering%20arrangements.doc>

Conferences

Autism – One in a hundred children: Sharing good practice in developing services

29th March 2010 London
£150 - £250 + VAT

Autism is a complex and lifelong neurological condition affecting approximately 1 in 100 children of school age. TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education, recently launched a report which examined the range and quality of services available for children and young people with autism and their families. The report highlighted examples of exemplary practice and also showed some opportunities for further development.

The seminar will cover:

- An overview of children's autism services in the UK – findings from TreeHouse research
- Understanding autism and the needs of children and young people with autism in accessing local services
- Partnership working to improve service delivery at local level
- Good practice in designing and delivering services for children and young people with autism

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Pages/CSN290310.aspx>

Child Mortality Learning the Lessons

19th April 2010 Manchester £95 - £110

The purpose of the day is to explore the impact of " Why Children Die" which has produced recommendations for children, their carers and the institutions which exist to help them be healthy and stay safe.

[http://www.cmace.org.uk/Events/Cemach-Events/Guideline-for-the-Management-of-Obesity-in-Pre-\(1\).aspx](http://www.cmace.org.uk/Events/Cemach-Events/Guideline-for-the-Management-of-Obesity-in-Pre-(1).aspx)

Safe internet use by young people

17th March 2010 Swansea £120 - £145

This hands-on training day is recommended for anyone working with children, young people and parents such as teachers, librarians, youth workers, community groups and social workers. The day will give professionals an awareness of new media, the internet and mobile technologies.

This course will include:

- An introduction to internet technologies like blogs, wikis, voip, RSS feeds, social networking sites etc
- Exploring how young people are using some of these technologies
- Helping professionals to better understand the positive opportunities presented by these technologies
- An understanding of the online risks faced by young people and help them understand and manage key internet safety issues
- Providing resources and strategies to ensure that delegates better manage their own and their young people's personal security online

E-mail: bookings@childreninwales.org.uk
<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/12198.html>

Employment Law in Schools

19th May 2010 London

£349 - £499 + VAT

Schools increasingly act as employers of – so understanding employment law is more important than ever. This conference will ensure school managers know how to meet their employment law obligations – from safer recruitment to redundancy, dismissal and harassment claims.

<http://www.teachingexpertise.com/landing/ME-10B-EP298-Order.htm>

Conferences (continued)

Safeguarding Children

3rd March 2010 Cardiff £40

Level 3 child protection training essential for all professionals working directly with children and families - This event is suitable for doctors, allied health professionals, health service managers, dentists, social workers, voluntary agencies, and public health staff working with children.

Dept of Child Health

Tel: 0292074 4562/3375

E-mail okadac@cf.ac.uk

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/12859.html>

Prevention, Provision, Protection – A Joined Up Approach to Tackling Violence Against Women

9th March 2010 London £175 - £225

The recent Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy promises a new era of cross-government cooperation to tackle violence against women. Engaging with the panel, key questions to be addressed include:

- The new strategy, what it means and how it's different from before
 - Ensuring the strategy is a truly cross government one
 - What the strategy means for practitioners at the local level
- New legislation, procedures and guidance resulting from the strategy
- Areas where further work is needed
 - Any funding or associated assistance arising as a result of the strategy

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=6268>

Protecting Children Locally: Using Serious Case Reviews to Improve Practice

18th March 2010 London £175 - £225

In spite of the increased focus on SCRs, Ofsted's latest evaluation of 173 SCRs has found that there is still significant room for improvement in the process. While 23% of reviews were judged good and 43% adequate, weaknesses still existed in 34% that were judged as inadequate. The clear message is that even more needs to be done to ensure the review process improves the way children are protected from harm across the country.

Delegates will have the opportunity to examine in detail what is known about the SCR process and the implications for local practice in undertaking SCRs. Engaging with the panel, key issues to be addressed at this Policy and Practice Briefing will include:

- The role of the LSCB in commissioning a SCR
- Independent chairs and overview writers
- Gathering evidence for SCRs
- The place of Individual Management Reviews
- SCRs that span more than one area
- The impact of judicial procedures on SCRs
- The role of Ofsted in evaluating case reviews
- Applying lessons learned in the local area and beyond
- Examining SCIE proposals for improving the SCR process

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=9468>

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