

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 200
25th October 2011**

Teachers most vulnerable to false accusations according to new research (17/10/11)

Nearly half of serious allegations against school teachers turn out to be unsubstantiated, malicious or unfounded, according to new research. The findings also show that school teachers are more likely to face allegations than other staff in schools and FE colleges.

This comes as the Government is looking to give teachers a legal right to anonymity from allegations made by pupils until the point they are charged with a criminal offence. The new power is in the Education Bill, which is currently going through Parliament.

The interim findings from a survey of 116 LAs in England show that in 2009/10 of the 12,086 allegations of abuse referred to LAs:

- Almost 1 in 4 allegations against staff were made against school teachers (2827).
- Nearly half of the allegations (1234) made against school teachers were then found to be unsubstantiated, malicious or unfounded.
- Almost a fifth of school teachers (459) were suspended whilst the allegation was being investigated.
- Only around half of investigations (2264) against school teachers and non-teaching staff were dealt with within a month – the Government guidance says 80% of cases should be concluded by this time.

The Government has already revised guidance to LAs and schools to speed up the investigation process when a teacher or a



member of staff is accused by a pupil of an offence. This will help ensure all allegations are swiftly dealt with.

New advice published in July 2011 makes it clear that:

- Heads can temporarily or permanently exclude pupils who make malicious allegations. In extreme circumstances, they can involve the police if there are grounds for believing a criminal offence has been committed.
- Schools should not automatically suspend teachers accused of using force unreasonably where other alternatives exist.
- The vast majority (80%) of cases should be resolved within a month, 90% within 3 months and all but the most exceptional within a year.
- Malicious, unsubstantiated or unfounded allegations should not be included in employment references, and malicious allegations stripped from teacher personnel records.

The legal protection from false allegations comes as part of the Government's drive to improve school discipline and shift the balance of power in the classroom back to teachers. Research shows that two thirds of teachers say bad behaviour is driving professionals out of the classroom.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199301/teachers-most-vulnerable-to-false-accusations-according-to-new-research>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RB163.pdf>

Guidance on safeguarding children who may have been trafficked (21/10/11)

The organised crime of child trafficking into the UK has become an issue of considerable concern to all professionals with responsibility for the care and protection of children. Everyone working or in contact with children and young people has a responsibility to take steps to make sure their welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

As more cases of child trafficking come to light, it is essential that all professionals who come into contact with children, who may have been trafficked, are fully aware of the background of this activity and know how to apply the procedures for safeguarding the children and meeting the needs of those who have been trafficked.

This guidance document has been updated to reflect developments since it was first published, such as the introduction in April 2009 of the National Referral Mechanism and the duty on the UK Border Agency to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, which came into force in November 2009. It delivers a key commitment in the Government's Human Trafficking Strategy, published on 19 July 2011.

It is intended to help agencies and their staff safeguard and promote the welfare of children who may have been trafficked. It is supplementary to, and should be used in conjunction with, the Government's statutory guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children.

The guidance makes clear that trafficked children who are forced into sexual exploitation, coerced into committing crimes or used by adults to commit offences are treated by the police and CPS as victims of crime. Where children are found to be



trafficked their safety and welfare needs must be urgently addressed. This guidance will help local agencies, including LAs, NHS bodies and the police, to address this dreadful abuse effectively.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199501/guidance-on-safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-published>
[https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/Download?DownloadPublicationReference=DFE-00084-2011&DownloadItemReference=Safeguarding%20children%20who%20may%20have%20been%20trafficked%20-%20Practice%20guidance%20PDF\(DfES%20Online%20Store\)&DocumentType=PDF&Url=%2Fpublications%2ForderingDownload%2FDFE-00084-2011.pdf](https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/Download?DownloadPublicationReference=DFE-00084-2011&DownloadItemReference=Safeguarding%20children%20who%20may%20have%20been%20trafficked%20-%20Practice%20guidance%20PDF(DfES%20Online%20Store)&DocumentType=PDF&Url=%2Fpublications%2ForderingDownload%2FDFE-00084-2011.pdf)

10-17 year olds brought before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder between 6th and 9th August 2011: Background characteristics, school attendance and educational attainment (24/10/11)

This report contains analysis of the background characteristics and educational history of the young people suspected of involvement in the public disorder that took place in August 2011. It includes information on whether the young people were in receipt of Free School Meals, their school attendance and their attainment.

This analysis is also included in the Socio-economic and education factors chapter of the MoJ's October update on the public disorder.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t001042/index.shtml>
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm>

£11m to fund new online and telephone family support services (21/10/11)

The Government is providing up to £11m to 11 voluntary and community organisations to deliver the support. Specialist organisations including the Family Rights Group, Young Minds and Contact a Family are among those benefiting from the funding.

Families will benefit from a range of support including relationship advice, services tailored specifically for fathers, helping single parents get back to work, advice on education issues such as exclusions and information about benefits.

Families who need it can also get specialist support – such as parents of disabled children and those with SEN and parents whose children have mental health or behaviour problems.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00199500/11-million-to-fund-new-online-and-telephone-family-support-services>

Ofsted give parents a new voice in school inspections (20/10/11)

Ofsted has today launched Parent View, a new online questionnaire, that will allow parents and carers to give their views on their child's school at any time over the year. Covering over 22,000 schools across England, the 12-question survey will help other parents as they make important choices about their child's education and provide Ofsted with information about schools that will help inform priorities for inspection.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199470/ofsted-give-parents-a-new-voice-in-school-inspections>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/new-voice-for-parents-0>

<http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

“Getting the simple things right” 19/10/11)

A simple checklist of what schools can do to instil good behaviour in the classroom has been published by the Government's Expert Adviser on behaviour.

The behaviour checklist follows Charlie Taylor's recent behaviour summit, where outstanding headteachers from schools in areas of high deprivation gathered to discuss the key principles for improving behaviour. What soon became clear was how much similarity there was between the approaches that the headteachers followed. Many of them emphasised the simplicity of their approach but they agreed that most important of all was consistency.

Actions from the checklist include:

- Ensuring absolute clarity about the expected standard of pupils' behaviour.
- Displaying school rules clearly in classes and around the building. Staff and pupils should know what they are.
- Ensuring that children actually receive rewards every time they have earned them and receive a sanction every time they behave badly.
- Taking action to deal with poor teaching or staff who fail to follow the behaviour policy.
- Ensuring pupils come in from the playground and move around the school in an orderly manner.
- Ensuring that the senior leadership team like the head and assistant head are a visible presence around the school during the day, including in the lunch hall and playground, and are not confined to offices.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199412/simple-behaviour-checklist-to-help-teachers-maintain-discipline-in-school>

Special Educational Needs: statements issued within 26 weeks in 2010-11

(19/10/11)

This publication presents national and LA level figures from the previous financial year for the LA indicators on SEN statements.

The indicator has two parts;

- a) The percentage of final statements of SEN issued within 26 weeks excluding exception cases as a proportion of all such statements issued in the year.
- b) The percentage of all final statements of SEN issued within 26 weeks as a proportion of all such statements issued in the year.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001031/index.shtml>

Children with SEN: an analysis – 2011

(19/10/11)

The Special Educational Needs Information Act (2008) required the Secretary of State to publish information about children in England with SEN to help improve the well-being of these children.

This statistical publication includes new information on pupils with SEN alongside further interpretation of existing findings. There are new sections on activities at ages 16, 18 and 19 for young people with SEN. All figures are provided at national level, with some Regional and LA level information. The publication is divided into the following 5 key themes:

- 1.Characteristics of pupils with SEN
- 2.Attainment of pupils with SEN
- 3.Progression of pupils with SEN
- 4.Activities up to age 19 for young people with SEN
- 5.Absence and exclusions from school of pupils with SEN

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001032/index.shtml>

New data highlights true picture of school absence (19/10/11)

New figures show that 450,330 children – 7.2% – were absent from school for 15% or more of the autumn 2010 and spring 2011 terms. This is the equivalent of missing a month’s worth of lessons in a year.

The figures also reveal that more than 1m pupils (16.4%) missed half a day or more of school per week, equating to 10% of school time missed.

This is the first time that a new, tougher, persistent absence measure has been recorded, giving a clearer picture of the problem in our schools. Schools Minister Nick Gibb said that the new figures revealed the worrying extent of long-term absence from school in England. The figures have also failed to improve on last year.

Children who miss 15% or more of school time are now recorded as persistent absentees. Previously, children had to miss 20% of school to be viewed as persistent absentees. This is equivalent to more than 6 weeks of missed lessons in a school year.

With this new threshold, the Government is asking schools to step in to tackle absence sooner – before the problem really takes hold.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199392/new-data-highlights-true-picture-of-school-absence>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001030/index.shtml>

Schools to trial new approach to exclusions (17/10/11)

1 in 10 ten secondary schools from across England will be part of the trial in which headteachers will be responsible for ensuring that the pupils they exclude continue to receive a decent education. It will also help pupils who are at risk of being excluded by encouraging schools to intervene earlier.

Headteachers who permanently exclude a pupil from their school will now be able to choose the alternative provision, rather than the LA. The school will also receive the funding instead of the LA.

Schools in the trials will then be better able to monitor both attainment and attendance of the pupils. The trial will also help encourage schools to intervene early with children who are at risk of being excluded.

In 2009/10, 5020 pupils were permanently excluded from their secondary school. Most were sent to alternative provision such as PRUs. Latest statistics show that only 1.4% of pupils in alternative provision achieved 5 good GCSEs including maths and English. The Government believes this is not good enough.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199305/schools-to-trial-new-approach-to-exclusions>

Free parenting classes to be offered to over 50,000 mothers and fathers (17/10/11)

Children's Minister Sarah Teather will tomorrow announce that the Government will trial free parenting classes in 3 areas of the country, aiming to reach over 50,000 parents.

They will be available for all parents of children aged 5 and under.



Mothers and fathers will be offered vouchers to pay for classes in the 3 areas.

Organisations and services with a proven record of delivering parenting support will be asked to bid to run the classes.

The classes are likely to cover:

- how to promote positive behaviour with better communication and listening skills;
- managing conflict;
- the importance of mothers and fathers working as a team;
- the appropriate play for age/development;
- understanding the importance of boundaries and routines to children;
- firm, fair and consistent approaches to discipline; and
- strengthening positive relationships in the family.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199302/free-parenting-classes-to-be-offered-to-over-50000-mothers-and-fathers>

'Talk to Frank' advertising campaign goes live (17/10/11)

An advertising campaign has been launched by the Home Office to encourage young people to talk to FRANK for accurate and impartial information about the harms of drugs.

Adverts aimed at 11-18 year olds will appear on youth radio stations and websites and pose a series of drug-related questions. Teenagers are encouraged to reconsider what they know about drugs and where to find reliable information about the risks.

Teenagers are pointed towards FRANK for the facts.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/frank-campaign>
<http://www.talktofrank.com/>

NHS Constitution changes to enshrine whistle-blowing in law (18/10/11)

Health staff who raise concerns about poor patient care will be protected in the future, under changes to the NHS Constitution announced today.

The changes will also make it clear that it is the duty of all NHS workers to report bad practice or any mistreatment of patients receiving care from the health service.

The changes will be enshrined in the NHS Constitution and associated guidelines as soon as possible to encourage more staff to come forward with concerns. They follow a public consultation on whistle-blowing and the NHS Constitution.


Changes to the constitution, to be made in early 2012, will add:

- an expectation that staff should raise concerns at the earliest opportunity
- a pledge that NHS organisations should support staff by ensuring their concerns are fully investigated and that there is someone independent, outside of their team, to speak to
- clarity around the existing legal right for staff to raise concerns about safety, malpractice or other wrong doing without suffering any detriment.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/10/whistleblowing/>

‘Preparation for Birth and Beyond: a resource pack for leaders of community groups and activities’ (19/10/11)

This resource pack aims to help the NHS, LAs and the voluntary sector in planning or running groups for expectant and new parents.

The pack is a practical tool that aims to improve outcomes for babies and parents 

through a refreshed approach to antenatal education that moves beyond traditional models. It covers the physiological aspects of pregnancy and birth, but also addresses the emotional transition to parenthood in greater depth and recognises the need to include fathers and other partners in groups and activities.

The pack is aimed at anyone involved in planning or running groups for expectant or new parents, such as midwives, health visitors, children’s centre staff and voluntary organisations.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/10/preparation-for-birth-and-beyond-resource-pack-to-help-parenthood-groups/>

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_130575.pdf

Under-18s want more protection from alcohol marketing exposure (20/10/11)

An Alcohol Concern survey of the views of over 2,300 children and young people suggests under-18s feel strongly about the levels of alcohol marketing to which they are exposed, and want regulation that provides stronger protection. Most experts agree that under-18s should be protected from exposure to alcohol promotion, although evidence shows that children and young people as young as 11 in England and Wales are regularly exposed to alcohol advertising.

Designed by young people for young people, findings in this new report show that under-18s surveyed have very clear views about limiting children and young people’s exposure to alcohol marketing.

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/news-centre/press-releases/under-18s-want-more-protection-from-alcohol-marketing-exposure>

Child protection vacancies in the NHS rising fast (21/10/11)

Child protection and services for children in care in the health service are suffering due to rising vacancy rates, a survey has found. The vacancies occur in posts specifically designed to help health services and LAs to work together to keep children safe and to make sure that children in care have access to health services.

The survey of LSCB Chairs found that vacancy rates have risen since 09, and that:

- 11% of safeguarding nurse posts and 14% of doctor posts were vacant in 2011;
- 22% of posts dedicated to children in care were vacant in 2011.
- In 2009, these figures were 5%, 3.8% and 19% respectively.

The survey also found that:

- 27% of responding LSCBs had one or more vacancies, compared to 17% in 2009.
- 33% thought that increased vacancies had reduced the effectiveness of the advice given by the health professionals.

<http://www.adcs.org.uk/download/press-release/2011/ADCS%20PR%20lscb%20survey.pdf>

Children and teenagers to benefit from successful adult mental health therapy (25/10/11)

The Govt is investing £32m in psychological therapies, including talking therapies, for children and young people with mental health problems, Care Services Minister Paul Burstow will announce today.

1 in 10 children (5-16) has a clinically diagnosable mental health problem. At any one time, more than 1m children will have a diagnosable mental health disorder and mental illness in childhood and adolescence costs up to £59,000 per child every year. ↗

Giving children the right help early on can set them up for life - reducing the chance of them ending up in prison and making them more likely to get a job when they grow up. Psychological therapies have been successful in helping adults to recover from anxiety and depression, so we are taking the successful parts of the adult programme and adapting them for C&YP.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=421729&NewsAreaID=2&HUserID=895,779,891,848,780,867,710,705,765,674,677,767,684,762,718,674,708,683,706,718,674&ClientID=-1>

A new guide to help employers improve their team's communication and engagement skills with children and young people (20/10/11)

Communicating and engaging with young people, created by the CWDC, builds on key learning outcomes from projects funded through our Participation Fund and includes tips on how best to help staff and volunteers improve their skills in this area.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6533_pocket-guide-to-improve-communication-with-children-and-young-people
http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/3703/Communicating_and_engaging_with_young_people_-_an_employer%E2%80%99s_guide.pdf

New foster care standards guidance and evidence workbook (20/10/11)

Our new updated foster care workbook is one of a range of new resources launched as the result of joint working between CWDC and practitioners. The guidance will take you through the TSD standards. You can then record your work our new editable evidence workbook or online.

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/foster-care/standards/the-foster-care-standards-workbook>

Child Trafficking Update - October 2011
(18/10/11)

CEOP has published its latest understanding of the trends, themes and patterns that it feels lies behind the trafficking of children into and within the UK.

Compiling referral data from the UKHTC and the NSPCC's Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line, the organisation says that out of the 202 nationally recorded cases that it looked at, the prevalence of cannabis cultivation, benefit fraud and domestic servitude remain amongst the primary reasons for trafficking – but all remain behind sexual exploitation which accounted for just over a quarter of the cases analysed.

This latest update is intended to give front line practitioners a snapshot of the vulnerabilities that children are facing from child trafficking networks.

Most victims are aged 14-16, with more female victims than male, and fall into the following categories:

- Vietnamese children smuggled into the UK clandestinely for exploitation in cannabis farms by organised criminal groups
- Children from western Africa (predominantly Nigeria) trafficked to the UK, sometimes using forged documents or by making fraudulent visa applications, primarily for the purposes of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.
- Children from eastern Europe trafficked into the UK by organised criminal groups primarily for the purposes of criminal exploitation, including pickpocketing and shoplifting.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2011/Latest-trends-in-child-trafficking/>

[http://www.ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/child trafficking update 2011.pdf](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/child%20trafficking%20update%202011.pdf)

Confusion over NHS reform puts disabled children at risk (24/10/11)

EDCM and The Children's Trust at Tadworth have launched 'Disabled Children and Health Reform: Question, Challenges and Opportunities' which reveals system failures that stop disabled children getting vital health support.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/news/press_releases/press_releases_2011/24_oct_health_reform.aspx

Gas Safe Register campaign - Students keep gas safe (20/10/11)

According to HSE statistics, every year around 15 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning. By law, your landlord has to

- make sure that the gas appliances supplied in your rented accommodation are safe.
- provide a copy of the landlords gas safety check record either prior to moving in or within 28 days of the annual check being completed if you are an existing tenant.

Knowing your rights when you rent could save your life.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/gas-safe-register-campaign.htm>

Asbestos management in schools outside of LA Control 2010/11 (17/10/11)

In 2010/11 HSE inspected a randomly selected sample of 164 schools outside of local authority control in England, Scotland and Wales as part of a coordinated inspection campaign. The sample group included Foundation, Voluntary Aided, Academies and schools from the Independent sector. The aim of the inspection project was to assess the level of compliance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006. Details of the intervention and findings are outlined in the attached reports.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/asbestos-management-1011.htm>

Plans for a minimum age of consent for cosmetic piercing (18/10/11)

Health Minister Lesley Griffiths is seeking views on how cosmetic piercing can be made safer for young people. The Welsh Govt is proposing to introduce an age of consent to ensure a parent or guardian's permission is granted before a person under 16 can receive a cosmetic piercing.

Currently, LAs in Wales can require cosmetic piercers to register their businesses and to follow rules relating to cleanliness and hygiene. There is, however, no age restriction for cosmetic piercing. A young person can, therefore, have a cosmetic piercing without their parent or guardian's permission as long as they understand what they are having done and the risks involved. <http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2011/111018piercing/?lang=en&ts=3>

See Consultations

Ban on sale of tobacco from vending machines in Wales (18/10/11)

A Welsh Government ban on the sale of tobacco from vending machines in Wales has been approved and will come into force on 1 February 2012.

Although tobacco vending machines account for only 1% of the UK market in tobacco sales, a disproportionate number of young people under 18 purchase cigarettes from vending machines. 10% of regular smokers aged 11 to 15 report that cigarette vending machines are their usual source of tobacco.

The Protection from Tobacco (Sales from Vending Machines) (Wales) Regulations 2011 are designed to protect C&YP by restricting access to tobacco. <http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2011/111018vending/?lang=en&ts=3>

A new approach to safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk in Wales (20/10/11)

The Deputy Minister for Social Services and Children, outlined radical changes to the way that children and adults at risk in Wales will be safeguarded and protected in future.

Speaking at a conference of LSCBs in Swansea, Gwenda Thomas outlined her plans for a new statutory framework to protect adults at risk, which will encompass duties to investigate, cooperate and share information in protecting adults and to establish a National Independent Safeguarding Board. These arrangements will be underpinned by the establishment of statutory Adult Protection Boards, and a reduction in the number of Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between relevant local agencies.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2011/5502227/?;jsessionid=y21ZTI2Gznm1101XYSQI8tKmPVwfRh3TfhkyDC9Y YmcyJS1G22db!-376136532?lang=en>

Reminding children to think! before they cross the road (14/10/11)

A new THINK! campaign to help children stay safe on the roads was launched today by Road Safety Minister Mike Penning.

The £700,000 campaign is aimed at children aged 6-11 and spells out the dangers of not taking care on the roads. Television adverts will highlight the importance of finding a safe place to cross the road while the cinema campaign will remind children of the importance of making sure they can be seen when they are out after dark.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=421591&SubjectId=2>

Police officers in schools: a scoping study - Research report (October 2011)

This study explored the range of ways that police are working with schools, the impacts of this kind of work, the challenges experienced and the key ingredients for success. Key findings were:

- Police working in schools results in a wealth of benefits for the police, for schools, their teachers and pupils, and for the wider community.
- This kind of work often arises through efforts to: reduce the prevalence of crime, anti-social behaviour and victimisation of young people; provide safe school communities; develop relationships between the police and young people and their communities, and identifying, targeting and accessing 'at risk' or vulnerable children and young people.
- Police work with schools in a range of ways, which can vary by where they are based, the number of schools they work with, the roles they take on in school, and the time dedicated to it.
- Difficulties encountered can include: negative perceptions of the police; unclear role definition and confusion over role boundaries; isolation of officers from their police colleagues; maintaining officer consistency and availability; and difficulties concerning working hours.
- Key ingredients for success include: presenting the initiative to the school and community in a positive way; understanding and appreciation of different agency cultures; mutual trust; clear, jointly developed protocols; shared vision and mutual understanding; joint line management; strategic support; and careful deployment of the 'right' officer for the job.

http://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/PCOX01/PCOX01_home.cfm?publicationID=603&title=Police%20officers%20in%20schools

Safeguarding: council developments (September 2011)

In the light of recent independent reviews of safeguarding and child protection (Laming and Munro), the Local Government Group commissioned NFER to capture LA approaches to developing safeguarding practices in a changing policy landscape.

Key findings from this report:

- The main priority areas for improving safeguarding included: leadership and management; recruiting, maintaining and retaining a highly competent workforce; quality assurance and performance management; referral and assessment processes and procedures; and partnership working.
- Specific conditions and factors influenced the improvement of safeguarding practices including: the commitment of local authority leaders; the facilitating approach of strategic and operational managers; existing structures underpinning partnership working; workforce attitudes and characteristics; and specific local authority contexts and circumstances.
- A small number of barriers and challenges to improving safeguarding were identified, these centred on: process and systemic challenges, challenges to partnership working and external local contexts and circumstances.
- Good and emerging practice was evident despite current difficult economic times and system-level challenges. The local authorities involved had or were developing the necessary structures, systems and effective working cultures to support continued reform of CP.

http://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/LSGC01/LSGC01_home.cfm?publicationID=598&title=Safeguarding:%20council%20developments

New study reveals almost two thirds of babies died sleeping with a parent (24/10/11)

The FSID has called for the collection and publication of local infant death data, as a study from a specialist team at GOSH, published in the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, reveals that over a 10-year period, almost two thirds of babies who were referred to the hospital for post mortem were sleeping with a parent when they died.

Currently, a wealth of detailed information regarding the circumstances in which babies die is gathered by individual Child Death Overview Panels in England, but it is not collated and published nationally.
<http://fsid.org.uk/page.aspx?pid=967>

The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2325 (W.242)

These Regulations amend the Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (Wales) Regulations 2007 which require the governing body of any maintained school on receiving a written request from the LA by which the school is maintained to supply within 14 days such of the information as is requested by the authority in respect of pupils at the school.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/2325/contents/made>

Child sexual exploitation (18/10/11)

The NSPCC has published new pages on child sexual exploitation which includes:

- a definition of child sexual exploitation
- identifying child sexual abuse
- guidance,
- practice and research

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforprofessionals/sexualabuse/sexual_exploitation_wda83207.html

It's time to stop leaving problem families in crisis (17/10/11)

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has set out his plans to shake up local services as part of the Government's efforts to turn around the lives of 120,000 most troubled families who make up less than 1% of the population, but costing the economy over £8b a year.

The Government wants to see more local areas joining up their local services efforts, as evidence shows this can help turn the lives of families around. This Community Budget approach is being rolled out countrywide and will play a vital role alongside other measures to help problem families.

Instead of the traditional single agency silo approach costing local services up to £330,000 per family a year ministers want to see one co-ordinated and integrated intervention at an average of £14,000 per family used. This creates a better service and yearly costs plummet by £70,000.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2009538>

Services for Young People: the Government Response (17/10/11)

On 23/06/11 the Education Committee published *Services for young people*. The Government sent a response on 12/09/11, which is published as an Appendix to this Report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmeduc/1501/150102.htm>

Holiday childcare crisis for parents of disabled children (21/10/11)

A survey by KIDS and Mencap shows that families with disabled children face a lack of appropriate holiday childcare, high childcare costs and even discrimination.

It reveals that:

- 1 in 3 parents of disabled children received no holiday childcare during the summer holidays
- 2 in 3 families found it 'difficult' or 'very difficult' to find appropriate childcare for their disabled child this summer.
- 1 in 10 were refused a place in childcare provision because of their child's disability.

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/news/article/holiday-childcare-crisis-parents-disabled-children>

Child Protection Conferences – A guide for professionals (14/10/11)

This DVD shows professionals what to expect when attending a child protection conference

Attending a child protection conference for the first time can be daunting. To help professionals make an effective contribution to achieving the best outcome for the child, the films on our DVD explain what happens at a conference, its place within the child protection process, and the roles and responsibilities of the professionals who attend.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/learningresources/child-protection-conferences_wda85198.html

Consultations

Cosmetic piercing of young people (18/10/11)

The Welsh Government is committed to improving the health of people in Wales. This consultation meets a key action in the Programme for Government: 'consult on the need to introduce legislation to ensure parental consent for cosmetic piercing procedures carried out on young people'.

We are thinking about introducing a new law which will cover the following key areas:

- The need for a parent or guardian to give their permission (both in writing and through attendance at the piercing appointment) before a young person below a certain age can have a cosmetic piercing (we currently think this should be below 16).
- A clear age restriction for intimate cosmetic piercings.
- A standard set of questions which must be asked by the piercer before any cosmetic piercing can be done.

Closing Date: 31st January 2012

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/cosmetic/?jsessionid=Tt0GTmgWqvN61phXYdXyVbnl8bf0hM0k1LGbRggfQVxVkcGhkt6L!-630957411?lang=en&ts=4>

Changes to BCS sample design

The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, which reported in October 2010, led to a reduction in HO budgets and resulted in a reduction in available expenditure for the BCS from April 2012 onwards.

Given the main component of BCS costs is interviewer fees and expenses, a reduction in the actual sample size is required.



The HO is proposing a reduction in the annual sample size of the BCS from a nationally representative achieved sample of 46,000 adults (16 or over) to 35,000 adults. This will reduce the number of achieved interviews with children (10 to 15 years) from 4,000 to 3,100 per year. A new sample design is proposed that will preserve the ability to produce estimates with reasonable levels of precision at police force area level based on a minimum sample of 650 interviews with adults per year.

Users are invited to consider the proposals outlined in the consultation paper

Closing Date: 12th January 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/about-home-office-science/consultations/>

The social work sector is being asked to comment on proposals outlining an Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (17/10/1)

A paper agreed by the Social Work Reform Board outlines proposals for implementing the programme. It covers the development of assessment models with employers and managing the outcomes of the assessment. It also includes information relating to capability statements and support for NQSWs.

Closing Date: 7th November 2011.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6521_help-shape-the-assessed-and-supported-year-in-employment
<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/social-work/assessed-and-supported-year-in-employment>

Consultations continued

Spasticity in children and young people: guideline consultation (19/10/11)

A clinical practice guideline on Spasticity in children and young people is being developed for use in the NHS in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Registered stakeholders for this guideline are invited to comment on the provisional recommendations via this website.

Note that the provisional recommendations presented here do not constitute the Institute's formal guidance on this topic. The recommendations are provisional and may change after consultation.

Closing date: 14th December 2011
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG/Wave22/5/Consultation/Latest>

Preventing and reducing domestic violence between intimate partners: consultation on the draft scope (25/10/11)

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on '*Domestic violence: how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence between intimate partners*'.

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

Closing Date: 22nd November 2011
<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PHG/Wave20/60/ScopeConsultation>

Conferences / Training

Training designed to help Directors of Children's Services deliver recommendations from the Munro review has been announced.

16th January 2012 London

25th January 2012 Bristol

1st February 2012 Birmingham

8th February 2012 Leeds

21st February 2012 London

The training days are designed to support directors with the implementation of recommendations from the Munro Review of Child Protection, focusing on:

- LAs should review and redesign the way child and family social work is delivered
- LAs should designate a Principal Child and Family Social Worker

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/social-work/swif/munro-recommendations>

Joining the dots ... The link between the abuse of vulnerable people and animals


23rd November 2011 London £95

Setting the scene

- Non-accidental injury in humans and animals
- Animal abuse in the 21st century
- Update on evidence for the Links Group

Coordinating the response

- Integrating animal abuse into risk assessments
- Personal data security and management
- Dealing with pets in domestic violence situations
- Teaching children empathy with animals
- Guidance for the medical and veterinary professions

The conference is aimed at informing a broad spectrum of professionals who may 

come across the Link and at politicians who make law and control national and regional budgets. We especially hope to see:

- Legislators from national, devolved and local governments
 - Police
 - Other crime prevention and law enforcement agencies
 - Social services
 - Human and veterinary healthcare professionals
 - Child and animal welfare organisations
 - Victim welfare and support networks
- <http://www.thelinksgroup.org.uk/conference.htm>

Tackling the Challenges of Keeping Children Safe Online

16th November 2011 London

£185 - £325 + VAT

The growth of digital media has revolutionised children's lives, providing new educational and social opportunities. However, the internet also brings serious risks, including grooming and online abuse, exposure to inappropriate content and cyber-bullying. With growing numbers of children having uncontrolled access to the internet, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that children have safe and positive online experiences.

This forum will offer delegates the opportunity to discuss the government's latest policies for the promotion and regulation of child online safety, how schools, parents and industry can meet their duties for safeguarding children online, and how to encourage responsible use of social media and prevent online bullying.

<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/child-safety-online/>

Conferences (continued)

Early Intervention for Families At-Risk

2nd December 2011 Manchester
£225 - £545 + VAT

The Government is committed to investing in early intervention. The national roll out of community budgets for families with multiple problems will give new freedoms to LAs to help provide joined-up solutions for vulnerable families.

This conference examines pioneering best practice that has delivered cost effective and outcome driven solutions.

Moving towards a locally driven approach requires strong local leadership to take forward effective reform and redesign.

This event will cover:

- Effective multi-agency working to identify and provide support for families most at-risk
- Investing in evidence based early intervention programmes
- Successful interventions for families of offenders, workless families and those with complex health needs

http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/early-intervention-for-families-at-risk-3.html?code=EMMK&utm_source=http%3a%2f%2femail.capitaconferences.co.uk%2fcapitaconferenceslz%2f&utm_medium

The Youth Offer - The future role of councils in supporting young people

17th January 2012 London Free

LAs remain at the heart of communities, and are the lead body in developing the local offer for young people. The youth sector is facing unprecedented challenges, budget cuts, the post-riot negative views of young people and the new coalition government's priorities mean that services are having to adapt.

New models of commissioning and delivery are likely to necessitate new partnerships and ways of working. Budget reductions will mean that decisions will have to be made about 'universal' services for young people. This will lead to a very different role for local authorities, shifting towards strategic commissioning and away from direct provision.

This FREE conference is designed for lead members of Children's Services and senior managers in LAs. It will provide an opportunity for delegates to:

- learn about the NYA's 'Routes to Success' package of support to local councils, delivered on behalf of the LGA
 - influence and shape our work for 2011-12
 - hear from key figures in the sector
- <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=20282718>

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