

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 150
25th January 2010**

**'Firm Foundations' early years campaign
(18/01/10)**

The Early Childhood Unit at NCB, is launching 'Firm Foundations', a campaign to highlight the importance of investment in services for young children.

'Firm Foundations' is an information sharing campaign, designed to communicate the evidence of existing quality early years services, and the benefits that such services bring to both children and our communities. The campaign website will bring practitioners, families and policymakers together to share information, good practice and their experiences of early years provision.

The Firm Foundations campaign wants:

- High quality early years education and care for all young children
- Parents, families and early years professionals working in partnership for the benefit of young children
- Consolidation and continued improvement in recent early years developments
- Greater investment in early years education and care to reduce inequality and tackle disadvantage
- A good quality early years workforce through improving training, pay and conditions.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media/news/2010/jan_to_jun/firm_foundations_campaign.aspx

<http://firmfoundationscampaign.org.uk/>

Children's Secretary writes to Sir Roger Singleton to ask for views on physical punishment (18/01/10)

In this letter, Ed Balls explains that corporal punishment is banned in maintained schools and full-time independent schools, but there are concerns that the reasonable punishment defence may be available to those who teach in certain part-time educational and learning settings e.g. religious instruction that children attend at the weekend.

The defence of reasonable punishment can be raised where a person who is a parent or acting in loco-parentis pleads as a defence to a charge of assault that his or her actions constituted reasonable punishment of the child. Section 58 Children Act 2004 provided that this defence cannot be pleaded in respect of offences of ABH, GBH and cruelty to a person under 16, but a parent who gives a mild smack to a child that does not constitute one of these more serious offences remains able to plead the reasonable punishment defence.

Mr Balls says he wants to establish a clear understanding of the issues, but whilst the Government does not condone smacking, it does not want to criminalise parents who decide to administer a mild smack.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=ed_balls_writes_to_sir_roger_singleton_to_ask_for_views_on_physical_punishment&type=1

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/images/userfiles/file/Ed%20Balls%20to%20Sir%20Roger%20Singleton%20180110.pdf>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/images/userfiles/file/Vernon%20Coaker%20to%20Ann%20Cryer%20180110.pdf>

Will you wake up? – Guidance for students using gas appliances in rented accommodation (08/01/10)

Last year 15 people died and 234 suffered major injuries from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Don't become a statistic; there are things you can do to keep yourself safe.

If you are living in rented accommodation, your landlord has to have any gas appliance that they own regularly maintained by a Gas Safe Register engineer and issue you with a copy of the gas safety certificate following the annual safety check. Contact HSE if your landlord does not, on request, provide you with a copy of the certificate.

You can also ensure that you are protecting yourself by installing an audible carbon monoxide alarm. If it is a battery operated device, you need to test that the battery is working on a regular basis, just as you would with a smoke alarm.

'Will you wake up?' is the HSE campaign aimed at making you, your parents and your landlord aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide. Download the poster and leaflets and tell your housemates so you all stay safe this winter.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/domestic/student.htm>

HSE myth of the month: It's ok to get a general handyman to work on gas appliances (Jan 10)

Gas and cowboys don't mix! Anyone employed to work on gas appliances must be listed on the Gas Safe Register. If the person isn't registered then they might not be safe and they are also breaking the law.

Incorrectly fitted or badly repaired gas appliances can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning, gas leaks, fires and explosions.

By using a Gas Safe engineer, you can make sure that they're qualified to do the work safely - just check the back of their ID card!
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/jan10.htm>

LAC (2312090002) - ContactPoint Grant: 2010-11 (14/01/10)

This circular sets out the grant allocations, conditions of grant and payment arrangements, relating to the ContactPoint Grant 2010-11.

The Accountability Framework for ContactPoint operations and compliance templates (Annex F) are also attached.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/lac2312090002/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7276>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7277>

LAC(3112080003) - Think Family Grant: 2009-10

This Circular was revised on 11 Jan 2010 to reflect updated grant allocations.

This circular sets out the grant allocations, conditions of grant and payment arrangements, relating to the Think Family Grant, supporting the roll-out of parent and family support across all authorities.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/3112080003/>

Children in care Barnado's conference

Baroness Delyth Morgan speech (20/01/10)
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/search_detail.cfm?ID=979
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/media/documents/DM%20-%20Barnardos%20care%20conference%200.1.10%20.doc>

Only 1% of kids' packed lunches meet school meal nutritional standards

(13/01/10)

Only 1% of primary schoolchildren's packed lunches meet the nutritional standards set for school meals in England, a study by Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health suggests. Findings of the study include:

- Crisps, sweets, and sugary drinks still dominate over fruit and veg despite the government's drive to make lunchboxes healthier
- Half of UK children eat a packed lunch - equating to 5.5bn lunches a year
- All of the 1,300 children in the study, aged between 8 and 9, took a packed lunch to school on at least 1 day of the week
- Almost 9 out of 10 ate a packed lunch every day
- Only 1 in 5 packed lunches contained any vegetables or salad

Judy Hargadon, School Food Trust's Chief Executive, re-affirmed school lunches as the healthiest option for children, now that new nutritional standards for school lunches have been brought in.

These standards say school lunches must contain protein-rich foods such as chicken and low fat starchy foods like pasta, as well as vegetables, fruit and dairy products.

Download a 3 week plan for healthy packed lunches.

<http://resources.healthyschools.gov.uk/v/b824d42b-d0cd-4af0-b758-9cfd009e904e?c=8d58bfca-39d1-4d7d-927a-9cb501033fb9>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8451828.stm>

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/news_item.asp?NewsId=215

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/UploadDocs/News/documents/sft_low_cost_packed_lunch_recipes.pdf

The state of happiness: can public policy shape people's wellbeing and resilience?

(18/01/10)

This report highlights that promoting and influencing happiness is no longer just an aspiration. As the recession forces difficult public spending choices, services focused on wellbeing are delivering economic and social benefits – especially to children.

'The State of Happiness' brings together 4 years of work based on pilots in Manchester, Hertfordshire and South Tyneside.

The report recommends prioritising programmes that:

- teach children resilience in schools, drawing on strong evidence that this improves academic performance and behaviour, as well as future employability
- promote opportunities for neighbours to get to know each other, based on clear evidence that this tends to enhance wellbeing
- provide support to isolated older people to help them create and maintain social networks, and reduce anxiety and depression
- reshape apprenticeships and other programmes for teenagers to strengthen psychological fitness and help them find and keep work
- support families so parents are happier and children are less likely to face problems at home and at school
- promote activities that are good for the environment and make people feel better about their lives.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=16141673>

<http://www.youngfoundation.org/publications/reports/the-state-happiness-new-report>
http://www.youngfoundation.org/files/images/wellbeing_happiness_Final_2.pdf

Children to be offered better protection against disease (19/01/10)

Protection against septicæmia and pneumococcal meningitis will be boosted from 7 to 13 strains of pneumococcal bacteria.

A replacement vaccine, which will protect children against a greater number of strains of the pneumococcal bacteria, is to be introduced into the routine Childhood Immunisation Programme later this spring.

The new vaccine will follow exactly the same 3 dose schedule that is used at present: one vaccination at 2, 4 and 13 months old. Parents of infants who are due to be vaccinated should not delay.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=410399&SubjectID=2>
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_111300.pdf

Practice advice published on eligibility criteria for disabled children's services (18/01/10)

This practice advice aims to support LAs deliver services for disabled children and their families and fulfil their obligations under the Aiming High for Disabled Children agenda. It follows:

- a statement on eligibility criteria (Aug09)
- R(JL & LL) v Islington LB, which clarified the lawfulness or otherwise of eligibility criteria used to limit or cap access to disabled children's social care services.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/news/news_archive/2010_news/january_2010/18_jhan.aspx
<http://www.ncb.org.uk/pdf/Eligibility%20criteria%20final.pdf>
http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/campaigns/aiming_high.aspx

Monitoring inspections of schools that are subject to special measures (15/01/10)

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

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Monitoring-inspections-of-schools-that-are-subject-to-special-measures>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10683/127624/file/Monitoring%20inspection%20of%20schools%20that%20are%20subject%20to%20special%20measures.doc>

Monitoring inspections of schools with a notice to improve (15/01/10)

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

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Monitoring-inspections-of-schools-with-a-notice-to-improve>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10687/127644/file/Monitoring%20inspection%20of%20schools%20with%20a%20notice%20to%20improve.doc>

Monitoring inspections of schools whose overall effectiveness is satisfactory (15/01/10)

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

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Monitoring-inspections-of-schools-whose-overall-effectiveness-is-satisfactory>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10685/127634/file/Monitoring%20inspection%20of%20schools%20whose%20overall%20effectiveness%20is%20satisfactory.doc>

‘Support for All – the Families and Relationships Green Paper’ (20/01/10)

This sets out how the Government can support all families, help prevent and resolve marriage and relationship breakdown, support and recognise dads and grandparents, improve flexible working for families, and give more targeted support to families in need.


Measures on improving flexible working for parents, especially dads, include:

- Reviewing/consulting on the notice period for the 2 week paternity leave period
- Looking at whether parents should be able to take parental leave when their children are over 5, as part of the consultation on the European Directive on parental leave
- Raising awareness of family friendly employment rights, with a new guide on Direct.gov and through the new Family Information Services Directory
- Support and encouragement to businesses to implement family friendly working.

Family Justice system

A review will look at alternative ways to resolve conflicts out of the court system. Mediation is quicker and publicly funded, but often families are unaware of this service or assume it is those hoping to reconcile.

Measures to improve mediation services include:

- Consulting on whether mediation assessment should be compulsory where there are unresolved conflicts over residence and contact with children
- Improving and promoting the information on Direct.gov website so that parents are aware of the benefits of mediation earlier
- Working with the Family Mediation Council (FMC) to build on accreditation schemes for mediators so that couples can feel confident in the service. 

Relationship breakdown

Measures to support children and families deal with relationship breakdown include:

- a guide for C&YP whose parents are separating or divorcing, with the Kids in the Middle (KITM) campaign
- Piloting ‘Parenting Together Apart’ sessions to help couples overcome parenting difficulties when separating/ed
- Evaluating the Targeted Mental Health in Schools Programme

Targeted help for families in need

Plans to help those with disabled children include:

- Specialist relationship counselling services
- Extended key worker support to help families access care and services

Help for parents of teenagers includes:


- a parenting booklet giving advice on drugs and alcohol and other challenges
- a web tool to bring together information on a range of adolescent problems

Grandparents

Plans include:

- ensuring children’s centres are accessible and welcoming to all those who care for children, including grandparents.
- a website for grandparents ‘BeGrand’ with advice on getting involved in their grandchildren’s lives e.g. online advisors, directory of services, peer support.

New support for grandparents during family breakdown includes:

- Simplifying the legal process by removing the requirement to apply for the court’s permission before making an application for contact with grandchildren
- Improving information about the legal and other options available so they can maintain relationships with their grandchildren when parents separate. 

Kinship carers

New measures to help kinship carers include:

- Strengthening NMS for foster carers so family and friends carers have relevant training, development and financial support
- Giving LAs statutory guidance on how to treat and interact with carers
- support pack for relatives caring for C&YP with drug or alcohol misusing parents
- Exploring:
 - difficulties faced by families and friend carers who have to go to court to secure care of a child
 - complexity of support available and how to access the support they need

Dads

The Government will publish a Dads Guide with advice ahead of a child's birth, whilst the RCM have offered to produce guidance on engaging dads. Other plans include:

- Improving the quality and accessibility of services for families - the Family and Parenting Institute to design a process, materials and training that services can use, on a voluntary basis, to make their provision more family friendly.
- Providing more information for grandparents and easier to access information and support via a new 'Family Information Direct' service
- Every family with children under 5, or expecting a child, will be provided with a clear, minimum offer of services they should receive across health, early learning and care and employment.

Families will also receive an assessment for support when a situation suggests they may need help e.g. child permanently excluded from school or given an ASBO.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0018

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/CM-7787.pdf>

Family justice Review (20/01/10)

The Secretaries of State for Justice and Children, Schools and Families and the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Health and Social Services have commissioned a review of the family justice system in England and Wales.

The review should assess how the current system operates against identified principles and make recommendations for reform in two core areas:

- the promotion of informed settlement and agreement; and
- management of the family justice system.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/docs/family-justice-review-terms-reference.pdf>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease200110a.htm>

Understanding the needs of adults (particularly parents) regarding relationship support (20/01/10)

In Dec 08, the Children's Secretary announced a 3-point plan which focused attention on bolstering adult couple relationships. To help inform this plan, the DCSF commissioned this study which found that many people agreed that the Government should:

- provide more support for new parents
- provide more support for children whose parents split up
- train professionals to spot relationship problems, ensure services such as counselling and parenting support are available, and involve men as well as women
- do more to help couples build stronger and lasting relationships

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploads/DCSF-RBX-10-01.pdf>

Customer Voice Research - Family Relationship Support (20/01/10)

Research objectives

The objectives of this research were to understand parents' reactions to the proposition, "Strong, stable family relationships have positive benefits for children, adults, communities and society" and ascertain the role parents think 'the State' should play in strengthening relationships.

Ultimately this research provided the DCSF with a contextual understanding of family relationships, the support that parents feel they need and some insight into the role Government may be able to play, feeding into the Green Paper

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR203.pdf>

Educational Visits Guidance

Educational visits can help to enrich young peoples' learning, raise their self esteem, increase motivation and appetite for learning and raise levels of achievement.

Learning outside the classroom is a strong theme that runs through all stages of education in Wales. Visiting new areas and exploring new environments broadens young peoples' horizons and can deepen awareness of their own and others' abilities and needs. Visits can improve understanding between young people and their leaders and allow for improved working relationships.

This guidance sets out a common framework for management of educational visits across all LAs in Wales. It reflects good practice in all types of educational visit - no matter who is doing the providing or who the learning.



This document outlines one approach but is not an authoritative interpretation of the legal framework underpinning the responsibilities associated with educational visits.

While intended for use by LAs, this guidance will also be a useful resource for others organising off-site visits for young people.

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learningproviders/providers_health_and_safety/educationalvisits/?lang=en
http://new.wales.gov.uk/dcells/publications/info_for_learning_providers/healthandsafety/educationalvisits/educationalvisitse.doc;jsessionid=X1hGLVJZzTGyr6JTG4ZJnLYz1qQMfYs3NyVBGLn4b1yKpjLJG6ys!-1826203948?lang=en

Children in Out-of-work Benefit Households (20/01/10)

These figures show numbers of children living in households where at least 1 parent or guardian claimed 1 or more of: Job Seekers' Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, or Pension Credit at May 2008.

The key points from the latest release are:

- There were 2.40m children living in an out of work benefit household at May 2008 (representing 1.27m households)
- 1.9m children lived in households claiming Income Support.
- 193,000 children lived in households claiming Jobseekers' Allowance.
- 699,000 children lived in households claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.
- 37,000 children lived in households claiming Pension Credit.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/ben_hholds/child_ben_hholds.asp

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/ben_hholds/cb_hholds_may2008.xls

Disadvantaged communities to get more support (21/01/10)

88 more Family Intervention Projects and £2.6m of funding for LAs to start or expand FIPs in their region.

The projects will fund an additional 200 key workers to help turn around the lives of over 1,200 families in need of support each year. The £11m projects are funded from the first round of the Housing Challenge Fund, and part funded by social landlords such as housing associations and LAs.

FIPs work with the most challenging families to help end cycles of anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, behavioural problems and poverty.

Research published in Nov 09 showed that FIPs across the country were already having a lasting impact on the families who had been involved in them since 2007. Of the 700 families who had been through a Family Intervention Project, there were reductions in families with anti-social behaviour problems, domestic violence concerns and a drop in the number of family breakdowns.

The key findings showed:

- 66% of families are no longer involved in any anti social behaviour
- 87% reduction in families with four or more anti social behaviour problems
- 68% reduction in families facing housing enforcement actions such as eviction from their homes
- 55% reduction in the number of families where truancy, exclusion or bad behaviour at school is an issue for their children
 - only 1 in 10 families still experiencing relationship breakdown (1 in 4 at the start)
 - 59% reduction in families where domestic violence is a concern

- 47% reduction in the number of families with drugs and alcohol problems

- 57% reduction in families with poor parenting

- 41% reduction in families in debt

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0020

Getting Advice (21/01/10)

This report of children's experience by the Children's Rights Director for England, is based on the experiences of 351 children and young people in care and care leavers.

Findings included:

- The usual sources of advice and personal information (in order) were social workers (foster carers for foster children); friends and parents; teachers; siblings (especially for those in their first 2 years in care); doctors; the internet; written material like leaflets and books
- Boys were more likely than the girls to turn to teachers and doctors
- Disabled children were as likely to turn to doctors as to friends
- 87% said they were getting all, or nearly all, the advice they needed. Children wanted to know why they were in care.
- 68% said they had been told everything they needed to know about why they came into care. Those who had been in care more than 6 years were less likely to know why they were in care.
- Times when some don't have the advice and information they need include times of change: when first coming into care; changing placements; leaving care; when they were without a social worker; when their social worker is changing; if adults think the information might be upsetting

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Care/Children-s-rights/Getting-advice>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10701/127760/file/Getting%20advice.pdf>

A study of the impact of changes to court rules governing media attendance in family proceedings - Summary of responses to stakeholder feedback (21/01/10)

New court rules were implemented in April 2009 to provide for media attendance at most family proceedings at all tiers of court except, for the time being, placement and adoption proceedings. 6 months on, we conducted the study to assess the impact of the new rules.

The change to the rules is just one of a number of new measures that aim to build a transparent, accountable family justice system which inspires the confidence of those it serves, while protecting the privacy of the children and families involved.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/media-family-proceedings.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/media-family-proceedings.pdf>

Video Recordings Bill receives Royal Assent (21/01/10)

Sanctions against those who unlawfully sell unclassified or age-restricted DVDs, videos or video games may once again be enforced after the Video Recordings Bill received Royal Assent earlier today.

The Bill repeals and revives the Video Recordings Act 1984 (VRA), restoring the public protection provided by a robust video classification system. It sets out the statutory requirement for videos, DVDs and some video games to be classified and age rated by the British Board of Film Classification. The legislation also sets out various criminal offences in the UK relating to the supply of this material.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/6586.aspx

Clinks Volunteering Guides (January 2010)

Clinks, which supports other charities that work with offenders and their families, has published guides to support organisations in their day-to-day work with offenders (includes young offenders). These have been developed with the expertise of Volunteering England, Charities Evaluation Services, and the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation.

Targeted at those who involve volunteers, or provide mentoring and befriending services to offenders and ex-offenders, they are designed to support organisations established or setting up. Titles include:

- Setting up a project
- Managing volunteers
- Demonstrating effectiveness
- Quality standards

<http://www.clinks.org/volunteeringguides.aspx>

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/978982/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Cafcass care applications Oct – Dec 09 (19/01/10)

Care demand is up 20.9% on 09 (378), suggesting it is stabilizing after the Baby Peter case. However, Nov 09 saw 753 applications – the third highest monthly figure since records began in 05.

Care demand April – Dec 09 is 46.1% higher than 08, 37.6% higher than 07, 25.9% higher than 06 and 31.2% higher than 05.

A study found that staff believed allocated cases were either appropriately timed, or should have been brought earlier. Increased applications could be attributed to the ‘Baby Peter effect’, but LAs had taken appropriate action in making these applications.

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2010/quarter_three_care_statistics.aspx

Consultations

Food allergy in children: scope consultation (11/01/10)

NICE have been asked to develop a clinical practice guideline on Food Allergy in Children for use in the NHS in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The draft scope defines what aspects of care the guideline will cover and to whom it will apply.

Registered stakeholders for the Food Allergy in Children guideline are invited to submit comments on the scope and may suggest clinical questions that could be answered in the guideline.

Individuals and organisations not registered as stakeholders **are not able to comment**, we recommend that you register as a stakeholder or you contact the registered stakeholder organisation that most closely represents your interests and pass your comments to them.

Closing Date: 8th February 2010
<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=46988>

Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper (20/01/10)

This Green Paper sets out a wide range of measures to support all families as they bring up their children and to help families cope with times of stress and difficulty. The proposals recognise that while all families need some help, there are families in our society with complex needs and others who require additional - and sometimes non-negotiable - support.

The Paper's proposals aim to influence factors that can strengthen or weaken family life, such as the choices available about balancing employment with bringing up children; and how welcoming and accessible public services are to families of all kinds.

The Paper focuses mostly on supporting family relationships by enabling families to help themselves. It also considers the position of children and other family members when family relationships have broken down.

Some of the policy proposals can be implemented straight away; others are for consultation or will take longer to put into place.

Closing Date: 21st April 2010
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1685&external=no&menu=1>

Conferences

Working Together and strengthening Children's Trusts (CTs) - Joint conferences on next steps

4th February 2010 Manchester
5th February 2010 Birmingham
11th February 2010 London

These events are part of the consultation process regarding:

- revision of Working Together to address recommendations in *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report*;
- statutory guidance on CTs, following the *Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009*, which covers CT Boards, the Children and Young People's Plan and addition of more statutory partners e.g. schools and colleges

They will provide opportunities to work with you as local leaders with strategic and managerial responsibility for the commissioning and delivery of services for children and families, and with practitioner groups, in taking these important developments and system reforms forward.

CT and LSCB chairs may nominate up to 3 further representatives to attend workshops, covering cross-cutting and specific themes.

One nomination could be the local CT 'Commissioning Champion'.

DCSs are asked to nominate a representative for the schools workshop and

Chief Constables are asked to nominate senior child abuse investigation officers or protecting vulnerable persons/domestic violence leads for the referrals workshop.

PCT Chief Executives should also consider nominations for commissioners of adult mental health and substance misuse services as the workshop on referrals will focus on parental problems affecting children's wellbeing and safety.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/downloads/NSDU&Children's%20Trusts%20Consultation%20Invitation1.pdf>

https://secure.symphonyem.co.uk/nsdu_working_together_and_strengthening_childrens_trusts/

Data Protection Officer Conference

3rd March 2010 Manchester Free

This event will be an opportunity to share ideas and experiences on dealing with the challenges Data Protection Officers face, and to hear from expert speakers.

The event will be opened by David Smith, Deputy Information Commissioner, followed by Christopher Graham Information Commissioner and Christine Goodfellow Director for Improving Information Sharing and Management Programme at the DCSF. The afternoon session will feature Robin Wilton of Future Identity who will be discussing digital security and privacy. There will also be a series of interactive workshops.

This event is targeted at Data Protection Officers; places will be allocated on a first come first served basis to individuals operating as Data Protection Officers for their organisations. No more than 2 delegates will be able to attend per organisation.

Closing date for registration: 11th Feb 2010
http://www.ico.gov.uk/about_us/news_and_views/current_topics/dpo_conference_2010.aspx

Conferences (continued)

Controversies in cot death: bedsharing, dummy use and breastfeeding

9th March 2010 5pm London Free

There continues to be a great deal of controversy surrounding advice given to parents about bedsharing and dummy use, and also whether these practices have an impact on breastfeeding. Health visitors, midwives and others involved in the care of babies often receive conflicting information from different sources, and when passed on to parents this contributes to confusion and anxiety.

A comprehensive and up to date overview of national and international research in the field will be presented at FSID's AGM by Professor George Haycock, FSID's Scientific Advisor, at Institute of Child Health, London.

This will enable all with an interest in the issue to judge for themselves the research strength of the arguments being put forward by different sources. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the issues.

There is no registration fee but you must have a confirmed booking registered in advance.

<http://fsid.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=699>

School Travel: Safer, Greener and Healthier Journeys

23rd March 2010 London half day

This Select Committee report tells education and transport ministers they must do more to produce a shift away from cars towards public transport, through dedicated school transport including 'Yellow Buses.'

There is growing concern about congestion and its impact on our environment and air quality, and the health and inactivity of children. The Government is committed to bring about a step change in pupils, parents and school staff school travel plans.

The Education and Inspections Act places a new duty on LAs to prepare and publish a sustainable school travel strategy leading to both health and environmental benefits. There is also provision for a small number of "Pathfinder" LAs to pilot innovative approaches, supporting school choice, reducing distances pupils are expected to walk to school and increasing the proportion travelling by sustainable means. The Govt's Low Carbon Transport Greener Future strategy also shows how transport will make a major contribution to reduce CO2 emissions. Effective and well designed travel plans will not only have an impact on the environment but on the health and well being of the child.

The Government has made great efforts to reduce the number of children killed or injured in road accidents. The Child Road Safety Strategy 2007 sets out an action plan to reduce, by 50%, the number killed or seriously injured on our roads by 2010. This forum will offer delegates the opportunity to examine whether this target has been met.

This forum will offer delegates the opportunity to discuss how they can align their school travel plans with national and local sustainable and healthy living priorities. <http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/school-travel/>

Conferences (continued)

Safeguarding Knowledge Workshops

11 th March 2010	North West
16 th March 2010	South West
17 th March 2010	East Midlands, West Midlands
23 rd March 2010	South – South East, London
25 th March 2010	North East, Yorkshire & Humber

Following the successful delivery of a series of national Safeguarding conferences, C4EO's Regional Workshops relating to Safeguarding will cover:

- What are the circumstances, characteristics and prevalence of families that are resistant to change?
- What challenges to practice and oversight are raised by a lack of positive change for families?
- What can you do that is effective for families where positive change is difficult?
 - Explore what data can tell us
 - Debate key issues
 - Exchange knowledge
 - Access support
 - Consider commissioning implications

Delegates should be those responsible for driving change and improvements in local safeguarding arrangements, in areas such as quality assurance, workforce development and training, change management or evidence informed practice.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/events/default.aspx#events>

[http://www.c4eo.org.uk/events/files/safeguarding/safeguarding what works in protectin](http://www.c4eo.org.uk/events/files/safeguarding/safeguarding%20what%20works%20in%20protectin)

Better beginnings for young parents and their babies

FSID regional development officers are holding a series of free training seminars called: These events are aimed at all health professionals working with young parents before and after the birth of their baby

They will provide:

- an understanding of infant death and the increased risk to babies of younger parents – parents 19 or younger are at a 4 times greater risk of cot death than older parents
- updates of the latest advice in safe infant care practices
- examples of the free tools available to get infant care messages to young parents
- free resources for professionals to take away from the seminar
- free resources for young parents. Each attendee will get ten of each to use with young parents they are working with

Outcomes:

- to give professionals the basis to be able to pass key messages on to young parents, through knowledge and new resources
- to empower young parents to have confidence, independence and self-esteem
- a reduction in risks to infant health and wellbeing

For dates and booking details please go to - <http://fsid.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=687>

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